

Concept Note & Agenda

World Water Week 2018 | Water, ecosystems and human development

MENA FOCUS - Benefits for Ecosystems and Wetlands through the Nexus **Tuesday, 28 August 2018, 09h00-10h30, Room: FH 307**

Convenors: Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med) & Wetlands International (WI)

Introduction

In the Mediterranean, wetlands are among its richest ecosystems, providing exceptional value and services including water purification, flood control, carbon sink and shoreline stability. However, they are also among its most threatened ecosystems with more than half having disappeared during the 20th century, and most of the rest under degradation or artificialization, mainly through water over-abstraction, urban development and tourism expansion, pollution and drainage.

The Nexus approach addresses in an integrated manner the inextricable linkages between water resources, food, energy and ecosystems, in order to ensure water and food security, together with sustainable agriculture and energy production and consumption. Wetlands and their environmental service are a typical case of an element connecting ecosystems, water and food production, calling for integrated and inter-sectoral work.

The event will take stock of the needs, challenges, regional initiatives and best practices in the Mediterranean region regarding the sustainable management of wetlands mainly through the Nexus approach with an emphasis on the expected benefits and the replicable experiences.

Session background and objectives

The session on “Benefits for Ecosystems and Wetlands through the Nexus” is organised within the framework of the MAVA funded projects ‘*Communication campaign on coastal wetlands*’ and ‘*Capacity Building Platform on Water Management and Abstraction*’ that aim to reduce the impact of water abstraction and unsustainable water infrastructure on river basins biodiversity as well as the impact of water abstraction and coastal development on coastal wetland degradation. The session is also supported by the *Global Water Partnership - Water, Climate and Development (GWP-WACDEP)* project that aims to support countries in the implementation of water related NDCs (National Determined Contributions) and SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).

The event, organised by the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and Wetlands International, aims to contribute towards a common understanding and enhanced knowledge of different stakeholders in the region on the benefits of the Nexus approach on wetlands and ecosystems’ management, as well as to identify challenges and opportunities for knowledge sharing and collaboration among stakeholders.

Specific Objectives of the session are to:

- Present best practices and lessons learnt on the sustainable management of wetlands in the Mediterranean with an emphasis on replicable practices;
- Highlight the importance of the Nexus approach for the management of ecosystems, discuss relevant challenges, possible solutions including nature-based solutions and their contribution to climate adaptation and SDGs implementation;
- Discuss policy messages and the way forward, including the enabling environment needed for sustainable investments.

Agenda

09:00 Opening Session - Welcoming remarks, context and outline of the session (5mins)

- **Mr. Vangelis Constantianos**, Executive Secretary, *GWP-Med*
- **Mr. Luís Costa**, Programme Manager, Mediterranean Basin, *MAVA Foundation*
- **Mr. Almotaz Abadi**, Managing Director, Water and Environment Division, *Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat*
- Statement from **H.E. Samir Taieb**, Minister of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fishery, Tunisia (read by **Mr. Ben Rayana**, Director of International Cooperation)

09:05 Keynote presentations (20mins)

- *Coastal wetlands: what investments for what services?*
Mr. Frank van Weert, Senior Technical Officer Water and Climate, *Wetlands International*
- *Sustainable management of wetlands in the MENA region through the Nexus approach*
Ms. Sarra Touzi, Senior Programme Officer, *GWP-Med*

09:25 Facilitated Panel Discussion (45mins)

- **Ms. Kholoud Al-Ajarma**, Programs Manager, Winner of Water Heroes Contest, *Lajee Center, Palestine*
- **Mr. Ger Bergkamp**, CEO, *ARCOWA*
- **Ms. Angela Klauschen**, Senior Policy Advisor, *MedWet*
- **Mr. Job Kleijn**, Focal Point, Water Affairs, MENA region, *Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands*
- **Ms. Lulwa Saffarini**, MINARET Project Manager
- **Mr. Manuel Sapiano**, CEO, *Energy and Water Agency, Malta*
- **Ms. Monika Weber-Fahr**, Executive Secretary, *GWP*

Facilitators: *Ms. Anthi Brouma*, Deputy Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med & *Mr. Tassos Krommydas*, Senior Programme Officer, GWP-Med

10:10 Open Q&A section (20mins)

10:25 Wrap up and Conclusions (5mins)

For more info on the projects supporting the organisation of the session:

- *The GWP Water Climate and Development Programme / GWP-WACDEP :*
<https://www.gwp.org/en/CRITICAL-CHALLENGES1/Water-and-Climate-Change/Global-Water-Climate-and-Development-Programme-WACDEP>
- *Communication campaign on coastal wetlands:*

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Off Your Map is a collaboration between the following partners,
with the support and funding of the MAVA Foundation

