

Session 1: Linking Cities and Nature through Nature-Based Solutions to Build Climate Resilience in the MENA Region

Date: Day 2 – 29 March; 9:00-10:30 Dubai time

Organizers: UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States and Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)

Description:

With the overarching aim of promoting Nature-based Solutions to reestablish the link between cities and nature, the session will focus on showcasing and exploring the multi-faceted opportunities and the potential of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in the MENA region, as well as gauging the interest of governments in mainstreaming NbS in their urban and climate policies and plans. The session aims to propel the discussion on the wider adoption of Nature-based Solutions in the MENA region through gathering both party and non-party organisations in one place, including national, subnational, and local levels of government, Environmental NGOs, the private sector, and academia. The selected speakers will include decision-makers on the local level of government and climate change policy makers on the national level who have had previous experience with implementing NbS in their countries. The mainstreaming of NbS into national and local urban strategies and climate action plans could contribute to governments' adaptation and mitigation commitments. This session contributes to the efforts taken in the run up to COP27, which will take place in the MENA region.

This session aims to:

- Showcase and explore opportunities for mainstreaming Nature-based Solutions in urban and climate policies and plans
- Promote potential Nature-based Solutions to reestablish the link between cities and nature
- Propel discussion on the wider adoption of Nature-based Solutions in the MENA region

Speakers:

- Ali Al Kayed, Head of Studies section/ construction department, Greater Amman Municipality, Jordan
- Houcine Jrad, Mayor of Djerba, Tunisia
- Mohamed Sefiani, Mayor of Chefchaouen, Morocco
- Faizah Slehat, Project Officer - Water and Climate Change, IUCN, Regional Office for West Asia

- Sonya Benjamin, Biodiversity, Ecology and Avifauna Expert Consultant, Biosphere Conservation Consulting Services
- Giorgia Rambelli, Coordinator, Climate Policy & Energy Governance, ICLEI
- Yara Eissa, Programme Associate, UN-Habitat ROAS
- Yasmine Mostafa, Programme Officer, UN-Habitat ROAS



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



Session 2: Resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating the importance of an inclusive, just and green recovery

Date: Day 2 – 29 March; 11:00-12:30 Dubai time

Organizers: UN ESCWA, WHO/CEHA, UNDRR

Description:

The session will demonstrate the importance of a resilient, inclusive, just and green recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. The issue will be framed by an overview of the socio-economic conditions facing the region in the region due to COVID-19 and other stressors affecting recovery efforts. Lessons learned from responding to previous health emergencies and planning for human and man-made disasters can support resilience will be shared to help guide the way forward. This will include how early warning systems and cross-sectoral exchange can strengthen resilience building on local and regional knowledge as well as nature-based solutions. The session will also discuss approaches for greening and climate-proofing health care systems. Innovative instruments for funding green recovery efforts through public, private and donor initiatives will also be shared.

This session aims to:

- Demonstrate the importance of a resilient, inclusive, just and green recovery from the coronavirus pandemic
- Discuss the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic and showcase lessons learned from previous health and climate emergencies for better preparing for future disasters

Speakers:

- H.E. Minister Nasser Yassin, Minister of Environment, Lebanon
- Mohammad Hassani, Minister Assistant for Public Health Affairs, Ministry of Health and Population, Egypt
- Carol Chouchani Churfane, Director, Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies, Cluster Leader, Climate Change and Natural Resources Cluster, UN-ESCWA
- Mazen Malkawi, Regional advisor, WHO
- Hisham Dinar, Advisor for the General Directorate of Emergencies, Disasters & Medical Transportation, and the National Health Emergency Operations Center, Ministry of Health, KSA
- Said al Sarmi, Meteorologist, Met Oman, Oman
- Jamal Saghir, Senior Advisor, Board Member, Global Center on Adaptation, Lebanon
- Muawieh Khalid Radaideh, Minister, Ministry of Environment, Jordan
- Nafaa Baccari, Director, Solar Energy, ANME, Solar Energy, ANME



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

IWMI
International Water
Management Institute

IFAD
Investing in rural people

ICBA
المزروعات للغد
AGRICULTURE FOR TOMORROW



Session 3: Climate action in fragile settings: food security

Date: Day 3 – 30 March; 14:00-15:30 Dubai time

Organizers: FAO, IWMI, IFAD, ICBA

Description:

This session will focus on the nexus of food and climate security and examine the response to food security in states under protracted conflict and political fragility amidst already-observed and expected changes in temperature, rainfall patterns, and the increasing frequency of extreme events. The session will explore key lessons learnt towards coherence with climate change and other international frameworks, focusing on adaptation and resilience actions with attention to improving food security in the context of conflict.

This session aims to:

- Explore adaptation and resilience needs particular to fragile states and communities
- Discuss climate actions and policies needed to respond to food security challenges in fragile settings
- Discuss opportunities to mainstream food security into NAPs and NDCs in fragile states

Speakers:

- Aida Osman, Community Development Officer, Government of Sudan
- Luis Augusto Becerra Lopez-Lavalle, Chief Scientist, ICBA
- Nadim Farajalla, Director, Climate Change and Environment Program, Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs
- Ibtisam Abuhajia, Department of Climate Change and Drought Management, Ministry of Agriculture, Palestine
- Sandra Ruckstuhl, Senior Researcher, IWMI
- Heba Hariry, Independent Consultant



Session 4: Fostering Peace through a Sustainable Water Future

Date: Day 3 – 30 March; 16:00-17:30 Dubai time

Organizers: UNDP, SIWI, IFAD

Description:

The convergence of the climate emergency with the COVID-19 pandemic and pre-existing trends of conflict and displacement exemplifies the complexity and interconnectivity of risks and has exacerbated existing vulnerabilities of communities in the MENA region, underscoring the need for greater attention to coherent, coordinated approaches to adapting to climate change, access to water and peace and human security. The session will focus on the overarching theme of climate action in fragile settings, in particular on climate change, water, peace and security. The objective of the event is to highlight the critical importance of considering climate security and the fragile contexts in which climate actions take place in the MENA region.

The session will highlight the importance of integrated approaches to climate action, water, peace and human security through a panel discussion comprising representatives from countries, international organizations and academia.

This session aims to:

- Highlight the critical importance of considering climate security and the fragile contexts in climate actions
- Discuss integrated approaches to climate action, water, peace and human security
- Increase awareness about water-security nexus and inspire greater research on climate security, water risks and the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Speakers:

- Mahmoud R. Fath-Allah, Director, Department of Environmental, Meteorological Affairs (EMA) Economic Sector, League of Arab States
- Galal Awadh, Deputy Head of Agriculture and Rural Development Unit, Social Fund for Development, Yemen
- Joanna Doummar, Vice President of the International Association of Hydrogeologists, Associate Professor of Groundwater Hydrology, Chairperson, Department of Geology, IAH/American University of Beirut
- Rachael McDonnell, Deputy Director General – Research for Development, IWMI/CGIAR
- Dane McQueen, Senior Advisor, United Arab Emirates Special Envoy for Climate Change
- Naho Mirumachi, Reader in Environmental Politics at the Department of Geography, Kings College, UK
- Kishan Khoday, Regional Team Leader, Nature, Climate and Energy, UNDP

Session 5: Resilient Communities: Dialogue on Youth Leadership in Community-based adaptation

Date: Day 4 – 31 March; 9:00-10:30 Dubai time

Organizers: UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States, GEF Small Grants Programme

Description:

With climate change increasing in their severity and affecting millions of people, particularly in the developing world, it's becoming more important to invest in resilience of ecosystems and communities depending on them. As we collectively address the global climate and nature crises, it is absolutely critical to engage youth as agents of change, creative entrepreneurs and innovators. Through education, science and technology, young people are scaling up their efforts and skills to accelerate innovative action. Young people play a crucial role in their communities as key drivers and actors of community-based adaptation as well as the beneficiaries of the actions and policies initiated. Active engagement of youth in global environment and sustainable development efforts is absolutely vital to achieving sustainable, inclusive and stable societies.

This session aims to:

- Discuss challenges, highlight opportunities and showcase youth-led community-based adaptation solutions, contributing towards national adaptation efforts through NAPs and adaptation components of NDCs
- Highlight the importance of youth action in community-based adaptation

Speakers:

- Kishan Khoday, Regional Team Leader, Nature, Climate, Energy, Regional Hub for Arab States, UNDP, Jordan
- Khouloud Hamrouni, Climate activist, Tunisia
- Hanane Rifai, Founder of HydroBarley, Morocco
- Nadine Khaouli, Youth Delegate and activist, Lebanon
- Mirane Abdi Ismael, Association Green Generation, Djibouti
- Anas Khasawneh, Coordinator of Small Grants Program, Jordan



Union pour la Méditerranée
Union for the Mediterranean
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط



Session 6: Scaling up climate risk management and innovative financing for locally led adaptation

Date: Day 4 – 31 March; 11:00-12:30 Dubai time

Organizers: UNCDF, Union for the Mediterranean

Description:

Scaling up successful solutions, mechanisms, and actions that enhance the effectiveness of adaptation finance and ultimately empower local governments and local actors to contribute towards the implementation of adaptation measures is critical. These include strengthening transparency and responsiveness of donor funding, increasing ownership and participation of local communities, and building local stakeholders' capacity on climate risk informed planning and mainstreaming, among others. This session will discuss and share lessons learned on best practices on innovative technical and financial solutions that scale up adaptation finance for locally led adaptation in MENA countries. Moreover, it will showcase how climate risk informed local planning, combined with participatory planning tools, can help bolster evidence-based decision making and improve access to climate funds, at both national and subnational level, by providing sufficient evidence, justification and climate rationale for proposed interventions. It will also shed light on how the private sector can be mobilized in the region to finance small to mid-sized projects at the subnational level drawing on the example of the Global Subnational Climate Fund (“SnCF Global”) who managed to achieve a paradigm shift in the model for demand-led climate finance.

This session aims to:

- Discuss and share lessons learned on best practices on innovative technical and financial solutions that scale up adaptation finance for locally led adaptation in MENA countries
- Showcase how climate risk informed local planning, combined with participatory planning tools, can help bolster evidence-based decision making and improve access to climate funds
- Shed light on how the private sector can be mobilized in the region to finance small to mid-sized projects

Speakers:

- Janet Rogan, COP26 Regional Ambassador for Africa and the Middle East

- Khalid R Tamsamani, Professor, Faculty of Sciences of Tétouan, Université Abdelmalek Essaâdi, Morocco
- Nuha Eltinay, Representative MENA Region and Board Advisor, Resurgence
- Ronan Pecheur, Senior Programme Specialist, UNCDF/LoCAL
- Christophe Nuttall, Founder and Strategic Advisor R20 Regions of Climate Action
- Daouda Ben Oumar Ndiaye, Lead Climate Change Specialist, Islamic Development Bank
- Amin Naguib, Team Leader, EU Clima-Med