



Union for the Mediterranean
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CONTRIBUTION TO THE DETERMINING OF THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES RELATED TO IMPLEMENTING TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE CONVENTION AND THE PARIS AGREEMENT






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Introduction

Context

UfM Roadmap

UfM Ministers of Foreign Affairs adopted a Roadmap in Barcelona on 24 January 2017, shaping the overall objectives of the UfM. This Roadmap is making a clear commitment to use the UfM framework “to better highlight the Euro-Mediterranean region’s contributions to the global agenda and interlink Mediterranean regional action with the Global Sustainable Development Goals, taking fully into account as well the contribution that this work can make in addressing the current global challenges facing the region. The transversality of global issues such as climate change, environment and water and urban development will continue to be addressed by the UFM, based on a cross sectoral inclusive approach.” It therefore reiterates the synergies between the new Sustainable Development Goals, which were adopted during the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015 on 25-27 September 2015 in New York (USA) and climate policies, as expressed in the UfM Ministerial on Environment and Climate Change.

International climate agenda

The Paris Agreement is now setting the pace of the international climate agenda. In line with the commitments made under the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change, adopted in Athens in March 2014, UfM Member States have been actively involved in the adoption of the Paris Agreement. All UfM Member States have signed the Paris Agreement and all have ratified or are engaged in the process of ratification of this Agreement, which entered into force on 4th November 2016.

The Paris Agreement sets a long-term goal for global climate action and establishes a number of binding requirements for all Parties. These include the preparation and communication of nationally determined contributions and the periodic review of these and the associated measures; the development of long-term low-carbon development strategies; adaptation, capacity building, finance and technology transfer. The Agreement includes a mention of regional, bilateral and multilateral approaches.

The decision related to the Paris Agreement clearly calls to support countries in the preparation of their nationally determined contribution (par. 15). It is stressed that this should be done by developed countries and “any other organisations in a position to do so”. The UfM, bringing together developed and developing countries, has received the mandate to do so, through the

2014 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change. This Declaration has established the UfM CCEG (Union for the Mediterranean Climate Change Expert Group), that prepared a first Work Program.

Objectives

General objective

The general objective of this work program of the UfM CCEG (Union for the Mediterranean Climate Change Expert Group) is to support all UfM Member States in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the preparation of their nationally determined contributions by providing an accurate understanding of the UfM regional context and of possible synergies and complementarities among the national policies and measures in the region. A first report on the Regional analysis of (I)NDCs of Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries have been published¹, and a second report, presented at COP25 during a side-event co-organised with UNNDP on the NDC-Partnership pavilion, is under finalisation.

Specific objectives

The specific objectives of this work program are:

1. To establish a systematic exchange on respective national climate policies of the UfM region in order to identify best practices and possible synergies and complementarities in the preparation of their respective national mitigation actions and adaptation measures.
2. To develop cooperation among international financial institutions and other donors active in the UfM region to enhance the coordination and delivery of financial resources to support country-driven strategies
3. To promote regional science-based consensus on climate change impacts in the UfM region, especially on the Mediterranean basin.
4. To exchange views around the specific concerns of the Euro-Mediterranean region regarding climate change in international fora, especially in the UNFCCC. The Secretariat is an observer to UNFCCC, and actively participated at recent COPs.²

¹ <https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Regional-analysis-on-NDCs-in-the-SEMed-region.pdf>

² <https://ufmsecretariat.org/cop25-ufm-calls-for-reinforced-cooperation-in-the-mediterranean-region-to-address-the-climate-emergency/>

Chapter 1- Science-based consensus on climate change impacts

The activity of the UfM CCEG Work Program aims to provide a sound and comprehensive scientific basis for the development of nationally determined contribution of at least one macro-ecosystem of the UfM region.

The UfM region (which includes 43 countries from the Polar Circle to the Sahara and from the Atlantic Ocean to the Caucasus) is composed of several macro-ecosystems. In order to develop proper climate policies, it is key to understand how these macro-ecosystems will react to climate change. The Mediterranean basin, gathering 22 out of the 43 UfM Member States, is playing a central role for the UfM Region. Therefore, this work program focuses its work on the assessment of climate-related environmental changes of the Mediterranean basin. In order to facilitate the delivery of the assessment report, this activity is expected to rely mainly on the work that will be produced by MedECC, a network of scientists of the region.³

Given the cross-sectoral nature of the MedECC project and its strong environmental dimension, the UfM contribution to the MedECC activities is elaborated in an inclusive way, by involving jointly the environment and climate change representatives in UfM members and in coordination with all relevant UfM structures.

Moreover, to increase synergies with other regional organisations, a close interaction is ensured with the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) within the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system, with the approval of the UNEP/MAP.⁴

Created in 2015, the network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC) is an open and independent international scientific expert network supporting decision-making and information of the general public on the basis of available scientific information and on-going research. The construction of this network responds to several intentions of regional institutions, such as the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP) through the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) and the Regional Framework for Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean, and the Union for the Mediterranean through the UfM Climate Change Expert Group (UfM CCEG) and the UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (UfM WG ENV-CC). MedECC includes more than 600 scientists from 35 countries.

³ <https://www.medecc.org/>

⁴ The project is also referred to in the Memorandum of Understanding signed by UNWMO and the Secretariat of UfM, in order to ensure the complete coherence with the global level

The 1st Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) is under finalization and will present the state of scientific, technical and socio-economic knowledge on climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean Region and its impacts and future risks. Preliminary results have been published, and several related events have been organised (at COP24⁵, COP25 and on the occasion of the 4th UfM Regional Forum, 10 October 2019⁶). The report will be accompanied with its Summary for Policy Makers (SPM). MAR1 is based on the assessment of all relevant scientific, technical and socio-economical information. Although priority is given to peer-reviewed literature, MedECC recognizes that non-peer reviewed literature, such as reports from governments and industry, can be crucial for expanding the breadth and depth of the assessment. Use of this literature brings with it an extra responsibility for the author teams to ensure the quality and validity of cited sources.

Review is an essential part of the MedECC process and ensures that the assessment of literature is transparent, objective and complete. The first stage of the draft assessment review was the scientific review. The scientific experts were invited to comment on the accuracy and completeness of the scientific and technical content and the overall balance of the draft. These expert reviewers were self-nominated and accepted by the MedECC steering committee on the basis of their relevant expertise. The scientific review process ended in December 2019. The near-final draft of MAR1 taking into consideration the results of the scientific review, as well as draft key messages to feed in its draft summary for policy makers, were reviewed by the MedECC Editorial Committee on 10-12 February 2020.

Then the draft report and the draft SPM will undergo the consultation with Governments, Decision-Makers and stakeholders. This consultation will, first of all, involve governments' representatives, with the UfM CCEG members, as the main technical Focal Points who are designated by the UfM Senior Officials, and members of the UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Change, the UNEP/MAP and its Components (Focal Points, the Members of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), and MAP Partners). The process will be organized by the interface composed of the MedECC Steering Committee and Secretariat, the UfM Secretariat and Plan Bleu (UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Center).

A two-step process is foreseen:

- Consultation to Governments and stakeholders concerning the draft Summary for Policy Makers (SPM); this consultation includes governments' representatives (UfM Senior Officials) and UfM Climate Change and Environment Expert Groups members. The UNEP/MAP Focal Points, UNEP/MAP Components and their Focal Points, MCSD Members and MAP Partners will

⁵ With the participation of the Secretary General of UNWMO and the Secretary of IPCC

⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=laxUsxyRzjY>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qxg0r2cfUUo>

also be consulted. The UfM and UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention Secretariats, with the technical assistance of the MedECC Secretariat will also jointly launch a broad consultation of major stakeholders, e.g. International Organizations (WMO, IPCC Secretariat, ...) and observers, as well as a review by their Secretariats themselves.

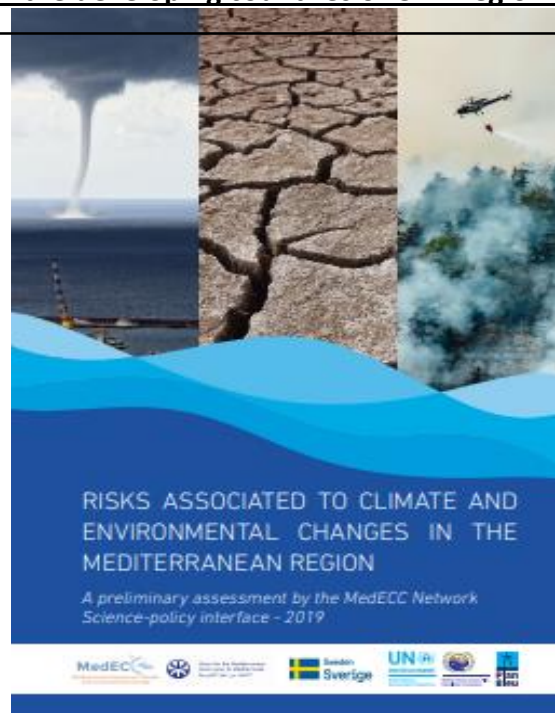
- Plenary discussion on SPM, involving UfM Climate Change and Environment Expert Groups, Plan Bleu Focal Points and the MCSD Steering Committee (possibly in June 2020). During the plenary discussion, findings reported in the SPM will be discussed to ensure that the results are communicated in a clear and understandable way.

After this meeting, the SPM will be officially finalized, and its communication may begin, with intermediate conference (Mistrals MED2020 in Marseille, 2-4 September 2020; UfM “Stakeholders” conference in relation with the 2nd UfM Ministerial Meeting ENV-CC: September 2020, TBC), and endorsement at the UfM Ministerial Meeting (last quarter 2020, TBC).

The SPM of MAR1 will be the most important deliverable of MedECC, and has the potential to be the most important deliverable of the UfM Ministerial, having a strong impact in the new Ministerial mandate given by the Ministers. It will receive a particular attention for action, in relation with UNCBD COP15 (October, China), and UNFCCC COP26 (November, UK).

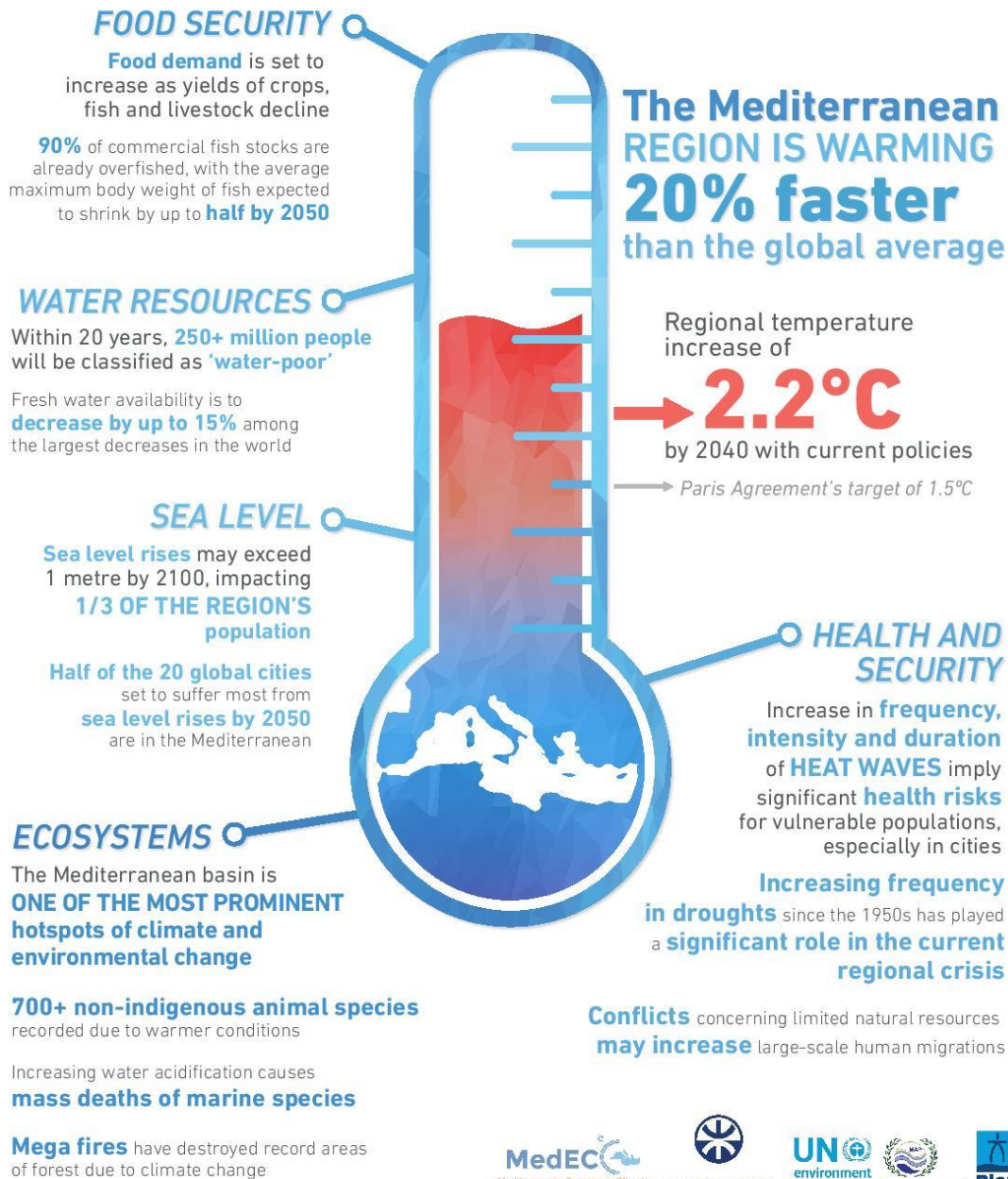
Expected results:

- **Assessment report of the climate related impacts in the Mediterranean, to be considered by the scientific community and policy makers, and that can be used for determining the needs, in particular for the developing countries of UfM region.**



85 scientists from 20 countries of the Network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC) present:

1st SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT REPORT ABOUT CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN



Chapter 2- Sharing of experience on national measures

This activity of the UfM CCEG Work Program aims to provide exchange of information and best practices on national climate measures related to mitigation and adaptation.

A general discussion can take place at the UfM Climate Change Expert Group. In addition, when the need is identified by the CCEG, ad hoc meetings may be organised in order to allow for more detailed discussions on specific sectors.

The ad hoc meetings bring together UfM Member States government representatives with relevant expertise. These experts exchange on national policies related to climate mitigation and adaptation. The following sectors, i.e., are considered for the potential creation of such meetings: Energy, Transport, Buildings, Industrial activities, Tourism, Agriculture and Fisheries, Coastal and blue economy, Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF), Waste, Water.

The role of local authorities and the private sector are considered in a transversal manner under these topics, when possible.

The list may be adjusted by the UfM Climate Change Expert Group according to the priorities and issues raised by UfM Member States.

The meetings aim to allow in-depth understanding of climate policies by peers. A special attention is given on how to enhance synergies among national climate policies.

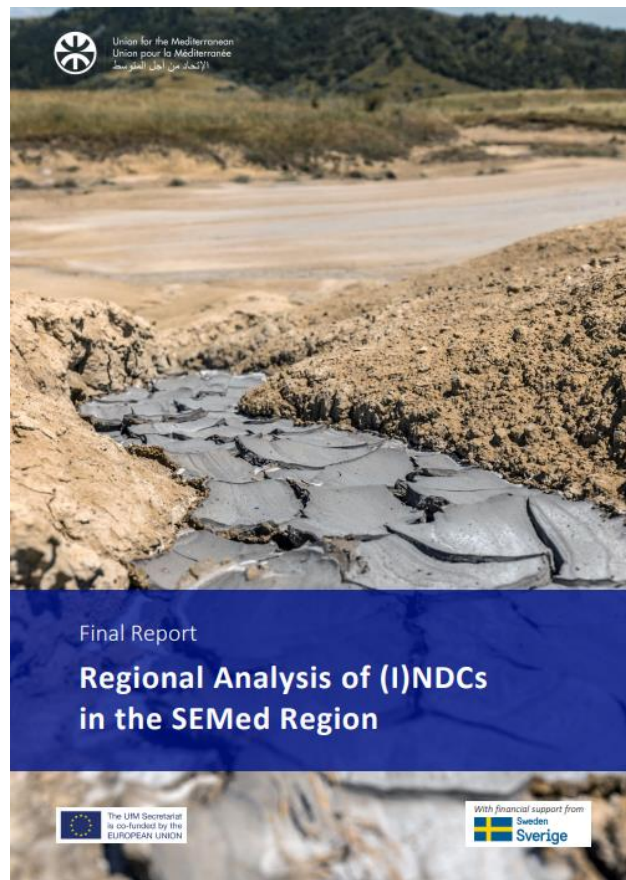
When deciding to establish such a meeting, the UfM Climate Change Expert Group should determine the desired output. The UfM Secretariat will produce a meeting report and communicate it to the UfM Climate Change Expert Group together with proposals for follow-up.

Expected deliverable:

- Identification of one or two areas in which some UfM Member States are willing to develop a regional or sub-regional framework or initiate a cooperation project
- Following each meeting, a document or report is produced by the UfM Secretariat: reports on Climate change impacts on Agriculture and Tourism have been published.

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⁷ <https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Climate-Change-impact-on-Agriculture.pdf>
https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/UfMReport_ClimateChangeAndTourism.pdf



Chapter 3- UfM Labelled project of European Union “CLIMA MED”

Promoted by the European Commission, the Clima-Med project is implemented by a Consortium led by Hulla & Co. Human Dynamics KG with a total budget of € 6,9 million, fully provided by the EU. The project started in June 2018 and will end June 2022.

In the context of operationalizing its Work Program on Climate Action, UfM has labelled this project in March 2019.

The project aims at enhancing energy security and adaptive capacity of partner countries while fostering their transition to low carbon and climate-resilient economy., thereby contributing to more stable, efficient, competitive and climate-resilient socioeconomic contexts.

The expected results of the Clima-Med⁸s project are:

Result 1: Enhanced capacities of ENI South partner countries to implement and regularly update Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), to develop adaptation and mitigation plans and increasing their knowledge and implementing abilities in the field of MRV (Measurement, Reporting and Verification) in collaboration with all relevant government bodies and with regional, national and subnational stakeholders.

Result 2: Increased number of local Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plan (SEACAPs), including greenhouse gases inventories and climate vulnerability and risk assessments.

Result 3: Improved access to finance mechanisms for project beneficiaries.

The project target beneficiaries are national and local authorities in ENI south countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. The project will serve them through two offices, one in the Mashreq (Beirut, Lebanon) and one in the Maghreb region (Rabat, Morocco).

The actions are organized under three Work Packages:

⁸ <https://www.climamed.eu/>; Contacts :Team Leader Naguib Amin namin@climamed.eu and Cc: EU Commission/DG NEAR: Cyril.DEWALEYNE@ec.europa.eu

Work Package 1. Improved climate change governance and mainstreaming climate action:

- Develop coordination capacity on climate related policies
- Mainstream climate adaptation and actions into national strategies and policies
- Promote awareness raising and stakeholders dialogue and ensure project visibility and actions into national strategies and policies

Work Package 2: Sustainable local actions

- Assist local authorities in the design, implementation and monitoring of SEACAPs in cooperation with National Authorities
- Provide Helpdesk to the preparation of SEACAPs and act as the Covenant of Mayors in South Mediterranean (CoM Med).
- Ensure information dissemination and awareness raising.

Work Package 3: Access to finance for projects' implementation

- Formulate solid financing proposals at national level
- Support the implementation of concrete local sustainable actions
- Boost innovative Public-Private Partnerships

Chapter 4 – Cooperation Agreement with R20 – Regions for Climate Action

As one solution to answer to the needs of SEMed countries, the Secretariat of the UfM has signed an agreement with R20 – Regions for Climate Action.

The agreement, notably promoted during the last event of the “One Planet Summit” initiative in Paris, on 24 October 2019, organized by the French Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), provides a solid basis for strengthened cooperation and coordination of mutual efforts in the domain of climate finance. The UfM Secretariat and R20 agree to regularly exchange relevant information, jointly identify and support the development of sustainable infrastructure projects, such as waste optimization, decentralised renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as deliver feasibility studies to showcase the bankability of such projects. A portfolio of projects “ready to be invested” is under preparation.

This cooperation agreement allows to well position initiatives such as waste management or access to renewable energy and energy efficiency in the eyes of private and public investors in order to make them bankable.

Impact investing through blended finance will be the key to unlock the huge potential untapped market that sub national infrastructure represent. R20’s previous experiences in zero waste management in Algeria or the 50 MW solar PV in Mali, not only prove that such infrastructure projects have high social and environmental impacts, as contribution to the SDGs, but they demonstrate that there is as well pretty good return on investment for investors.



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