

1st Regional Roundtable on WEFE

NEXUS in the Mediterranean

Promoting innovations,
investments and
upscaling of solutions

6-7 JUNE 2023

Farah Rabat Hotel - Rabat, Morocco

IN THE FRAMEWORK OF



ORGANISED BY

[Contents](#)

1.Introduction	2
2.Summary of the proceedings of the Roundtable.....	3
3.Agenda	6
ANNEX	11
A1.List of Participants (Physical attendance)	11
A2.Online Participants.....	18
A3.Concept Note for the 1st WEFE Nexus Roundtable in the Mediterranean.....	21

1.Introduction

The **1st Regional Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus Roundtable in the Mediterranean on ‘Promoting Innovation, Investments and Upscaling of Solutions’ (6-7 June 2023, Rabat, Morocco)** was attended by more than 160 participants from 15 countries. Representatives of national authorities, stakeholders and regional institutions agreed on the need for a Strategic Framework for the WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean’s source to sea continuum, to guide integration of policy and management instruments and action lines across sectors to address risks related to water, energy, food and environmental security, and promote leveraging of necessary funding.

Aiming at promoting advances of the WEFE Nexus approach, the Regional WEFE Nexus Roundtable was organized within the joint initiative of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), Barcelona Convention and the European Union, by the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and the Water and Environment Support (WES) in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region Project Team and was hosted by Morocco’s Ministry of Equipment and Water and Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, with contributions by and in the framework of the GEF UNEP/MAP MedProgramme Child Project 2.2. on Nexus, the EU-funded WES project, the Sida/UfM MENA Water Matchmaker 2 Project and the PRIMA WEFE4MED Project.

The Regional WEFE Nexus Roundtable signaled the beginning of a structured dialogue process in the Mediterranean engaging national and local authorities, regional institutions and organisations, academia, civil society, technology partners, financing institutions, gender and youth organisations and many more, coming together to promote WEFE Nexus understanding, facilitate cross-fertilization among institutions and practitioners and enhance coordinated actions in the region, also relating to the coastal and marine environment in a Source-to-Sea approach.

This Report contains a summary of the Roundtable’s proceedings, the Key Points that were discussed, the agenda, the Participants lists and the Concept Note.

2. Summary of the proceedings of the Roundtable

The Roundtable was opened by **Ms. Leila Benali**, Minister of Energy Transition & Sustainable Development, Morocco. During her speech, Ms. Benali stated that *"This Roundtable today reinforces our firm and irreversible determination to open a new chapter in the governance of natural resources. Natural resources that are sustainable, economically viable and socially inclusive. This task, as we are all aware, is far from simple. But our commitment is firm since we are not starting from scratch."*

Ms. Tatjana Hema, Coordinator, UNEP/MAP, Barcelona Convention Secretariat stressed that the Nexus approach has multiple benefits. It avoids fragmented solutions and optimizes resources efficiency, circular economy and improves natural resources management while reducing the ecological footprint.

Mr. Almotaz Abadi, UfM Deputy Secretary General for Water, Environment and Blue Economy mentioned that *"The Union for the Mediterranean supports the WEFE cross-sectoral approach as an enabling framework to tackle the main regional crises: water scarcity, food insecurity, energy crisis and loss of biodiversity."* He stressed that *"It is time to move from 'Nexus thinking' to 'Nexus doing and upscaling'. The Union for the Mediterranean has been instrumental in promoting policies dialogue around the WEFE nexus. Through concrete projects it is now proofing the nexus concept on the ground. Successful examples need now to be replicated and upscaled through innovative approaches. Mobilizing the private sector will be crucial, including through public and private investments, blended financing mechanisms as well as private-public cooperation, also towards jobs creation and income generation."*

Mr. Jean-Christophe Filori, Head of Co-operation, EU Delegation to Morocco, noted that *"The European Union has adopted an important position linking water, energy, food security and the ecosystems of water, soil and land. Through concrete initiatives such as this Nexus, the EU is supporting its partners to accelerate the necessary transitions, particularly in the Mediterranean region, which repeatedly suffers from extreme climatic phenomena, and where the management of resources, which are not unlimited, requires integrated policies, effective regional governance and sustainable investment"*.

According to **Prof. Michael Scoullas**, Team Leader, EU Water and Environment Support (WES) in the ENI Southern Neighborhood region the WEFE Nexus requires abolition of traditional sectoral silos approaches by connecting them through many and large communication channels. Furthermore, Nexus, provides ample space for maneuvering and mutually beneficial trade-offs. WEFE Nexus *"is not a panacea, it is a tool"*. He went on to complement that *"It is not enough to bring the different elements together. The synergies between them make it a nexus. It is a cross sectoral arrangement"*.

Mr. Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary, GWP-Med, noted that *"WEFE Nexus benefits will be best understood through in-the-field implementation that prove related policy-making options, decisions and investments. WEFE Nexus technical solutions are currently implemented through pilots in smart agriculture, green/blue cities, coastal management, and more, including nature-based solutions. Pilots should be upscaled and mainstreamed, while technical solutions should become available and affordable in the real market for the users to find, purchase and apply. Public awareness, entrepreneurship and investments are key for these to happen"*.

At the beginning of the roundtable and in order to inform discussions, the following were presented:

- **Prof. Michael Scoullios**, WES Team Leader, gave an [introductory presentation on defining and de-mystifying the WEFE Nexus](#). He underlined that the Nexus approach enhances security and resilience, and explained how policies and practices in each of the Nexus sectors need to take into account and internalise the necessary policy elements of the other sectors by facilitating a coherent and integrated management of all four. He insisted in the three-dimensional visualisation of the WEFE Nexus as educationally and conceptually important.
- **Mr. Ali Rhouma**, Project Officer for PRIMA, presented an [overview of the science advances in the WEFE Nexus](#) as well as the challenges that exist in actually translating WEFE Nexus Science to policies, and suggested ways to bridge them. He went on to analyse PRIMA's strategy for turning from Nexus thinking to Nexus doing, the solutions that are being promoted throughout 30 demonstration sites and how they can assist governments in shaping policies for the achievement of SDGs.
- The "[Gateway to the future of the Mediterranean](#)", prepared by the EC JRC with over 130 contributors from 65 partners including EC, UfM, GWP-Med, UNEP, UNESCO, World Bank, FAO, UNECE, ministries, NGOs and donors, is an elaborate document encompassing scientific, historical and artistic contributions from the Mediterranean explaining the interconnections of the Nexus sectors from the *Mare Nostrum* era to thisday.
- The draft "[Mediterranean Rapid Nexus Assessment](#)", prepared by GWP-Med in the framework of the [GEF/UNEP-MAP MedProgramme](#). Covering 13 Mediterranean countries, the Assessment identifies for the first time the status, main targets and challenges in the Nexus sectors, the level of integration of policy and institutional frameworks in the management of natural resources including a Gender analysis, and ways forward for tackling Nexus challenges and capturing related opportunities in each country.
- [Key learnings from tangible pilot WEFE Nexus technical solutions](#), including from projects such as the Sida/UfM/GWP-Med MENA Matchmaker 2, which recently completed technical solutions for energy-efficient sustainable irrigation through nature-based solutions in Jordan and Palestine.

Promoting a WEFE Nexus Community of Practice (CoP) among all types of stakeholders as well as demonstrators of policy and technical solutions, the PRIMA WEFE4MED Project made an open call to all concerned partners to join forces for achieving real change through collective learning and doing.

Ms. Antonella Aoutino, Project Coordinator PRIMA Foundation said *"The WEFE Nexus CoP is more than just an idea; it's a real-world laboratory where scalable solutions take shape. Through Nexus Demonstration Sites, we turn theories into practices and gain invaluable insights for tackling the challenges of water, energy, food, and ecosystems. As PRIMA, we are proud to lead this is building a resilient and sustainable Mediterranean."*

Representatives of regional institutions, national authorities and stakeholders discussed options to concretely promote the Nexus approach. They acknowledged that actions are advancing at national level, however these wouldn't be enough, and coordinated-among-countries-action is necessary to effectively address the WEFE Nexus security risks. They all expressed their commitment to the drafting of a framework document for WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean source to sea continuum that will:

- take stock and link with existing regional policies/strategies/action plans, adding value and avoiding duplication;
- assist countries and stakeholders enhancing individual and collective (as applicable and necessary) integration of policy and management frameworks and instruments across sectors to address WEFE security related risks;
- promote leveraging of necessary funding.

Such a strategic document should also address in a holistic approach interlinkages in the management of terrestrial, freshwater and marine resources through a Source to Sea approach. Aiming to engage all water-using sectors and fairly and efficiently address their needs and considerations, the promotion of the Nexus approach complements and enhances Integrated Water Resources Management. The development and eventual adoption of the document be anchored to appropriate regional frameworks that have the necessary mandate and instruments to enable its implementation and the monitoring of results. The UfM and the Barcelona Convention constitute such -complementary- frameworks covering the entire region. Further, it should be aligned with the EU acquis as this is the overarching institutional and legal framework for integrated management of resources in the Northern part of the Mediterranean, while providing a blueprint for such action in the rest of the Basin. GWP-Med and the WES project with the engagement of PRIMA will facilitate the technical drafting process under the auspices of UNEP/MAP, UfM and the EC, and the draft document will be discussed under a multi-stakeholder consultation process served by the MedProgramme.

Key conclusions of the Nexus Roundtable can be found [here](#).

3. Agenda

Day 1 of the Roundtable: Tuesday, 6 June 2023	
09:00-09:30	<p>Welcoming High-level session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ H.E Leila Benali, Minister of Energy Transition & Sustainable Development, Morocco (online) ○ Tatjana Hema, Coordinator, UNEP/MAP, Barcelona Convention Secretariat (online) ○ Almotaz Abadi, UfM Deputy Secretary General in charge of Water, Environment and Blue Economy ○ Jean Christophe Filori, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Morocco ○ Omar Amawi, Deputy Director, PRIMA ○ Michael Scoulllos, Team Leader, EU Water and Environment Support (WES) in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region <p>Purpose and overview of the Roundtable: Dimitris Faloutsos, Deputy Regional Coordinator, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med)</p>
09:30-10:45	<p>1. Setting the Stage: The added value of the WEFE Nexus approach for sustainable development in the Mediterranean</p> <p>Facilitator: Dimitris Faloutsos, Deputy Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Defining the WEFE Nexus concept <i>Michael Scoulllos, Team Leader, EU WES Project</i> ○ Strengthening the Science-to-Policy Interface of the WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean: Advancing Knowledge Management and Policy Integration <i>Ali Rhouma, WEFE Nexus Project Officer, PRIMA Foundation</i> ○ The Nexus Gateway to the future of the Mediterranean: Water, energy, food and the environment <i>Bernd Gawlik, European Commission, DG Joint Research Centre (online)</i> ○ WEFE Nexus state of play in the Mediterranean: Rapid WEFE Nexus Assessment in Med countries, and WEFE Nexus & Gender aspects <i>Tassos Krommydas, Senior Programme Officer, GWP-Med</i> <i>Anthi Brouma, Deputy Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med (online)</i> ○ Advancing WEFE Nexus technical solutions in MENA <i>Ghazi Abu Rumman, Coordinator of Technical Interventions of the Sida/UfM Matchmaker II Project, Head of Amman Operations, GWP-Med</i> <p>Plenary Q & A</p>
10:45- 11:15	Coffee break
11:15-12:45	<p>2. Advancing implementation of the Nexus approach, at all levels, in the Mediterranean: Discussion panel by institutions and organisations</p> <p><i>What are the key lessons from implementing Nexus activities; How will we achieve Nexus policy integration? How will we consolidate Nexus action planning at national level? How will the Gender and Youth agendas be mainstreamed into Nexus advancements?</i></p>

	<p>Facilitator: Vangelis Constantianos, Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mohamed Al Dwairi, Assistant Secretary General for Strategic Planning, Ministry of Water & Irrigation, Jordan • Mona Fakih, Director of Water, Ministry of Energy and Water, Lebanon (online) • Hassan Bahhar, Director, Regional Directorate for Environment, Region Tangier Tetouan Al Hoceima (DRE TTH) / Mohammed Amrani, Head, Regional Observatory for the Environment and Sustainable Development • Veronica Giradi, Environmental affairs officer, UNECE Water Convention • Jose Luis Martin-Bordes, Project Coordinator UNESCO-IHP • Daria Povh Skugor, Senior Programme Officer, UNEP/MAP, Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) <p>Plenary Q & A</p>
12:45-13:30	<p>3. The PRIMA-supported Mediterranean Nexus Community of Practice (WEFE4MED)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antonella Autino, Project Coordinator (online) and Ali Rhouma, WEFE Nexus Project Officer, PRIMA Foundation • Jann Martinsohn, Head of Unit for Ocean and Water, EU DG Joint Research Center (online) • Adriana Bruggeman, Associate Professor, Hydrology and Water Management at the Energy, Environment and Water Research Center, Cyprus Institute • Charles Kleinermann, Research Team Leader, Capacity Development, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) <p>Plenary Q & A</p>
13:30-14:30	Lunch break
14:30-15:30	<p>4. Promoting Nexus technical solutions, innovation and entrepreneurship: Discussion panel– part 1 <i>What do we need for upscaling Nexus pilots to mainstream applications? How will Nexus technical solutions reach the market?</i></p> <p>Facilitator: Ghazi Abu Rumman, Coordinator of Technical Interventions of the Sida/UfM Matchmaker II Project, Head of Amman Jordan Operations, GWP-Med</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manuel Sapiano, CEO, Energy and Water Agency, Malta (online) • Abdourahman Maki, Land and water officer, FAO Subregional office for North Africa (online) • Mohammad Al Hyari, Mayor of Salt, Jordan • Jauad El Kharraz, Executive Director, Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) • Eyad Yacob, Arab American University, Palestine • Ramy Boujawadeh, Chief Operating Officer, Berytech (online) <p>Plenary Q & A</p>

15:30-15:45	Coffee break
15:45-16:45	5. Promoting Nexus technical solutions, innovation and entrepreneurship: Discussion panel – part 2 <i>What do we need for upscaling Nexus pilots to mainstream applications? How will Nexus technical solutions reach the market?</i> Facilitator: Frédéric de Dinechin, Senior Policy Advisor for WEFE Nexus, UfM Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Khaled Abuzeid, Regional Water Resources Director, Center for Environment and Development in the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) • Gemma Torres Sallan, Project Officer, MedCities (online) • Nada Majdalani, Director, Ecopeace-Palestine • Rami El Akhras, Smart Desert Project • Gertud Buchenrider, Coordinator, PRIMA FrontAg NEXUS Project Plenary Q & A
16:45-17:30	6. Mobilising financing & investments for Nexus implementation: Discussion panel – part 1 <i>How will we enhance financing and investments for upscaling and mainstreaming Nexus solutions: what are the obstacles? Where are the opportunities?</i> Facilitator: Frederic Fournet, Program Officer, EU DG NEAR B2 Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magnus Andre, Program Manager, MENA Sida office • Gianpiero Nacci, Director, Sustainable Business and Infra, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (online) • Mohamed Miftah, Consultant Expert, European Investment Bank • Said Mourabit, Country Economist, Islamic Development Bank • Hussein El-Atfy, Secretary General, Arab Water Council, former Minister of Water Resources & Irrigation of Egypt (online) Plenary Q & A
17:30	Conclusions of Day 1 Rapporteur: Michael Scoullas, Team Leader, EU WES Project
20.00	Dinner

Day 2 of the Roundtable: Wednesday, 7 June 2023	
09:00-10:00	<p>7. Mobilising financing & investments for Nexus implementation - Making the best use of public resources to finance Nexus implementation: Discussion panel – part 2 <i>What is the scope for improving the coordination of public sectoral investment programmes to finance Nexus solutions: What are the obstacles? Where are the opportunities?</i> <i>What is the scope for reforming harmful subsidies to finance Nexus solutions: what are the obstacles? Where are the opportunities?</i></p> <p>Facilitator: Roberto Martin Hurtado, Senior Water Economics Advisor, UfM</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abdeslam Jorio, Head of Division of Infrastructure Sectors, Ministry of Finance, Morocco • Timothy Hanlon, Programme Director, Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management (INWRDAM) • Alain Meyssonier, President, Mediterranean Water Institute (IME) • Shorouq Abdel Ghani, Director of Planning and Organizational Development, Jordan, Ministry of Energy and Mineral resources <p>Plenary Q & A</p>
10:00-11:00	<p>8. Looking ahead: Discussion panel <i>How will we enhance integration of Nexus sectors for impact at national and regional level?</i></p> <p>Facilitator: Vangelis Constantianos, Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med</p> <p>Panelists: <i>[some panelists to be confirmed]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ylber Mirta, Head of Department of Waters, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, North Macedonia • Siham Laraichi, Head of Hydroclimatic Monitoring Service, Ministry of Equipment and Water, Morocco • Sanja Kapetina, Head of Department for Secondary Energy and Projects, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina • Samer Kalbounieh, Director, Environmental Quality Authority, Palestine
11:00-11:20	Coffee break
11:20-12:00	<p>9. Tour de Table: Towards a Nexus strategy / action plan in the Mediterranean? Participants will exchange insights on the possible need for a Mediterranean Nexus strategy / Action Plan aiming at practically advancing and mainstreaming the Nexus agenda in the region and building on past/on-going/upcoming initiatives and actions: <i>What could such a regional document address? How could it link with existing regional policies/strategies/action plans, adding value and avoiding duplication? How could it be inclusively elaborated? How could it become operational, and monitored for impact?</i></p>

	<p>Facilitator: Dimitris Faloutsos, Deputy Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olfat Hamdan, Programme Management Officer, UNEP/MAP • Almotaz Abadi, Deputy Secretary General in charge of Water, Environment and Blue Economy, UfM • Frederic Fourtune, Program Officer, EU DG NEARB2
12:00-12:30	<p>10. Summary of conclusions and recommendations for next steps, and closing remarks</p> <p>Rapporteur: <i>Michael Scoulllos, Team Leader, EU WES Project</i></p>
12:30-13:15	Lunch

ANNEX

A1. List of Participants (Physical attendance)

1st Regional Roundtable on WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean - Rabat, 6-7 June 2023 List of Participants (Physical attendance)					
Title	First Name	Last Name	Country	Institution	Position
Ms.	Sanja	Kapetina	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations	Head of Department for Secondary Energy and Projects
Mr.	Senad	Oprasic	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations	Head of Environmental Protection Dpt
Mr.	Ylber	Mirta	North Macedonia	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	Head of Department for Waters
Mr.	Henry	Debattista	Malta	Energy and Water Agency	Policy Officer
Ms.	Zeljka	Curovic	Montenegro	Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism	Consultant
Ms.	Milica	Rudic	Montenegro	Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism	Marine and Coastal Biodiversity NFP
Ms.	Tamara	Brajovic	Montenegro	Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism	General Directorate for Nature Protection
Mr.	Amr	Fawzy	Egypt	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation	General Director of Water Resources
Ms.	Sara	Mohamed	Egypt	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation	Water resources engineer
Ms.	Samaa	ElBaroudy	Egypt	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation	Director of the strategic cooperation general directorate
Mr.	Yoram Yizhak	MORAD	Israel	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Special Envoy for International Water Affairs

Ms.	Shorouq	Abdel Ghani	Jordan	Ministry of Energy and Mineral resources	Director of Planning and Organizational Development
Mr.	Mohammad	AL Wreikat	Jordan	Ministry of Water and Irrigation	
Ms.	Rola	Khlifat	Jordan	Salt Municipality	Director of Technical Programs
Mr.	Mohammad	Al Hyari	Jordan	Salt Municipality	Mayor
Mr.	Husameddin	Alhaj Ali	Jordan	Royal Scientific Society	Manager of Food Security Studies
Mr.	Michael	Rahbe	Jordan	University of Jordan	
Ms.	Sajeda Aqel Hattab	Alrahaife	Jordan	Karak Municipality	Executive Director
Mr.	Jihad	Alsawair	Jordan	Ministry of Environment	Director of Green Economy Unit
Mr.	Talal	AlZeq	Jordan	Ministry of Agriculture	Liaison officer for Nexus
Ms.	Jumana	Ghunaimat	Jordan	Jordanian Ambassador to Morocco	Ambassador
Mr.	Adel	Yacoub	Lebanon	Ministry of Environment	Head of Protection of Natural Resources Department
Mr.	Ahmed Benane	Mohamed	Mauritania	Ministre de l'Agriculture	Conseiller Technique
Mr.	Saadou Ebih	Monane	Mauritania	Ministère de l'Hydraulique et de l'Assainissement	Conseiller du Ministre
Mr.	Ahmed Ould	Zein	Mauritania	Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable	
Ms.	Mbarka	Mahmoudi	Mauritania	Ministère du Pétrole, des Mines et de l'Énergie	Directrice Générale Adjointe de l'Electricité et de la Maîtrise de l'Energie
Mr.	Fuad	Ramal	Palestine	Palestinian Water Authority	Director of Monitoring
Ms.	Ibtesam	Abualhaija	Palestine	Ministry of Agriculture	Director of Climate Change Monitoring Department
Ms.	Eman	Dwaik	Palestine	The Palestinian Women Water Practitioners Network	
Mr.	Samer	Kalbouneh	Palestine	Environment Quality Authority	Director of Projects Department

Ms.	Sabria	Bnoui	Tunisia	Ministry of the Environment	General Director, International Cooperation
Mr.	Adel	Abdouli	Tunisia	Coastal Protection and Planning Agency	
Mr.	Abdelaziz	ZAROUALI	Morocco	Ministère de l'Équipement et de l'Eau	Directeur de la Recherche et la Planification de l'Eau
Ms.	Siham	Laraichi	Morocco	Ministère de l'Équipement et de l'Eau	Chef de Service Suivi Hydroclimatique
Ms.	Ikram	Benchbani	Morocco	Ministère de l'Équipement et de l'Eau	Direction de la Recherche et la Planification de l'eau
Mr.	Abdeslam	Jorio	Morocco	Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances	Chef de la Division des Secteurs de l'Infrastructure
Mr.	EL Mustapha	ATTAOUI	Morocco	Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances	Direction du Budget
Ms.	Khaoula	Lagrini	Morocco	Ministère de la Transition Énergétique et du Développement Durable	Head Of Multilateral Cooperation Unit
Mr.	Houcine	Kasmi	Morocco	Ministère de la Transition Énergétique et du Développement Durable	Cadre au service de la coopération multilatérale
Mr.	Hassan	BAHHAR	Morocco	Ministère de la Transition Énergétique et du Développement Durable	Regional Director for Environment for Tanger Tétouan Al Hoceima
Mr.	Mohammed	Amrani	Morocco	Ministère de la Transition Énergétique et du Développement Durable - Observatoire Régional	Chef du Service, Direction Régionale de l'Environnement pour la region TTH
Mr.	Abderazak	Chahboune	Morocco	Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Recherche Scientifique et de l'Innovation	Division de la Coordination de la Recherche Universitaire
Mr.	Adyel Mohammed	Taoufik	Morocco	Ministère de l'Energie et des Mines	Chef de Division

Ms.	Kaoutar	El Hilali	Morocco	Direction Régionale de l'Environnement pour la region TTH	Cadre
Ms.	Nada	Alahyane	Morocco	Direction Régionale de l'Environnement pour la region TTH	Cadre
Mr.	Hicham	Bouziane	Morocco	Conseil de la Région Tanger Tétouan Al Hoceima	Chef de la Division de Développement Economique, territoriale et Aménagement du Territoire
Ms.	Asmaa	Elkhou	Morocco	Wilaya de la Région Tanger Tétouan Al Hoceima	Administrateur
Mr.	Mesmoudi	Haki	Morocco	Agence du Bassin Hydraulique du Loukkos	Chef de la Division de l'évaluation et de la Planification des ressources hydriques
Mr.	Jean Christophe	Filori	International	EU Delegation	Head of Cooperation
Mr.	Frederic	Fourtune	International	European Commission DG NEAR B2	Program officer
Mr.	Patrick	Wegerdt	International	European Commission DG ENV	International relations officer
Ms.	Guillemette	Vachey	International	European Commission DG NEAR	Environment and climate expert
Mr.	Eyad	Yacob	International	Arab American University	Professor
Mr.	Khaled	Abuzeid	International	CEDARE	Regional Water Resources Director
Mr.	Omar	Amawi	International	PRIMA	Deputy Director
Ms.	Adriana	Bruggeman	International	Cyprus Institute	Energy, Environment and Water Research Center
Ms.	Nada	Majdalani	International	EcoPeace Middle East - Palestine	Director, Palestine Office
Ms.	Gertrud	Buchenrieder	International	FrontAg Nexus	Project Coordinator
Mr.	Rami	El Akhras	International	Horizons for Green	Executive Director

				Development	
Mr.	Charles	Kleiner mann	International	ICARDA	Research Team Leader,
Mr.	Timothy	Hanlon	International	INWRDAM	Programme Director
Mr.	Said	Mourabit	International	Islamic Development Bank	Country economist
Mr.	Alain	Meyssonnier	International	Mediterranean Water Institute	President
Mr.	Mokhtar	Bzioui	International	Mediterranean Water Institute	President du CST
Ms.	Abir	Ben Ramdhone	International	Mediterranean Youth for Water Network	
Mr.	Ali	Rhouma	International	PRIMA	Project Officer
Mr.	Jauad	El Kharraz	International	Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	Executive Director
Mr.	Gareth James	Lloyd	International	UNEP-DHI Center	Deputy Chief Manager
Mr.	Jose Luis	Matin Bordes	International	UNESCO	International Consultant
Ms.	Maroua	OUESLATI NACEUR	International	UT SEMIDE	Information & project manager
Mr.	Magnus	Andre	International	Sida	Program Manager, MENA office
Mr.	Mohamed	Miftah	International	European Investment Bank	Consultant Expert
Mr.	Mohamed	Alaoui	International	UNESCO Regional Office for the Maghreb	Science Officer
Ms.	Zouhour	Himmich	International		Journalist
Mr.	Hassan Mahmoud Tolba	Abeolmga	International	Sustainable Development and International Cooperation Department at the League of Arab States	Excutive Manager of Arab Digital Platform for Sustainable Development & Vice Chair of Middle East Water Forum
Mr.	Mohamed	Ftouhi	International	Moroccan Club for Environment and Development	President
Mr.	Hicham	Ezzine	International	GIS4DS (GIS for Decision Support)	Senior Consultant
Mr.	Mohamed	SINAN	International	Ecole Hassania des Travaux Publics (EHTP)	Professor

Ms.	Ennami	Mounia	International	IAVHASSAN II Morocco	Professor
Ms.	Taimourya	Houda	International	IAVHASSAN II Morocco	Professor
Mr.	Khalid	Benhamou	International	Sahara Wind	Chef d'entreprise
Mr.	Mourad	Laqbaqbi	International	University Ibn Toufail /ENSC	Professeur
Mr.	Almotaz	Abadi	International	Union for the Mediterranean	Deputy Secretary General
Mr.	Martin-Hurtado	Roberto	International	Union for the Mediterranean	Independent consultant
Ms.	Samira	Shaban	International	Union for the Mediterranean	Project Analyst
Mr.	Frédéric	de Dinechin	International	Union for the Mediterranean	Policy Advisor
Mr.	Michael	Karner	International	Plan Blue	Project Manager
Ms.	Daria	Povh	International	PAP RAC UNEP / MAP	Senior Programme Officer
Ms.	Željka	Škaričić	International	PAP RAC UNEP / MAP	Director
Ms.	Olfat	Hamdan	International	UNEP MAP	Programme Management Officer
Mr.	Alessandro	Candeloro	International	UNEP MAP	International Consultant
Ms.	Timea	Minaei	International	UNEP MAP	Associate Finance and Budget Officer
Mr.	Michael	Scoullous	International	WES in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region	Team Leader
Mr.	Vangelis	Constantianos	International	GWP-Med	Executive Secretary & Regional Coordinator
Mr.	Dimitris	Faloutsos	International	GWP-Med	Deputy Regional Coordinator
Mr.	Ghazi	Abu Rumman	International	GWP-Med	Head of Amman Operations
Mr.	Tassos	Krommydas	International	GWP-Med	Senior Programme Officer
Ms.	Lucilla	Minelli	International	GWP-Med	Senior Programme Officer
Ms.	Barbara	Tomassini	International	GWP-Med	Senior Programme Officer
Ms.	Maria	Livanou	International	GWP-Med	Senior Communications Officer
Mr.	Dimitris	Bogiatzis	International	GWP-Med	Events Organiser
Mr.	Ahmad	<i>al Yagouli</i>	<i>Unclear hand-written signatures</i>	Sup. Resercher	N/A
Mr.	Mohamad	<i>Elkoseir</i>	<i>Unclear hand-written signatures</i>	Ministere Agriculture	N/A

Mr.	Abdelkader	<i>Mesmoudz</i>	<i>Unclear hand-written signatures</i>	ABHL	N/A
Ms.	Nadia	<i>Zoufarchi</i>	<i>Unclear hand-written signatures</i>	Sup. FMS	DAJEC
Ms.	Gardi	<i>Khadye</i>	<i>Unclear hand-written signatures</i>	DRE-RSK	C.S
Ms.	Ohhatta	<i>El Haj</i>	<i>Unclear hand-written signatures</i>	M. Culture	N/A
Mr.	Mohamed	<i>Sinan</i>	<i>Unclear hand-written signatures</i>		Expert
Ms.	Moulay Aziz	<i>Drissiyahyaoui</i>	<i>Unclear hand-written signatures</i>	Ministere de l'eau	N/A
Ms.	Nadir	<i>Sinacer</i>	<i>Unclear hand-written signatures</i>	NFO Reas	Waste President
Ms.	Mataoui	<i>Rajae</i>	<i>Unclear hand-written signatures</i>	Ministere de le Transition Energetique	Trainee

Gender Balance:

Male Participants: 66

Female Participants: 43

A2. Online Participants

Online Participants to the 1st Regional Nexus Roundtable in the Mediterranean (Rabat, 6-7 June 2023)					
Title / Civilité	First Name	Last Name	Country / Pays	Institution / Organisme	Position / Poste
Mr.	Hakam	Al Alami	Jordan	Blue Peace in the Middle East	Dr
Mr.	Mohammad	AL Dwairi	Jordan	Ministry of Water & Irrigation	Secretary General Assistant for Strategic Planning
Mr.	Mufleh	Alalaween	Jordan	SDC	
Ms.	Majeda	Alawneh	State of Palestine	Palestinian Water Authority	Water resources and control Directorate
Mr.	MANSSOURI	ANAS	Morocco	ICARDA	Researcher
Ms.	antonella	autino	Spain	PRIMA	Manager
Ms.	Amel	Azab	Egypt	Arab Water Council	Senior Technical Expert
Mr.	Ahmad	Bali	Jordan	Ministry of Water and Irrigation	Head of Planning of Water Demand Department
Mr.	Oriol	Barba	Espagne	Medcities	Director
Mr.	Marv	Barbullushi	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Regional Cooperation Council	Expert on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans
Mr.	Giovanni	Bidoglio	Italy	EC-Joint Research Centre	Senior expert
Mr.	Ramy	Boujawdeh	Lebanon	Berytech	COO
Ms.	Claudette	Briere Spiteri	France	IOC-UNESCO	GEF IW:LEARN Project Manager
Ms.	Anthi	Brouma	Greece	GWP-Med	Deputy Regional Coordinator
Mr.	Rafael	Casielles	Spain	BIOAZUL	Project manager

Mr.	Anas	Chokairi	Maroc	MESRSI	Chef de service
Mr.	Fadi	Comair	cyprus	Cyprus institute	Director EEWRC
Ms.	NEVENKA	CUKJATI	SLOVENIA	JOŽEF STEFAN INSTITUTE	HEAD OF THE CENTRE FOR SMART CITIES & COMMUNITIES
Ms.	Sonia	Darabee	Palestine	Garatage university	PhD
Mr.	Hussein	El Atfy	Egypt	Arab Water Council	Secretary General of the Arab Water Council
Mr.	Hafid	EL OUALJA	Maroc	Direction régionale de l'environnement -MTEDD/DDD	Directeur Régional
Mr.	RICHARD	ELELMAN	SPAIN	EURECAT	HEAD OF POLITICS
Ms.	Mona	Fakih	Lebanon	Ministry of Energy and Water	Director of Water
Mr.	Markus	Fittkow	Jordan	INWRDAM	WEFE Coordinator
Ms.	khadija	gardi	maroc	DDD/DRE-RSK	chef service
Mr.	Bernd Manfred	Gawlik	Italy	European Commission - JRC	Portfolio Leader
Ms.	Veronica	Girardi	Italy	UNECE	Environmental Affairs Officer
Ms.	Natalia	Glowacka	Poland	Expert for the EC	Biotechnologist
Ms.	Mirian	Gonzalo	Spain	Union for the Mediterranean	Professional Assistant
Ms.	Tatjana	Hema	Greece	UNEP MAP	Coordinator
Ms.	nina	houben	Spain	UfM	Intern
Mr.	BRAHIM	JAAFAR	maroc	UNDP	Coordonnateur National du Projet
Ms.	Lalla Asma	KASMI	Maroc	ONEE	Directrice Coopération et Communication
Ms.	Zoyia	Konstantopoulou	Cyprus	The Cyprus Institute	Project Officer
Mr.	Jacques	LEGROS	Morocco	European Union	chargé de programmes infrastructures Délégation Rabat

Ms.	Evie	Litou	Greece	WES	Project Coordinator
Ms.	Noemie	Louvet	Jordan	INWRDAM	Advocacy and Communications Officer
Mr.	Abdourahman	Maki	Tunisie	FAO	Land&Water officer
Mr.	Jann	Martinsohn	Italy	European Commission Joint Research Centre	Head of Unit - Ocean and Waters Unit
Mr.	Zafer	Milhem	Palestine	Palestinian Energy and Natural Resources Authority	Chairman of PENRA
Mr.	Eric	MINO	France	SEMIDE	Directeur
Mr.	Mustafa	Nasereddin	Germany	WEE Pros	Managing Director & Cofounder
Ms.	Natalia	Notopoulou	Greece	LDK	WES Event Organiser
Ms.	LISA	PAPADOGEORGAKI	Greece	WES Project	Key Expert Communication & Networking
Ms.	irene	perez ramirez	Portugal	FCT NOVA Lisbon	Postdoctoral research
Mr.	Ali	Rhouma	Spain	PRIMA	Project Officer
Mr.	Basim	Saleh	Jordan	Greentech	CEO
Mr.	Manuel	Sapiano	Malta	Energy and Water Agency	Water Director
Ms.	Ismini	Savvaidou	Greece	Foodscale Hub	Project Manager
Ms.	Suzan	Taha	jordan	Water and Environment Support (WES) Project	key water expert
Ms.	Gemma	Torres Sallan	Spain	MedCities	Project officer
Mr.	Muntasir	Zaid Al Kilani	Jordan	INWRDAM	Technical officer
Ms.	Doha	Zamel	Spain	UfM	Water Expert

Gender Balance:

Male Participants: 28

Female Participants: 25

A3. Concept Note for the 1st WEFE Nexus Roundtable in the Mediterranean

Background: The WEFE Nexus Approach – an introduction

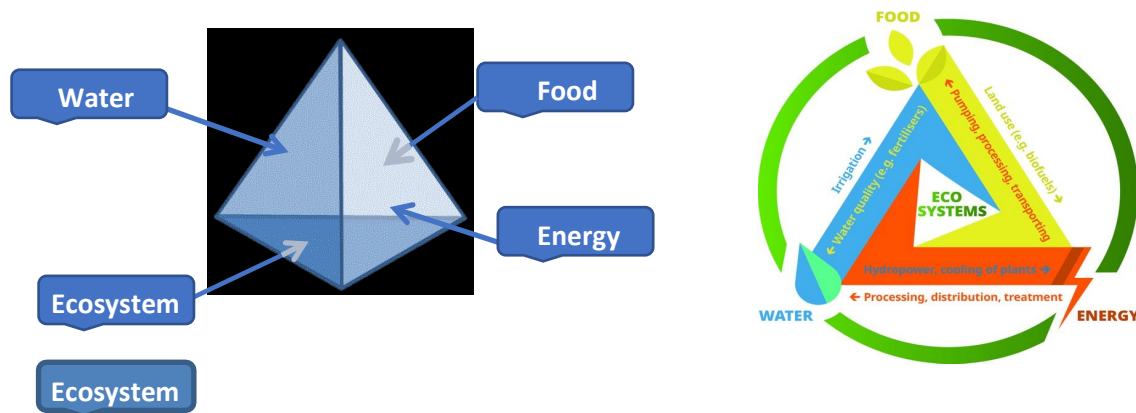
Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems: Challenges and interlinkages

Around the Mediterranean, nature's conditions including climate change and its impacts, water scarcity, rising population, rapid urbanization, unsustainable economic growth and consumption patterns, are driving pressures on the availability of natural resources and on vulnerable ecosystems, including in the coastal and marine areas. Parts of the region face an enduring economic crisis, armed conflicts, unemployment particularly among youth, socio-political instability, gender disparities and large-scale migratory movements often under dramatic conditions. Further, the ongoing war in Ukraine has disrupted supply chains and threatens food and energy security.

For a sustainable development in the Region, it is of utmost priority to ensure integrated management of natural resources that constitute the basis for socio-economic activities and livelihoods. It is also necessary to ensure water, energy and food security in an efficient, equitable and climate-resilient way, while preserving the health of natural systems.

These sectors do not operate in isolation but are heavily cross-dependent to each other. As an example, agriculture is the largest consumer of freshwater resources, while energy generation is also highly dependent on water for extraction of fossil fuels, hydropower, cooling thermal power plants, biofuel crops, etc. At the same time, both the food and water sectors are energy intensive: around a quarter of total energy consumption is related to food production and supply, while up to 30% of the operating costs of water and wastewater utilities are energy-related costs, including desalination. Combined pressures of all sectors's demands are exercised on ecosystems and the critical services they provide; these are exacerbated in the coast, including aquifers, wetlands, and other fragile systems, also affecting the marine area and economy.

The graphs below provide a generic visualisation of water, energy, food and ecosystems interlinkages, meaning that activities in one sector can affect the others. While trade-offs can exist, especially where there is competition for the same scarce resources, significant opportunities for synergies and cost savings arise if planning and investments are optimized across sectors.



The WEFE Nexus approach

The Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus approach is essentially about moving beyond a traditional sectoral/fragmented thinking and adopting an integrated and coordinated approach across sectors for the management of natural resources by reconciling the potentially conflicting interests of different sectors and stakeholders that may even compete for the same resources. The Nexus can contribute towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as meeting the goals of building low carbon and climate resilient economies and societies.

The Nexus approach can be applied at all levels: national, basin, local/coastal, transboundary, etc. It may best deliver results where institutional and managerial arrangements are in place to drive design, implementation and monitoring, including the watershed / basin level. In the case of transboundary basins / aquifers, the Nexus approach can be a useful instrument enabling a cooperative and integrated management of shared natural resources and their equitable and efficient use, both across borders and sectors, for shared benefits. In a Source-to-Sea approach, the Nexus can provide multiple benefits, throughout natural, territorial and administrative units, in the land and the adjacent marine areas.

At the same time, the Nexus presents a conducive environment for deployment of innovation, entrepreneurship and employability for income generation as well as for private sector engagement for sustainability and climate resilience objectives.

An effective adoption of a Nexus approach is a promising instrument for promoting considerations on social cross-cutting issues such as gender empowerment, stakeholder engagement, human rights, combatting poverty, youth engagement, etc., by safeguarding the rights of socially and economically vulnerable groups that are affected the most by resources insecurity, as they depend the most -and spend the largest share of their income- on basic needs in the form of water, food and energy.

Looking forward: Advancing and implementing the WEFE Nexus approach

National institutional and policy-making frameworks don't always provide a favorable environment for the implementation of multi-dimensional approaches such as the Nexus. It is, therefore, necessary to enhance understanding, experience sharing and capacities to provide more substantial evidence and reliable knowledge to decision-making to enable its adoption as a 'mainstream' management approach. Lines of action in that regard include the cross-fertilization among practitioners, the development and sharing of methodologies and tools for the elaboration of Nexus Policy Dialogues and Nexus Assessments, exchange of experience in the fields of innovations and Nexus solutions as well as the financing means, including public and private investments, to upscale these, explaining specific interlinkages at national, basin, coastal, local and transboundary levels, capacity building for decision makers, key stakeholders and staff of institutions, etc.

Further, it is critical to advance from 'Nexus thinking' to 'Nexus doing'. Concrete, feasible and sustainable policy and technical solutions proofing the Nexus concept and fostering innovation, need to be further demonstrated, at all levels, supported and promoted by regional and national institutions, and then successful examples to be replicated and upscaled including through public and private investments as well as private-public cooperation, also towards jobs creation and income generation.

The WEFE Nexus Policy Dialogue process in the Mediterranean

The WEFE Nexus approach in a Mediterranean context

In terms of challenges and pressures in Nexus-related resources, it is self-evident that countries around the Mediterranean exhibit significant differences and variations among them on their natural conditions, the availabilities of natural resources, the risks from climate change, as well as on economic development, governance, demographic trends and socioeconomic issues, including gender disparities. A distinction may be made between some countries on the northern shores of the Mediterranean and some in its southern and eastern ones, although significant variances are also evident at the sub-regional level and among different population subgroups. Furthermore, Nexus-related challenges and, in balance opportunities for improvements, may be more significant in urban as well as in coastal areas where, among others, developmental pressures, demand for natural resources, but also fragility of ecosystems, may be higher.

In terms of integrated management of natural resources, significant policy and governance advancements have taken place in many Mediterranean countries in the past decade, through e.g. the establishment of inter-ministerial coordination bodies, the integration of water and biodiversity targets in agriculture and rural development plans, the consideration of a range of Nexus sectors in climate strategies and plans, etc. At the same time, the development of Nexus Assessments and studies to identify priority Nexus synergies and trade-offs, have assisted in comprehending better related challenges, solutions and opportunities for action at local, national and transboundary levels.

The Nexus approach should be further promoted as it will assist addressing integration of related issues that still characterize policy and institutional frameworks in most countries:

- Formal institutional cooperation, however not necessarily translating into inter-sectoral policy integration, leading to isolated efforts;
- Lack of inter-sectoral strategic framework as well as action and investment planning ;
- Overlapping responsibilities and competing objectives of local and central governments.

In addition, a number of Nexus technical pilots, though less mainstreamed field applications, are implemented demonstrating Nexus benefits, while strong demand is expressed for more, replicable and scalable interventions as well as mobilization of related financing and investments by public and private partners.

The WEFE Nexus approach under key political frameworks in the Mediterranean

The Nexus approach and agenda has been recognized among priorities of regional and sub-regional institutions and political frameworks like the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the Barcelona Convention, the European Union, the League of Arab States, the Regional Cooperation Council in Southeastern Europe, etc.

Already since 2017, the UfM Ministerial Conference on Water included the WEFE Nexus among the thematic priorities of the UfM Water Agenda. A UfM Nexus Framework Programme, delivered through rolling biannual work plans, is facilitated by a UfM Nexus Task Force by countries and stakeholders to coordinate related design and implementation of activities. The Task Force is led by Lebanon, and is technically facilitated by the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med), under the convening role of the UfM Secretariat. Assistance for Nexus policy development and institutional settings, demo technical applications, financing and investments, community of practice, knowledge management, etc. are in the focus of the UfM Nexus Framework Programme. Several of these are linked with advancements in the UfM Financial Strategy for Water. Aiming to proof the Nexus concept in the field, the Sida/UfM/GWP-Med MENA Water Matchmaker 2 project is demonstrating Nexus technical solutions (see briefly in Annex).

The UfM Water Agenda

Mandated by the [UfM Ministerial Meeting on Water \(April 2017, Malta\)](#), the [UfM Water Agenda](#) was put together in consultation with UfM Member States to enhance regional cooperation on water and guarantee it responds to the needs of all countries. It sets out a series of technical and financial recommendations, which aim to ensure that each country receives technical, administrative, and financial advice to help it achieve water security for its populations and their economic activities.

Through its [Policy Framework for Action 2030](#), the UfM Water Agenda promotes dialogue and action on Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus, Water-Employment-Migration, Water & Sanitation Hygiene, and Water & Climate Change. Its [Financial Strategy for Water](#) aims to facilitate investment on access to water; protection against droughts, floods and water pollution; and sustainable growth in the Med region, while enhancing the financial sustainability of the water sector. It does so by raising the profile of the issue within the finance community, providing analytical work on how to overcome barriers to investment, and promoting impactful, new ways of financing water-related investments.

In the framework of the Barcelona Convention, the Nexus is being discussed in the context of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD), while UNEP-MAP is implementing the dedicated 'Mediterranean coastal zones: Managing the Water Food Energy and Ecosystems Nexus', the Child Project 2.2 in the frame of the GEF UNEP/MAP MedProgramme, managed by GWP-Med (see briefly in Annex).

The Barcelona Convention

The Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution ([Barcelona Convention](#)) was adopted in 1976, entering into force in 1978. It was [amended](#) in 1995, renamed as the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, entering into force in 2004. It aims to prevent, abate, combat and eliminate pollution of the Mediterranean Sea Area and to protect and enhance the marine environment in that Area so as to contribute towards its sustainable development.

The [Barcelona Convention and its seven Protocols](#) (Dumping, Prevention & Emergency, Land-Based Sources, Specially Protected Areas & Biological Diversity, Offshore, Hazardous Wastes, Integrated Coastal Zone Management), adopted in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) that serve as the Barcelona Convention Secretariat, is the principal regional legally binding Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) in the Mediterranean. Among others, Nexus is being discussed with [the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development](#).

The European Union (EU) has been actively promoting the Nexus approach in Europe, neighboring countries, and globally. Among others, the European Green Deal recognizes the importance of integrated approaches to address the Nexus sectors interdependencies for sustainable development. The EU Council's conclusions on "Water in the EU's external action" (November 2021) highlighted the significance of the Nexus approach. In line with this, the EU supports various Nexus projects and initiatives through different frameworks, including Horizon 2020. Examples of such funded projects include DAFNE, MAGIC, REXUS, SIM4NEXUS, among others.

Since 2018, the EU Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean (PRIMA) has been actively supporting the implementation of WEFE Nexus solutions through its projects. PRIMA focuses on demo sites around the Mediterranean that showcase the Nexus benefits. Projects such as AWESOME, LENSES, NEXUS-NESS, PHEMAC, SIGMA NEXUS, BONEX, and more are part of PRIMA's efforts to facilitate the transition from Nexus theory to practice through pilots, demos and case studies that generate empirical evidence showcasing the Nexus benefits. By demonstrating successful examples, raising awareness and inspiring broader adoption, the EU accelerates the adoption of the Nexus approach and its integration into policies and practices within and beyond its borders.

The Water Environment Support (WES) Project, supported by EC DG NEAR, managed by LDK and implemented by partners, includes Nexus in its priority areas promoting policy dialogue and capacity building (see briefly in Annex).

The [“WEFE Nexus Science Advances” Conference](#) (September 2021, Nicosia and online), organized by EC DG JRC and DG RES, UfM, PRIMA and Cyl with inputs by GWP-Med, offered a milestone analysing the role of science as a driver of innovation for the Nexus and its interfacing with policy, while recommending practical collaborative measures towards the Nexus. Over 300 participants, including ministers, scientists, practitioners, and civil society recognised the urgency of gathering the range of stakeholders in a Mediterranean Nexus Community of Practice to ensure that Nexus solutions can be applied across the region, and debated a related vision.

In response to this call, the WEFE4MED Project: Towards a Mediterranean WEFE Nexus Community of Practice, supported by PRIMA and managed by the Cyprus Institute (Cyl) and implemented by partners, will federate best practice examples and leverage them within a Mediterranean WEFE Nexus Community of Practice advocating a paradigm shift towards a collaborative Nexus approach (see more in Annex).

The knowledge base on the Nexus in the Mediterranean and beyond has been advancing by a range of partners, including EU's DG Joint Research Centre (JRC) which has recently completed with partners the 'Nexus Gateway for the Mediterranean' (see more under Chapter 3).

Indicatively, examples of other regional Nexus initiatives, programmes and projects include *inter alia*, the GIZ 'Nexus Regional Dialogues Programme' in the League of Arab States framework; FAO work on the Nexus and Climate, supported by Sida; UNECE work on the Nexus at transboundary level; MENA Nexus Regional Innovation Hub (WE4F MENA RIH) led by Berytech, supported by a range of donors; EcoPeace 'The Green Blue Deal for the Middle East'; GWP-Med 'Nexus in Southeastern Europe' Project supported by ADA, Germany and GEF IW:LEARN; GWP-Med/UfM 'Making Water Cooperation Happen in MENA – Matchmaker' Project 1', including Nexus work in North Western Sahara Aquifer, supported by Sida; upcoming INWRDAM Nexus Hub for MENA, supported by UfM/Sida. Several more initiatives and projects are advancing in the region promoting the Nexus agenda.

At the global level, it is noteworthy that the Nexus approach is part of the list of “Water Dialogues” items towards the High-Level UN Water Conference 2023 (New York, March 2023).

Scope and Objectives of the 1st Regional Roundtable on WEFE Nexus in Med

The 1st Regional WEFE Nexus Roundtable in the Mediterranean on ‘Promoting innovation, investments and upscaling of solutions’ aims to facilitate a multi-stakeholder dialogue among Mediterranean countries and stakeholders to further advance Nexus understanding, facilitate cross-fertilization among institutions, organizations and practitioners, and lay the path towards coordinated actions to tackle Nexus challenges in the region, that also affect the coastal and marine environment in a Source-to-Sea approach.

It will take place on 6 and 7 (half day) June 2023, in Rabat and online. It will be organized back-to-back with the UfM 13th Water Expert Group Meeting (7 & 8 June; by invitation) as well as with the Steering Committee Meetings of three Child Projects of GEF UNEP/MAP MedProgramme (7 & 8 June; by invitation).

Here’s an overview of the timeline of the back-to-back events:

	Tuesday 6 June		Wednesday 7 June		Thursday 8 June	
Morning	Nexus Roundtable		Nexus Roundtable		UfM WEG Meeting	SC Meeting CP 2.1 Project
Afternoon	Nexus Roundtable	SC Meeting SCCF Project	UfM WEG Meeting	SC Meeting CP 2.2 Project		

The overall objectives of the Roundtable are:

- To identify ways to excel the Nexus approach implementation at national, basin, local, coastal and transboundary levels supported by regional action, taking note of outputs of recent, ongoing and upcoming Nexus-related initiatives and processes, including towards a possible regional strategy/action plan on Nexus in the Mediterranean.
- To identify ways to upscale and mainstream Nexus solutions and innovation, at all levels in the Mediterranean, through identification, prioritisation and mobilisation of funding and investments.

In that regard, the Roundtable will:

- Highlight and disseminate insights, best practices and lessons-learned regarding the Nexus approach in terms of both assessing needs as well as of identifying and implementing solutions drawing on suitable policy frameworks, institutional coordination, available tools and methodologies, etc.
- Identify means and actions for promotion and wider application of existing technical innovations for addressing Nexus trade-offs and providing solutions to identified needs.
- Discuss options and steps for mobilising funding and investments by public and private partners, including through blended financing, for upscaling and mainstreaming successful technical solutions.
- Facilitate discussion among government, stakeholder and finance representatives on related perspectives and priorities, including for shaping, according to interest and aligning with on-going and planned initiatives, key elements and a roadmap towards a possible regional strategy/action plan on Nexus in the Mediterranean, contributing to the Nexus theme of the UfM Water Agenda, the Barcelona Convention’s contents as well as to the follow ups of the UN Water Conference 2023 (March 2023) in the region.

Further, the Roundtable includes special sessions on:

- The Gateway to the Future of the Mediterranean, facilitated by EU DG JRC
- The Mediterranean Nexus Community of Practice, facilitated by the PRIMA WEFE4MED Project

Two documents prepared recently will be presented and discussed during the Roundtable feeding into related consultations:

- The “**Mediterranean Rapid Nexus Assessment**” which provides a Nexus baseline for the nine beneficiary countries of the GEF UNEP/MAP MedProgramme 2.2 Nexus Project, in synergy for MENA with the Sida/UfM/GWP-Med Water Matchmaker 2 project, identifying in each of them the current status and main targets and challenges in the Nexus sectors as well as the level of integration in the policy and institutional frameworks in the management of natural resources, and outlining suggestions on ways forward for tackling Nexus challenges and capturing related opportunities.
- The “[Nexus Gateway to the future of the Mediterranean: Water, energy, food and the environment](#)” prepared by the EC JRC with over 130 contributors from 65 partners including EC, UfM and GWP-Med, UNEP, UNESCO, World Bank, FAO, UNECE, ministries, NGOs and donors. The Gateway provides a spatial baseline analysis and projection of Nexus requirements in the Mediterranean region, addressing inter-sectorial trade-offs and synergies as promoters of stability and socio-economic development. The Atlas aims at offering a scientific but also cultural perspective regarding the Nexus, and is complemented by a collection of Nexus best practices and success stories.

Regarding expected participation, the Roundtable will bring together for 1,5 days high-level representatives from national institutions from the beneficiary countries, involved in the sectors of water management, energy production, food & agriculture, environmental protection, and climate action. Representatives of regional institutions and stakeholder organisations as well as financing institutions and private sector partners will also participate. Among its points of added value, the Roundtable targets country participation from all, as relevant, Nexus sectors, further to its water and environment partners that participate more often in such dialogues.

It is organized within the joint initiative of UfM, Barcelona Convention and the EU, by GWP-Med and the WES Project Team, hosted by Morocco’s Ministry of Equipment and Water and Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, with contributions by and in the framework of the GEF UNEP/MAP MedProgramme Child Project 2.2. on Nexus, the EU WES Project, the Sida/UfM MENA Water Matchmaker 2 Project and the PRIMA WEFE4MED Project. Brief information on the co-organisers and supporters is provided at the end of the document.

This will be the first of 3 Regional Roundtables to be organized in the framework of the regional activities of the MedProgramme Nexus Child Project in synergy with institutional partners, regional stakeholders and programmes providing an opportunity for regular and structured dialogue shaped by its contributors.

Structure and Agenda of the 1st Regional Roundtable on WEFE Nexus in Med

The Mediterranean Roundtable, addressing all shores of the region, follows up and builds on previous related regional dialogue activities in the region, including *inter alia*:

- The four ‘Nexus Roundtables in South-East Europe’ organized by GWP-Med in Belgrade (2017), Skopje (2018) and Tirana (2019 & 2022) with the support of the German Environment Agency, the GEF:IW Learn Project and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA)
- The ‘Nexus Roundtable in the MENA and wider Mediterranean’ organized by the Lebanese Ministry of Energy & Water and GWP-Med in Beirut (2018) with the support of the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida)
- The ‘WEFE Nexus Science Advances Conference’ organized and supported by EC DG JRC and DG RES, UfM, PRIMA and CyI with inputs by GWP-Med in Nicosia and online (2021)
- The ongoing Nexus Regional Dialogue in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) implemented by GIZ
- The Nexus as a cross-cutting theme of the SWIM-Horizon 2020 (2016-2019) and the Nexus-related capacity building activities of WES (2019-2024)
- FAO’s Nexus-related workshops, webinars and other initiatives in the Mediterranean.

The Regional Roundtable will build its deliberations on panel discussions by different stakeholders and on a range of contents and disciplines, sharing views on how to advance Nexus integrated policy making, upscaled action and innovation as well as financing, in a coherent and impact-oriented approach. Brief video sessions over the event’s duration will showcase results from a range of projects at different levels. The Nexus Gateway and the Rapid Nexus Assessment will be briefly presented. The Nexus Community of Practice will be launched during the Roundtable. The Regional Roundtable will conclude with a plenary discussion on recommendations for action as well as on the need and, if positive, the way to elaborate a regional Nexus strategy/action plan as a tool for advancing and upscaling, in a coordinated manner, the agenda in the Mediterranean, aligning processes and action lines within institutions, stakeholders and donors. Interpretation will be available between English and French.

Brief info on the regional projects supporting the Roundtable

The following projects contribute to contents and organisation of the Roundtable:

GEF UNEP/MAP Mediterranean coastal zones: Managing the WEF Nexus (MedProgramme Child Project 2.2)

The project, funded by GEF-IW and executed by UNEP/MAP and GWP-Med, in collaboration with PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu and UNESCO IHP, runs until 2025, with regional activities targeting the MedProgramme beneficiary countries (Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia), and with focused activities in Albania, Lebanon and Morocco. The project aims to assist balancing of competing water uses in priority coastal areas through water, food, energy and ecosystems integrated governance, to enhance environmental security and sharing of benefits.

The project introduces the Nexus approach and catalyses action for its adoption and implementation in the Med area, at national and transboundary levels. In selected areas of priority, the project seeks to:

- understand the interlinkages among the Nexus sectors and related issues;
- identify solutions, as means to address selected issues fostering water-food-energy security, reduction of land-based nutrient pollution and other pressures, protection of coastal habitats and biodiversity and climate change resilience;
- test novel approaches for addressing management issues and work to upscale these.
- support development of Nexus Strategies and Action Plans as part of existing or upcoming plans and strategies e.g. ICZM plans and strategies
- develop bankable projects that respond to priority solutions/interventions addressing pressing issues identified.

EU Water and Environment Support in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood Region (WES)

The EU-funded WES Project is a regional project designed to contribute to the implementation of an integrated approach to pollution reduction and prevention, in line with the Union for the Mediterranean agendas and the Barcelona Convention. WES is also meant to contribute to a more efficient management of scarce water resources in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region.

The project aims to do so by increasing the capacity of stakeholders that are involved in pollution reduction and water management and support them in formulating and implementing the environmental and water policies. WES supports the shift to a more sustainable consumption and production model, promotes an integrated and efficient management of water, combats plastic pollution and marine litter and fosters dialogue on key environmental and sustainable development issues. In this way, WES also supports mutual understanding, cooperation and peace in the region.

The project also focuses on strengthening the efficient use of water in urban and rural areas, the appropriate treatment of wastewater to allow for its use/re-use, as well as the cost-recovery and affordability of water services. WES is covering Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Libya, Palestine and Tunisia.

Sida/UfM/GWP-Med MENA Matchmaker 2 Project

The Project aims to equip UfM MENA countries with tangible and scalable local technical solutions combined with employability capacitation as well as with selected applicable and shareable policy tools for improved water management and climate resilience, through multi-stakeholder, multi-sectorial and gender mainstreaming approaches.

The Project's objective is to prove, through piloting, the integrated concept of applying WEFE Nexus technical solutions at local level while capacitating priority beneficiary groups on employment options, offering measurable and scalable contributions for further application in UfM MENA countries, and assisting the UfM Water Agenda to enter and mark progress on tangible benefits at local level.

Nexus technical solutions are implemented in Jordan and Palestine, in a cross-country context, integrating the Nexus inter-relationships:

- Water: Utilising tertiary treated wastewater, through a nature-based solution ie. constructed wetlands, for irrigation.
- Energy: Utilising solar power infrastructure for irrigation while lowering costs, reducing the carbon footprint, and increasing water efficiency for energy production (where applicable).
- Food: Utilising treated wastewater for agriculture.
- Ecosystem: Assisting local ecosystems and their services through constructed wetlands towards increasing food production; increasing the irrigated farms' ecological niche; improving environmental conditions over the irrigated area e.g. soil conditions, including compared to the direct application of wastewater coming from a plant (that does not include tertiary treatment).

The Project is managed and implemented by GWP-Med, supported by Sida through a fund-forwarding arrangement through UfM.

PRIMA WEFE4MED Project: Towards a Med WEFE Nexus Community of Practice

The WEFE4MED Project aims to foster the adoption of a Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus approach in the Mediterranean through a Nexus Community of Practice (NCoP), to confront the climatic and environmental challenges facing societies and agro-ecological systems.

The NCoP will be steered by a Core Group of organisations namely EC DG R&I, Joint Research Centre and the UfM Secretariat, led by PRIMA. The Core Group will guide the overall activities of the NCoP and facilitate the network's vision, development and future directions through monitoring and evaluating the impact of the initiative.

The NCoP will bring together practitioners, scientists, policymakers, civil society, media, entrepreneurs, innovators and investors. Together they will share knowledge and build capacities by deploying best practices and science-based policies and innovative solutions inspired by Nexus demonstration sites, showcasing the benefits of integrated natural resource management for sustainable, climate-resilient development in the Mediterranean.

WEFE4MED will identify and promote Nexus solutions in the Mediterranean, highlighting the advantages of Nexus approach to policy makers and other stakeholders. Through a structured participatory process, WEFE4MED will design, establish and operate an open digital Nexus Knowledge Hub and cooperation platform that will persist well beyond the project lifespan, due to the commitment to Nexus objectives of the project partners and NCoP members.

WEFE4MED is managed by the Cyprus Institute, implemented in partnership with regional and national organisations, and is financially supported by PRIMA.

