



Catalysing Financing for Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean coastal area: **The role of the Private Sector**

2-3 December 2024, Brown Acropol Hotel, Athens & Online

Preliminary Concept Note & Agenda



Concept Note

The Mediterranean Basin, including its coastal and marine areas, faces significant risks from pollution, population growth, unsustainable land and sea use. These risks are aggravated by climate change impacts, with temperatures rising by 0.9–5.6°C and average precipitation decreasing by up to 22%. Threatening natural ecosystems and human livelihoods, these would lead to more extreme weather events, exacerbating droughts and floods, rising sea level, increasing land loss, and agricultural damage. Key economic sectors affected include tourism, agriculture, water, fisheries, transport, manufacturing, forestry, and energy, with varying impacts such as shrinking water supplies, reduced crop yields, declining fish catches, and increased forest fires. Adapting to these challenges requires, among others, integrating climate considerations into national and local strategies and mobilising required investments including through accessing climate finance and engaging, where pertinent, the private sector, to implement sustainable adaptation practices.

Countries are expected to submit their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) by February 2025. This is an opportunity for coastal managers to make the case for resilient coastal planning in these documents. Furthermore, the outcomes of the UNFCCC COP29 in relation to the definition of the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) as well as the quantification of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), and more specifically the objectives on reducing climate impacts on ecosystems and accelerating the use of ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions, including through management, enhancement, restoration and conservation and the protection of terrestrial, inland water, mountain, marine and coastal ecosystem shall guide countries developing adaptation financial plans and mobilizing investments for climate action implementation.

The private sector can engage in climate adaptation through four main ways: companies of all sizes can climate-proof their operations; larger companies, can invest upstream throughout their supply chain; responsible businesses can support climate adaptation actions for community resilience and ecosystems conservation; and private capital can finance investments that contribute to climate resilience transitions. Though there is a long way to go, there has never been more momentum for companies to become more sustainable. However, there are still several barriers restricting the scaling up of private sector engagement in climate action. For example, companies need more accurate climate data and climate risk information, improved financial incentives, better enabling environments, and more insights on emerging business opportunities aligned with national priorities. By overcoming these barriers, private funding for climate action could be substantively increased.

While businesses, including those operating in or having interest on the coastal areas of the Mediterranean, are beginning to engage in climate adaptation, their actions and contributions are often not explicitly labelled as such; instead, they focus on resilience and broader sustainability efforts. Many businesses underestimate climate risks, highlighting the need for becoming equipped with Climate Risk Assessments and Cost-Benefit Analyses to inform their adaptation strategies. A major challenge is the perception of adaptation investments as risky and the fragmentation of stakeholders, complicating coordinated actions within their areas of operations. Also, access to financing remains a significant hurdle, particularly for Small and Medium Enterprises. New forms of collaboration are essential to mobilize private actors and financing for climate adaptation, necessitating cooperation among the public and private sectors, local communities, civil society, and international organizations. This collective action can address disparities and inefficiencies, creating opportunities for sustainable initiatives.

Mediterranean countries should use this momentum to enhance coastal planning and leverage available financing sources, including the private sector, to accelerate coastal adaptation action. The [UNEP/MAP SCCF Project of the GEF MedProgramme](#) and the [EU WES Project](#) contribute to such objectives by engaging countries from around the Mediterranean (see last page). Among recent contributions at the regional level,

the **SCCF Methodological Guidelines for Preparing Financial Plans** and the **EU WES/SCCF Assessment on Private Sector Engagement for Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean** provide background and suggest actions helpful to countries, private sector and stakeholders towards bridging the adaptation finance gap. At local level, mainstreaming climate risks analysis in coastal planning in the two SCCF Project hotspots of Montenegro's Kotor Bay and Morocco's Tangier-Tétouan-Al Hoceima, serve as examples to be replicated in other areas.

The "Webinar on Mobilising Finance for Coastal Adaptation in the Mediterranean", held online on Tuesday, 29 October 2024, elaborated on such challenges and opportunities, contributing to understanding climate adaptation financing, including from private partners, and fostering institutional support for coastal climate risk assessments in investment decisions for resilient and sustainable economic growth in the region.

The **Regional Roundtable on Catalysing Financing for Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean: The Role of the Private Sector, 2-3 December 2024, Athens & Online** aims to elaborate on challenges and opportunities, roles and responsibilities as well as financing mechanisms and tools for engaging the private sector for climate change adaptation in the Mediterranean, with an emphasis on the coastal area in a Source to Sea approach. It would conclude with a set of recommendations for action for catalysing climate adaptation financing and for engaging the private sector in these.

The Regional Roundtable targets stakeholders from all Mediterranean countries, including those benefiting from the MedProgramme SCCF Project and EU WES Project, with an open invitation for engaging in discussions, including:

- Private sector entities in key economic production and service sectors (e.g. tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, technology, fisheries, etc.)
- National authorities, including SCCF and EU WES Focal Points, sectoral ministries (water, energy, agriculture, etc.), planning and finance ministries;
- UNFCCC Focal Points, GCF National Designated Authorities;
- International financial institutions and other donors.
- Coastal municipality managers and planners;
- Local decision-makers and communities;
- Civil society organisations.

The Regional Roundtable is organised in the framework of the [GEF MedProgramme SCCF Project](#) and the [EU Water & Environment Support \(WES\) Project](#). It is jointly hosted by [the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean \(GWP-Med\)](#), [Plan Bleu/RAC of UNEP/MAP](#) and the EU WES Project, with the support of [PAP RAC of MAP/UNEP](#). The event will be held with English/French translation.

Please consult the following background material of the Regional Roundtable:

- [‘Methodological Guidelines on Preparing a Financial Plan for Climate Change Adaptation in Mediterranean Coastal Areas’](#), elaborated by GWP-Med within the SCCF Project of the GEF UNEP MAP MedProgramme. The Methodological Guidelines aim to support countries screening, targeting and successfully mobilizing available funding sources for climate action comprising domestic, international, and private sector investment. The document is available for comments.
- [‘Assessment on Private Sector Engagement to Catalyse Financing for Climate Adaptation in the Mediterranean’](#), elaborated by the EU WES Team, ARCOWA and GWP-Med within the EU WES Project and the SCCF Project of the GEF UNEP MAP MedProgramme. The Assessment provides an overview on the subject and assisting in shaping recommendations for enhancing related private action and investments. These will be further discussed at the
- [Practical information note](#).

To participate, in person or online, please [REGISTER HERE](#).

Preliminary Agenda [Some Speakers to be confirmed]

Monday, 2 December 2024

Time	Sessions
<p>CET: 8:30 - 9:00</p> <p>Athens: 9:30-10:00</p>	<p>SESSION 1. OPENING & PURPOSE OF THE ROUNDTABLE</p> <p><i>Moderator: Michael Scoullos, Team Leader, EU WES Project</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome remarks by host country: Petros Varelidis, Secretary General, Ministry of Energy and Environment, Greece Welcome remarks by UNEP/MAP: Tatjana Hema, Coordinator, UNEP/MAP Opening remarks by the Co-Organisers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frederic Fournet, EU WES Project Manager, DG NEAR, European Commission Atifa Kasam, MedProgramme SCCF Project Manager, Climate Change Division, UNEP Robin Degron, Director, Blue Plan/RAC (MAP UNEP) Purpose of the Regional Roundtable: Vangelis Constantianos, Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med
<p>CET: 09:00-10:00</p> <p>Athens: 10:00-11:00</p>	<p>SESSION 2. Setting the Stage: Defining Priorities for Climate Adaptation in the Med coastal area</p> <p><i>Moderator: Mohamad Kayal, MedProgramme Coordinator, UNEP/MAP</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding Climate Risks and Opportunities while Avoiding Risks for Investors in Coastal Zones (with focus in low elevation areas), by Prof. Anil Markandya, Scientific Director, Basque Centre for Climate Change (15 min) Cost-benefit analyses for coastal adaptation solutions prioritisation: Examples and lessons learnt from Morocco and Montenegro, MedProgramme SCCF Project, by Ivan Sekovski, Program Officer, PAP/RAC (UNEP/MAP) and Ante Ivčević, Program Officer, PAP/RAC (UNEP/MAP) (15 min) Discussion Panel (20 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Djurdjina Bulatovic, Ministry of Spatial Planning, Urbanism and State Property, Montenegro, MedProgramme Focal Point Hassan Bahar, Director, DRE Tangiers-Tetouan Region, Morocco Discussion with audience (10 min)
<p>CET: 10:00 - 10:30</p> <p>Athens: 11.00-11.30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Coffee break</p>
<p>CET: 10:30 - 11:30</p> <p>Athens: 11.30-12.30</p>	<p>SESSION 3. Setting the Stage: Preparing a Financial Plan for Climate Adaptation to meet set priorities</p> <p><i>Moderator: Daria Povh Skugor, Director, Priority Actions Programme (PAP RAC UNEP/MAP)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methodological Guidelines on Preparing a Financial Plan for Climate Change Adaptation in Mediterranean Coastal Areas, by Sarra Touzi, Senior Adviser, GWP-Med (15 min) Discussion Panel (40 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manuel Sapiano, CEO, Energy & Water Agency, Malta Siham Laraichi, Ministry of Equipment and Water, Morocco Omar Sharif, Ministry of Environment, MedProgramme Focal Point, Libya

Time	Sessions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samuel Partey, Regional Science Advisor, Head of Science Unit, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe • Discussion with audience (15 min)
<p>CET: 11:30 - 12:30</p> <p>Athens: 12:30-13:30</p>	<p>SESSION 4. Setting the Stage: Engaging the Private Sector in Climate Adaptation Financing</p> <p><i>Moderator: Marianna Nathanail, Head of EIB Office in Greece</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private Sector Engagement to Catalyse Financing for climate adaptation in the Mediterranean, by Ger Bergkamp, EU WES Project (15 min) • Discussion Panel (40 min) • Eric Usher, Head, Finance Initiative, UNEP • Sophie Lavaud, Senior Policy Analyst, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) • Khalid Tahri, Director for Planning, Water Division, Office National De L'electricite Et De L'eau Potable (ONEE), Morocco • Alain Meyssonier, President, Institute Méditerranéen de l'Eau (IME) • Discussion with audience (10 min)
<p>CET: 12:30 - 13:30</p> <p>Athens: 13.30-14.30</p>	<p>Lunch break</p>
<p>CET: 13:30 - 14:45</p> <p>Athens: 14:30-15:45</p>	<p>SESSION 5A. Experiences on Private Sector Engagement on Climate Adaptation related to Water and Environment</p> <p><i>Moderator: Hans Friederich, EU WES Project Expert</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Panel (60 min): • Harry Sachinis, CEO, Athens Water & Wastewater Company (EYDAP), Greece • Felipe Guinea, Director of Structured Finance, Almar Water, Spain • Walid Madwar, General Manager- Project finance & Business Development, Metito, UAE • Chouhaid Nasr, Country, Director, Veolia, Morocco • Lea Kai, UNDP, Ministry of Environment, Lebanon • Durk Krol, Executive Director, Water Europe • Discussion with audience (15 min)
<p>CET: 14:45 - 15:00</p> <p>Athens: 15.45-16.00</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>
<p>CET: 15:00 - 16:00</p> <p>Athens: 16:00-17:00</p>	<p>SESSION 5B. Experiences on Private Sector Engagement on Climate Adaptation related to Manufacturing and Agriculture</p> <p><i>Moderator: Vangelis Constantianos, Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Panel (45 min) • Sofia Kilifi, Director, Sustainability & Community, Coca-Cola Europe, Greece • Jennifer Bogs, Director for Global Sustainability, Crown Holdings, USA

Time	Sessions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heba Al-Hariry, Land and Water Officer, Regional Water Scarcity Initiative (WSI), The Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, FAO • Discussion with audience (15 min)

Tuesday, 3 December 2024

Time	Sessions
CET: 8:30-10:00 Athens: 09:30-11:00	<p>SESSION 5C. Experiences on Private Sector Engagement on Climate Adaptation in finance and insurance</p> <p><i>Moderator: Dionysia Avgerinopoulou, Chair, Parliamentary Committee on Environmental Protection, Member of the Hellenic Parliament</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief Report of Day 1, Michael Scoullou, Team Leader, EU WES (10 min) • Discussion Panel (60 min) • Ziad Khayat, Water Lead, Climate Change & Natural Resources Sustainability Cluster, UN Economic Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) • Chaima Soudani, Investment Manager, Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations (CDC), Tunisia • Mahmoud Oudrhiri, Directeur Général Délégué, MAMDA-MCMA, Morocco • Emilia Macarie, Chief Sustainability Officer, Allianz, Germany • Ramy Boujawdeh, Chief Operating Officer, Berytech, Lebanon • Discussion with audience (15 min)
CET: 10:00 - 10:30 Athens: 11:10-11:30	<p>Coffee break</p>
CET: 10:30 - 12:00 Athens: 11:30-13:00	<p>SESSION 6. Shaping Recommendations for Action: Catalysing Climate Adaptation Financing</p> <p><i>Moderator: Vangelis Constantianos, Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstreaming coastal adaptation in national policies and plans, by Representative PAP/RAC (UNEP/MAP), SCCF Project (10 min) • Materialising a financial plan for climate change adaptation in Mediterranean coastal areas: building water investment plans, increasing public spending, accessing climate funds, by Sarra Touzi, Senior Adviser, GWP-Med, SCCF Project (10 min) • Discussion Panel (60 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almotaz Abadi, Deputy Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean • Amgad Elmahdi, Regional Manager for MENA, Green Climate Fund, Korea • Ayman Ayad, Water and Utilities Sector Manager, Delegation of European Union to Egypt • Ali Rhouma, Project Officer, PRIMA Foundation • Panellist, United National Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

Time	Sessions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Céline Kauffmann, Chief Programmes Officer, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) • Discussion with audience (10 min)
CET: 12:00 - 13:00 Athens: 13.00-14.00	Lunch break
CET: 13:00 - 14:30 Athens: 14:00-15:30	<p>SESSION 7. Shaping Recommendations for Action: Engaging the Private Sector for Catalysing Climate Adaptation Financing</p> <p><i>Moderator: Michael Scoullos, Team Leader, EU WES</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private Sector Engagement to Catalyse Financing for climate adaptation in the Mediterranean, with emphasis on the coastal area of developing countries, by Ger Bergkamp, EU WES Project (10 min) • Discussion Panel (60 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Mullan, Lead, Adaptation Finance & Investment, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) • Cinzia Losenno, Lead, Climate Change Adaptation Finance, European Investment Bank (EIB) • Olivia Becher, Climate Adaptation & Nature Finance, European Bank for Reconstruction & Development (EBRD) • Mathilde Bord-Laurans, Head, Climate and Nature Division, French Development Agency (AFD) • Magnus Andre, Regional Program Manager, Swedish International Development Assistance (Sida) MENA Office • Léa Glâtre, Manager, DIMFE, Donors' Initiative for Mediterranean Freshwater Ecosystems (DIMFE) / Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco • Discussion with audience (15 min)
CET: 14.30-15.00 Athens: 15:30-16:00	<p>SESSION 8. Conclusions & Next Steps</p> <p>Concluding Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atifa Kasam, MedProgramme SCCF Project Manager, Climate Change Division, UNEP • Vangelis Constantianos, Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med • Michael Karner, Blue Plan MAP/UNEP • Prof. Michael Scoullos, Team Leader, EU WES Project
CET: 15:00 - 16:00 Athens: 16:00-17:00	Coffee & mingle

The Regional Roundtable is organised in the framework of the:

GEF UNEP/MAP MedProgramme and the SCCF Project

The Global Environment Facility's (GEF) "MedProgramme: Enhancing Environmental Security" is a US\$43 million assortment of eight projects comprising more than 100 coordinated actions at the regional and national levels. Its ten beneficiary countries are Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco, Montenegro, Tunisia and Türkiye. The MedProgramme aims to operationalise priority actions to reduce major transboundary environmental stresses in its coastal areas, strengthen climate resilience and water security, and improve the health and livelihoods of coastal populations. It is implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme's Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP MAP) and executed by a number of agencies and organisations. The MedProgramme comprises the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) Project "Enhancing regional climate change adaptation in the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas". Its main objective is to identify climate risks affecting the Mediterranean's coastal areas (both in the terrestrial and marine zones) and to develop adaptation strategies to overcome or cope with these risks. The SCCF Project also seeks to facilitate access to climate finance in an effort to scale up adaptation measures in the region. It is implemented by UNEP MAP and executed by the Plan Bleu/RAC, Priority Action Programme (PAP/RAC) of UNEP MAP, and the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med).

Water and Environment Support in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood Regions

The "Water and Environment Support (WES) in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood Region" is a regional project, funded by the European Union, that aims at protecting the environment and improving the management of scarce water resources in the Mediterranean region. It is 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 capitalises on the experience of previous successful EU funded regional projects (Horizon 2020 CB/MEP; SWIM SM; SWIM-Horizon 2020 SM) and strives for increasing the capacities of stakeholders and creating the conditions for knowledge exchange and ownership in the Partner Countries (PCs): Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Libya, Palestine and Tunisia.