



**2nd Technical Workshop on
Green Climate Fund Project Preparation
for Transformational Climate Resilience Water Projects
in the Mediterranean:
Special Focus on Gender**

FINAL

**Date: 11 Feb 2021
09:30 – 12:30 CET
On-line**

Organised by:

**Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
&**

Global Water Partnership Mediterranean (GWP-Med)

*with technical inputs by the Global Water Partnership and the
Global Water Partnership - Coordination Unit for Africa*

*With the support of
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
Austrian Development Agency (ADA)*

*GWP Water, Climate and Development Programme – Gender (WACDEP-G)
African Water Investment Programme (AIP)*

2nd Technical Workshop on GCF Project Preparation: Special Focus on Gender

1. Climate Change in the Mediterranean

The Mediterranean is a climate change hotspot. The region is expected to see an increase in magnitude and severity of climate change impacts such as droughts and floods, soil erosion, desertification, and sea level rise, among others, resulting in negative economic, social and environmental impacts. Vulnerabilities to climate change are exacerbated in the region by, *inter alia*, natural conditions including water scarcity, demographic change including concentration of economic activities and population in coastal areas, changing consumption patterns including growing energy needs, reliance on climate-sensitive agriculture, etc. Recent forecasts point to water availability becoming more strenuous due to precipitation decrease, temperature rise and population growth.

According to IPCC (2018), due to climate change alone, water availability in the region may decrease between 2 and 15% in a +2 degrees Celsius warming scenario. This is among the largest predicted decreases in the world. The gloomy forecasts and the anticipated heavy impact of climate change in the region have been confirmed and supported by scientific evidence in the 2020 First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1)¹.

Furthermore, there is due attention to the continuing need for gender mainstreaming through all relevant targets and goals in activities under the UNFCCC and the COP25 agreement on a 5-year enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan². The enhanced gender action plan sets out objectives and activities under five priority areas that aim to advance knowledge and understanding of gender-responsive climate action and its coherent mainstreaming in the implementation of the UNFCCC and the work of Parties, the secretariat, United Nations entities and all stakeholders at all levels, as well as women's full, equal and meaningful participation in the UNFCCC process.

In response to these, the Mediterranean countries, both from Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Southeastern Europe (SEE), have requested strengthening capacity of responsible national authorities and entities to access international climate financing instruments and to be assisted in preparing climate resilience water projects, including to address challenges in the mainland and the coastal areas. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a major such target climate financing instrument.

2. Project Preparation to Access GCF Resources

The Green Climate Fund was established in 2012 as a financial mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) dedicated to addressing the climate crisis. The GCF is mandated to promote country-driven, climate-resilient, and low-carbon development. It is expected to serve as a primary channel through which international public climate finance will flow over time.

To access GCF support for climate resilience water projects, countries need to present projects designed for impact, reflected through prioritised project ideas, clear climate rationale, compelling concept notes, and comprehensive funding proposals. Gender objectives and related requirements are an integral part of GCF projects. However, capacity limitations, concerning both availability of personnel and technical skills, as well as the complex procedures for accessing the funding, constrain countries in identifying and preparing catalytic water-related adaptation interventions. Limited understanding of the GCF's funding modalities and

¹ MedECC (2020) Climate and Environmental Change in the Mediterranean Basin – Current Situation and Risks for the Future. First Mediterranean Assessment Report [Cramer, W., Guiot, J., Marini, K. (eds.)]; UfM, Plan Bleu, UNEP/MAP; Marseille

² Decision 3/CP.25, https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp2019_13a01E.pdf

proposal requirements poses further barriers for countries wishing to access GCF resources for adaptation planning and projects.

Hence, countries are seeking clarification on the structured, yet evolving, GCF funding modalities, especially around enhanced direct access, its range of financing instruments, and project proposal requirements, including on gender. Technical assistance and south-south / north-south exchange can enable developing countries to prepare well-prioritised climate resilience water projects that can secure funding from the GCF.

3. The Union for the Mediterranean Agenda

Since 2008, the [Union for the Mediterranean \(UfM\)](#) has provided a framework for enhancing regional cooperation, dialogue, and the implementation of projects and initiatives with tangible impact on the citizens of its member states, in order to address three strategic objectives of the region: stability, human development, and integration. Promoting Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and ensuring access to water resources and affordable water services has been a key element of the UfM agenda since its inception along with tackling climate change impacts and promoting action on adaptation policies and practices.

The [UfM Ministerial Meeting on Water \(April 2017, Malta\)](#) called for a UfM Water Agenda to enhance regional cooperation towards sustainable and integrated water management in the UfM region. Under the leadership of the UfM Co-Presidencies, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the European Commission, and with the support of the UfM Secretariat, UfM Member States and UfM partners have worked together to deliver on the Ministerial mandate. The [UfM Water Agenda](#) has been structured in four Thematic areas: Water and Climate Change Adaptation (W-CCA); Water-Energy-Food-Environment (WEFE) Nexus; Water-Employment-Migration (WEM); and Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), while a Financial Strategy for Water was elaborated to support its implementation. The UfM Senior Officials' endorsed the Water Agenda and the Financial Strategy for Water in December 2018.

Objective 10 of the Financial Strategy of the UfM Water Agenda focuses on 'Use resources from international financial partners strategically to leverage other sources of finance' and suggests ways to mobilise these.

Furthermore, responding to Thematic priorities, UfM countries have encouraged the development of W-CCA projects presenting mitigation-adaptation co-benefits, including through the implementation of WEFE Nexus approaches and as a contribution of addressing WEM challenges.

[UfM Water Agenda, Financial Strategy](#)

Objective 10: Use resources from international financial partners strategically to leverage other sources of finance

In order to achieve this objective, UfM member states will:

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- Develop regional and national objectives and strategies for the use of resources from international financial partners, based on an analysis of past successes and failures, likely evolution of future financial flows, and how international financial resources can add most value. This could include arrangements for blending finance, which adequately allocate risks and returns across financiers, building on good international practices.
 - Strengthen the dialogue with traditional and new international financial partners (both at national and regional levels) to improve alignment of their support with national objectives.
 - Identify the role that climate finance can play in financing the water sector, and integrate water based solutions in Nationally-Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).
 - Develop good quality proposals for water-related projects to mobilize climate finance for the implementation of NDCs and NAPs.
 - Develop capacities for project preparation and for blending finance.
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4. The Global Water Partnership

The [Global Water Partnership \(GWP\)](#) is a global action network with over 3,000 Partner organisations in 183 countries aiming. GWP supports countries and institutions to integrate water security and climate resilience in development frameworks, helping them to deliver on their National Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plan (NAPs), and to prepare bankable projects for climate finance including the GCF. Being an accredited GCF Readiness programme delivery partner, GWP is committed to working with governments and partners to unlock funding for climate resilient water investments that promote gender transformative approaches around the globe.

Related objectives are also promoted through the [African Water Investment Programme \(AIP\)](#), developed through a partnership between the African Union, the African Development Bank, Africa Water Facility and other institutional and development partners, technically facilitated by GWP. AIP aims to transform and improve the investment outlook for water security and sustainable sanitation for a prosperous, peaceful and equitable society. It aims to leverage \$30 billion climate resilient water investments by 2030, towards SDG 6 implementation and enhance job creation through gender sensitive investments in water and industrialisation. AIP was adopted by the Governance Council of the African Ministers Council on Water in February 2019, who endorsed AIP as a catalyst to the achievement of both the African Union Agenda 2063 and the SDGs.

The 'Gender Equality in Water Security and Climate Resilient Development Programme' (WACDEP-G) is part of AIP aiming at promoting a gender-transformative approach towards accelerating water and climate investments as means of addressing gender inequalities across the continent. WACDEP-G is primarily supported by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

[GWP-Med](#), the Mediterranean Regional Water Partnership of GWP, technically assists the UfM Secretariat in the development and implementation of the UfM Water Agenda, including its Thematic areas and the Financial Strategy. It has also contributed to the elaboration of the UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan 'Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas' (adopted at Ministerial level, at the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, January 2016, Athens). GWP-Med serves a multi-faceted agenda, including on climate resilience and gender, while it manages the WACDEP-G Programme for North Africa.

5. The UfM/GWP Regional Initiative for Water Climate Finance and Investments

Responding to demand expressed by Mediterranean countries to accelerate access to GCF opportunities for adaptation projects, the '[Technical Workshop on Project Preparation for Transformational Climate Resilience Water Projects in the Mediterranean Region for the Green Climate Fund](#)', was organised on 10-12 June 2019, Brussels. More than 40 representatives of GCF National Designated Authorities (NDAs), GCF Direct Access Entities (DAEs), and Water Ministries from 10 Mediterranean countries engaged in hands-on learning on the GCF setting, investment criteria, operational modalities and procedures for delivering climate finance through available GCF funding-windows. They considered fit-for-purpose examples of project design matching GCF financing instruments and discussed how to enhance national coordination for GCF project preparation. Furthermore, they worked on 22 country-prioritised water-related project ideas to sharpen their climate rationale and paradigm shift potential. The event was attended by representatives of Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

Representatives of competent authorities from MENA and SEE countries expressed demand for further support to strengthen the capacity of NDAs, DAEs and Water Ministries and agencies to prepare climate resilient water projects that meet GCF investment criteria, to address challenges in the mainland and the coastal areas. For these, the relevance of utilising WEF Nexus approaches, including as a contribution to addressing WEM challenges, was highlighted. Further, participants shared their commitment to utilise the

knowledge acquired and to develop available opportunities, including through the GCF Readiness window, to boost countries engagement with GCF.

Participants also expressed their strong desire to continue collaborating in the Regional Workshop's follow-ups, across countries and with regional partners, to enhance accessibility to international climate finance in the region through experiences sharing, capacity building, concept notes' development support, etc. They called-upon UfM and GWP to facilitate a regional platform that can service this purpose through partnership and inclusiveness. Regional policy frameworks, including the UfM Water Agenda 2030 and its Financial Strategy for Water as well as the UN Environment/MAP Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas, provide the background for its development.

Based on these, the 10th Meeting of the UfM Water Expert Group decided to establish a UfM Regional Initiative for Water Climate Finance and Investments in partnership with GWP, including capacity building of the member countries on how to access international climate financing for water-related/adaptation action lines.

It was decided to follow up the June 2019 Technical Workshop with a series of related training activities, attracting further interest on national work lines for GCF Readiness and towards GCF Investment proposals, while boosting at least four such processes already underway in the Mediterranean.

The 2nd Training Workshop will share updates on these four processes, taking stock of the experience gained, while it will have a special focus on Gender mainstreaming as a central element to GCF's objectives and guiding principles, including through engaging women and men of all ages as stakeholders in the design, development and implementation of strategies and activities to be financed. GCF is focused on ensuring that a gender-responsive approach is fully integrated into the design and implementation of all projects and programmes. Among others, the GCF Governing Instrument states that: "The Fund will strive to maximise the impact of its funding for adaptation and mitigation... promoting environmental, social, economic and development co-benefits and taking a gender-sensitive approach." The 2nd Training Workshop would support in-country partners to enhance their capacity to address gender concerns in the climate change space – not only to achieve greater and more sustainable climate change results, but also to contribute to gender equality globally.

6. Workshop Objectives

In that context, the 2nd Technical Workshop on GCF Project Preparation for Transformational Climate Resilience Water Projects in the Mediterranean, with emphasis on Gender objectives and requirements, will be organised on Thursday, 11 February 2021, 09:30-12:30 CET, online.

The Workshop will aim to:

- Build on the first workshop and briefly present the GCF, its mandate, investment criteria, and its operational modalities and procedures for delivering climate finance to water initiatives through different windows.
- Discuss GCF financing instruments, along with fit-for-purpose examples of climate rationale, paradigm shift, project design, and financing instrument selection in the Mediterranean context, tackling priorities of MENA and SEE countries.
- Introduce the GCF Gender guidelines and discuss methodologies for articulating Gender objectives and meeting requirements of climate-proofing water projects.
- Identify opportunities and follow-up activities for GCF Project Concept Note preparation.

7. Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes of the Workshop are:

- Enhanced understanding of the GCF investment criteria, operational modalities and procedures, particularly those related to Gender aspects, and financing instruments.

- Improved understanding of concrete steps needed to prepare strong water-related and gender-transformative adaptation project proposals.
- Better understanding of methodologies for articulating gender-related climate rationale.
- Enhanced understanding of the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved throughout the project cycle.
- Identification of potential GCF project concepts.

8. Target Audience

The Workshop targets the following participants to support water project preparation and delivery in MENA and SEE:

- Water Directors and/or assigned officials from Water Ministries/Agencies
- GCF National Designated Authorities (NDAs)
- Gender focal points (as relevant) from Water and Environment Ministries/Agencies (tbc)
- Project preparation and co-finance partners (tbc)

The countries participating to the workshop are: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Palestine, Tunisia.

9. Resource Partners

The Workshop will draw from the following resource partners:

- GWP, GWP Coordination Unit for Africa and GWP-Mediterranean, to share experiences and lessons.
- UfM Secretariat, to provide content within the UfM Water Agenda and Financial Strategy for Water.
- GCF Accredited Entities and NDAs, to share experiences and lessons.
- Development partners, including multilateral and bilateral development and donor institutions and agencies.

10. Organisers

The Workshop is organised by UfM, GWP-Med and GWP, with financial support by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the GWP Water, Climate and Development Programme - Gender (WACDEP-G) that is supported by the Austrian Development Assistance (ADA). The activity is also part of the GEF UN Environment/MAP Project on 'Enhancing regional climate change adaptation in the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas'.

11. Agenda

Time (CET)	Topic	Presenter/Facilitator
Introductory Session		
09:30 – 09:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almotaz Abadi, Water Managing Director, UfM Secretariat • Alex Simalabwi, GWPSA Executive Secretary, Global Head-Climate Resilience, Head-GWP Africa Coordination Unit • Erwin Künzi, Head of Unit Themes and Quality, Austrian Development Agency (ADA) • Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary, GWP-Med 	Anthi Brouma Deputy Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med
Preparing GCF Proposals: Investment Projects & Country Readiness		
09:45 – 10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCF 101 – mandate, results areas, project & country stakeholders, project cycle, funding windows 	Alastair Morrison Former GCF Senior Water Specialist



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal overview: Investment Project Funding, Project Preparation Facility Grants • Country example TBD 	
10:00 – 10:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal overview: GCF Readiness • Multi-country, multi-year Readiness proposals • Country example, general Readiness TBD 	René Schieritz, Programme Development Specialist – Water and Climate Change, GWP SAF
10:20 – 10:35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country example, NAP Readiness: Zambia • WACDEP-G Zambia & synergies with Zambia NAP 	Joseph Mbinji, Manager, Zambia GCF NAP Project, GWP SAF
10:35 – 10:55	Discussion	Anjali Lohani Water & Climate Resilience Specialist, GWP
10:55 – 11:00	Break	
Addressing Gender-related Objectives in GCF proposals		
11:00 – 11:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender 101: Definition of terms • Discussion 	Fiorela Shalsi Senior Gender Advisor, GWP-Med
11:15 – 11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is climate change a gender issue? • Discussion 	Liza Debevec Senior Gender & Social Inclusion Specialist, GWP
11:30 – 12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstreaming Gender in Green Climate Fund Investment & Readiness Projects 	Seble Negussie Gender and Social Specialist, GCF
12:00 – 12:15	Discussion	Litumelo Severs Senior Gender Specialist, GWP Africa Coordination Unit
Conclusions & Next Steps		
12:15 – 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almotaz Abadi, Water Managing Director, UfM Secretariat • Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary, GWP-Med 	Anthi Brouma Deputy Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med