

Considering the work on adaptation to Climate Change in managing transboundary water bodies

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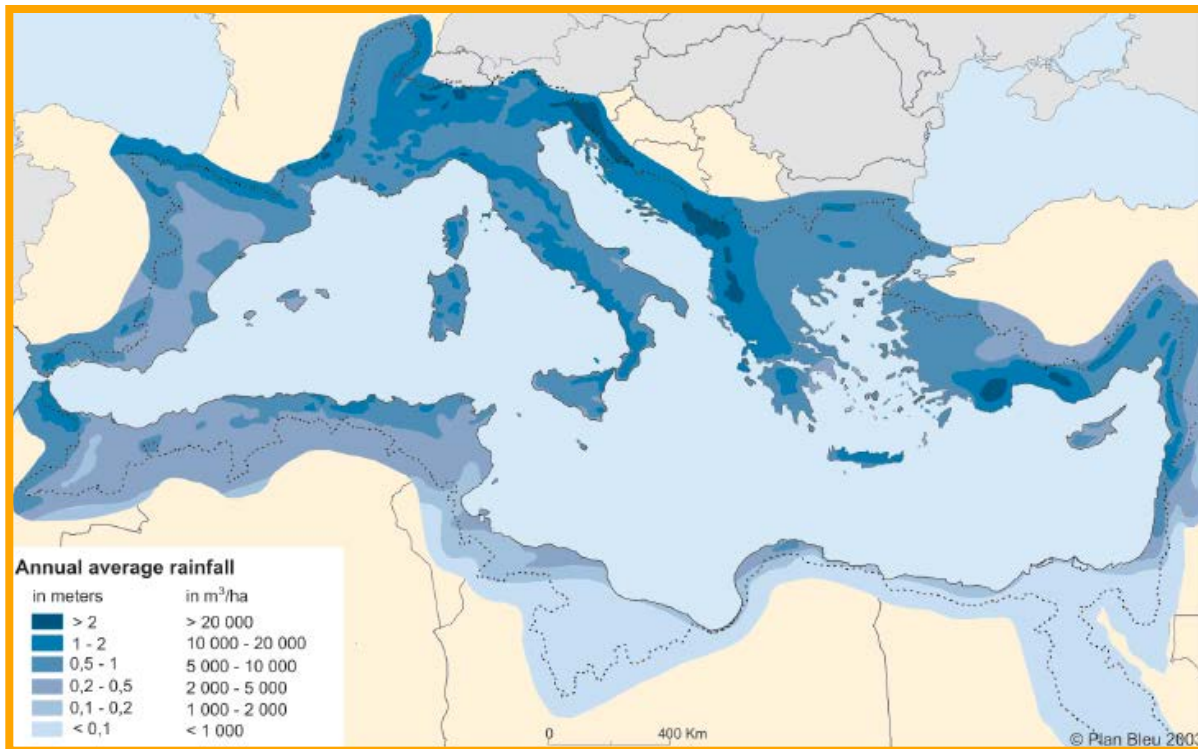
Introduction

- Climate Change is an emerging factor that needs to be taken into consideration in the framework of transboundary negotiations, either at bilateral level or through multilateral instruments;
- It is a fact that the climate agenda and the water agenda are developed rapidly, frequently in parallel and not always in synergy. The CC agenda considers both mitigation & adaptation because this involves commitment and allocation of resources from the countries
- CC an TB water management are operationally linked through the emerging IMF and ICZM/IWRM and the nexus water-food-energy-



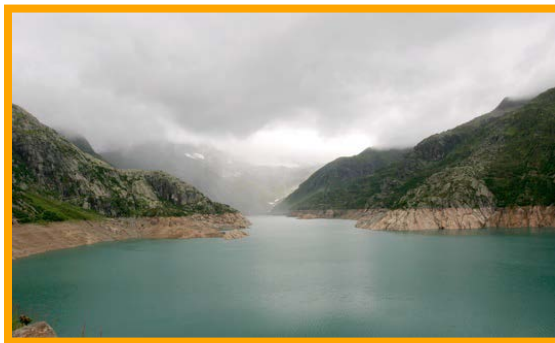
Climate Change in the Mediterranean

- The Mediterranean region is considered one of the **world's major climate change hotspots**, highly vulnerable to the negative impacts of global warming (Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC AR5))



Actions recommended to tackle adaptation

- A range of actions has been recommended to tackle adaptation and mitigation challenges. However, progress remains limited and constrained by a number of issues:
 - **scientific knowledge**, data from research and monitoring systems remain insufficiently developed, usable and used in decision-making processes.
 - **awareness** of the co-benefits of climate change policies for economic development is low, which hampers their implementation.
 - **Regional cooperation** efforts are scattered and need better coordination.
 - **Market distortions** and substantial financing and technology gaps
 - **Limited public participation**, involvement of the private and finance sectors



Regional Initiatives of significance for the Med region and Lebanon

- **MAP UNEP / MCSD Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Zones**
 - **Purpose:** to develop a common regional approach and adaptation priorities for increasing resilience of the Mediterranean river basins/ coastal / marine environment to climate change impacts
 - **Aimed for adoption at:** the Barcelona Convention Ministerial COP, in 12/2015
 - **Upon adoption to be supplemented by:** a Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan
 - **Drafted by:** MAP UNEP, with technical inputs by GWP-Med, and assisted by an international Advisory Expert Group Supported by: GEF MAP/UNEP Climate Variability and Change Project, and GWP WACDEP Programme
 - **Current status:** Draft 1 prepared; 1st Advisory Group Meeting (12/2014, Athens); Draft updated
 - **Next steps:** 2nd Advisory Group (3/2015, Athens); Pre-Final draft (4/2015); Submission to MCSD (5/2015); Final draft; Submission to MAP Focal Points (9/2015); Submission to COP (12/2015)

Regional Initiatives of significance for the Med region and Lebanon

- **UNEP Programme of “Ecosystem-based Adaptation” (EbA)** uses biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people and communities adapt to the negative effects of climate change. The work is delivered through three main overarching components:
 - Assessments and knowledge support
 - Capacity building and demonstration
 - Integration of EbA options into national development and adaptation plans
- There are **several initiatives of UNESCO** addressing adaptation issues in relation to the management of aquifers

Regional Initiatives of significance for the Med region and Lebanon

- The **climate-related UfM policy framework** provides for the development of regional policy and action frameworks and projects in response to climate change challenges. In that context, the **UfM Climate Change Expert Group and the UfM Working Group for Environment and Climate Change** were established to provide a multilateral and multi-stakeholder platform for the exchange of information, best practices as well as opportunities for concrete cooperation.
- A consultation process with CSO was open to gather input about the process and topics to be addressed by the group. The feedback sent by MIO-ECSE relates to the following issues:
 - **proposals for regional and innovative initiatives that could contribute to address the problem/impact of climate change in the Mediterranean**
 - **suggestions of relevant topics to be tackled by the UFMCCCEG in its upcoming meetings**
 - **best way/mechanism to ensure appropriate representation of CSOs from the South of Mediterranean**

Regional Initiatives of significance for the Med region and Lebanon

- The **Arab Framework Action Plan on Climate Change**, 2010-2020 which was elaborated in the League of Arab States (LAS) framework, aims at enhancing the Arab countries' capacity to take appropriate measures for addressing climate change issues while achieving sustainable development targets and MDGs in the Arab Region. Its adaptation focus is on:
 - **Vulnerability assessments** of climate change impacts on the economic and social development;
 - **Adaptation strategies** in a range of sectors;
 - Preparation and implementation of **strategies for disaster risk reduction**.
 - **Linkages have been secured with other relevant LAS strategies** such as the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2020 and the Arab Water Security Strategy 2010-2030.

EU Initiatives linked with developments in the Mediterranean

- **EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change (2013)** which identifies three priority areas, namely:
 - Promoting action by Member States, through encouraging the adoption of comprehensive adaptation strategies and providing funding to help them build up their adaptation capacities.
 - 'Climate-proofing' action by further promoting adaptation in key vulnerable sectors and ensuring that Europe's infrastructure is made more resilient.
 - Better informed decision-making by addressing gaps in knowledge about adaptation.

EU Initiatives linked with developments in the Mediterranean

- The **EU's European Climate Adaptation Platform (Climate-ADAPT)**, launched in March 2012, provides several useful resources to support adaptation policy and decision making, such as: a toolset for adaptation planning; a database of projects and case studies; and information on adaptation action at all levels.
- The **Working Group on Adaptation of the EU Climate Change Committee** has agreed on country preparedness scoreboard and the reporting under the Monitoring Mechanism Regulation, due to March 2015.

Conclusions

- It is obvious that the work on adaptation at National and Regional level needs to be considered and integrated more effectively in Transboundary water management.
- In the original text of the UNECE Convention there are few references to adaptation to Climate variability and change mostly under emerging issues while there is nothing in the 1997 UN Convention.

Conclusions

- In the framework of the UNECE Convention there is a **Task Force on Water and Climate** and one of the priority areas (area 4) of the 2013-2015 Work Programme is devoted to adaptation to CC. Through this work programme work is carried out elaborating guidelines for adaptation and collecting good practices on adaptation where GWP is also active. The above are also linked with capacity building in order to provide assistance and guidance to interested parties
- Countries that are interested to proceed with transboundary water agreements need to tap to all existing sources for support in obtaining optimal integration of adaptation provisions to the planned management

Thank you!

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