

Stockholm World Water Week
Water and waste: Reduce and reuse
27 August - 1 September 2017

MENA FOCUS

Tuesday 29 & Wednesday 30 August 2017

Regional Day Coordinator:

Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med)



2017 marks the 2nd year that a dedicated MENA Regional Focus is part of the World Water Weeks' programme, alongside the regional days for Africa, Asia and Latin America. The overall coordination of the MENA Focus has been entrusted to GWP-Med that works closely with key regional partners, each leading a targeted session, to ensure that the region's priorities are duly reflected in the programme, aligning at the same time with the Week's annual theme.

Four sessions of ninety (90) minutes each comprise the 2017 MENA Focus and will be split with two sessions per day on the 29th and the 30th of August respectively. Aiming for a participatory mode, the 4 sessions will be based on limited presentations, panel discussions with experts from the Region and an emphasis on facilitated open discussions.

The MENA Focus will bring together key stakeholders, including policy makers and government officials, regional organisations, donors and financing institutions, academia and civil society, private sector with a gender-balanced approach. Participants will reflect upon, discuss, share their experiences and insights on key challenges in the region relevant to wastewater management, water governance and integrity, adaptation to climate change, financing framework, and also explore solutions that are tailor-made to the region's context, showcase replicable practices and lessons learnt, while aligning at the same time with key regional initiatives and political processes.

Brief information on the four sessions, following a chronological order, is provided below. It is noted that the first session will also serve as the official opening of the 2017 MENA Focus.

MENA Focus sessions during the 2017 World Water Week	
Tuesday, 29 August 2017	Wednesday, 30 August 2017
<p>09:00-10:30, NL Pillar Hall / Pelarsalen</p> <p>"Water security and water integrity challenges in the MENA region"</p> <p><i>Convenors: WBG, UNDP-SIWI WGF, GWP-Med</i></p>	<p>09:00-10:30, FH Little Theatre</p> <p>"Adapting to climate change: assessment, vulnerability and action"</p> <p><i>Convenors: ACSAD, GIZ, ICBA, LAS, SIDA and UN-ESCWA</i></p>
<p>11:00-12:30, NL Pillar Hall / Pelarsalen</p> <p>"Investment potential in wastewater treatment and reuse"</p> <p><i>Convenors: GWP-Med</i></p>	<p>11:00-12:30, FH Little Theatre</p> <p>"MENA Water World Café 2017"</p> <p><i>Convenor: REC</i></p>

Tuesday, 29 August 2017, 09h00-10h30, NL Pillar Hall / Pelarsalen
[Water security and water integrity challenges in the MENA region](#)

Convenors: The World Bank Group, UNDP-SIWI Water Governance Facility, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med)

MENA is the world's most water stressed region. Over 60% of MENA's population lives under high or very high water stress, compared to some 35% for the rest of the world. Roughly 70% of the region's economic activities are exposed to high or very high water stress, more than three times the global average of 22%. Climate change will compound these challenges as their impacts will be channelled primarily through the water cycle. Recent work shows that MENA GDPs could face the greatest global decreases from climate-induced water scarcity ranging from 6-14%. In addition, governance challenges are pervasive in the region with questions around integrity representing a key one.

Where public institutions are facing a range of challenges in modernizing, as a result of political challenges and uncertainties, and civil society is weak, governance bottlenecks and integrity disparities jeopardize and hamper the sustainability of the water sector. Good water governance is seen as the centerpiece of the water crisis; ensuring good governance at all levels is essential. Effective water governance that is integrity-bound can assist with overcoming the challenges, deliver concrete benefits for the people and the environment of the MENA region, and contribute to regional peace and stability.

Tuesday, 29 August 2017, 11h00-12h30, NL Pillar Hall / Pelarsalen
[Investment potential in wastewater treatment and reuse](#)

Convenors: Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med)

Wastewater management is an exceptional example of the paradigm shift towards sustainable development, providing multiple social and environmental benefits: from respect to the human right to water and sanitation and reduced health risks, to resource reuse and depollution efforts. Further to strong linkages with the SDGs (SDG 6, target 3; SDG 12, target 5), wastewater treatment can play a significant role in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, while integrated approaches through the lens of the water-food-energy-environment Nexus can maximise benefits.

Especially in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), one of the most water-stressed regions in the world, wastewater treatment and reuse can be of huge importance for the water budget. However, the financing gap for related infrastructure is significant and alternative investment opportunities are urgently required, including through the private sector.

This event aims to take stock of relevant country and Financing Institutions' strategies and of best practices so far in wastewater treatment, to explore how good governance can attract private investments, to identify relevant regulatory or institutional gaps and to strengthen the potential for PPPs in the sector.

The event is supported by Sida, through the UfM-labelled project, "Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector" implemented by GWP-Med and the OECD.

Wednesday, 30 August 2017, 09h00-10h30, FH Little Theatre
[Adapting to climate change: assessment, vulnerability and action](#)

Convenors: Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), International Center for Biosaline Agriculture, League of Arab States, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and UN-ESCWA

Water managers, farmers and those living in rural areas will relate how they are experiencing today the impacts of a drier, hotter and more extreme climate in the MENA region. Yet there is little published research and analysis of these changes and their impacts. In two recently completed projects, climate change modelling research has been undertaken for the region and with the

accompanying vulnerability assessment, has highlighted those people/sectors most vulnerable. Many water and farming systems have been identified as being at risk to drought and recent events in the Levant and Maghreb have highlighted this all too painfully.

This side event will present the results from these ongoing studies and use these as the starting point for discussions on the possibilities and challenges of implementing practical and institutional measures for climate change adaptation to manage water and food security in this most complex of regions. The discussions will also examine how policy messages and country positions on climate change negotiation can be formulated and informed by scientific regional climate modelling outputs and vulnerability assessments.

Wednesday, 30 August 2017, 11h00-12h30, FH Little Theatre

[MENA Water World Café 2017](#)

Convenor: Regional Environmental Center (REC)

The MENA Water World Café will bring together leaders representing central and local governments, regional bodies, NGOs, academia and businesses from the MENA region. The event will kick-off with a brief plenary session, during which discussion topics will be outlined while dividing participants in 3 working groups. Groups will receive a background document (distributed in advance) and will have facilitator. We are envisaging following three working groups with discussion topics: “Rethink before use” (group 1) - focusing on water governance & management in order to consider wastewater as a resource to be reused and recycled for irrigation and domestic use; “Climate change and Water- Waste Cycle” (group 2) – focusing on climate change effects on water-waste cycle (considering both water extremes and their impact) and “Water quality management” (group 3) - focusing on pollution reduction coming from urban and rural areas. Working groups will be rotating on in intervals of 25-20-15 minutes while facilitators will stay at the respective area during the entire process and later support outcome's summary.

Join the MENA Focus!

Working in partnership is the rule of conduct for all co-convenors of the MENA Focus Day. Outreach and involvement are key ingredients for collaborative efforts to be successful. Join us in our sessions in Stockholm and let's jointly explore ways to strengthen the reduction and reuse of wastewater in MENA countries!

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About the 2017 Stockholm World Water Week

This Year's Theme: **Water and waste – reduce and reuse**

In the second year of implementation of the 2030 Agenda the World Water Week 2017 focuses on a key challenge for which two Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) have set ambitious targets: SDG 6, target 3: *“by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally”*, and SDG 12, target 5: *“by 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse”*. These are just two of the 169 SDG targets, many of which, along with the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change and the annual Global Risks Reports launched by the World Economic Forum in Davos, highlight our challenge to achieve sustainable development in a changing world. A circular economy in which water and waste are managed as economic assets is an important part of the solution to this challenge.

The Week will address the theme **“Water and waste – reduce and reuse”** from a holistic system perspective, addressing issues and challenges from all parts and countries of the world – low, middle and high income. It will do so by engaging all relevant water-dependent sectors, particularly food and energy, and all relevant stakeholder groups – public, private and civil society – with special attention to gender and age balance.

The theme covers the entire geographical range: upstream to downstream – from source to sea – and both rural and urban. However, with a rapid rate of urbanization, and the concentration of water-waste challenges in dense urban environments, the Week will contribute to the follow-up of the world's urban summit HABITAT 3 in October 2016 by including a special urban focus.

About GWP-Med

Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (GWP-Med) is a regional partnership of the Global Water Partnership (GWP) working towards a water-secure Mediterranean. GWP-Med is a multi-stakeholder action network of more than 100 organisations, advocating, facilitating and supporting action on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and the sustainable use of water resources in the region. Through dialogue, targeted technical work and demo applications at local, national and regional levels, it supports knowledge exchange, sharing of experiences and capacity-building. For more information: www.gwpmed.org