

UNEP/MED WG.571/5

Second Project Steering Committee Meeting of Child Project 2.2 of the MedProgramme "Mediterranean Coastal Zones: Managing the Water-food-Energy and Ecosystem Nexus Programme"

Rabat, 7 June 2023

Report of the Meeting



Mediterranean
Action Plan
Barcelona
Convention



Global Water
Partnership
Mediterranean



2.2

Mediterranean Coastal Zones:
Managing the Water-Food-Energy
and Ecosystem NEXUS"

Report of the Meeting

Introduction

1. The MedProgramme Coordinating Unit (MedPCU) held its Third Project Steering Committee Meeting (PSCM) of the CP 2.2 Project (GEF ID 9685) “Mediterranean Coastal Zones: Managing the Water-Food-Energy and Ecosystem Nexus” on 7 June 2023 in Rabat, Morocco. This Child Project falls under the overall umbrella of the GEF UNEP Programme (GEF ID 9607), entitled “Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security”.
2. The primary objective of this Third PSCM was to review progress in the project delivery and discuss and approve the project’s annual workplan and budget forecast for 2023 Q2-2024 Q1.
3. The presentations for all agenda items are provided in Annex IV as a separate file to the present report.

Participation

4. The meeting was attended by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco, and Tunisia. the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as lead GEF Implementation Agency, the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention Secretariat (UNEP/MAP), as executing agency and GWP-Med, as executing partner, was also represented.
5. The full list of participants is attached as Annex I to the present report.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

6. The meeting was opened at 2:00 PM (CET) on 7 June 2023 by the MedProgramme Management Officer of the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan, Barcelona Convention Secretariat, Ms. Olfat Hamdan. Ms. Hamdan announced the replacement of Christine Hafner-Sifakis, former UNEP IW Task Manager by Isabelle Vanderbeck and reminded that the Mid-term Review is approaching and that the project will be evaluated against the progress towards the end-of-project targets indicated in the Project Document. She also invited the Executing Partner to prepare this evaluation exercise in collaboration with the participating countries in view of the compilation of the “Progress Implementation Report” (PIR). Ms. Hamdan invited the Executing Partner and the participating countries to make further efforts to plan and implement coordination and collaboration arrangements with the other MedProgramme Child Project in order to progress towards expected results and impact in an efficient and collaborative manner. Ms. Hamdan pointed out the importance for MedProgramme participating countries of timely providing required the co-financing report and mentioned the continued availability of the MedPCU to provide advice and support for the compilation of those reports.
7. Ms. Hamdan explained the objectives of this meeting, which are to approve the 2023 Q2/2024 Q1 work plan and budget for the implementation of this Project. She introduced the proposed Chair of the Meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work

8. The meeting elected the following officer: Mr. Mohamed Amrani, Head of Service, Regional Observatory for the Environment and Sustainable Development of the Regional Directorate for the Environment of the Tangiers-Tetouan Region. The Chair reviewed the agenda and invited the partners to formulate comments and suggestions on additional points to be addressed. The Provisional Agenda was adopted (please find as Annex II to the present report).

Agenda item 3: Progress since the 2nd SC Meeting

9. Mr. Tassos Krommydas, GWP-Med Programme Officer, illustrated developments and progress in the implementation of the activities of Component 1 of the CP 2.2 project. Mr. Krommydas illustrated the Mediterranean Regional NEXUS Study developed according to the Rapid NEXUS Assessment method in order to provide a picture on the status and trends of the level of integration among the four key sectors of the NEXUS approach in the countries of the Mediterranean region as well as to identifying key challenges and linkages among the sectors. This Study represents also a baseline against which to compare future progress in the implementation of the NEXUS approach in the countries of the region. Mr. Krommydas illustrated how initial comments received from the countries were incorporated in the Study and added that GWP-Med assured the coverage of additional countries not participating in the MedProgramme CP 2.2: Jordan, Mauritania, Palestine and Turkey. He added that the Study now covers 14 countries and it is under final editing and will be shared with national representatives for feedback and validation. The Steering Committee requested the MedPCU to assist in disseminating the product and facilitating provisions of comments by the countries.
10. Mr. Krommydas continued the presentation of the state of progress of the activities of Component 1 by presenting the dissemination of the NEXUS Atlas developed with JRC in 2023 in the framework of the initiative “Gateway of the future of the water energy food environment NEXUS” and the organization of the Regional Roundtables, the first one being implemented in Rabat back-to-back with the CP 2.2 Steering Committee Meeting, which are aimed at gathering participating countries’ representatives across different sectors to enhance understanding of the NEXUS and facilitating exchange of experiences and lessons learned towards the establishment of a more political strategic framework for the NEXUS for the whole Mediterranean Region. Mr. Krommydas added that the second Roundtable is scheduled for early 2024 and the third one for the end of 2024.
11. Mr. Krommydas also illustrated the state of the art concerning the organization of NEXUS trainings which are to be held as online webinars with optional in-person participation. This is due to the fact that the “online mode” increases prospects for participation taking into account that it is expected the participation of representatives of four different sectors from nine countries. Mr. Krommydas mentioned that the first training will be introductory and focused on expected sectoral benefits and on technical issues, while the second will focus on nature based solutions for water management and the third will be based on water pollution management across the NEXUS sectors including on impacts. Mr. Krommydas recalled that the 1st training is planned for the end of 2023, the 2nd for mid 2024, and the 3rd for the end of 2024. He mentioned the strategic importance of this initiative to promote the utilisation of NEXUS at national and regional level.
12. Ms. Barbara Tomassini, GWP-Med Senior Programme Officer, opened the presentations of the progress in the implementation of the activities of Component 2 of the CP 2.2 project. Ms. Tomassini summarised the NEXUS methodology: assessing the baseline situation of the four involved sectors through an assessment study, involving stakeholders and integrating their expertise in the study, setting-up an inter-institutional coordination body involving the institutions and organisations working on the NEXUS sectors, support this coordination body in the process of the elaboration of a NEXUS strategy supported by sectoral action plans and the implementation of identified NEXUS solutions. Ms. Tomassini reported on progress achieved in Lebanon where the first phase of the NEXUS assessment was completed (including sectoral analysis, review of the interconnections among the four sectors, of the possible synergies and the possible solutions) and illustrated to national stakeholders for their comments. Based on the outcomes of the Stakeholder Analysis, an inter-institutional body steering the development of NEXUS is in place gathering representatives of the key four sectors involved plus representatives of other sectors (land use, coastal planning, transport, Prime Minister office, water and energy utilities). This Inter-ministerial NEXUS Committee, led by the Ministry of Energy and Water and who gather once per month, is now supporting the integration of the needs, concerns and priorities of participating institutions in

the study as well as the establishment of a permanent intersectoral collaboration platform. Ms. Tomassini informed participants on the coordinated participation of all the Executing Partners of MedProgramme IW projects in Lebanon to the two multistakeholder consultation events organized in August 2022 and February 2023 in Beirut and on how the NEXUS activities are interlinked with the national ICZM strategy being developed for Lebanon under CP 2.1. Ms. Tomassini highlighted how the two consultation events were able to focus on viable NEXUS solutions and informed on the gender mainstreaming activities implemented and the related growing interest and participation by involved actors. Ms. Tomassini concluded outlining the scope and objectives of the Phase 2 of the NEXUS assessment and in particular how the interlinkages among NEXUS sectors will be assessed and quantified with focus on the integration potential so as to open the way to the preparation of concrete action plans.

13. Ms. Tomassini also illustrated the progress in the activities in Albania where the stakeholder assessment was completed together with Phase 1 of the NEXUS assessment and the set-up of the Inter-Ministerial NEXUS Committee which gathers multiple national agencies involved in water, energy, food and ecosystem management and is led by the national Water Agency. Ms. Tomassini also mentioned that Phase 2 of the NEXUS Study recently kicked-off and that 2 project proposals on pilot NEXUS solutions for the conservation of water resources have been prepared. She also mentioned the successful workshop on gender assessment and mainstreaming.
14. Ms. Lucilla Minelli, GWP-Med Project Officer, illustrated the progress in the implantation of project activities in Morocco. Ms. Minelli underlined the sub-national focus of the activities in Morocco and the focus on the contribution of NEXUS activities to the elaboration of the Integrated Coastal Management Plan of the Tanger-Tetouan-Al Hoceima region. Ms. Minelli pointed out that the NEXUS policy dialogue in Morocco is strictly linked with the ICZM activities and that it is done through a thematic sub-committee of the Regional Commission for Coastal Zone Management which was established according to the Moroccan regulation under CP 2.1. Accordingly, the work of NEXUS in Morocco is focused on identifying and analyzing the pressures on coastal resources due to causes linked with NEXUS sectors. Ms. Minelli summarized the work carried out by the team of NEXUS experts on the preparation of Phase 1 of the NEXUS study, from the consultation meeting with the Partners to the governance analysis, the coordination arrangements with the ICZM expert team, the diagnostic overview of the different sectors including the gender aspects and the preliminary cause-chain analysis. Ms. Minelli mentioned that a consultation meeting with the stakeholders is scheduled in June 2023 to comment and validate the outcomes of Phase 1 of the NEXUS Study as well as the preliminarily identified NEXUS solution to be potentially integrated in the ICZM plan. Phase 1 will be finalized in September 2023 and then Phase 2 will start which will focus on the interlinkages among the NEXUS sectors.
15. GWP-Med presented the revised proposal for the implementation of Component 3 of the project which aims at identifying, assessing the feasibility and testing two pilot NEXUS solutions in two participating countries. GWP-Med mentioned that proposed revisions will not have any impact on the result framework and on the budget.
16. GWP-Med illustrated the progress in the activities of Component 4 which include the preparation of a communication plan, of news articles, of information notes, coordination arrangements with journalists and communications experts.
17. Morocco explained in detail the rationale beyond the decision of establishing a thematic NEXUS Committee under the Regional Commission for Coastal Zone Management which was established on the basis of the national regulation and was tasked of the overall coordination and mainstream of the activities of MedProgramme Child Projects 2.1, 2.2 and SCCF towards the elaboration of a Coastal Zone Management Plan for the Tanger-Tetouan-Al Hoceima region. Due to the fact that the Regional Commission gather a very important number of stakeholders which may result in difficulties in managing continued and in-depth consultation, a more restricted ICZM Committee was established gathering key institutional actors. This multilevel institutional framework is based

on the assumption that the NEXUS assessment is intended to provide support to the elaboration of the ICZM Plan.

18. GWP-Med underlined that based on the lessons learned from the pilot activities in Lebanon, Morocco and Albania, a draft list of viable NEXUS technical solutions can be compiled and brought to the attention of the NEXUS Roundtables for discussion.

Agenda Item 4: The national perspective

19. On behalf of Mona Fakih, Director of Water at the Ministry of Energy and Water of Lebanon (MoEW), Ms. Tomassini summarized the added value brought to Lebanon by Child Project 2.2 in the current difficult situation caused by the economic crisis. Ms. Tomassini highlighted the importance of adopting an integrated approach to water resources management and the important support received by Lebanon in the development of required arrangements for inter-institutional coordination which have facilitated discussions and exchanges to set shared policy goals on Integrated Water Management among the different players. Ms. Tomassini reported that the Lebanese MoEW considers the WEF NEXUS Inter- Ministerial Committee (which is coordinated by the MoEW) as a key step towards the establishment of the National Water Council which is foreseen by the Lebanese law. Ms Tomassini reported that the Lebanese MoEW acknowledges also the support received from the Committee to inform the NEXUS policy dialogue, the identification of trade-offs, the required institutional settings for policy integration and data management. Ms. Tomassini mentioned that the Lebanese MoEW considers that the NEXUS is to be complemented by the Source to Sea approach and that the two of them are required to synergize with the ongoing activities for the development of the national ICZM strategy to identify more relevant and coherent solutions to support sustainable management of natural resources in the Lebanese coastal area.
20. The representative of the Environment Directorate of the Regional Government of the TTA Region of Morocco, Mr. Mohamed Amrani underlined the important contribution received by NEXUS on the analysis of the multiple pressures exerted on the coastal area according to the DPSIR framework as well as the contribution expected by the cost-benefit analysis of proposed NEXUS solutions in view of their integration in the ICZM plan under preparation.

Agenda item 5: CP 2.2 Project Workplan 2023 Q2-2024 Q1

21. GWP-Med presented the workplan for component 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the CP 2.2 Project.
22. Bosnia & Herzegovina stressed the importance of translating theoretical activities in practical activities on the ground and to possibly involve all the four sectors in the pilots. They also highlighted the importance of documenting and promoting the results of pilot project in view of further uptake by the markets.
23. GWP-Med suggested that linkages with the active initiatives of the Austrian Development Agency could be established in view of upscaling CP 2.2 pilot projects to Balkan Countries.
24. The PSCM meeting approved the work plan.

Agenda item 6: CP 2.2 Budget Forecast for Workplan 2023-2024

25. Ms. Minaei presented the budget forecast for Q2 2023-Q1 2024.
26. The Steering Committee approved the budget forecast for 2023-2024 with no objections or adjustments.

Agenda Item 7: Any other Business

27. No items were discussed under this agenda item

Agenda Item 8: Conclusions and Recommendations

28. The Meeting participants reviewed, amended, and adopted the draft conclusions and recommendations from the Meeting discussions, which appear in Annex III of this Meeting report.

Agenda Item 9: Closure of the Meeting

29. Ms. Hamdan provided closing remarks at the end of the Third Steering Committee Meeting.

Annex I

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Annex II
Provisional Agenda

- Agenda item 1:** Opening of the Meeting
- Agenda item 2:** Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work
- Agenda item 3:** CP 2.2 Review of project implementation progress
- Agenda item 4:** The national perspective: the implementation in Albania, Lebanon and Morocco
- Agenda item 5:** CP 2.2 Workplan Q2 2023 - Q1 20234
- Agenda item 6:** CP 2.2 Annual Budget Q2 2023 - Q1 2024
- Agenda item 7:** Implementation of the Gender Action Plan for CP 2.2
- Agenda item 8:** Any other Business
- Agenda item 9:** Conclusions and Recommendations
- Agenda item 10:** Closure of the Meeting

TIMETABLE

Wednesday 7 June 2023		
Please note that all times are local		
14:00 – 14:15	Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting	
14:15 – 14:30	Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work	UNEP/MED WG.571/1
14:30 – 15:30	Agenda item 3: CP 2.2 Review of project implementation progress	presentation
15:30 – 16:00	Agenda item 4: The national perspective: the implementation in Albania, Lebanon and Morocco	presentation
16:00 – 16:30	<i>Break</i>	
16:30 – 17:00	Agenda item 5: CP 2.2 Workplan Q2 2023- Q1 2024	UNEP/MED WG.571/2
17:00 – 17:15	Agenda item 6: CP 2.2 Annual Budget Q2 2023- Q1 2024	UNEP/MED WG.571/3
17:15 – 17:30	Agenda item 7: Implementation of the Gender Action Plan for CP 2.2	presentation
17:30 – 17:45	Agenda item 8: Any Other Business	
17:45 - 18:00	Agenda item 9: Conclusions and Recommendations	UNEP/MED WG.571/4
18:00	Agenda item 10: Closure of the Meeting	

Annex III

Conclusions and Recommendations

Third Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) of the Child Project 2.2 “Mediterranean Coastal Zones: Managing the Water-Energy-Food and Ecosystems Nexus” (GEF ID 9685) of the Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security (GEF ID 9607)

Rabat, Morocco, 7 June 2023

1. The Third Project Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) of Child Project 2.2 entitled “Mediterranean Coastal Zones: Managing the Water-Energy-Food and Ecosystems Nexus” (GEF ID 9685) was held in Rabat, Morocco, on 7 June 2023.
2. The Meeting was organized by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat/MedPCU in collaboration with the Executing Partner GWP–Med.
3. The Executing Partner presented the progress achieved since MedProgramme’s Second Steering Committee Meeting, as well as the Annual Work Plan 2023 (Q2) to 2024 (Q1). Further to its deliberations, the SCM reached the following conclusions:
 - i. The SCM took note of the progress achieved since the MedProgramme’s Second Steering Committee Meeting held by videoconference on May 2022;
 - ii. The Steering Committee acknowledged the results of the first NEXUS Roundtable and encouraged the utilization of the project for the elaboration of the agreed NEXUS strategic document as well as to pursue its adoption;
 - iii. The SCM encouraged the prompt dissemination of the Regional Rapid NEXUS Assessment to the Participating Countries in view to receive and integrate comments from them by end of June 2023;
 - iv. The Steering Committee stressed the importance of the interlinkages among the three Child Projects under the Component 2 of the MedProgramme (Enhancing sustainability and climate resilience in the Mediterranean region) in particular the integration of NEXUS solutions in the respective Coastal Zone Management Strategies and Plans under development;
 - v. The Steering Committee underlined the importance of promoting the upscaling local and national NEXUS solutions at the regional level by compiling a catalogue of already identified Mediterranean relevant NEXUS solutions as an activity of CP 4.1;
 - vi. The Steering Committee reviewed and approved the proposed amendments for the execution of activities under Output 3.1 (Component 3). Ref. to Annex 1 to the Conclusions and Recommendations:

“The Steering Committee has taken note of the highlighted discrepancies and typos in the ProDoc of Child Project 2.2 with regards to Targets and number of Demonstrations in Component 3 and agrees with the proposal by the executing partner to address these. In this regard, under Project Document Annex A: Project Results Framework, the Targets associated with 3.1. *Number of Nexus demonstration activities implemented* (#) should read “Two (2) Nexus demonstration activities testing Nexus solutions to address water-food-energy-ecosystems related management issues” instead of “Three (3) Nexus demonstration activities testing Nexus solutions to address water-food-energy-ecosystems related management issues.”
4. The MedPCU presented the budget forecast for the CP 2.2 Project for the period 2023 Q2-2024 Q1. Further to its deliberation, the Steering Committee approved the annual project budget as presented.

MedProgramme Child Project 2.2 Steering Committee meeting

Proposal to merge implementation of Activities under Output 3.1

Rabat, 6 June 2023

The Executing Partner of Child Project 2.2, GWP-Med, submits to the attention of the Project Steering Committee the proposal to implement the (3) activities foreseen in Component 3, under Output 3.1, as one single activity.

The rationale for this change is to optimize and centralize the overall budget for Output 3.1 for the two demonstrations (Activity 3.1.3), using the identification/assessment analysis (3.1.1 and 3.1.2) as part of their feasibility preparation and evaluation – and not as separate steps. This adaptive approach would lead to less fragmentation and cultivating partnerships in the geographical areas where there is GWP-Med and MedProgramme ground experience.

Under the proposed implementation, no change would be made to Outputs, Targets or Key products expected, and no budget reallocation is required.

Proposed change in the Project Document: Activities 3.1.1, 3.1.2 and 3.1.3 under section 3) *Alternatives scenario* of the Project Document will now become Activity 3.1.1 and the description of the activity will read as follows:

“The identification of solutions will focus in two countries, one from Middle East and one from North Africa, using a comparative analysis of the inputs collected through processes in these two countries. Two solutions per country will be selected through this process (total of 4) and will be assessed according to their replication and feasibility potential to choose one in each country to implement, as means for demonstration and hands-on training of competent local stakeholders as well as for public awareness raising.

An analysis of the results will be performed for each case in relation to their efficiency along with an assessment of the feasibility for replication and upscaling. The Project may partner with research institutions and the private sector active in the development and testing of technical solutions in any of the Nexus sectors enabling lower or more efficient consumption of resources and maximization of production.

Where applicable, the Project may engage with universities and young professionals, improving their Nexus knowledge and skills and fostering their employability options and capacities on green/blue jobs. Operational linkages with financiers and the private sector will be sought.

Fundraising options are already screened, and will be screened throughout the Project, for increasing the number and/or the scale of applied Nexus solutions, aiming at further impact as well as co-financing.”