Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean
Secrétariat de l'Union pour la Méditerranée

Global Water Partnership Mediterranean

Regional Conference on Advancing Non-Conventional Water Resources Management in the Mediterranean

14-15 September 2011
Hilton Hotel, Athens, Greece

Announcement

Background

Access to adequate quality water, in sufficient quantity, is fundamental for sustainable livelihoods and for economic development. Water resources are heavily exploited in most countries of the Mediterranean region. With rapid population growth, environmental degradation and climate change impacts, it is no longer possible to satisfy water demand by simply attempting to increase water supply.

Therefore, **an integrated approach for water resources management**, based on good governance, inter-sectorial coordination, water demand management, and the sustainable use of non-conventional water resources, is absolutely vital if countries are to ensure that enough water is available to all Mediterranean citizens, economic activities and the environment. In the framework of the Barcelona Convention, the regional objective for water saving of 25% by 2025 was adopted in 2009 by the participating countries, taking 2005 as reference year.

Mobilising **non-conventional water resources** can provide adequate solutions where projected levels of water savings (following a realistic and integrated planning based on sustainable management) prove hard to achieve and can substantially assist in bridging the gap between supply and demand. The use of non-conventional waters is already applied in many countries of the region, primarily through reuse of treated and untreated waste water including recycling of agricultural run-off, rainwater harvesting and desalination. Other techniques contemplated by Mediterranean countries include inter-basin transfers, exploitation of undersea freshwater springs, cloud seeding, etc. These techniques present various degrees of efficiency, sustainability and potential for further development.

Particularly in the Mediterranean south, Egypt, Syria, Israel, Jordan and Tunisia figure among the 20 countries in the world with the largest volumes of wastewater, treated and untreated, used for irrigation (*source: World Bank, 2010*). However, most countries of the region are far from reaching the potential of non-conventional water resources.

Nevertheless, there is a set of policy, institutional, legal, technical, social, environmental and economic constraints that pose **impediments** for fully developing non-conventional water resources in a sustainable manner. Among others, an unofficial and uncontrolled use of insufficiently treated or even totally untreated wastewater is taking place in some Mediterranean countries, resulting in risks to users and the environment. Policy, legal and institutional frameworks are often missing to stimulate concrete action. Similar are obstacles that could encourage related investment by the private sector assisting to catch up with rapidly growing demand and emerging needs.

Among other key political documents, the draft Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean (SWM) that was elaborated in 2010 in the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) set as Objective to "*Develop additional water resources volumes once demand side policies and planning options for water saving have proven to be insufficient, using a sound mix of conventional and alternative resources (e.g. water storage systems, reused water, and desalination). The choice and the priority between these provided possibilities should prove*

to be health-safe and environment-friendly, depending mainly on financial cost, energy consumption, social acceptance and political aspects."

Furthermore, draft SWM's Recommendations for Action include to

- "Develop and implement prioritized programmes for introducing adequate wastewater treatment. Establish minimum quality requirements for wastewater treatment plant effluents and secure adequate treatment of wastewaters to avoid downstream pollution."
- "Assess the opportunities and the risks for using non-conventional water resources. Propose legal frameworks and define adequate thresholds and quality standards for each kind of treated wastewater reuse. Promote research for the use of low-cost and low maintenance non-conventional wastewater treatment techniques that meet established quality standards, especially useful for rural and peri-urban areas, with easy operability and low qualified-personnel requirements."
- "Promote the most efficient and adequate non-conventional technology according to the corresponding use, energy and demand assessment (e.g. desalination, wastewater production, rainwater harvesting, aquifer recharge, etc) preceded by Strategic Environmental Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment or other internationally recognized sustainability assessments."
- "Identify the appropriate scale for the domains where technology and knowledge are needed and available, and avoid duplicating efforts when building water demand strategies. Exchange knowledge and practices and ensure qualified transfer of pilot experiences on emerging issues."
- "Where not already applied, secure gradual convergence between the objectives of water quality improvement and water scarcity mitigation targets set and initiatives being undertaken in the context of regional fora such as those under the Barcelona Convention, the EU Water Framework Directive and other EU water-related Directives as well as the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Euro-Mediterranean Process and the Arab League initiatives."

The importance of a wide and meaningful participation of water stakeholders (including governments, local authorities, water users associations, civil society, academia, private sector, media, etc) in advancing the non-conventional water resources management agenda is evident. Among them, the participation of the private sector, as user and thus bound to achieve considerable water savings and producer of water that can be reused as well as investor and corporate social responsibility partner, is also important and needs to be explored and sustainably developed.

Objectives of the Conference

The Regional Conference on Advancing Non-Conventional Water Resources Management in the Mediterranean, 14-15 September 2011, Athens, Greece, aims:

- To provide a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue on priorities and needed synergies for advancing non-conventional water resources management in the Mediterranean, including within the political frameworks of the European Neighborhood Policy, the Union for the Mediterranean, the Barcelona Convention, the League of Arab States, etc.
- To elaborate in particular on the role of the private sector in advancing the agenda of non-conventional water resources.
- To share best practices and lessons learned from local applications in the Mediterranean region.
- To brainstorm on ideas for regional, sub-regional or trans-national projects in NCWR in the Mediterranean.
- To discuss ways to enhance awareness raising, stakeholders' involvement and pilot application, including through corporate social responsibility programmes.

The Conference would contribute as:
- replication event of the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems (GEF MedPartnership).
- regional consultation event within the preparations of the 6th World Water Forum, Marseilles, March 2012.
- outreach event of the 'Mission Water' Corporate Social Responsibility Programme of Coca Cola HBC Greece and Coca Cola Hellas.

Organisation

The Conference is organized by the Hellenic Ministry for Environment, Energy and Climate Change, the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean, the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean and the System of Coca-Cola in Greece (Coca-Cola HBC Greece and Coca-Cola Hellas) with the environmental program 'Mission Water'.

The Conference contributes to the activities of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI) and the GEF MedPartnership.

Targeted number of participants

Up to 120 targeted participants

Draft Agenda - Outline

The Conference will include the following Sessions

Session 1. Welcome and Introductory Speeches
[statements by organizers and officials]

Session 2. Setting the scene-existing experience: Non-Conventional Water Resources Management (NCWRM) in the Mediterranean
[presentations with Q/A]

Session 3. How to build appropriate Institutional Settings and Legal Instruments for NCWRM?
[facilitated panel discussion and interventions from participants]

Session 4. How to effectively Engage the Stakeholders and their Build Capacity for NCWRM ?
[facilitated panel discussion and interventions from participants]

Session 5. How to Mobilize Financial Resources for NCWRM ?
[facilitated panel discussion and interventions from participants]

Session 6. Learning from Experiences: Best Practices and Case Studies
[presentations with Q/A]

Session 7. What is the role of Corporate Social Responsibility for advancing NCWRM ?
[facilitated panel discussion and interventions from participants]

Session 8. What is the role of the Private Sector in NCWRM ?
[facilitated panel discussion and interventions from participants]

Session 9. Priorities for Action on NCWRM in the Mediterranean: Brainstorming on regional, sub-regional or trans-national project ideas
[facilitated open discussion]

Session 10. Conclusions and Closure of the Conference
[statements by organizers and officials]

Regional Conference on
Advancing Non-Conventional Water Resources Management in the Mediterranean

14-15 September 2011
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Draft Agenda Outline – some speakers not confirmed or be decided

Day 1 – 14 September 2011

Session 1. Welcome and Introductory Speeches
09.30-10.15

Welcome remarks
- Prof. Michael Scoullos, Chairman, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med)
- Mr. Vassilios Lolas, Director, Pubic Affairs & Corporate Communication, Coca-Cola HBC Greece

Opening
- Mr. Rafiq Husseini, Deputy Secretary General for Environment and Water, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
- Ms. Maria Louiza Silva Mejias, Executive Secretary and Coordinator, Mediterranean Action Plan / United Nations Environment Programme (MAP UNEP)
- Speaker to be decided, DG Development and Cooperation, European Commission
- Prof. AndreasAndreadakis, Special Secretary, Special Secretariat for Water, Ministry for Environment, Energy and Climate Change, Greece

Session 2. Setting the scene: Non-Conventional Water Resources Management (NCWRM) in the Mediterranean
10.15-11.00

Chair: Ms. Maria Peppa, Head, Department of International and EU Affairs, Ministry for Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, Greece

Key note presentation on NCWRM in the Mediterranean
-Mr. Koussai Quteishat, NCWRM Regional Expert

Questions & Answers

Coffee Break
11.00-11.30

Session 3. How to build appropriate Institutional Settings and Legal Instruments for NCWRM?
11.30 -13.30

Co-Chair: H.E. Mr. Shaddad Attili, Head, Palestinian Water Authority
Co-Chair: Ms. Odile Gauthier, Water Director, Ministry for Environment, Sustainable Development, Transportation and Housing, France

Discussion Panel:
- Mr. Essam Khalifa, Minister's Office, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt
- Mr. Fethi Lebdi, Water Director, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Tunisia
- Mr. Messaoud Terra, Water Director, Ministry of Water Resources, Algeria
- Mr. Ziad Darwish Taqash, HRD Director, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan
- Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, Chief, Water Resources Section, SDPD, ESCWA
- Panelist to be appointed, Centre for Environment and Development in the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE)
- Mr. Joan Parpal, Secretary General, MedCities

Lunch Break
13.30 – 14.30

Session 4. How to effectively Engage the Stakeholders and their Build Capacity for NCWRM ?
14.30-16.15

Chair: Mr. Ivica Trumbic, Programme Manager, GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystems (MedPartnership)

Discussion Panel:
- Ms. Anastasia Roniotes, Head Officer, Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)
- To be decided, Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)
- Mr. Hachmi Kennou, Secretary General, Institut Méditerranéen de l'Eau (IME)
- Mr. Andres Del Campo, President, Euro-Mediterranean Irrigators Communities (EIC)
- To be decided, Friends of the Earth – Middle East
- Mr. Demetris Karavellas, Director, World Wide Fund - Hellas

Coffee Break
16.15 – 16.45

Session 5. How to Mobilize Financial Resources for NCWRM ?
16:45 – 18.00

Co-Chair: To be decided, League of Arab States
Co-Chair: Ms. Akissa Bahri, Coordinator, African Water Facility (AWF)

Discussion Panel:
- Ms. Monica Scatasta, European Investment Bank (EIB)
- Mr. Sergio Margulis, SustainableMed Programme, World Bank
- Mr. Alain Rotbardt, Water and Sanitation Division, Agence Francaise de Developpement (AfD)
- Ms. Ingrid Sandström, Senior Programme Manager, Regional Water Programmes Unit for MENA and Iraq, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
- Mr. Fuad Bateh, Senior Advisor, Division of Environment and Water, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
- To be confirmed, Germany

Invited Dinner
20.30 (Dionyssos Restaurant, Acropolis)

<u>Day 2 – 15 September 2011</u>

Session 6. Learning from Experiences: Best Practices and Case Studies
09.00 – 10.30

Co-Chair: Mr. Khaldon Khasman, Executive Director, Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA)
Co-Chair: Ms. Georgia Bazoti-Mitsoni, Secretary General for Agricultural Policy and International Relations, Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food, Greece

- Experiences on Wastewater Reuse from Tunisia
Mr. Khalil Attia, Director General, Office National de l'Assainissement (ONAS), Tunisia

- Experiences on Wastewater Reuse from Greece
Prof. Themistoclis Lekkas, President, Athens Water Supply and Sewerage Company (EYDAP SA)

- Experiences on Wastewater Reuse from Cyprus
Speaker to be confirmed, Water Development Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Cyprus

- Groundwater recharge with treated wastewater
Speaker to be decided, International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre / UNESCO International Hydrological Programme

- Experiences on using non-conventional water resources for irrigated agriculture
Mr. Nicola Lamaddalena, Head of the Land and Water Dept, CIHEAM - IAM Bari

Coffee Break
10.30 – 11.00

Session 6 (cont). Learning from Experiences: Best Practices and Case Studies
11.00 - 12.30

Co-Chair: Mr. Fadi Comair, Director General, Ministry of Energy and Water, Lebanon
Co-Chair: Mr. Theodoros Economou, Director General for Development Programmes, Ministry of Interior, Greece

- Action on NCWRM supported by the European Commission
Speaker to be decided, DG Environment, European Commission

- Case Study on Desalination in the Mediterranean
Ambassador Ronald Mollinger, Middle East Desalination Research Centre

- Advances in desalination with renewable energy
Prof*. Giorgos Papadakis, Professor, Agricultural University of Athens*

- (Title to be announced)
Mr. Ignacio Morell Evangelista - Instituto Universitario de Plaguicidas y Aguas, Castellon

- Rainwater Harvesting in the Mediterranean: experiences from the project in Cyclades-Greece
Ms. Konstantina Toli, Programme Officer, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean

Session 7. What is the role of Corporate Social Responsibility for advancing NCWRM ?
12.30 – 13.30

Structure of the Session to be announced

Lunch Break
13.30 – 14.30

Session 8. What is the role of the Private Sector in NCWRM ?
14.30 – 16.00

Co- Chair: Mr. Abdelkawi Khalifa, Chairman, Holding Company for Water and. Wastewater, Egypt
Co-Chair: Mr. Efthymios Vidalis, Chamber of Industrialists, Greece

Discussion Panel:
- Ms. Celine Kauffmann, Investment Division, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- Mr. Jacques Labre, Vice President for Relations with Institutions, Suez Environnement
- Speaker to be decided, European Water Partnership
- Prof. Redouane Choukr-Allah, Arab Water Council (AWC)
- Ms. Sarra Touzi, Programme Officer, Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med)

Coffee Break
16.00 – 16.30

Session 9. Priorities for Action on NCWRM in the Mediterranean
16.30 – 17.30

Co-Chairs: - Prof. Aris Alexopoulos, Secretary General, Hellenic Ministry for Environment, Energy and Climate Change
- Mr. Rafiq Husseini, Deputy Secretary General for Environment and Water, Union for the Mediterranean

Facilitated discussion
Rapporteur: Prof. Michael Scoullos, Chairman, Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean

Session 10. Conclusions and Closure of the Conference
17.30-18.00

Short statements by the Co-Organisers

Advancing Non Conventional Water Resources Management in the Mediterranean

athens 14-15.09.2011

REGISTRATION FORM

SURNAME:	**Ms./ Mr./ Dr**
NAME:	
AFFILIATION:	
POSITION / TITLE:	
ADDRESS: ..... **PO.Box** ..... **Postal Code:** ..... **City:** ..... **Country:**	
Tel 1: +..... **Tel 2: +**.....	
Fax: +.....	
E-MAIL:	
Request Assistance: YES / NO **Please define:**	

You are kindly requested to return the registration form by **25 August 2010,** by email to secretariat@gwpmed.org or by fax to: +302103317127.

Useful Information

Venue: *Hilton Hotel*

Participation: *Invitation only*

Conference Language: *EN/GR/FR*

For more information please contact:

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