


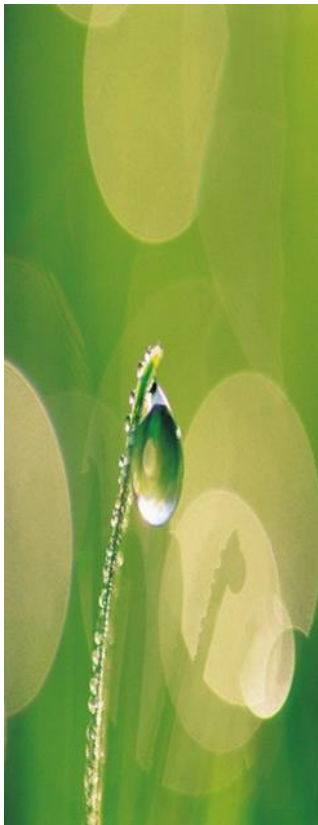


# Towards an enhanced regional **Water** agenda in the Mediterranean

Vangelis Constantianos  
Executive Secretary, GWP-Med  
20 November 2017, Larnaca



Regional processes  
should assist  
National needs and agendas



# Key water-related challenges in the Med countries

- Increasing demands due to population growth and change of consumption patterns
- Unbalanced economic growth, and high unemployment
- Urbanization 56% in 2012 >> 67% in 2050
- Coasts constantly under developmental pressures
- Groundwater depletion
- Environmental pollution and ecosystem degradation
- Conflicts over shared water resources
- Poor governance settings
- Climate change, and migration, impacts aggravate the situation



# Some considerations on IWRM progress

- Progress has been achieved in many countries. However, challenges remain substantial
- Inter-sectoral interdependences are complex, their understanding is poor, so not well responded with action
- Technology advancements and innovation are introduced, but in slow pace
- Non-conventional water resources, including linked with renewable energy sources, have great potential to develop
- The gap between science and policy remains substantial
- The socio-political situation in some countries is not helpful for advancing governance reforms



# Some considerations on IWRM progress

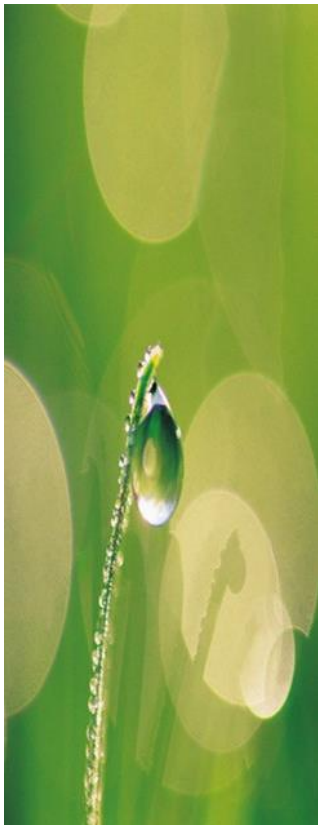

- The financing gap remains high.
- Private sector engagement is limited, including due to inadequate regulatory frameworks and high economic insecurities
- There are different perceptions about public participation, stakeholders engagement, gender mainstreaming, human rights, etc.
- Climate mainstreaming into policies, financing plans and practices remains limited
- Availability of data remains poor, and progress monitoring is not systematic nor well documented



# Why regional cooperation on Water is important?

Because it can

- add greater effectiveness to national policies and technical agendas through coordination, sharing of experiences, and technology transfer.
- enhance the linkages between water and other sectors with existing political mandates, such as environment and climate change, de-pollution, blue economy as well as energy, women empowerment, among others.
- leverage financing, through enhanced alignment of 'content/priorities' with 'funding options', and by introducing novel financing tools.



Are there  
regional and sub-regional  
policy and action frameworks  
for Water?

# Regional policy 'environment' for Water Security/IWRM

EU Sustainable Development, Water, Environment and Climate Change Policies:

EU Water Framework Directive and related Communications and Guidelines, EU Marine Strategy Directive, Integrated Maritime Policy for better governance in the Mediterranean, EU Floods Directive, EU Strategy for Sustainable Development, EU Strategy on Biological Diversity, Europe 2020, Energy Package, EU strategic targets and objectives for the post-2020 period

Several Mediterranean,  
Euro-Mediterranean, Arab, Balkan, EU,  
African, and other processes  
on water, environment, climate change, and  
sustainable development:

Key Euro-Med and Med/ENP Policies and Strategies:

European Neighborhood Policy, Union for the Mediterranean, Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean, Barcelona Convention & Protocols, Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, SAP MED, SAP BIO, MDGs, WSSD Targets, Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNCCD), UN Convention on the Law of Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses, Ramsar Convention

Key Euro-Med and Med/ENP Supporting Initiatives and Programmes:

ENPI NIPs, Horizon 2020/MEHS, EIP, MED, EDC, UNICEF, UN Women, UN Women, Cross Border Cooperation, EXACT, UNEP/MAP NIPs, GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean, SustainableMed, WB Climate Change Trust Fund, WB MENA Water Initiative, UNDP Water Governance Programme, UNDP Arab Climate Change Initiative, Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative, UN ESCWA, UN ECA, UfM Secretariat Action Plan 2010-2011, Bilateral ODA

African and Arab Political Processes and Supporting Mechanisms on Water:

African Ministers' Council on Water / African Water Facility / African Development Bank  
Arab Ministers' Strategy for Water / Arab League / Arab Funds

But, are they coordinated/ aligned,  
and how could they enhance effectiveness?

# Key formal regional & sub-regional frameworks for water: To what extent are they operationally linked?



- Barcelona Convention (UNEP MAP); 'Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025', 'Regional Framework for Climate Change Adaptation (2016)'
- League of Arab States, including the 'Strategy for Water Security in the Arab Region 2010-2030'
- Regional Cooperation Council, including the 'SEE 2020 Strategy for Jobs and Prosperity in a European Perspective' (2013)
- 5+5 Water Strategy in the Western Mediterranean (2015), and its Action Plan
- African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW)
- European Union (EU) extended policy framework
- UN Economic Commissions active in the area: ESCWA, ECE, ECA
- Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Water Agenda – mandated 2017



Common priority fields for  
possible regional action:

The added value of  
matchmaking



# Common priority fields for possible regional action

## Thematic

- Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus
- Water and Climate Change Adaptation
- Water Quality Protection and Depollution
- Water Resources Efficiency
- Transboundary Water Resources Management

## Cross-Thematic

- Water Governance, including Gender and Rights
- Water Economics and Financing
- Water-Employment-Migration
- Innovative and Technology Transfer
- Data Management and Information Systems
- Awareness, Education, Capacity Building

# Common priority fields for possible regional action: adopted from UfM presentation

## UfM Ministerial Declaration on Water

### 7<sup>th</sup> Water Expert Group -WEG

Priority work areas to develop as part of the Work Programme of the UfM Water Agenda:

- Water, energy, food, ecosystems nexus
- Water supply and sanitation
- Climate change adaptation and water
- Water, employment and migration

\*Water governance and financing as a horizontal activity.

Dedicated Financial Strategy under preparation.



# All partners are needed for making SDGs and Paris happen!



- Regional stakeholder platforms and organisations, e.g. MIO-ECSDE, RAED, MENBO, MedWet, MedCities, IME, ACWUA, EIC, CIHEAM, EMWIS, REC, CEDARE, GWP-Med, etc
- Academia / scientific organisations
- IFIs (e.g. EIB, EBRD, KfW, ADB, etc)
- Bilateral donors (e.g. EC, Sida, GIZ, AfD, USAID, etc)
- Private sector, including private banks
- Members of Parliaments, including their regional networks like COMPSUD
- Media, including their regional networks like COMJSD
- Of course, the Governments, and the Regional Institutions

Need for: ***Trust >> Engagement and Capacity building >> Meaningful engagement***

**Regional programs** assist, e.g H2020/SWIM, WACDEP, Water Matchmaker, Gov& Fin, etc.

Visit us:  
[www.gwpmed.org](http://www.gwpmed.org)



Thank you  
for your kind attention

مع خالص شكري  
وامتناني