

Building Momentum to Close Adaptation Knowledge Gaps in the MENA

Affiliated event at the Middle East and North Africa Climate Week, 28 February to 03 March 2022

Date: Tuesday March 29, 2022

Time: 9:00 – 11:00 +4 GMT (120 minutes)

Location: The Atlantis, The Palm Hotel

Lead-organizers: UNEP-ROWA, UNFCCC, UNFCCC- WGEO RCC MENA & SA, UNESCWA

Background:

Responding to the knowledge and resilience needs of countries through tailored information for knowledge users is crucial to implementing adaptation action – a key element of the Paris Agreement. For the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (LAKI), the UNFCCC secretariat is collaborating with the UNFCCC-WGEO Regional Collaboration Center for the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia based in Dubai, the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia, and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to close adaptation knowledge gaps in addressing climate impacts in the North Africa and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) subregions. Several initiatives have been co-designed with LAKI partners through a series of virtual meetings in these subregions. Building on the progress in 2021, the LAKI partners will continue to concretize actions and ideas in 2022 to further contribute to closing persistent climate adaptation knowledge gaps in the MENA region.

Objective of the event:

- Showcase ongoing LAKI initiatives in closing adaptation knowledge gaps to address climate impacts in the North Africa and GCC subregions
- Engage participating and new partner organizations in the implementation of these initiatives
- Spotlight the role of the LAKI as a joint initiative that convenes and engages experts from different international, regional and national agencies to take further steps to closing existing knowledge gaps to address climate impacts in the region.

Key expected outcomes

- Promoting the ongoing LAKI collaborative actions that are closing adaptation knowledge gaps to scale up adaptation actions in the North African and GCC subregions.
- Participating financial institutions express an interest to support the actions and relevant partners/experts join the LAKI showcased actions and activities
- Sharing lessons learned from the LAKI initiative in GCC and North African subregions, which are also applicable in scaling up the LAKI in other subregions of the world.

Target audience: Government representatives, adaptation experts and practitioners, institutions, implementing agencies and networks in MENA, bilateral and multilateral donors, Arab group of negotiators

Duration	Agenda	Format and expected outcomes
<p>9:00-9:05</p> <p>5 mins</p>	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Moderator: Fatema Rajabali</p>	<p>Housekeeping for the session (especially if it a hybrid event or even just livestreamed)</p> <p>Connect the event to key findings from the recent working group 2 contribution to the IPCC report</p> <p>Overview of the key objectives of the event</p> <p>Introduce the high-level speakers</p> <p><i>(Moderator: Fatema Rajabali)</i></p>
<p>9:05-9:15</p> <p>10 minutes</p>	<p>High level opening remarks</p> <p>-High level host government representative, United Arab Emirates (UAE) (tbd)</p> <p>-Youssef Nassef, Director of the Adaptation Division, United Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)</p>	<p>The host government representative will provide key messages on adaptation priorities and actions to build climate resilience of the region</p> <p>Youssef Nassef will highlight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political landscape on adaptation (e.g. highlighting key outcomes from COP26 and priorities for the region) - the role of the LAKI under the Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation to climate change and its role in contributing to addressing regional adaptation needs and priorities <p><i>(Moderator: Fatema Rajabali)</i></p>
<p>9:15 – 09:55</p> <p>40 minutes</p>	<p>Technical segment: PART A</p> <p>Round table discussion with panellists and participants</p> <p>Overview of the LAKI process in the MENA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fatema Rajabali, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) <p>Participating organizations implementing the actions in closing knowledge gaps:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide a brief overview of the LAKI process, progress in MENA and summary of collaborative actions (Fatema) <p>Moderator will then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduce the technical segment and expectations of the segment (Tarek), and introduce all panellists (Tarek) <p>Use of max 1-2 visual slides for each of the panellists' interventions (if necessary)</p> <p>Each lead organization will provide a 5-minute summary of ongoing initiative/s (including what priority knowledge gaps this will help address, what is the progress/status, what inputs are</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ajit Govind, Climatologist at International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) - Elsa Sattout, Regional Programme Specialist, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) - Theresa Wong, Natural Resources Officer at United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) - Sahel Batayneh, Researcher on Climate Change & Air pollution at National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) 	<p>needed from participants to facilitate implementation of actions)</p> <p>(Moderator: Tarek Sadek)</p> <p>Objectives of this section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generate an overview of the ongoing initiatives and how they will be relevant for users expression of interest from participating organizations/experts to engage in any of the actions/initiatives - Encourage expression of interest from participants in the room to learn more about the projects and/or engage on the LAKI <p>Questions include:</p> <p>Question 1: Can you briefly tell us about how your respective actions are closing LAKI priority adaptation knowledge gap? Which specific users are the actions being targeted towards?</p> <p>Question 2: What kind of support, be it financial or technical, is needed to further catalyze action for the LAKI priority knowledge gaps identified in the MENA?</p>
09:55 – 10:15 20 mins	Q&A and feedback	<p>Interactive Q&A from the floor</p> <p>To promote feedback and garner interest from participants on the LAKI</p> <p><i>(Moderator: Tarek Sadek)</i></p>
10:15– 10:25 10 minutes	<p>Technical session PART B:</p> <p>Financing adaptation actions in the MENA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Islamic Development Bank (tbc) 	<p>Objective Part B:</p> <p>Financial institution representative/s will provide an overview of relevant opportunities to support the implementation of ongoing or future LAKI adaptation actions – as well as other regional windows/opportunities of funding.</p> <p><i>(Moderator: Fatema Rajabali)</i></p>
10:25-10:40 15 mins	Interactive session	<p>Interactive session with all participants</p> <p>Three menti questions:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the key success factors to close persistent adaptation knowledge gaps in the MENA region? - What funding opportunities are available in the MENA region and how can institutions access these resources? - How can we ensure that the actions are responsive to needs of knowledge users in the region? <p><i>(Moderator: Fatema Rajabali)</i></p>
10:40-10:45 5 mins	Closing session	<p>Key summary points by Maryam Navi (2-3 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing (UNFCCC representative or Fatema) TBC (2 mins) <p><i>(Moderator: Fatema Rajabali)</i></p>