CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION NETWORK FOR WEST ASIA, Mapping of Institutions & Activities

Expert Group Meeting, Assessment of Water Resources Vulnerability to Climate Change, ESCWA Beirut, 26-28 October 2009

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The Strategy Based on:

1. The overall Global Adaptation Network Strategy

2. Conclusions of the Consultation Meeting held in Muscat June 2009

1. Climate change impacts and priorities adaptation issues expressed in various regional (thematic studies, Arab Framework of Action on Climate Change) and national (National Communications, NAPA, etc) documents

2. Analysis of responses to surveys conducted in the region covering regional organizations universities, research institutions (both national and regional), and experts active on adaptation issues
West Asia by enlarge is vulnerable to climate change due to its geographic location and its states variable adaptive capacity.

The region is likely to be highly vulnerable to climate change in terms of water resources, land degradation, food and fiber production, and human health.

Biodiversity, coastal ecosystems and settlements are likely to be moderately vulnerable too.
A general decrease and fluctuation in precipitation and an increase in temperature induce drought effects.

Adverse effects on farming practices and yield in agriculture-based economy countries, consequently jeopardizing food security for those countries.

Possible SLR could affect a number of coastal and port cities in the region especially the ones located on low levels like ports of the Gulf countries.
The global climate change adaptation network

• Calls for the development of a global climate change adaptation network

• The main goal of the network is to support adaptation process by mobilizing available knowledge and technology, piloting adaptation options, and mainstreaming adaptation in the development plans of countries and regions.
Objectives of the network

- Identify and collect information and knowledge related to adaptation to climate change.
- Improve the availability and accessibility to accurate and updated information and knowledge on best practices and lesson learnt.
- Promote countries adaptation measures through piloting projects and disseminating proper knowledge and technology.
- Demonstrate the network (global, regional) itself as a regional model for “promoting synergies and collaboration” between parties working in climate change adaptation measures in West Asia and other regions of the world.
Partners Potential Role

1. Pool information, knowledge, and lesson learnt from the region and other regions of the world
2. Address regional issues related to climate change.
3. Understand fully the potential impacts of climate change on various aspects of economy.
4. Promote best practices in natural resource management including observation, monitoring, and research and strategy development in adapting to climate change.
5. Help identify adaptation strategies
Network Structure:

- Regional network steering committee
- Regional Hub (Network Secretariat/Facilitator)
- Technical committees
- National focal points
- Network secretariat
THEMES AND PRIORITY AREAS

- Water & Land resources
- Agriculture
- Coastal areas
- Biodiversity
STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS ROLES
Participation—Regional identity - Criteria

- Interest in the issue
- Organization mandate
- Organization type
- Geographic Scope
- Organization Facilities
CHALLENGES

- Needs a common understanding of adaptation strategies among partners working in particular field.
- Commitment of the stockholders towards the network and the regional identity of it.
- Arabization is a must for communicating knowledge to local communities.
Stocktaking and Mapping of Technical Capacities for the Adaptation Network in West Asia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>14%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Pie Chart:**
- National: 43%
- Regional: 36%
- International: 7%
- UN: 14%
- Experts: 6%
- NGO: 1%
- UN International Regional National Experts NGO

**Bar Chart:**
- National: 43%
- Regional: 36%
- International: 7%
- UN: 14%
Focus of Activities

- Socio-economic: 8%
- Education and Research: 31%
- Agriculture & Natural Resources: 38%
- Marine Resources: 15%
- Biodiversity Conservation: 8%

Focus on the following countries:
- Egypt
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- kuwaite
- Saudi Arabia
- Syria
Significant number of institutions exists in West Asia region with mandates and works related to adaptation to climate change. Other institutions that stationed outside the region have mandates which cover the region.

The survey shows that substantial work, budget and staff time is devoted to adaptation to climate change in various institutions.

All institutions expressed their willingness and interest in joining the network on regional bases.

Main supports of the institutions lie in exchange of information, public awareness, implementation of joint projects, and capacity building.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTITUTIONS</th>
<th>WEBSITE</th>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>FOCUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Nations environment Programme- Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP-ROWA)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.unep.org.bh/">http://www.unep.org.bh/</a></td>
<td>UN</td>
<td>Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.escwa.un.org/">http://www.escwa.un.org/</a></td>
<td>UN</td>
<td>Socio-economic and water issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>League of Arab States (LAS-CAMRE)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.arableagueonline.org/las/index.jsp">http://www.arableagueonline.org/las/index.jsp</a></td>
<td>REGIONAL</td>
<td>Policy</td>
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<td>Center for Environment and Development for Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cedare.int/">http://www.cedare.int/</a></td>
<td>REGIONAL</td>
<td>Environment and development</td>
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<td>Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)</td>
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<td>Agriculture</td>
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<td>Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Lands And Dry Zones (ACSAD)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.acsad.org/">http://www.acsad.org/</a></td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Natural resources (Land, water, animal wealth, biodiversity)</td>
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<td>International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.icarda.org/">http://www.icarda.org/</a></td>
<td>International</td>
<td>Agriculture, water, biodiversity</td>
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<td>Arabian Gulf University (AGU)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.agu.edu.bh/">http://www.agu.edu.bh/</a></td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Education, Environmental management</td>
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<tr>
<td>American University of Beirut (AUB) Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences</td>
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<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Research and education (Agriculture)</td>
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<td>University of Jordan FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE</td>
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<td>Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.kisr.edu.kw/">http://www.kisr.edu.kw/</a></td>
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<td>Sultan Qaboos University Center for Environmental Studies and Research</td>
<td><a href="http://www.squ.edu.om/center-environment/tabid/1838/Default.aspx">http://www.squ.edu.om/center-environment/tabid/1838/Default.aspx</a></td>
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<td>Damascus University Faculty of Agriculture</td>
<td><a href="http://www.damasuniv.s">http://www.damasuniv.s</a> hern.net/arabic/faculties/agreng/index.htm#</td>
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<td>Bahrain Center for Studies and Scientific Research (BSCR)</td>
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<td>Arab Water Council (AWC)</td>
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<td>Arab Ministerial Council on Water Resources</td>
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<td>KISR in Kuwait , AREA in Yemen , AGU in Bahrain</td>
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<td>General Organization of Remote Sensing (GORS)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gors-sy.net/home.asp">http://www.gors-sy.net/home.asp</a></td>
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<td>Islamic Development Bank (IDB)</td>
<td><a href="http://isdb.org/irj/portal/anonymous">http://isdb.org/irj/portal/anonymous</a></td>
<td>Development</td>
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<td>Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development</td>
<td><a href="http://www.arabfund.org/">http://www.arabfund.org/</a></td>
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<td>Arab Urban Development Institute Environment Centre for Arab Towns (ECAT), Dubai</td>
<td><a href="http://www.araburban.org/AUDI/English/">http://www.araburban.org/AUDI/English/</a></td>
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<td>Meteorological and Environmental Protection Administration (MEPA)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pme.gov.sa/">http://www.pme.gov.sa/</a></td>
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<td>The National Center for Agriculture Research and Extension</td>
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<td>Jordan</td>
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<td>The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN)</td>
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<td>Jordan</td>
<td>Biodiversity and protected areas</td>
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<td>Ministry of environmental Affairs</td>
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<td>Ministry of Local Administration &amp; Environment</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mlae-sy.org/nobcms/index.php?option=com_content&amp;task=category&amp;sectionid=7&amp;id=73&amp;Itemid=103">Website</a></td>
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<td>Agricultural Research and Extension Authority (AREA)</td>
<td><a href="http://greenresistance.wordpress.com/2007/12/12/lebanon-and-climate-change/">Website</a></td>
<td>Yemen</td>
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<td>Arab Healthy Water Association</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mgwater.com/arabhwa.shtml">Website</a></td>
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