

A photograph of a dry, cracked earth landscape under a sunset sky. The ground is covered in a network of deep, brown cracks. In the background, there are some green bushes and a line of trees under a sky with orange and blue hues.

THE ROAD TO A MORE SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT MEDITERRANEAN

DIALOGUE 1

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN:

Grasping the Scope of the Challenge

19 May 2021 – 18h00 – 19h30 CET

Languages: English / French / Spanish with simultaneous translation

Virtual event: Palau Macaya website

Organized by



CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: Grasping the Scope of the Challenge

PRESENTATION

The Mediterranean is nowadays one of the main climate change hotspots in the world. Accelerated climate change effects have caused direct and already visible environmental challenges that, based on projections, are expected to worsen in the upcoming decades. According to the First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) on Climate and Environmental Change prepared by the independent network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change (MedECC), the region is warming 20% faster than the global average, sea level rise may exceed 20 to 110 cm by the end of the century, while annual precipitation rates will considerably decrease.

Climate change related phenomena, together with other human-induced drivers of environmental degradation of Mediterranean ecosystems, such as pollution and land use change, pose significant challenges for marine and terrestrial ecosystems but also to human well-being in both shores of the Mediterranean, especially as regards water and food security.

In this context, the framework of the 2030 Agenda offers a blueprint for collaboration in the region to address sustainable development challenges, especially by promoting initiatives to reduce the impact of climate change and environmental degradation, and by setting a clear roadmap towards a more sustainable, low-carbon, and climate-resilient development in the Mediterranean Basin. Understanding the scope of the challenge and its further implications is crucial to formulate adequate adaptation and mitigation policies for a sustainable future.

- What are the specificities of climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean region? What are the main impacted areas and sectors in the region? What are the consequences of climate and environmental change for human security in the region?
- How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean region? Has the COVID-19 pandemic hindered efforts towards the implementation of SDG 13 related to climate action?
- Are current policies adequate to achieve climate related SDGs by 2030? What concrete mitigation and adaptation actions should be established as priorities? What are the most successful examples of actions contributing to a more climate resilient region?



CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: Grasping the Scope of the Challenge

SPEAKERS

Welcoming remarks

Sandrine Dixson-Declève, Co-President of the Club of Rome

Jaume Lanaspá, President of the Barcelona Office, Club of Rome

Josep Ferré, Director General, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

Moderator

Arnau Queralt i Bassa, Director of the Advisory Council for the Sustainable Development of Catalonia (CADS)

Guest Speaker

Semia Cherif (Tunisia), Full Professor in the Department of Environment at the Institut Supérieur des Sciences Appliquées de Tunis (ISSBAT), University Tunis El Manar. Member of the Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC)

Discussant

Arnault Graves, Senior Climate Adviser, Energy and Climate Action, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)