



Mediterranean
Action Plan
Barcelona
Convention



2.1
Mediterranean
Coastal Zones Climate
Resilience Water Security
and Habitat Protection"



MedProgramme C.P. 2.1. ICZM Progress meeting

26 February 2023, Beirut – Lebanon

Meeting Report

Background information

The general objective of the ICZM Progress meeting was to discuss the state of the art with ICZM in Lebanon; to present draft outputs of the coastal legislation analysis; land cover change analysis; stakeholder analysis; and to review the opportunities for reaching the project goal in the actual Lebanese crises. One specific objective of the meeting was to discuss interlinkages and integration with the CP 2.2 on Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus.

Attendance:

Ministry of Environment

Mr. Adel Yacoub PAP/RAC NFP

MedProgramme

Alessandro Candeloro

PAP/RAC

Ms. Daria Povh Škugor

Ms. Željka Škaričić

Plan Bleu/RAC

Michael Kramer

GWP¹

Ms. Barbara Tomassini

Experts:

Mr. Shady Indary

Mr. Manal Nader

Ms. Ranim Tahhan

Ms. Samah Termos

Ms. Josiane Yazbeck Keszi

MORES s.a.r.l¹

Mr. Raji Maasri

Ms. Salam Nassar

Dates and venue: The meeting started at 9:00 on Sunday 26th 2023. and ended at 18:00. The meeting was held in the hotel Crowne Plaza in Beirut.

¹ Participants attended the afternoon session on ICZM and WEF priorities integration.

Major topics discussed and meeting results:

Agenda item 1: Welcome and opening

Ms Škaričić opened the meeting, welcoming the participants and thanking them for coming. She expressed her satisfaction for being again in Lebanon, 20 years after the closure of the CAMP Lebanon project. PAP/RAC collaborated with several experts through the EU FP7 project PEGASO. Ms. Škaričić invited participants to present themselves and to say a few words about their relevant experiences.

Agenda item 2: Introducing MedProgramme; CP 2.1 project and its ICZM related activities

Ms Povh Škugor introduced the Medprogramme, as the first GEF programmatic multi-focal area initiative in the Mediterranean Sea. She informed participants about the GEF focal areas contributing to the major goal – to reduce major transboundary environmental stresses in coastal areas while strengthening climate resilience and water security and improving the health and livelihoods of coastal populations. She introduced 8 Child projects, countries and institutions involved. Ms. Povh Škugor explained the creation of ICZM - related activities and emphasised the changes happened since then. She reminded to the recommendations of the CAMP project, which consisted in approving the ICZM Strategy and the ICZM law. Unfortunately, none of the two happened in the last 20 years. MedProgramme represents another opportunity for Lebanon to make a progress in creating conditions for regulation of the coastal development and preserving coastal environment. Finally, she presented the project activities, workplan, and the expected results.

Agenda item 3: Presentation of the results of the Comparative analysis of coastal laws for Lebanon

Ms Yazbeck Keszi presented the results of the analysis of the coastal laws in Lebanon, in the framework of the comparative analysis of the 5 countries (Lebanon, France, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia), which was still in the draft format. Ms. Keszi highlighted the gaps and the needs of the Lebanese legislation related to the coastal zone. She presented the priority recommendations for the strengthening and improvement of national laws and regulations for better implementation of the ICZM protocol; such as: the necessity to strengthen the implementation of the EIA decree number 8633/2012 and the SEA decree number 8213/2012; to improve coordination mechanisms between the concerned ministries to ensure better implementation of environmental legislation (water, waste, etc.); to ensure holding National Environment Council periodic meetings in compliance with the decree number 8157/2012 requirements and to develop awareness campaigns for public and private actors.

In the discussion that followed the presentation issues related with the legalisation of 1994 were discussed since all that was constructed before 1994 can undertake the legalisation procedure, pay sanctions, or undertake environmental audit. Another issue that could be compared with other countries is the request for NGOs to demonstrate interest and capacity to sue. It was suggested to consult the Client Earth organisation from the UK. Mr. Yacoub requested to provide clear recommendations for the administration on what, why, who, how,

and how much time, including smart objectives and time plan – for the update of the ICZM law, as well as other needed updates within coastal legislation in Lebanon. He also highlighted a gap concerning marine spatial planning. Mr Nader added that the Strategic Environmental Assessment is essential for the Lebanese coastal zone at this stage. It was pointed out that in Lebanon there is still no official web site which publishes all the laws. At present, there is a public University and one private company, but there is a clear need for such a governmental web site. It was mentioned that a project idea could be to develop an application which would send an e-mail, or message when a new law is published – to all those that should be informed about it. Experts identified some inconsistencies between different laws related to the public access to the sea, as well as related to the nourishment and landfilling projects.

Agenda item 4: Presentation of the results of the Land cover change analysis

Ms. Termos presented the analysis of the land cover change in the Lebanese coastal zone using the PAP/RAC upgraded methodology for IMAP indicator 25 as well as the analysis of the period of 2015-2020. Ms. Termos pointed out that for the years 2015 and 2020 calculation of the CCI25 indicator parameters was based on a Global Land Cover with Fine Classification System at 30 m. Landsat satellite images were used as a main data source for producing this land cover data, which imposed a 30 m spatial resolution. GLC_FCS30 classes are hierarchically organised; at the highest hierarchical level, there are nine classes. The overall classification accuracy for the 2015 dataset for these nine classes was 83%. She pointed out that it is expected that classification accuracy will increase when nine high-level classes are further aggregated into five CCI25 classes. GLC_FCS30 for years 2015 and 2020 were not produced independently but were part of the same production workflow, thus making land cover change analysis more reliable. Furthermore, GLC_FCS30 was specifically produced with land cover monitoring in mind by employing change detection models in its production. This means that analyzing land cover change with the GLC_FCS30 data should be even more accurate than the overall classification accuracy of yearly datasets.

In the discussion that followed the presentation, participants pointed out the issue of the structures created for or by the refugees, for which it was unclear whether those were permanent or not. It was recommended to use UNHCR maps² and the UNDP project for verification. Participants commented on the results of the land cover change analysis related to the agricultural land, which decreased in many regions. It was agreed that the causes could be in the abandonment of the agriculture, of agricultural terraces, and in recent fires. The need for field validation has been pointed out.

Agenda item 5: Overview of the state of ICZM in Lebanon with feedback on the stakeholder analysis and the integration of the solutions with WEFE Nexus

Mr. Nader presented the state of ICZM in Lebanon by pointing out that the coastal zone represents 8% of the total area of the country and it hosts up to about 33% of the total built-up area; 55 % of the total population and more than 70% of the industrial zones. Average density

² <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria>

goes up to 1600 persons/km², compared to about 400 on the national scale. This results in destruction of habitats, displacement of species, non-indigenous invasions. He emphasised the lack of local, regional, and national land use plans including outdated and inconsistent environmental legislation coupled with severe lack of enforcement of laws. Mr. Nader presented main initiatives related to ICZM, since CAMP (2002-2004); IMAC (2006-2009); ERML (2011-2012); Draft ICZM Strategy and Draft ICZM Law (2014-2015), and the GreatMed Project (2015-2016). He presented the process of preparation of the draft ICZM Strategy and of the draft ICZM law, as well as the key drivers for the ICZM in Lebanon. Mr. Nader also presented the Draft Law articles, and its most important features. He concluded by presenting the Integrated Coastal Strategy, its main objectives and purpose, its contents, vision and process of development, its strategic objectives, and necessary prerequisites for its implementation.

In the discussion that followed the presentation, it was clarified that the ICZM draft law was submitted to the Ministry of Environment, which provided comments and submitted it to the Council of Ministers which then sent it to all concerned institutions for comments. The Ministry of Environment is still waiting for a few opinions to proceed. Having in mind that once the law comes to parliament the discussion on it opens again, it was agreed that the update of the law, if needed, should happen at that stage – once the draft law is in the parliament.

Mr. Indary presented a stakeholder analysis that encompass responsibilities and interests in the proper integrative management of the Lebanese coastal zone using the PAP/RAC methodology. Additionally, a comparative analysis of the stakeholders for ICZM and WEFE nexus was presented as an integrative effort for identification of synergies and overlaps. Analysis performed resulted with the common priority institutions for WEFE nexus and ICZM that allows developing and implementing integrated plans. Mr. Indary pointed out that this analysis provides a baseline for an efficient integrative engagement of stakeholders by clearly outlining each institution's responsibilities and expectations in the ICZM process. Also, it provides insights into procedural needs of future integrative initiatives that tackle similar concepts and create a basis for comparative stakeholder analysis with connected sectors.

In the discussion that followed the presentation Mr. Karner reminded participants of the several participatory methods that could be used for the update of the ICZM Strategy, and which can be covered by the Plan Bleu activities foreseen within the project. The participants proposed to prepare a repository cloud where all relevant documents for ICZM, WEFE nexus and coastal aquifers could be stored.

Agenda item 6: Preparatory session for the 2nd Multi-stakeholder Consultation on the WEFE Nexus in Lebanon

Ms. Povh Škugor briefed GWP-Med and MORES s.a.r.l representatives on the morning progress of the meeting, as well as on the expectations of the ICZM group from the 2nd Multi-stakeholder Consultations on WEFE Nexus. Ms. Tomassini briefed participants on the WEFE group expectations and on their understanding of the ICZM and WEFE interlinkages and integration. Involved experts commented on the key common stakeholders, as well as on some new

promising stakeholder groups that have not been involved yet and could play an important role, such as the media, journalists, women groups, NGOs, etc. Some revisions of the presentations for the next day were applied, related to the stakeholders and to the solutions to be proposed. The meeting was concluded at 18:00.

2nd Multi-stakeholder Consultation on the Water-Energy Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus in Lebanon: Key findings of Phase I Nexus Assessment and the way ahead and coordination with efforts towards Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) planning and climate resilience and Conjunctive Management of Surface water and Groundwater in Lebanon

27- 28 February 2023, Beirut – Lebanon

Conclusions relative to the ICZM activities in Lebanon

During 27 and 28 of February all participants attended the 2nd Multi-stakeholder consultations, presented their work and continued discussions throughout the meeting. The meeting will be reported by the key organizer, and the following work-plan for ICZM related activities has been developed and presented during the conclusions of the Consultations.

Timing	Activity
March 2023	A repository of documents for ICZM, WEFE and coastal aquifers is to be prepared and shared with all parties
March – April 2023	Detailed work-plan and the expert roles for delivery of the C.P.2.1 ICZM related activities in Lebanon (Update of the ICZM Strategy and the development of the Integrated Management Plan for Damour)
March-June 2023	ToRs to be prepared and announced, experts to be contracted
May – June 2023	A new version of the WEFE measures to be available for identifying interlinkages, communalities, and opportunities for integration.
June 2023	Presentation of the plan for the ICZM Strategy update to the technical Inter-ministerial committee. If completed, analysis of coastal legislation as well as the land cover change analysis could also be presented. Alternatively, these presentations could be delivered in autumn 2023.
October 2023	A workshop to present updated ICZM Strategy with WEFE solutions, coastal aquifers and climate issues integrated
November 2023 – February 2024	A series of thematic round tables to be organized with scientists, experts, and with decision makers and feedback to be included in the updated ICZM Strategy
February - March 2024	3 rd joint stakeholder consultations to finalize Action plan with integrated portfolio or investments
June	Meeting with investors
September 2024	Presenting final products
October 2024 – March 2025	Support to implementation of the ICZM Strategy

Annex I
Agenda of the ICZM Progress meeting

26th February 2023.

09:00 – 09:05 **Opening: Welcome note**

(Željka Škaričić, PAP/RAC Director)

09:05 – 09:20 **Introducing MedProgramme; CP 2.1 project and its ICZM related activities**

(Daria Povh Škugor, PAP/RAC)

09:20 – 09:35 **Presentation of the results of the Comparative analysis of coastal laws for Lebanon** (Ms. Josiane Yazbeck Keszi)

09:35 – 09:45 Discussion

09:45 – 10:00 **Presentation of the results of the Land cover change analysis using the PAP/RAC upgraded methodology for IMAP indicator 25; and the proposals for presenting the missing period (2012-2020)** (Ms. Samah Termos)

10:00 – 11:00 Discussion

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 – 11:45 **Overview of the state of ICZM in Lebanon with feedback on the stakeholder analysis and the integration of the solutions with WEFE Nexus** (Mr. Manal Nader, Mr. Shady Indary and Ms. Ranim Tahhan)

11:45 – 14:30 Discussion.

14:30 – 15:00 Lunch break

15:00 – 18:00 **Preparatory session for the 2nd Multi-stakeholder Consultation on the Water-Energy Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus in Lebanon: The way ahead and coordination with efforts towards ICZM planning and climate resilience in Lebanon; Surface-Groundwater Conjunctive Management in Lebanon** (GPW-Med, PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu, UNESCO-IHP – consultant teams)