Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Expert Group Meeting Towards Assessing the Vulnerability of Water Resources to Climate Change in the Arab Region
Beirut, 26-28 October 2009

AGENDA
Programme of Work

Day 1: Monday, 26 October 2009

Focus of Day 1: Review of various approaches for vulnerability assessment of the water sector to climate change and preliminary scoping of the Arab regional vulnerability assessment

9:00 – 9:30 Registration at UN House, B-1 Level

9:30 – 10:00 Welcome and opening statements

- Mr. Abdul Majeid Haddad, Program Officer, Climate Change and the Marine Environment, UNEP/ROWA
- Mr. Hatem Mekhemer, Water Resource Expert, ISESCO
- Mr. Djameleddine Djaballa, Deputy Director, Sustainable Development, Environment and Housing Division, LAS
- Mr. Bader Omar AlDafa, Executive Secretary, ESCWA

Review of agenda

10:00 – 11:30 Session 1: Review of the state of knowledge with regard to vulnerability assessment of the water sector to climate change

Moderator: Mr. Salim Al Maskari, Deputy Director, Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs, Oman

- Review of global and regional vulnerability assessments of water resources due to climate change – Mr. Mahmoud Medany, Member, IPCC; Climate Change Expert, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, Egypt
- National assessment of climate change impacts on water resources: a national approach to vulnerability assessment – Ms. Raoudha Gafrej Lahache, Assistant Professor, Tunisia
- Exchange of experiences and lessons learned in climate change vulnerability assessment – Arab Member State Representatives

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee break

12:00 – 13:30 Session 2: Vulnerability assessment methodologies and approaches

Moderator: Mr. Gamal AlHarrani, Environmental Protection Authority, Yemen
• Review of methodological approaches to vulnerability assessment – Mr. Abdul Majeid Haddad, Program Officer, Climate Change and Marine Environment, UNEP/ROWA, Bahrain

Session 2: Vulnerability assessment methodologies and approaches (continued)

• A Framework Methodology for Assessing Vulnerability of the Water Sector to Climate Change in the Arab Region – Mr. Hosny Khordagui, Director, Water Governance Program in Arab States, UNDP-RBAS, Egypt
• Discussion

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 16:30 Session 3: Roundtable discussion on current work in the region on climate change and preliminary scoping of the vulnerability assessment

• Mapping of current activities on climate change in the region – Mr. Abdul Majeid Haddad, Program Officer, Climate Change and Marine Environment, UNEP/ROWA, Bahrain
• Exchange of experiences and planned activities in climate change vulnerability assessment and analysis – LAS Specialized Agencies and UN Regional Organizations Representatives
• Roundtable discussion – facilitated by Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, Chief, Water Resources Section, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division, ESCWA, Lebanon

Focus on: (a) deciding on the objective of the vulnerability assessment (to inform policy-making at the regional, sub-regional, national and/or sub-national levels); (b) identifying target audience of the assessment report (policy-makers, regional organization and/or civil society); and (c) achieving preliminary consensus on the overall scope of the vulnerability assessment, (types of water resources to be covered, socio-economic sectors to consider, geographic coverage, regional sub-groupings).

16:30 End of Day 1

Day 2: Tuesday, 27 October 2008

Focus of Day 2: Climate/water data availability and reliability, scenario development and building consensus on the scope of the vulnerability assessment

9:00 – 10:30 Session 4: Review of climate models and parameters for informing water-related vulnerability assessment
Moderator: Mr. Abdel-Wahab Kamel, Arab Academy for Science and Technology of Marine Transport, Egypt

- Review of global climate models for assessing the vulnerability of the water sector – Mr. Rupa Kumar Kolli, Chief, World Climate Change Applications and services Division, Climate and Water Department, World Meteorological Organization, Switzerland

- Review of climate models and parameters for vulnerability assessment – Mr. George Nasr, First Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division, ESCWA, Lebanon

- Discussion

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 13:00 Session 5: Downscaling for regional modeling and scenario building

Moderator: Mr. Samir Al-Kilani, Deputy Director, Ministry of Environment, Jordan

- Downscaling from global to regional models in the Arab region – Mr. Andy Wiltshire, Climate Impacts Scientist, Hadley Center, Meteoro logical Office, United Kingdom

- Experience with downscaling of regional climate models – Mr. Khaled Maoud, Water Resources Section, ACSAD, Syrian Arab Republic

- Downscaling regional models to the national level – Mr. Ricardo Khoury, Senior Environmental Expert, ELARD, Lebanon

- Discussion

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 – 16:00 Session 6: Data availability, reliability and vulnerability indicators

Moderator: Ms. Sabah Aljenaid, Assistant Professor, GIS and Environment, Arab Gulf University; Representative of the Ministry of Environment, Bahrain

- Climate data availability and reliability in the Arab Region – Mr. Abdel el-Raouf El-Asrag, Expert, LAS, Egypt

- Geo-information as a tool for the study of climate change on desertification and drought – Mr. Wadid Erian, Head, Land Resources Department, ACSAD, Syrian Arab Republic
• Socio-economic indicators – Mr. Tarek Sadek, Economic Affairs Officer, Water Resources Section, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division, ESCWA, Lebanon

• Water and natural resource data availability and reliability – Ms. Therese El Gemayel, Expert, Environmental Management, Statistics Division, ESCWA, Lebanon

• Discussion on data challenges, constraints, information gaps and knowledge management tools

16:00 – 17:00  
**Session 7: Formulation of Working Groups**

Working Groups to develop and propose elaboration of:

(a) Scope and scale of the vulnerability assessment – moderated by ESCWA
(b) Methodological approach, methods, scenarios – moderated by UNEP/ROWA
(c) Selection of indicators and baseline data sources – moderated by ACSAD

17:00  
Submission of preliminary working group reports

End of day

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**Day 3: Wednesday 28 October 2008**

**Focus of Day 3:** Formulation of a work plan for the preparation of the regional vulnerability assessment through a coordinated process involving Arab member States, the League of Arab States, the United Nations and their respective regional and specialized organizations

9:00 – 10:30  
**Session 8: Plenary discussion and consensus building on Working Group topics**

Moderator:  
*Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, Chief, Water Resources Section, ESCWA*

- Reporting of Working Groups to the Plenary by Working Group Rapporteurs
- Discussion of Working Group proposals
- Consensus building on scope, scale, methodological approach, model, scenarios indicators, and data sources
- Identifying the major project phases and components
- Agreeing upon the broad lines of an action plan and time line

10:30 – 11:00  
Coffee break

11:00 – 12:00  
**Session 9: Working Groups on Work Planning**

Working groups for work planning related to major project phases and components
Working Groups would be organized at the project phase and component levels. Each Working Group would identify major outputs and activities related to that phase/component; allocate roles and responsibilities for specific task; develop a work plan and timeline for monitoring and reporting on the delivery of outputs; and estimate budget needs.

12:00 – 13:30  Session 10: Plenary Discussion on Work Planning and Identifying Roles and Responsibilities

Moderator:  Mr. Hosny Khordagui, Director, Water Governance Program in Arab States, UNDP-RBAS

- Presentation of Working Group plans to the Plenary
- Compilation and review expected outputs, time lines and budgetary needs
- Identification of lead agencies and team members for each project component
- Possible formulation of fundraising committee

13:30 – 14:30  Lunch break

14:30 – 15:45  Session 11: Conclusions and recommendations

Moderator:  Mr. Abdul Majeid Haddad, Program Officer, Climate Change and Marine Environment, UNEP/ROWA

- Review and discussion of draft meeting report and work plan comprised of a:
  o Project matrix by project phase
  o Work plan with associated responsible experts and organizations
  o Timeline and budgetary targets
- Agreement on roles, responsibilities, reporting and communication mechanisms

15:45 – 16:00  Close of meeting – Mr. Djameleddine Djaballa, Deputy Director, Sustainable Development, Environment and Housing Division, LAS