Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Regional Workshop on Linking RCM Projections to Hydrological Models
26-28 June 2013
UN House – Beirut, Lebanon

INFORMATION NOTE

I. BACKGROUND

In response to resolutions adopted by the Arab Ministerial Water Council (AMWC), the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE), and the ESCWA 25th Ministerial Session, as well as inter-agency collaborative processes involving the specialized and regional organizations of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, a Regional Initiative for the Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability was launched. The Regional Initiative was formulated based on the outcomes of the Expert Group Meeting Towards Assessing the Vulnerability of Water Resources to Climate Change in the Arab Region (Beirut, October 2009), which was organized by the League of Arab States (LAS), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP/ROWA) with financial support from other organizations. The Regional Initiative is based on four pillars supported by a series of activities aimed at achieving: (a) a baseline review; (b) impact assessment and vulnerability assessment; (c) awareness raising and information dissemination; and (d) capacity building and institutional strengthening.

The Regional Initiative is implemented through a collaborative partnership involving the LAS, ESCWA, UNEP, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO Cairo Office), United Nations University (UNU-INWEH), United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR Regional Office for the Arab States), Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI), Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). In addition to partner agencies, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) provide financial support for the initiative.

The workshop is implemented under the SIDA-supported project component of the Regional Initiative. The project is led by ESCWA and implemented in partnership with the LAS, ACSAD, SMHI, WMO, and UNISDR. This workshop is the third in a series of project workshops that support the capacity building and institutional strengthening pillar of the Regional Initiative. The first training workshop on Climate Change Prediction/Projection and Extreme Events Indices in the Arab Region was held from 13 to 16 March 2012 in Casablanca and targeted climate experts in Arab meteorological offices. The second training workshop on RCM Application and Analysis was convened during the period 2-4 July 2012 in Beirut with the involvement of experts from water ministries in the Arab region.
II. OBJECTIVE

This three-day workshop aims at presenting and discussing the approach followed in RICCAR to link the outputs of the regional climate modeling projections to the regional hydrological models. Some of the preliminary findings and outputs of the climate and hydrological models will be presented. The workshop also builds on the outcomes of the second Regional Workshop on RCM Applications and Analysis that was held in July 2012.

III. SCOPE

Substantive discussion during the meeting will focus on the following key elements:

- Understanding Regional Climate Models (RCMs), their inputs and outputs and developing ensembles from a set of models.
- Understanding hydrological modelling and their applications;
- Linking Climate Models to Hydrological Examining;
- Assessing climate change impacts through hydrological impact applications;
- Assessing hydrological impacts of climate change and extreme events;
- Discussing the preliminary results and outputs of model applications.

The agenda of the meeting will cover several items including:

- Climate change scenarios and their evolution in IPCC assessment reports;
- Regional Climate Modelling with a focus on: input, outputs, ensembles and the MENA/Arab domain;
- Forms and functions of hydrological modelling;
- Observed climate data for the Arab region for informing climate models and hydrological models;
- Data requirements for hydrological modelling and observed runoff data for the Arab region;
- Case studies on groundwater and surface water modelling selected for river basins;
- Preliminary outcomes of RICCAR regional climate modelling projections.

IV. PARTICIPANTS

This workshop will bring together around 25 leading experts dealing with climate change issues and its applications in the water sector. This will include:

- National experts from the Arab region;
- Experts from regional and international organizations;
- Experts from the United Nations partner agencies;

Government representatives who are nominated by their respective ministries are kindly requested to send their letter of nomination and completed registration form to ESCWA by 31 May 2013 in order to assure arrangements for their sponsorship. Invited representatives from United Nations organizations and expert institutions are also kindly requested to return their registration forms to ESCWA by 31 May 2013.
V. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop is organized by ESCWA and will be held at the United Nations House in Beirut, Lebanon from 26 to 28 June 2013. Participants are kindly requested to arrive at the building at 8:30 am on Wednesday, 26 June 2013 to secure their identification cards to access the building.

English will be the working language of the meeting. Arabic-English simultaneous translation will be provided.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence and inquiries concerning the expert group meeting should be addressed to:

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