Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Fifth Expert Group Meeting on the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR)

Amman, 11-12 December 2013

AGENDA

Wednesday, 11 December 2013

8:30 – 9:00  Registration – Al Reem Ballroom, B1 level, Kempinski Hotel

Sponsored participants are kindly asked to bring their passports, airline ticket stubs and receipts with them to the meeting.

9:00 – 10:00  Opening Statements and RICCAR Update

Moderator: Mr. Tarek Sadek, First Economic Affairs Officer/Climate Change Officer, Water Resources Section, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division, ESCWA

- Ms. Shahira Wahbi, Chief, Sustainable Development and International Environmental Cooperation, Environment, Housing, Water Resources and Sustainable Development Department, Economic Sector, League of Arab States (LAS), Cairo, Egypt

- Ms. Muna Barghouth, Regional Programme Manager, MENA Unit, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Embassy of Sweden, Amman, Jordan

- Ms. Roula Majdalani, Director, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Beirut, Lebanon

Tour de Table

- Review of the Agenda – Mr. Tarek Sadek, ESCWA

- RICCAR Overview and Progress Update since the Fourth Annual Expert Group Meeting – Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, Chief, Water Resources Section, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division, ESCWA

10:00 – 11:30  Session 1: Regional Climate Modelling Results

Moderator: Mr. Ashraf Shalaby, Senior Expert on Meteorology and Climate Change, Environment, Housing, Water Resources and Sustainable Development Department, Economic Sector, LAS, Cairo, Egypt
11 December 2013, continued

- Regional Climate Modelling: Uncertainty and Development of Ensembles under the MENA/Arab Domain – Mr. Phil Graham, Senior Researcher/International Projects Manager, Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI), Norrköping, Sweden

- Future Climate Projection over the MENA Region using REMO – Mr. Hinnerk Ries, Science Officer, Climate Service Center (CSC), Hamburg, Germany

- Simulation Results and Future Projections Using RegCM4 – Mr. Mansour Almazroui, Director, Center of Excellence for Climate Change Research (CECCR), King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Discussion

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee Break

12:00 – 13:15 Session 1: Regional Climate Modelling Results (continued)

Moderator: Ms. Rania Abdul Khaleq, Director of Environment Directorate, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Amman, Jordan

- Regional Climate Modelling Results and Ensemble Using RCA4 – Mr. Grigory Nikulin, Researcher, SMHI

- Next Steps on Development of RICCAR RCM Ensemble Using Various Climate Models – Mr. Phil Graham, SMHI

Discussion

13:15 – 14:15 Lunch Break

14:15 – 15:30 Session 2: Preliminary Results of Regional Hydrological Modelling

Moderator: Mr. Abdullah Al Rawahi, Deputy Director, Water Resources Development Department, Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources, Muscat, Oman

- Progress and Challenges in Acquiring Reliable Data for Hydrological Modelling in the Arab Region – Mr. Wael Seif, Director, Water Resources Department, Arab Centre for the Studies and Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) and Mr. Ihab Jnad, Deputy Director, Water Resources Department, ACSAD, Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic

- Regional Hydrological Modelling Setup and Preliminary Outputs – Mr. Phil Graham, SMHI

- Using the HEC-HMS Model for Evaluating Climate Change Impact on Water Resources at the Basin Scale in the Arab Region – Mr. Ihab Jnad, ACSAD

Discussion

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break
16:00 – 17:30  
**Session 3: Progress Made on the Vulnerability Assessment Methodology and Integrated Mapping Tool**

Moderator: *Mr. Abdelaziz Zaki, Member of the Vulnerability Assessment Working Group; National Professional Officer, Hydrology Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Cairo Office, Cairo, Egypt*

- Progress of the Vulnerability Assessment Working Group – *Mr. Deeb Abdelghafour, Member of the Vulnerability Assessment Working Group; Director of Water Resources, Palestinian Water Authority, Ramallah, Palestine*

- Development of the Vulnerability Assessment Methodology – *Ms. Kerstin Fritzsche, Ex Officio Advisor to the Vulnerability Assessment Working Group on behalf of GIZ; Project Manager, adelphi, Berlin, Germany*

- Development of an Integrated Mapping Tool and GIS Overlaying Layers to support the Vulnerability Assessment – *Mr. Ihab Jnad, Member of the Vulnerability Assessment Working Group; ACSAD*

- Relationship between RICCAR and the FAO Regional Water Scarcity Initiative – *Mr. Faycel Chenini, Water Resources and Irrigation Specialist, United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization/Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa (FAO/NENA), Cairo, Egypt*

- Pursuing Climate Change Health Assessments in the Arab Region – *Mr. Hamed Bakir, Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA), World Health Organization, Amman, Jordan (tbc)*

Discussion

17:30  
End of Day 1

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**Thursday, 12 December 2012**

9:00 – 10:00  
**Session 4: Progress Made on the Establishment of a Regional Knowledge Hub**

Moderator: *Mr. Abdullah Droubi, Member of the Regional Knowledge Hub Working Group; Regional Advisor, Adaptation to Climate Change in the Water Sector in the MENA Region (ACCWaM), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Cairo, Egypt*

- Progress of the Regional Knowledge Hub Working Group – *Ms. Zeina Majdalani, Member of the Regional Knowledge Hub Working Group; Economic Expert/Civil Engineer, Development and Economic Office of the Prime Minister, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Beirut, Lebanon*

- Development of the Terms of Reference of the Regional Knowledge Hub and Next Steps – *Mr. Tarek Sadek, Secretary of the Regional Knowledge Hub Working Group; ESCWA*

Discussion
10:00 – 11:00  **Session 5: Climate Data Rescue and Databases in the Arab Region**

Moderator: Mr. Al-Mahdi Abdelah Megrbi, General Director, General Water Authority, Ministry of Water Resources, Tripoli, Libya

- Climate Data and Related Projects: WMO Processes for Enabling Climate Information Services the Arab Region – Mr. Omar Baddour, Chief, Data Management Applications Division, WMO Information System Branch, Department of Observing and Information Systems, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Geneva, Switzerland

- An Overview of Local, National and Regional Climate Change Assessment Project: Development of Climate and Water Resources Databases in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and GCC Region – Mr. William Dougherty, Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI), Environmental Agency, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Discussion

11:00 – 11:30  Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:00  **Session 6: Disaster Loss Databases and Extreme Events**

Moderator: Mr. Abdulkhaleq Alwan, Director, Water Planning and Policies, National Water Resources Authority, Ministry of Water and Environment, Sana’a, Yemen

- Analysis of Trends and Patterns of Historical Losses and Impacts Associated with Climate Risks using National Disaster Loss Databases – Mr. Julio Serje, Program Manager, Disaster Loss Data Collection Initiative, Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR), United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), Geneva, Switzerland

- An Update on Progress in Establishing Disaster Loss Databases in the Arab Region – Ms. Luna Abu-Swaireh, Programme Officer, UNISDR Regional Office for Arab States; Head, UNISDR Liaison Office in Bonn, Bonn, Germany

- Extreme Events in Tunisia: Cold Waves and Heat Waves – Mr. Habib Ben Boubaker, President, Association of Tunisian Geographers; Associate Professor of Geography, Department of Geography, Faculty of Letters, Arts and Humanities, University of Manouba, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Kêlibia, Tunisia

Discussion

13:00 – 14:00  Lunch Break
12 December 2013, continued

14:00 – 15:00  **Session 7: Strengthening Climate Services and Capacities in the Arab Region**

Moderator:  *Mr. Abu Obeida Hassan, Director General, Hydrology and Water Resources, Ministry of Water Resources and Electricity, Khartoum, Sudan*

- Regional Climate Centers (RCC) and Regional Climate Outlook Forum (RCOF) as Sustained Collaboration Mechanisms to Support Operational Climate Activities in the Region –  *Mr. Omar Baddour, WMO*


- Linking RICCAR Outcomes to the United Nations Development Account Project on “Developing the Capacities of the Arab Countries for Climate Change Adaptation by Applying Integrated Water Resources Management Tools” –  *Mr. Sung Eun Kim, Associate Economic Officer, Water Resources Section, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division, ESCWA*

Discussion

15:00 – 15:30  Coffee Break

15:30 – 16:45  **Session 8: Recommendations and Next Steps**

Moderator:  *Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, ESCWA*

- Discussion of Next Steps, including:
  - Dissemination of Regional Climate Change Impact Assessment Results
  - Finalization and Implementation of Vulnerability Assessment Methodology
  - Set-up of Regional Knowledge Hub
  - Inter-Regional and Cross-Sectoral Climate Change Coordination Mechanisms
  - RICCAR Work Plan and Upcoming Events
- Review and Adoption of Recommendations

16:45 – 17:00  **Closing Session**

- Concluding Remarks by ACSAD, SMHI, UNISDR, WMO Representatives
- Closing Statement by Ms. Muna Barghouth, Sida
- Closing Statement by Ms. Shahira Wahbi, LAS
- Closing Statement by Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, ESCWA

17:00  End of Expert Group Meeting