



Concept Note

5th Mediterranean Water Forum

February 5 to 7, 2024
Tunisia

*Side Event : «Vulnerability and Adaptation of the Tunisian
Coastline to an Accelerated Sea Level Rise»*

February 5th, 2024

Hôtel LAICO Tunis

Introduction

According to the conclusions of the Sixth IPCC Report published in 2023, current global warming is unprecedented, and it is clearly caused by human activities, in particular anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions.

This causes serious and exponential consequences on ecosystems and populations with widespread impacts such as an increase in climate instability and the frequency of extreme weather events: heat waves, droughts, fires, but also floods, storms, cyclones. Global warming also globally affects ecosystems, particularly the most fragile. It disrupts soil life, the water cycle, and ocean life. It also contributes to the global biodiversity crisis by disrupting the balance of natural habitats in particular.

Greenhouse gas emissions also acidify the oceans, causing major ecological changes in marine ecosystems.

Sea levels are rising at a rate that has accelerated in recent decades; it will continue to rise (by several meters in the long term) and extreme events, currently rare, such as storm surges, violent tropical cyclones and marine heat waves, will increase by 2050, generating risks of increased flooding for coastal communities.

Extensive protection measures, ecosystem restoration, ecosystem-based resource management and reduction of non-climatic stressors, cooperation and coordination between actors can preserve the stability of ecosystems and the services they deliver. However, their potential is limited in high-emissions scenarios.

In Tunisia, the majority of infrastructure and human activities are located on, or near the coast, including government, health, commercial, transport and of course tourist facilities. The coastline is therefore a particularly vulnerable area to climate change and the rise in average sea level, especially since human activities lead to a degradation of coastal and marine biodiversity, which reduces resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Objective of the workshop

This side event will mobilize representatives of all the actors concerned directly or indirectly by this issue, it will raise awareness of the phenomenon of accelerated sea level rise as well as its causes and especially its consequences.

The workshop also aims to foreshadow the suggestions of those present regarding the solutions and strategies to be implemented, the necessary funds, the donors as well as the organizations which will be responsible for carrying out the actions.

Expected results

At the end of this Side Event, it is expected that:

- Focus on the importance of the phenomenon of accelerated sea level rise;
- Draft solutions and strategies are presented;
- All stakeholders are engaged to fight against sea level rise.

Expected participants

Representatives of:

- APAL (Representatives of different departments and services: Littoral Observatory, Maritime Public Domain, ecosystems, legal, planning...)
- Minister of the Environment
- Organizations under supervision:
 - ANPE
 - ONAS
 - CITET
 - BNG
 - ANGED

- Donators:
 - World Bank
 - FAO
 - UNDP
 - Sahara and Sahel Observatory
 - AFD
 - WWF
- General Directorate of Forests
- General Directorate of Water Resources
- GWP
- NGO
- Local experts
- Academics
- ...

Ordre du jour

16H00	Welcome and registration of participants
16H15 - 16H25	Welcome to participants and general presentation of the objectives of the Side Event M. Mehdi BEN HAJ : Interim general director
16H25 - 16H45	Presentation of the phenomenon of accelerated sea level rise in the world and in Tunisia, consequences on the physical environment, ecosystems and water resources. Mrs. Kaouthar BEN HOUIDI : Interim manager of the Littoral Observatory
16H45 - 16H05	Overview of potential solutions to accelerated sea level rise Mrs. Yosra SDOUGUA : Interim Head of Coastal Development Studies Department.
16H05 - 17H20	Discussions and exchanges on the solutions and strategies to put in place
17H20 - 17H30	Closing