MedECC: An expert network on climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean Basin

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MedECC goals and evolution

The MedECC ambition is to develop

- a scientifically robust assessment of the risks associated with climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean Basin, based on published research (mainly in peer-reviewed journals)
- a regional science-policy interface on climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean, approved by policymakers

Policy-relevant, but not policy-prescriptive
Links to other initiatives

Direct contributions to regional and international science & policies

→ IPCC
  • Special Reports on 1.5°C warming (October 2018), Ocean and Cryosphere (October 2019), Land (August 2019)
  • 6th IPCC report (AR6): Cross-chapter paper dedicated to Mediterranean Basin

→ UNEP/MAP
  • Co-lead of “Climate change” Chapter of the 2019 State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean
  • Contribution to the next Mediterranean Foresight MED2050

→ UfM Climate Change Expert Group, established by the 1st UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change (2014)
Brief history of MedECC

- launched in July 2015 by independent scientists, now approx. 700 members
- Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean and Plan Bleu (UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Center) supports MedECC
- Contributes to implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025
- 2016-2019 : Report Preparation
1\textsuperscript{st} Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1)

86 Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs) and Lead Authors (LAs), 21 countries:
- 31% based in southern and eastern Mediterranean countries
- 36% of women

In total 187 authors from 25 countries contributed to the report (CLAs, LAs and Contributing Authors- CAs).
1st Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1)

Summary for Policymakers (SPM-)

Full report with 6 chapters (~500 p):
  1. Introduction
  2. Drivers
  3. Resources
  4. Ecosystems
  5. Society
  6. Managing Risks

• Collective scoping and writing
• Voluntary contributions
• Academic criteria
• Transparent review by scientific experts and stakeholders / policymakers
The MedECC ambition is to support policies for sustainable development

• More effective policy responses to climate and environmental changes will imply:
  • strengthened mitigation of the drivers of environmental change such as greenhouse gas emissions,
  • but also enhanced adaptation to impacts.

• Poverty, inequalities and gender imbalances hamper the achievement of sustainable development and climate resilience in Mediterranean countries.

• Culture is a key factor to the success of adaptation policies in the highly diverse multicultural setting of the Mediterranean Basin.

• Policies for climate adaptation and environmental resilience potentially infringe on human rights - they need to account for concerns such as justice, equity, poverty alleviation, social inclusion, and redistribution.
The MedECC perspective

• Short term (2020)
  • Finalise the SPM and the full report (MAR1)
  • Communication of MAR1 findings to stakeholders and a broader public

• Medium term (2020-2021)
  • Scoping (‘concept notes’) for Special Reports or similar products
  • Reinforce the voluntary scientist community for MedECC
  • Plan for more permanent MedECC, supported by institutional stakeholders

• Beyond 2021
  • Strengthening the capacity of the MedECC scientists and their network in SE Med countries
  • Identify and address particularly important challenges: e.g. adaptation to coastal risks, solution for mitigation, water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus, conflict and migration
  • Regional focusing and local partnerships
  • Identification of knowledge gaps, capacity building