



**Sustainable Water
Integrated Management (SWIM) -
Support Mechanism**



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Water is too precious to waste

NO REGRET ACTIONS FOR THE ADAPTATION OF THE WATER SECTOR TO CLIMATE CHANGE

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WHY ADAPTATION TO CC IS IMPORTANT? BECAUSE MOST PCs ARE VERY VULNERABLE TO CC DUE TO:

1. Over-dependence on climate-sensitive economic sectors such as agriculture, grazing, eco-tourism, aquaculture, etc.;
2. Already debilitated ecological base particularly in land degradation, loss in biodiversity, water pollution, desertification, etc.;
3. Technological skills, financial & human resource are relatively limited to improve community's resilience towards CC;
4. Inadequate meteorological & hydrological databases to assess, predict & manage potential CC impacts on water resources;
5. Inadequate pre-existing health conditions & services to contain environmental health problems associated with CC impacts on water resources;
6. Chronic political instability & conflicts hindering adaptation efforts;
7. Heavy reliance on international fresh water resources from upstream countries likely to be severely affected by CC;

WHAT ARE OUR OPTIONS?

1. **NO ACTION OPTION: Spontaneous/Autonomous adaptation:** Does not constitute a conscious response to climatic stimuli but is triggered by changes in natural & human systems (Darfur & N. Syria).
2. **AFTER THE FACT REACTIVE OPTION:** Due to uncertainty & high cost of adaptation, officials refrain from taking any decisions until CC impacts are concrete or predicted (GCM vs. RCM) with minimum uncertainty. (need for extensive data)
3. **NO-REGRET ACTIONS - PLAY IT SAFE OPTION:** Anticipatory Adaptation: It results from deliberate policy decision, based on an awareness that conditions have changed or are about to change & that no-regret actions are required to avoid potential state of deprivation (the availability of CC information is not crucial).



**WE NEED NO-REGRET ACTIONS
TO ADAPT**

WHAT IS ADAPTATION OF THE WATER SECTOR TO CC?

ADAPTATION: Consists of actions in response to, or in anticipation of, projected or actual CC, to reduce its adverse impacts.

ADAPTATION COMPRISES OF TWO MAIN COMPONENTS

WHAT IS ADAPTATION OF THE WATER SECTOR TO CC? (Cont)

FIRST COMPONENT: (Soft Component or No-Regret or Facilitation): It involves activities that enhance adaptive capacity of the water sector to CC through:

1. Policy formulation, integration, multi-stakeholder dialogue, institutional & legislative strengthening , etc.
2. Activation of economic instruments to enhance efficiency & promote innovation in water saving.
3. Improving awareness, communicating risks, disseminating best practices & building consensus among vulnerable communities on means & measures for improving their resilience to CC.
4. Building capacity of water officials in managing water resources under extreme variations.
5. Improving water governance. Transparency, equity, accountability & rule of law will play a major role in the public perception & acceptance of adaptation measures.

WHAT IS ADAPTATION OF THE WATER SECTOR TO CC? (Cont)

SECOND COMPONENT: Implementation or Hard Component: It refers to field activities & physical solutions that actually assist in alleviating or avoiding adverse impacts of CC on water resources (inter-basin transfer, water & wastewater treatment plants, reservoirs etc.)

WHY MAINSTREAMING ADAPTATION INTO NATIONAL & LOCAL IWRM PLANS?

Embedding CC adaptation measures into water sector policies, programs & projects expands the range of opportunities for reducing vulnerability & also enables impacts to be addressed in a more streamlined, integrated & economically efficient manner.

WHAT WAS THE RECOMMENDATION FROM PCs?

- During facts finding missions, most PCs expressed serious concerns on the potential risks & implications of the CC on their water sectors;
- The recommendation for SWIM-SM was to support PCs (upon their request) in their CC adaptation efforts in developing no-regret actions through technical assistance, policy guidance, capacity development & awareness;
- SWIM-SM reacted by adopting the PCs views & developed a cross cutting pillar entitled “no-regret actions for adaptation of water sectors to CC”.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PILLAR

To support selected PCs in their CC adaptation efforts for developing no regret actions through technical assistance, policy guidance, capacity development & awareness.

-The approach includes support policies & strategies at the local/basin level for improved water demand management, protection of surface & groundwater resources. It also encompass strengthening the institutional & technical capacity for designing & implementing concrete no regret actions;

The proposed objective can be achieved through a series of four coordinated tasks in full collaboration with water officials in PCs & in coordination with other activities undertaken by SWIM-SM & regional initiatives such as H2020 and MED-EUWI.



PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2012

NO-REGRET ACTION ACTIVITIES

- I. Development of guidelines for mainstreaming no-regret actions in IWRM policies, programs and projects at regional level:

Expected output: a regional report with recommendations.

- II. Identification & catering of no-regret actions for the water sector in Jordan and Occupied Palestinian Territory and elaboration of policy recommendations for advancing action using the prepared guidelines at regional level.

Expected output: two country-specific reports prepared.

- III. Provision of capacity development & technical assistance to selected countries for the identification & development of no-regret actions in coordination with H2020 CB/MEP.

Modality: 3-day regional training in Jordan, including participants from 5 other PCs.

HOW THE 4 THEMATIC PILLARS LINK WITH NO-REGRET ACTIONS ACTIVITIES

Because SWIM-SM is mandated to address:

Water Governance & Mainstreaming

The no-regret action pillar will associate the stakeholders and interest groups in the identification of the water issues, definition of remediation plans and preparation of investment plans. It will mainstream the no-regret actions into IWRM;

Capacity building

This pillar will build capacity of water stakeholders on no-regret actions for the sector to adapt to CC;

Application of water management plans

This pillar will enable no-regret actions to be reflected into water management plans & strategies;

Development of a Communication & Awareness Raising Strategy

This pillar will raise awareness concerning the impacts of CC on water resources & the necessity of immediate actions to adapt;

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Thank you
for your attention

Merci pour
votre attention



*For additional information please contact:
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