



Distr.
LIMITED
E/ESCWA/SDPD/2016/WG.1/ INF.1
12 February 2016
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

United Nations Development Account Project on
“Developing the Capacities of the Arab Countries for Climate Change Adaptation
by Applying Integrated Water Resources Management Tools”

“Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation in the Agricultural Sector
using Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Tools”
UN-House, Beirut, Lebanon, 15-17 February 2016

INFORMATION NOTE

I. BACKGROUND

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 project seeks to assist Arab Governments to build their capacity for climate change adaptation by applying integrated water resources management (IWRM) tools. This is sought by: (a) increasing understanding of climate change impacts on water resources and associated vulnerabilities to inform climate change adaptation policy-making; (b) providing a set of regionally appropriate IWRM tools for supporting climate change adaptation in five key sectors (agriculture, economic development, environment, health, and human settlements); and (c) enhancing knowledge of associated best practices in each of the five sectors that may be drawn upon to support the preparation of national and sector based adaptation and development plans. The project is led by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Program Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP/ROWA), and is implemented in partnership with the Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), the Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the World Health Organization Centre for Environmental Health Activities (WHO/CEHA). This UNDA project builds on the results of the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR) that is led by ESCWA and implemented by 11 League of Arab States (LAS) and United Nations organizations.

A training manual consisting of five complementary modules, each focused on one of the key sectors was prepared by the respective organizations. This was agreed during the inception meeting of the project that was held on 24 November 2013 in Amman. This workshop aims to present and test the draft module on agriculture that was prepared by ACSAD in collaboration with GIZ and ESCWA. This training module main objective is to enhance capacity of Arab Governments to incorporate IWRM tools into agricultural strategies, policies and plans in order to adapt to climate change. This is done through investigating climate change impacts on agricultural sector, in particular, water availability for irrigation, crop productivity, food production, forestry, fisheries, pasture management and livestock. Adaptation measures and options for the sector as well as areas for action at the national and regional levels are included in the module and will be discussed during the workshop.

II. OBJECTIVE

The main objectives of the workshop are to:

- Present and discuss the draft module on agriculture with experts in the sector;
- Test the identified IWRM tools and adaptation measures and their possible incorporation in regional and national policies and plans;
- Present brief case studies from the Arab countries that relate to the subject and discuss possible inclusion in the draft module; and
- Discuss the finalization of the module based on the input and feedback received from the workshop participants.

III. PARTICIPANTS

This workshop will bring together experts from the agriculture ministries of the 22 Arab countries, members of the Arab Integrated Water Resources Management Network (AWARENET) and representatives from partner organizations from ESCWA, ACSAD and GIZ.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

The workshop will be held at the United Nations House in Beirut, Lebanon from 15 to 17 February 2016. Participants are kindly requested to arrive at the building at 8:30 am on Monday, 15 February 2016 to secure their identification cards and access the building. Arabic and English will be the working languages of the meeting.

V. LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

A block of rooms has been reserved for participants at the Markazia Monroe Suites hotel in Downtown Beirut at a preferential room rate of \$110/night for a single room inclusive of breakfast, internet access and all taxes. The hotel is located walking distance to ESCWA (5 minutes) and is conveniently located next to the commercial districts of Solidere and Beirut Souks (5-10 minutes), where one can find retail outlets, restaurants and coffee shops. Kindly indicate on the registration form if you would like ESCWA to reserve a room for you at this hotel.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence and inquiries concerning the workshop should be addressed to:

Mr. Tarek Sadek
First Economic Affairs Officer
Water Resources Section
Sustainable Development Policies Division
ESCWA
Beirut, Lebanon
Tel: + 961 1 987 520
Mobile: + 961 70824432
Fax: + 961 1 981 510
E-mail: sadekt@un.org