ESCWA

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Setting up the Regional Knowledge Hub (RKH) for RICCAR

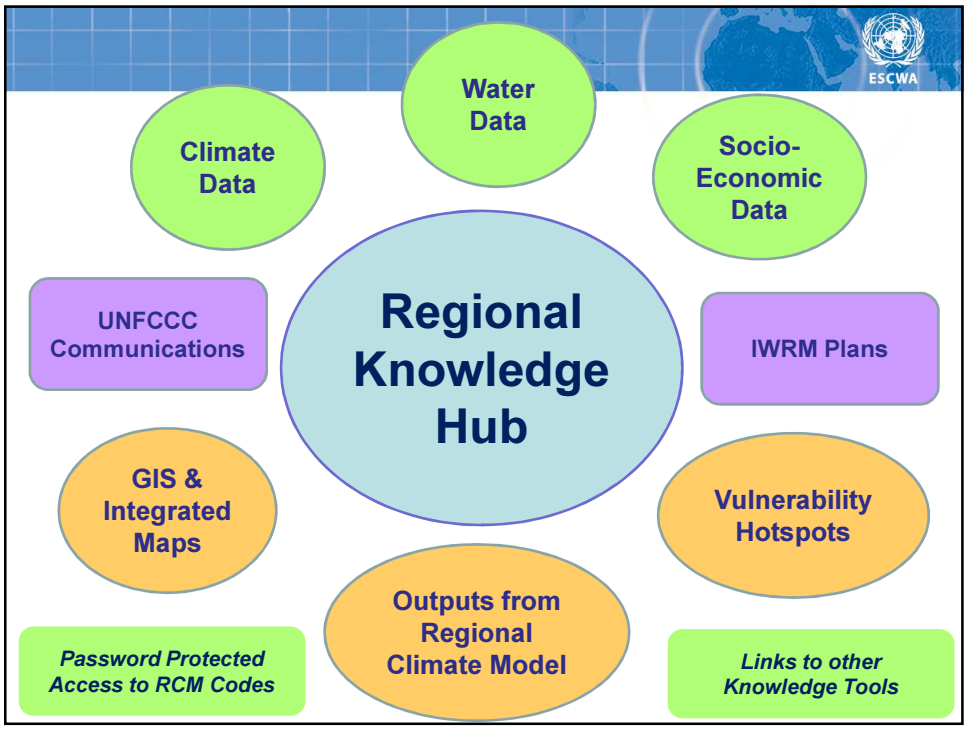
By: Tarek Sadek
Member of the RKH Working Group
Water Resources Section (WRS)
Sustainable Development and Productivity Division (SDPD)
UN-ESCWA

Presentation Outline

- Introduction and process of establishment of the Terms of references of the RKH
- Objectives and purpose of the RKH
- Criteria and requirements for selection of host institution
- Proposed governance structure of the RKH

Introduction

- There is a need to store the large amount of data needed to run RICCAR models and results in a regional knowledge hub.
- The knowledge hub will be hosted by an Arab institution selected based on agreed criteria.
- Hosting the RKH would enable the host institution to become a center for excellence for climate change in the Arab region.



Formulation of the RKH Working Group

- A Regional Knowledge Hub (RKH) Working Group was formed within the activities of RICCAR by end of 2012 to:
  - Define the terms of reference of the RKH
  - Formulate the selection criteria for identifying a suitable host institution
  - Advise the RICCAR Expert Group on the establishment of the RKH through a consultative and transparent inter-governmental and inter-agency process
- ESCWA is responsible for the modalities and arrangements related to the organization of the working group meetings.
- Financial support for the working group is provided by the GIZ-ESCWA Cooperation
- One regional meeting and three vurtual meetings took place to finalize the TOR of the RKH

Composition of the RKH Working Group

- The working group is composed of 10 experts representing:
  - Arab Governments: Lebanon, Palestine and Yemen
  - UN organizations: ESCWA (Secretary), The United Nations Office for disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), United nations and the United nations University Institute for water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH)
  - LAS organizations and Arab research centers: ACSAD, Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE), League of Arab States
  - Global expert institution: GIZ

Objectives and purpose of the RKH

- Objectives
- Functions
- Contents
- Target Audience
- Governance structure

Main Objective

to provide an interactive, on-line platform that provides access to information and knowledge on climate change-related analysis and water resources and socio-economic vulnerability assessment tools for informing climate change adaptation planning, policies and projects in the Arab region.

Secondary Objectives

-To provide access to information that can facilitate cooperation, coordination, dialogue and exchange among Arab countries.
- To support regional networking and exchange.
- To support awareness raising for national and local stakeholders.
- To provide capacity building support.
- To develop an early warning platform by establishing a simple disaster early warning component.

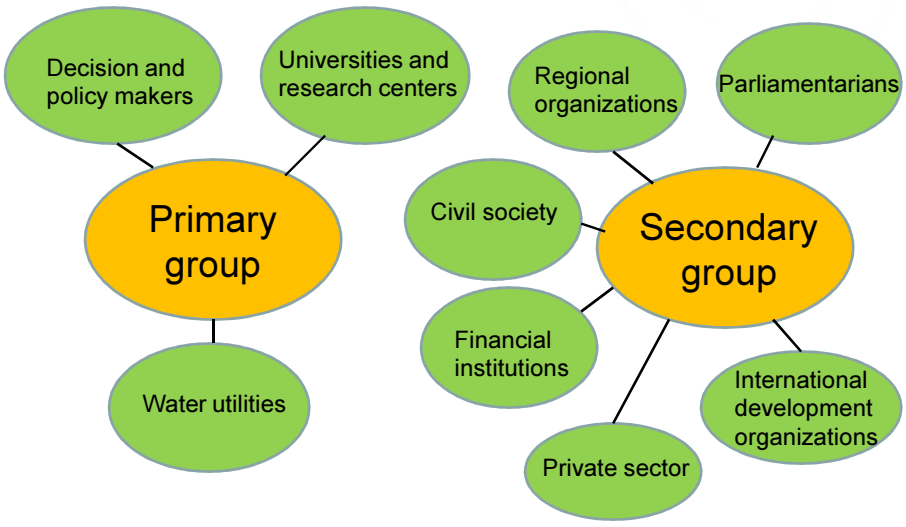
Functions

- Provision of 2-D integrated mapping tools.
- Ability to show comparative analysis between countries.
- Search engine that allows finding raw data, reports, historical trends, people and institutions.
- Interactivity/network function component to allow linkage to different institutions.
- Traffic monitoring.
- Provision of User-friendly applications and products to respond to all potential users.

Contents

- Maps.
- Interactive tool to carry out vulnerability assessment and simulate different scenarios.
- Data, information and model outputs.
- Case studies.
- Publication library and provide links to other information sources.
-Images library.
- Learning tools.
- Disaster early warning component linked to UNISDR Prevention Web.

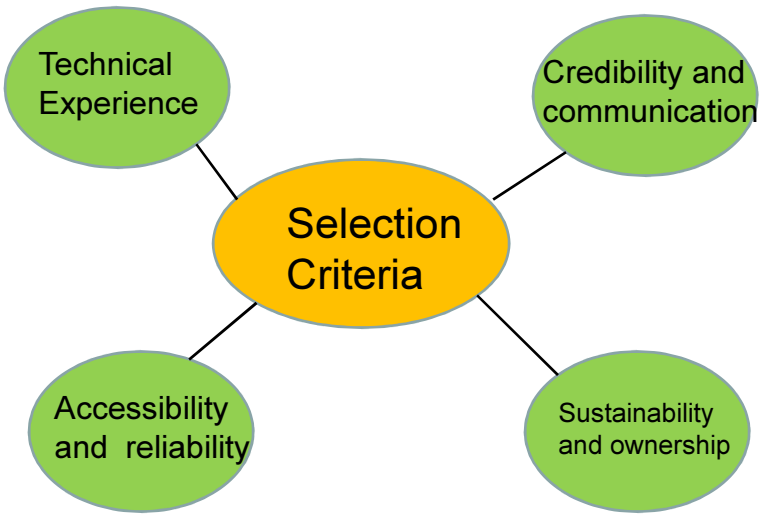
Target Audience/Users



Governance structure

-The RKH will be supervised by an Executive Board/Advisory Body under League of Arab States (e.g. LAS climate change and water technical committees).
- Governance structure should be included in a document and should have a regulatory and legislative basis.

Criteria and requirements for selection of the host institution



Criteria and requirements for selection of the host institution

Technical Experience

At least 5 years with database development and management in the Arab region on:

- Development of different forms of water and/or climate databases on electronic media especially geo-spatial databases.
- Management of large and dynamic portals and hubs (expected size of data and information is 20 terra bytes).
- Development and management of web-based tools for data sharing and exchange.
- Data processing technologies. (i.e. what are state-of-the-art hardware and software available in the host institution to achieve this).

Criteria and requirements for selection of the host institution

Accessibility and reliability

- The RKH can be accessed all time.
- Ability to make information available at no cost to RICCAR stakeholders.
- Availability of sufficient and skilled technical and human resources for system operation and maintenance.
- Availability of tools to support open access and web-based authorized access (i.e. password protected).
- To be accountable for reducing the risk of unreliable system (systems that are operational less than 95-99% of the time) all over the life time of the RKH.

Criteria and requirements for selection of the host institution

Credibility and communication

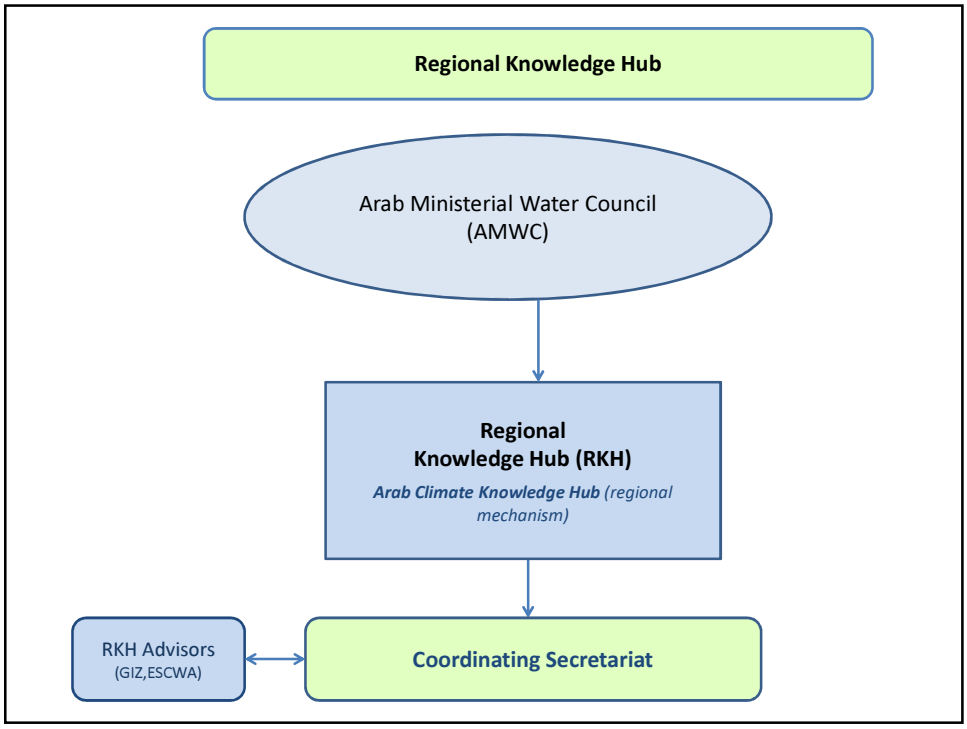
- Experience with quality control and quality assurance of data and availability of software.
- Ability to standardize and harmonize data collection and management methodologies.
-Ability to ensure simplicity and usefulness of information i.e. high demand by identified users and targeted audience.
-To prove achieving smooth line of communication for data transfer and sharing with other partner organizations and clients.
- Ability of interpretation of climate modeling results to develop outcomes and message that target various audiences (e.g. policy makers, planners, researchers, the public, etc.).

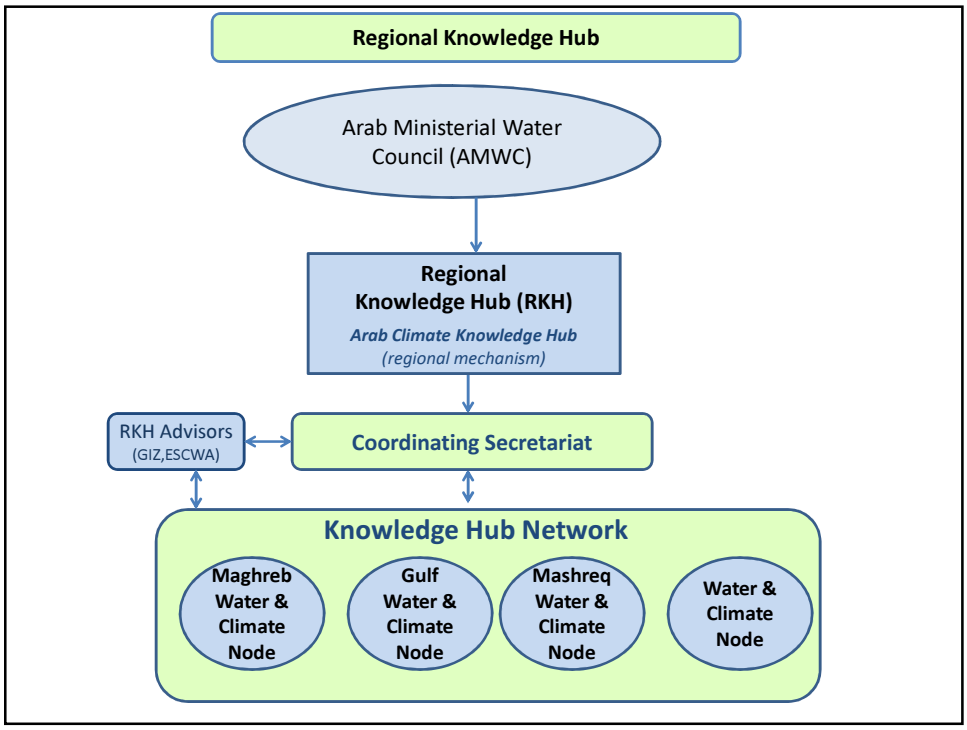
Criteria and requirements for selection of the host institution

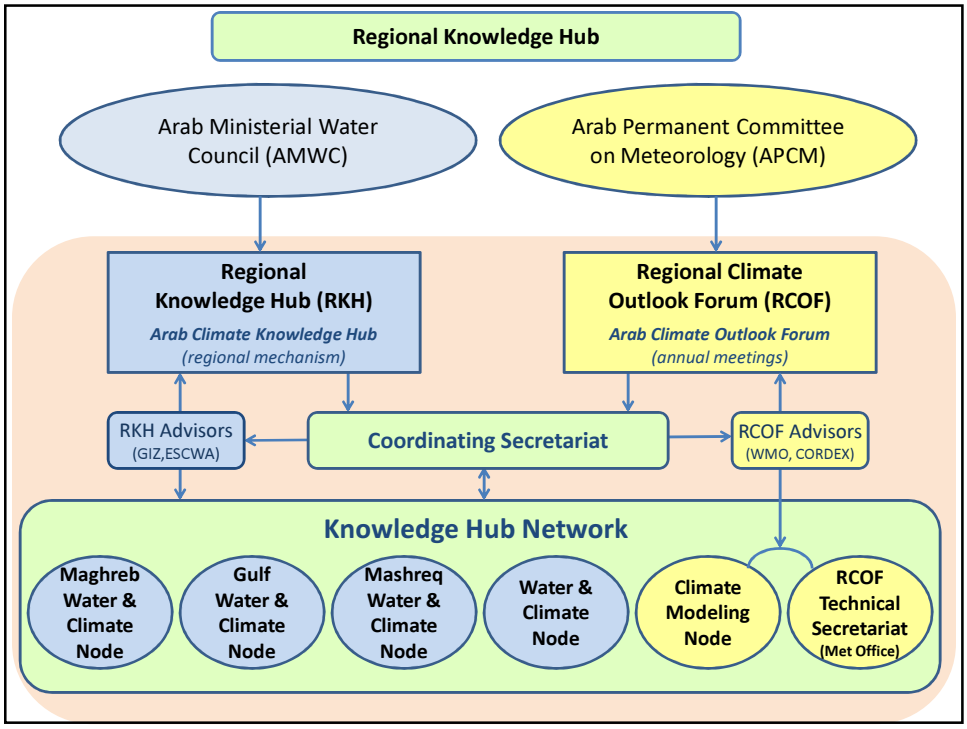
Sustainability and Ownership

- Ability to generate some funds to ensure sustainability of the RKH to be:
  - Operational for the project life-cycle and live and survive over time (for at least 5-7 years beyond the RICCAR project).
  - Updated regularly in time.
  -Able of easy adaptation to technological innovations.
- Ensure ownership of the RKH technically and administratively:
  - Experience in sustaining shared and decentralized ownership of knowledge platforms with other partners.
  - Capability in handling required additional costs of

ownerships and to make available other required resources.


Regional Knowledge Hub
Arab Ministerial Water Council (AMWC)
Regional Knowledge Hub (RKH)
Arab Climate Knowledge Hub (regional mechanism)
RKH Advisors (GIZ,ESCWA)
Coordinating Secretariat


Regional Knowledge Hub
Arab Ministerial Water Council (AMWC)
Regional Knowledge Hub (RKH)
Arab Climate Knowledge Hub (regional mechanism)
RKH Advisors (GIZ,ESCWA)
Coordinating Secretariat
Knowledge Hub Network
Maghreb Water & Climate Node
Gulf Water & Climate Node
Mashreq Water & Climate Node
Water & Climate Node


Regional Knowledge Hub
Arab Ministerial Water Council (AMWC)
Arab Permanent Committee on Meteorology (APCM)
Regional Knowledge Hub (RKH)
Arab Climate Knowledge Hub
(regional mechanism)
Regional Climate Outlook Forum (RCOF)
Arab Climate Outlook Forum
(annual meetings)
RKH Advisors
(GIZ,ESCWA)
Coordinating Secretariat
RCOF Advisors
(WMO, CORDEX)
Knowledge Hub Network
Maghreb Water & Climate Node
Gulf Water & Climate Node
Mashreq Water & Climate Node
Water & Climate Node
Climate Modeling Node
RCOF Technical Secretariat
(Met Office)


ESCWA
Thank you!
Additional information on the Regional Initiative is available at:
www.escwa.un.org/RICCAR