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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Workshop on Protecting Water Quality and Biodiversity for Improved Water Management
Beirut, 9-10 July 2024

AGENDA

Day 1

8:30 – 9:00 **Registration**
The meeting will be held at United Nations House in the MZ Conference Room. Sponsored participants are kindly asked to bring their passport, visa receipt and airline ticket stub to the meeting on the first day.

Opening Session and Introduction

Moderator: Mr. Ziad Khayat, Coordinator, IWRM for Improved Water Security, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA

9:00 – 9:15 **Opening Statements**

- *Mr. Michael Haney, Practice Manager Water MENA Region, The World Bank (online)*
- *Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, Director, Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies; Cluster Lead, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA*

9:15 – 9:45 Tour de Table

9:45 – 10:00 Review of Workshop Objectives and Agenda

Session II Water Quality in the Region: Monitoring and Management

Moderator: Mr. Marcus Wishart, Lead Water Resource Specialist, Water Global Practice, The World Bank

10:00 – 10:20 SDG Monitoring of Ambient Water Quality and Freshwater Ecosystem Extent – global and national trends (online)

- *Mr. Stuart Crane, Programme Coordinator SDG6, Freshwater Unit, Ecosystem Division, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)*
- *Mr. Kilian Christ, Programme Management Officer, GEMS Water unit, Early Warning and Assessment Division, UNEP*

- 10:20 – 10:40 World Bank Report – Quality Unknown: The Invisible Water Crisis (online)
- *Ms. Esha Zaveri, Senior Economist, Sustainable Development Practice, The World Bank*
- 10:40 – 11:00 Monitoring Water Quality: from in-situ to space
- *Mr. Steven Greb, Advisor, GEO AquaWatch*
- 11:00 – 11:20 Discussion
- 11:20 – 11:40 Coffee Break
- 11:40 – 13:00 Country presentations on water quality focusing on monitoring, challenges and opportunities
- Iran (tbc)
 - Iraq
Ms. Shatha Salim Majeed, Senior Chief Agricultural Engineer, Head of the Environmental Policies Department, Planning and Follow-up Department, Ministry of Water Resources
 - Jordan
Ms. Hadil Smadi, Head of Water Information System and National Water Budget Division, Policies and Strategic Planning, Ministry of Water and Irrigation
Mr. Ibrahim Mohsen, Water Authority of Jordan
- Discussion
- Lebanon
Ms. Mervat Kraydieh, Central Coordinator for Water Quality Control, Ministry of Energy and Water
 - Syrian Arab Republic
Mr. Abdallah Al Kattea, Director of Integrated Water Resources Management, General Commission for Water Resources, Ministry of Water Resources
Mr. Basil Kamaledine, Deputy Director General, General Commission for Water Resources, Ministry of Water Resources
 - Türkiye
Ms. Hatice Taner, Engineer, General Directorate of water Management, water Law and policy Section, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Discussion
- 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch at United Nations House

Session III Turning wastewater into a resource

Moderator: Ms. Sara Hess, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA

14:00 – 14:20 Wastewater Reuse in Circular Economy (online)

- *Ms. Anna Delgado Martin, Water in circular Economy Expert, World Bank Consult*

14:20 – 14:50	Wastewater Treatment to Mitigate Pollution and Create Useable Water and the Required Enabling Environment (online) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Youssef Brouziyne, Regional Representative, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Egypt</i>
14:50 – 15:20	Discussion
15:20 – 15:40	Case Study from Jordan: As-Samra Wastewater Treatment Plant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms. Hadil Smadi, Head of Water Information System and National Water Budget Division, Policies and Strategic Planning, Ministry of Water and Irrigation</i> • <i>Mr. Ibrahim Mohsen, Water Authority of Jordan</i>
15:40 – 16:00	Case Study from Türkiye: Assessment of Potential Reuse Alternatives of Used Water Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Serhat Gunaydin, Environmental Engineer, Drinking Water Department, General Directorate of Water Management, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry</i>
16:00 – 16:20	Discussion
16:20 – 16:30	Wrap-up of Day 1
16:30	End of Day 1

Day 2

Session IV Water and Biodiversity in the region

Moderator:	Mr. Hammou Laamrani, Sustainable Development Officer, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA
9:00 – 9:20	Climate Change Impacts on Biodiversity in Freshwater Ecosystems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Tarek Sadek, Water Resources and Climate Change Officer, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA</i> • <i>Ms. Dima Kharbotli, Researcher, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA</i>
9:20 – 9:40	Freshwater Biodiversity in the Region: regional challenges and opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Ali Hayajneh, Programme Manager, Water and Climate Change, International Union for Conservation of Nature – Regional Office for West Asia (IUCN-ROWA), Jordan</i>
9:40 – 10:00	Discussion

10:00 – 11:20 Country presentations on freshwater and catchment biodiversity focusing on challenges, and opportunities in relation to water

- Iran (tbc)
- Iraq
Mr. Yousif Saadi Abbas, Diyala Environment Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Iraq

• Jordan (tbc)

Discussion

- Lebanon
Ms. Lara Samaha, Ministry of Environment
 - Estuaries as Marine Protected Areas: Importance of managing river basins from source to sea in Lebanon (online)
Mr. Manal Nader, Associate Professor, Director of Institute of Environment, University of Balamand, Lebanon
- Syrian Arab Republic
Ms. Ms. Rola Jabbour, Engineer, Water Safety Department/Environment Safety Directorate, Ministry of Local Administration and Environment
Ms. Venus Souleiman, Engineer, Directorate of Biodiversity/Department of Biodiversity and Reserves, Ministry of Local Administration and Environment
- Türkiye
Ms. Hatice Taner, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Discussion

11:20 – 11:50 Coffee Break

Session V Nature-based solutions opportunities to tackle water and biodiversity challenges

Moderator: Ms. Elvira Broeks, Water Specialist, Water MENA Region, The World Bank

11:50 – 12:05 Water, Ecosystems and Nature-Based solutions: experiences from the Water Convention (online)

- *Ms. Hanna Plotnykova, Environmental Affairs Officer, Convention on the Protection and Use of the Transboundary Water Course and International Lakes, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Switzerland*

12:05 – 12:20 Watershed Reforestation, including Opportunities for Reducing Stormwater Runoff

- *Mr. George Mitri, Director, Land and Natural Resources Program, Institute of the Environment, University of Balamand, Lebanon*

12:20 – 12:35 Enhancing Climate Resilience and Biodiversity Conservation with Nature-Based Solutions (online)

- *Ms. Jamila El Mir, Senior Advisor to the United Nations Climate Change High-Level Champion, COP28, Private Office of H.E. Razan Al Mubarak*

12:35 – 12:50 Discussion

12:50 – 14:00 Lunch at United Nations House

Session VI Reflections on regional pathway for improving water quality, biodiversity and cooperation in the region

Moderator: Mr. Ziad Khayat, ESCWA

14:00 – 14:15 Climate Finance Flows for Water and Biodiversity

- *Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, ESCWA*

14:15 – 14:30 Innovative Approaches for Financing Water and Biodiversity

- *Mr. Andrius Skarnulis, Senior Financial Sector Economist, Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions Global Practice, The World Bank*

14:30 – 15:00 Advancing Context for Transboundary Water Cooperation

- *Ms. Ana Cascao, Consultant*

15:00 – 15:30 Discussion

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

Session VII Closing Session

Moderator: Ms. Elvira Broeks, The World Bank

16:00 – 16:20 Final Statements by Heads of Delegations

16:20 – 16:30 **Closing Remarks**

- *The World Bank (tbc)*
- *Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane, ESCWA*