

Building Momentum to Close Adaptation Knowledge Gaps in the MENA

Affiliated event at the Middle East and North Africa Climate Week, 28 February to 03 March 2022

Date: Tuesday March 29, 2022

Time: 9:00 – 11:00 +4 GMT (120 minutes)

Location: The Atlantis, The Palm Hotel

Lead-organizers: UNEP-ROWA, UNFCCC, UNFCCC- WGEO RCC MENA & SA, UNESCWA

Background:

Responding to the knowledge and resilience needs of countries through tailored information for knowledge users is crucial to implementing adaptation action – a key element of the Paris Agreement. For the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (LAKI), the UNFCCC secretariat is collaborating with the UNFCCC-WGEO Regional Collaboration Center for the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia based in Dubai, the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia, and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to close adaptation knowledge gaps in addressing climate impacts in the North Africa and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) subregions. Several initiatives have been co-designed with LAKI partners through a series of virtual meetings in these subregions. Building on the progress in 2021, the LAKI partners will continue to concretize actions and ideas in 2022 to further contribute to closing persistent climate adaptation knowledge gaps in the MENA region.

Objective of the event:

- Showcase ongoing LAKI initiatives in closing adaptation knowledge gaps to address climate impacts in the North Africa and GCC subregions
- Engage participating and new partner organizations in the implementation of these initiatives
- Spotlight the role of the LAKI as a joint initiative that convenes and engages experts from different international, regional and national agencies to take further steps to closing existing knowledge gaps to address climate impacts in the region.

Key expected outcomes

- Promoting the ongoing LAKI collaborative actions that are closing adaptation knowledge gaps to scale up adaptation actions in the North African and GCC subregions.
- Participating financial institutions express an interest to support the actions and relevant partners/experts join the LAKI showcased actions and activities
- Sharing lessons learned from the LAKI initiative in GCC and North African subregions, which are also applicable in scaling up the LAKI in other subregions of the world.

Target audience: Government representatives, adaptation experts and practitioners, institutions, implementing agencies and networks in MENA, bilateral and multilateral donors, Arab group of negotiators

Duration	Agenda
<p>9:00-9:05</p> <p>5 mins</p>	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Moderator: Fatema Rajabali</p>
<p>9:05-9:15</p> <p>10 minutes</p>	<p>High level opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High level host government representative, United Arab Emirates (UAE) - Youssef Nassef, Director of the Adaptation Division, United Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - H.E. Minister Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, Egypt; Chair of the 32nd Session of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) <p><i>(Moderator: Fatema Rajabali)</i></p>
<p>9:15 – 09:55</p> <p>40 minutes</p>	<p>Technical segment: PART A</p> <p>Round table discussion with panellists and participants</p> <p>Overview of the LAKI process in the MENA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fatema Rajabali, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) <p>Participating organizations implementing the actions in closing knowledge gaps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ajit Govind, Climatologist at International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) - Elsa Sattout, Regional Programme Specialist, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) - Theresa Wong, Natural Resources Officer at United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) - Sahel Batayneh, Researcher on Climate Change & Air pollution at National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) <p><i>(Moderator: Tarek Sadek)</i></p>
<p>09:55 – 10:15</p> <p>20 mins</p>	<p>Q&A and feedback</p> <p><i>(Moderator: Tarek Sadek)</i></p>

10:15– 10:25	Technical session PART B:
10 minutes	Financing adaptation actions in the MENA - Islamic Development Bank - UNEP Regional Office for West Asia <i>(Moderator: Fatema Rajabali)</i>
10:25-10:40	Interactive session
15 mins	<i>(Moderator: Fatema Rajabali)</i>
10:40-10:45	Closing session
5 mins	<i>(Moderator: Fatema Rajabali)</i>