

# GWP Mediterranean

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GWP Mediterranean

Mr. Vangelis Constantianos

c/o MIO-ECSDE, Kyrristou 12

10556, Athens, Greece

Tel: +30 210 3247490

Fax: +30 210 3247267

E-mail: [secretariat@gwpmed.org](mailto:secretariat@gwpmed.org)

Website: [www.gwpmed.org](http://www.gwpmed.org)

## Water situation today

The Mediterranean is among the most arid regions of the world. The natural water supply is unevenly distributed in space and time. Demographic growth and economic development vary in the sub-regions, shaping water demand and pressures while water ecosystems are rich and vulnerable. Agriculture accounts for 80% of water use.

## Programmes and action

The GWP Mediterranean is an open regional platform bringing together eleven major Mediterranean networks of different disciplines, and over thirty-eight other organizations, institutions, and companies. The Partnership contributes to the promotion of integrated approaches to water resources management in the Mediterranean by bringing the major stakeholders in water together to discuss and work together on outstanding water issues.

The Partnership has facilitated dialogues on effective water governance, water and climate, water demand management and river basin management. Also, the Partnership has been instrumental in developing further components of the Framework for Action for the Mediterranean (a framework that will help achieve the goal that, "Every human being should have access to safe water for drinking, appropriate sanitation, and enough food and energy at reasonable cost while preserving environment"), promoting integrated water resource management (IWRM) practices and producing information and education material.

Framework programme proposals have been developed on water, food and environment; integrated groundwater aquifer management; droughts and flood management. Transboundary water management is a new priority field for GWP Mediterranean. The Partnership also provides technical support to the Petersburg/Athens Process – led by the governments of Germany, Greece and the World Bank, assisted by GEF IW:LEARN.

GWP Mediterranean acts as the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI). This is a major process within the EU, lead by Greece, aiming to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals and the regional targets set at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). Through country dialogues and regional processes, MED EUWI provides a platform for strategic partnership for better coordination of water investments in the Mediterranean region. The Partnership acts as a lead partner for the IWRM activities of the newly launched GEF strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean (2005–2010).

The GWP Mediterranean is also supporting the development and introduction of an education package for secondary level schools on water within the Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability (MEDIES). The package has been translated into eight of the region's languages and is gradually being introduced to schools throughout the region.

