

Highlights from key events

IWRA's XIX World Water Congress 4 December 2025 | Marrakech, Morocco



WEFE4MED participated in the XIX World Water Congress organized by the International Water Resources Association, contributing to the ICARDA-led parallel session "Defining Best Practices in the Water-Energy-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus: Lessons from the Mediterranean." The session gathered experts, practitioners, and researchers who shared experiences and reflections from WEFE Nexus demonstrators across the region.

During the session, Mr. Charles Kleinermann introduced the WEFE4MED project and highlighted how demonstrator activities are advancing Nexus approaches through real-world application. Prof. Ali Rhouma from the PRIMA Partnership emphasized the continued importance of regional collaboration in scaling WEFE solutions. Insights from the field were also presented by WEFE4MED intern Ms. Roos Donkers, who shared perspectives from her research, interviews, and on-site blog work. Contributions from Spain and Jordan further enriched the discussion, with Mr. Rafael Casielles of BIOAZUL reflecting on lessons learned through the BONEX project, and Dr. Bassel Daher from Texas A&M University examining how governance approaches can help strengthen agrifood system resilience through WEFE-aligned planning.

Participants also explored WEFE4MED demonstrator materials displayed onsite, encouraging deeper exchanges on how Nexus-based solutions can be replicated across the Mediterranean.

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Upcoming events and opportunities

For full access on the events and opportunities, please check the knowledge Hub link: www.wefe4med.eu/wefe/events

BONEX
BIOAZUL Site Visit
BONEX Living Lab in La Axarquía
March 2026
Algarrobo, Spain
Apply Now

Training Workshop on Financing for Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus Projects in the Mediterranean 8-10 December 2025 / Athens, Greece



The Mediterranean region—strategically located at the crossroads of three continents—faces mounting, interconnected challenges including water scarcity, rising food and energy demand, climate extremes, urbanisation, demographic pressures, and socio-political instability, which together exacerbate vulnerability and displacement. Addressing these complex issues requires integrated, cross-sectoral solutions aligned with global commitments such as the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

To this end, the Union for the Mediterranean, in cooperation with Barcelona Convention/UNEP MAP, the EU, and with technical support from Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean, EU WES-BCA and PRIMA, has developed a draft Strategy for the WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean Source-to-Sea continuum. The Strategy promotes integrated Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) approaches to enhance sustainability and climate resilience. It has undergone extensive regional consultations, received technical approval by the UfM Water Platform (Nov 2025), and was endorsed within the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD 2035-2026). An implementation Action Plan is under consideration.

Despite growing interest in WEFE approaches, significant gaps persist: fragmented governance, weak regulatory frameworks, limited incentives and financing tools, data and capacity constraints, insufficient stakeholder engagement, and low public awareness. Improving the bankability of WEFE investments requires blended finance, guarantees, market-based mechanisms, supportive regulation, and strong technical and institutional capacity—alongside efficiency gains, circular economy practices, and digital solutions. Broad public-private and regional partnerships are essential.

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Online Mediterranean Countries Training to Mobilize GCF for WEFE Projects 22 December, 2025 | Online



The Arab Water Council successfully concluded the final online session of its regional training programme focused on mobilizing Green Climate Fund (GCF) support for WEFE Nexus projects in collaboration with the Union for the Mediterranean and Sida, the programme supported teams from across the Mediterranean as they presented 25 project concepts addressing climate resilience through integrated WEFE approaches. These proposals covered a wide range of solutions, including renewable-energy-powered irrigation, wastewater reuse, climate-resilient agriculture, sustainable desalination, circular resource management, and nature-based initiatives. Throughout the session, strong emphasis was placed on ensuring climate mitigation benefits, strengthening food and water security, and embedding gender-responsive design. The next phase of the programme will focus on technical assessment and proposal refinement to strengthen alignment with GCF investment priorities, supporting participating countries in advancing from concept development toward real implementation and improved access to climate finance.

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Training and Knowledge Sharing

Three e-learning modules developed under the WEFE4MED capacity-building activity are now live on the CAWTAR e-learning platform, with a fourth module on gender currently under development.



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Spotlight on Demos



Adapting to Climate Change Impacts through Smart Irrigation and WEFE Nexus Approach in Ghar El Melh wetland area - (ACCISI-GEM), Tunisia

In response to Tunisia's escalating water crisis, exacerbated by climate change, the ACCISI-GEM project offers a practical solution: smart irrigation powered by solar energy with provisions for improved ecosystem health. The pilot application, in four private farms in Ghar El Melh, delivered impressive results, with measurable improvements across key WEFE sectors. Irrigation efficiency increased, with water usage reduced by up to 10% and water productivity rising between 20% and 54%. The integration of solar photovoltaic systems into water pumping significantly boosted energy efficiency. Agricultural productivity also saw substantial gains, with crop yields improving by 25% to 50%. To support replication and sustainability of results, the project developed actionable policy recommendations, aligned with ongoing national efforts, and initiated a collaborative action plan for their implementation.

City	Country	Focal Point
Ghar ElMelh, Bizerte	Tunisia	 Sondos Njoui sondos.njoui@gwpm.org Programme Officer
Start year	2024	
End year	2025	
Total funding	500 - 100k €	

Acknowledgement of funding source
Funded by the Maltese Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Co-funded by GEF UNEP/MAP MedProgramme Child Project 2.2 "Mediterranean Coastal Zones: Managing the Water-Energy-Food and Ecosystems Nexus"

Nexus Dimensions

Energy Food Water Ecosystems

SDGs

2, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15

SCAN ME

Scores

Environmental	Social	Technological	Financial	Institutional
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www.gwp.org/en/GWP-Mediterranean/WE-ACT/Programmes-per-theme/Climate-Change-Adaptation/adapting-to-climate-change-impact_ghar-el-melh/



The Samla Nexus: A Community-Powered WEFE Project

Samla village in Marsa Matrouh faced severe water scarcity caused by the harsh environmental conditions of the village and over-pumping of the existing well, leaving nearly twenty thousand residents without safe drinking water and harming local agriculture. With funding from Al Ahly Sabbour CSR unit and Schneider Electric as a technical partner, GEBAL for Sustainable Solutions introduced an integrated solution that connects water, energy, food, and ecosystem systems through a solar-powered desalination unit, a greenhouse using treated water for year-round crops, and an educational play area for community children promoting environmental awareness and resource conservation. The project now provides clean water, renewable energy, and fresh produce for the community while enhancing the quality of life and local resilience. It stands as a practical, community-led model for sustainable resource management in arid regions.

City	Country	Start year	Focal Point
Marsa Matrouh	Egypt	2024	 Hadeer Zayed hadeer.zayed@gabalegypt.com GEBAL for Sustainable Solutions
Total funding	100- 10k €	End year	2025

Nexus Dimensions

Energy Food Water Ecosystems

SDGs

6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 17

SCAN ME

Scores

Environmental	Social	Technological	Financial	Institutional
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<https://gabalegypt.com/green-solutions-for-salt-affected-lands/>

Learn about WEFE4MED and Join the NCoP

The PRIMA-supported WEFE4MED project (2020-2022) aims to foster the adoption of a WEFE (Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems) Nexus approach to confront the climatic and environmental challenges facing societies and agro-ecological systems, through a Nexus Community of Practice (NCoP).

Committed to co-creating an inclusive, diverse and participatory platform for collaborative work, the Med NCoP connects scientists, policymakers, practitioners, entrepreneurs and innovators to exchange knowledge and drive innovation in WEFE solutions, with emphasis on tangibles for the benefit of all people and countries across the Mediterranean.

Its knowledge Hub provides a space for sharing demonstration cases, events, resources and opportunities to strengthen Nexus collaboration.



Partners

