The 6th MedCLIVAR conference will be held at the Cadi Ayyad University, Marrakesh, Morocco from 4 to 8 October 2020.

It will be the first MedCLIVAR conference in a North African country. The Cadi Ayyad University was established in 1978, and is among the 100 best young (less than 50 years old) universities in the world. Marrakesh with its Medina, mosques, palaces and gardens is among the most fascinating and visited cities of Morocco.

Information on the conference organization, sessions, important dates and contact form are available at http://www.medclivarconf.eu/2020/

This conference will have a special focus on the effects of climate change in the Mediterranean Region that are already threatening human societies and ecosystems. As the Mediterranean region is particularly exposed to climate related risks, advances are needed for their quantification, understanding and for the development of suitable adaptation measures. The conference will bring together scientists from the whole range of disciplines involved in the MedCLIVAR community, in order to assess, through observations and modelling, climate change in the Mediterranean region and risks for terrestrial and marine biodiversity, food production, water resources, touristic activities, health development and migration processes. Research presented will consider all relevant scales of the climate system, in particular regional, local and urban scales. Special emphasis will be on North African climate and tropical-mid-latitudes interactions. Studies will present results, tools and methods for better understanding the complexity of Mediterranean climate, for the estimation of past, present and future changes, and on implications for Mediterranean societies.

Local organizing committee:
Prof. Abdelfattah BENKADDOUR, Prof. Ali RHOUJJATI, Prof. Samia BERRADA, Yamina BOURGEOINI, Prof. Mohamed El Mehdi SAIDI, Fatima-Zohra IFLAHEN

Please contact the editors if you would like news and material to be published in the next newsletter: amramos@fc.ul.pt, eleonora.regattieri@igg.cnr.it (note the new email address), matteo.v.zampieri@gmail.com, turco.mrc@gmail.com, pierre.nabat@meteo.fr
MEDCLIVAR 2020 Conference

Important dates:

30 March 2020: Details of session organization and second circular
15 April 2020: Abstract submission opened
1 June 2020: Abstract submission closing
1 July: Notification of acceptance to authors
20 July: Early bird registration deadline
31 August: Deadline for nomination of YS awards
25 July: Conference programme published online
15 September: Deadline for proposing MedCLIVAR2022
4-8 October 2020: MedCLIVAR 2020 conference

Sessions (preliminary short titles)

- Observing and Understanding the processes relevant for the Mediterranean climate system.
- Climate Predictions and their applications in the Mediterranean region.
- Long-term climate evolution.
- Detection and attribution of the recent human-induced climate evolution including extremes.
- Characterizing and understanding the future climate evolution.
- Past, Present and Future change of Mediterranean-type climates.
- Climate change impacts and adaptation in the Mediterranean agro-food systems.
- Living in the Mediterranean cities in the context of climate change.
- Marine ecosystem, marine biodiversity and maritime activities in the Mediterranean Sea.
MedCLIVAR organized also this year a session at the EGU2020 (Vienna) entitled ‘Climate change in the Mediterranean region: understanding the processes, assessing the impacts and designing adaptation’ chaired by Ana Bastos and Andrea Toreti.

Adapting to climate change in the Mediterranean region represents a critical socio-economic and environmental challenge. Different levels of exposure and vulnerability as well as different projected changes characterize the Mediterranean region. Understanding the past, characterizing the present and modelling the future are therefore essential steps to estimate the risks, assess the impacts of climate change, and identify potential adaptation and mitigation strategies. This multidisciplinary MedCLIVAR session encourages contributions from a broad range of disciplines and topics, e.g. dealing with: dynamics and processes of the climate system; sectorial impacts of climate change; climate change adaptation and mitigation; innovative methods and approaches in climate science. The session focuses on all time scales from paleoclimate to future model projections as well as on all relevant socio-economic sectors.

https://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2020/session/36744

**Special Issue in Frontier in Marine Sciences**

The MedCLIVAR Steering Group has agreed to publish a Special Issue on the "Impact of deep oceanic processes on circulation and climate variability: examples from the Mediterranean Sea and the global ocean". This special issue aims to gather the major outcomes on deep ocean circulation and bottom mixing, not only in the Mediterranean area but also through other important case studies relevant in the characterization of deep processes. The wider call for paper submissions to “Progress in Oceanography” is opened. The Guest Editors (V. Artale, ENEA; K. Schroeder, CNR-ISMAR; N. Lo Bue, INGV; Vassilis Zervakis, University of the Aegean) will welcome submissions at the following link: https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/12135/impact-of-deep-oceanic-processes-on-circulation-and-climate-variability-examples-from-the-mediterran

The call for submissions will close in June
**FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND ONGOING ACTIVITIES**

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**10-Year HyMeX Workshop**

The **10-year HyMeX workshop** will take place in **Toulouse, France**, in 2020. The workshop will be hosted by Météo-France at its International Conference Centre, from **25 to 29 May 2020**. Welcome are abstract for oral or poster presentation of your last results related to the Mediterranean water cycle and HyMeX science topics:
- heavy precipitation
- flash-floods and social vulnerability
- integrated prediction of heavy precipitation and impacts
- Mediterranean cyclones
- strong winds and intense air-sea fluxes
- deep water formation and ocean circulation
- Mediterranean Sea water budget
- droughts and water resources.

**Short abstracts can be submitted online at:**
https://www.hymex.org/?page=private/workshops/2020/abstract_submission

**Abstract submission deadline is set to 10 February 2020.**
Please note that a special Practitioners’ day will be organised on **Thursday, 28 May 2020**.

More information about the workshop organisation and fees are on the HyMeX website [www.hymex.org](http://www.hymex.org).

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**Special Issue in MPDI Atmosphere**

**Assessing the Climate of the Eastern Mediterranean and the MENA**

*Guest Editors: Dr. Panos Hadjinicolaou and Prof. Mansour Almazroui*

The region encompassing the Eastern Mediterranean (EM) and the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) is made up of two dozen countries with over 400 million inhabitants. After years of intense industrialization, rapid population growth, urbanization, and extensive land conversion, the EM/MENA is now considered a global climate change ‘hot spot’. Temperature has increased faster than the global average and rainfall decreased in recent decades, while model projections indicate even warmer and drier conditions for the 21st century.

Manuscripts are invited to further document and investigate past, present, and future climate evolution, and related processes, responses, and atmospheric impacts, based on model simulations and/or analysis of observed data. Contributions from the CORDEX regional climate modeling community are especially welcome.

Info at:
https://www.mdpi.com/journal/atmosphere/special_issues/climate_mediterranean_africa

The call for submissions will **close 1st of March**
**Interview with Kasia Marini**

Scientific Administrator of MedECC.

Could you give to our readers an overview of your career and your involvement in the Mediterranean research?

With master in marine biology and PhD in environmental sciences (specialty: oceanography) from the University of the Mediterranean (Marseille, France) my formal education focused on issues of life sciences, environment, sustainable development and conservation. My experience includes research in marine ecology and population genetics, university teaching, and environmental education. I am an author of 13 publications in the peer-reviewed journals.

Eight years ago I moved from research to projects management. During five years I was a scientific manager of the Laboratory of Excellence OT-Med (http://www.otmed.fr), which is a network of laboratories from the southeastern France focused on climate change and natural hazards in the Mediterranean. I am involved in the network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (https://www.medec.org, MedECC) since its creation in 2015. Since May 2017 I am in charge of the MedECC scientific secretariat, which has been funded by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) thanks to the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and is hosted by Plan Bleu (UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Center) in Marseille.

**What is MedECC?**

MedECC is the network of the Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change. It is an open and independent network of scientists working towards a regional science-policy interface for climatic and other environmental changes across the Mediterranean. MedECC’s work is fully oriented towards the highest possible scientific standards, with full participation of experts from all involved regions and required scientific disciplines. It is inspired by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which aims at providing the world with an objective, scientific view of climate change and its political and economic impacts. The objective of MedECC is to gather, update and consolidate the best scientific knowledge about climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean basin and render it accessible to policy-makers, key stakeholders and citizens. Through its reports, developed with key stakeholders, MedECC has the ambition to contribute to the improvement of sustainability policies in the entire Mediterranean region. Presently the MedECC is coordinated by Dr. Joel Guiot (CNRS, France) and Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Cramer (CNRS, France).

The main current focus of the MedECC is the finalization of the 1st Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1), which is going to be published in the 1st semester 2020. The draft of this report is ready and at the end of 2019 it underwent the external review process by the scientific community.
How do you evaluate the response of the scientific community to the MedECC initiative?

The MedECC initiative was launched by a group of about 40 scientists and a few policy-makers during a side-event organized at the Conference ‘Our Common Future under Climate Change’ (CFCC) in Paris, (France) in July 2015, a few months before the COP21. It rapidly gained an important interest among the scientists. Within 3,5 years the network has much expanded and counts now more than 600 members from 35 countries. More that one hundred of them are very active members involved in the preparation of the 1st Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1). Many scientists consider the MedECC as a great opportunity to share and promote the results of scientific studies. Although substantial scientific knowledge exists and research has been intensified in the recent years through numerous small studies but also several large collaborative projects (MISTRALS, MedCLIVAR, CIRCE or Med-Cordex), the results of this research remain often not easily accessible to policy-makers. A comprehensive synthesis and assessment of recent trends, likely future development and the consequences of environmental change for natural systems, the economy, and the human well-being, is still lacking. This is the mission of the MedECC.

Do the policy-makers express the need for the expertise provided by the MedECC? What are the interaction between the scientists and policy-makers within the MedECC?

The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), developed under the auspices of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was adopted four decades ago in 1975, as the institutional framework for cooperation in addressing common challenges of marine environmental degradation. Under this framework, the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) brings together the 21 Mediterranean riparian countries and the European Union, as Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. The MAP-Barcelona Convention system is a legally-binding set of instruments, policies and action plans for addressing common issues and challenges of environmental degradation and protecting marine and coastal ecosystems of the Mediterranean Sea.

The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention recognizes climate change as a priority issue for the socio-economic development and environmental sustainability of the Mediterranean and calls for increasing scientific knowledge, raising awareness, and developing technical capacities to progress towards a green, low-carbon and climate-resilient Mediterranean region. The Flagship Initiative for the MSSD Objective 4 (Addressing climate change as a priority issue for the Mediterranean) recommends “the establishment of a regional science-policy interface mechanism (...) with a view to preparing consolidated regional scientific assessments and guidance on climate change trends, impacts and adaptation and mitigation options”. MedECC directly contributes to this MSSD Flagship Initiative.

The need of robust science-policy interfaces in the Mediterranean has also been stated in the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas (UNEP/MAP) approved by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 2016.
The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Climate Change Expert Group (UfM CCEG) was established at the first UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change in May 2014 in Athens, Greece. The role of the UfM CCEG is to advance discussion on climate change priority actions and accelerate the identification and development of concrete projects and initiatives. The UfM Ministerial Declaration of Athens expressed the need for a Mediterranean regional vulnerability assessment regarding climate change impacts.

Appropriate interactions between MedECC and decision-makers and stakeholders are developed, through a relevant science-policy interface. Following the adoption of the 2017-2022 work program of the UfM CCEG, UfM Member States agreed to rely on MedECC for the assessment of climate and environmental impacts on the Mediterranean. The synergies with other policy dialogue structures are built, especially with the MAP- Barcelona Convention system via the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) and Plan Bleu Focal Points. The Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean signed an agreement with Plan Bleu Regional Activity Center (UNEP/MAP) to jointly support the MedECC.

Which issues have raised most attention in stakeholders and policy-makers?

First of all, we find that both stakeholders and scientists appreciate the opportunity to interact in the frame of the MedECC. The network provides the stakeholder and policy-makers with an access to the scientifically sound information on climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean. The capacity building in the southern and eastern Mediterranean is an important issue for the stakeholders. The MedECC has a very high level of participation of scientists from the eastern and southern Mediterranean in the report preparation and chapters coordination. The MedECC has also an important role in identifying knowledge gaps. As for the specific themes, stakeholder and policy-makers dedicated a lot of attention to coastal risks, which is partly due to the uncertainties concerning future sea level rise. Also the climate-water-energy-food nexus, migration and urban issues appear to be of a great interest to policy-makers. These are only some examples. After the publication of the MAR1, MedECC will focus more on some of these themes and plan to publish thematic reports.

What are the main difficulties that you are facing in the coordination of Medecc?

The preparation of MAR1 is a tremendous project. It needs to be underlined that apart from one-person MedECC scientific secretariat, it is exclusively based on voluntary contributions from scientists, who committed to provide their expertise and dedicate their time to this initiative. With so many contributors from many countries, the coordination is not always easy on a daily basis, but we strongly believe that the result is worth the effort. We hope that the MedECC will grow in the future.

How do you see the cooperation between Medecc and MedCLIVAR?

The cooperation between the MedCLIVAR and MedECC are already very strong. The chair of MedCLIVAR, prof. Piero Lionello, is one of the Coordinating Lead Authors of MAR1, “Drivers” chapter of MAR1. Some results from MedCLIVAR are presented in MAR1. The MedECC might be an opportunity for the initiatives like MedCLIVAR to reach policy-makers and citizens, and MedCLIVAR is a source of scientific information for the MedECC.
Let’s build a new dataset!

Durum wheat, and thus, pasta production is influenced by weather and climate conditions and is highly affected by climate extremes. Thereby, its vulnerability and exposure as well as the potential adaptation strategies under changing climate conditions must be assessed.

The MED-GOLD project (https://www.med-gold.eu/) aims at developing agro-climatic services and climate information to provide the highest value for decision making. The MED-GOLD project is currently focusing on specific locations in Italy. Data availability is main limitation of extending the analysis to the wider Mediterranean area. We propose developing an expert knowledge based dataset containing the following information:

- Geographical location or region
- Durum wheat variety/ies that is/are cultivated
- Sowing month
- Harvesting month
- Suitability (yield level and quality)
- Links to datasets (if possible).

If you have such information and you wish to participate to a suitability study on durum wheat in the Mediterranean, please contact Matteo Zampieri (matteo.zampieri@ec.europa.eu)

Recent publications concerning MedCLIVAR main scientific objectives:


Please send your relevant references for next MedCLIVAR newsletters
Recent publications (continued):


