

MedICIP: Mediterranean Integrated Climate Information Platform

AT A GLANCE

The “*Integration of climatic variability and change into national strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean*” project (“*ClimVar & ICZM*”) is a collective effort to promote the use of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in countries sharing the Mediterranean as an effective tool to deal with the impacts of climate variability and change in coastal zones, by mainstreaming them into the ICZM process. It was adopted in January 2012 and will be completed late in 2015.

The project is led by UNEP/MAP, and its executing partners are PAP/RAC, Plan Bleu/RAC and GWP-Med.

Participating countries: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Montenegro, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia.

Total budget: 9.2 million USD.

2.2 million, USD: Global Environment

Facility 7 million USD: Participating

countries, executing agencies, and donors.

ABSTRACT

The Mediterranean Integrated Climate Information platform (MedICIP), is a joint Mediterranean country effort to share geographical data and existing reports dealing with ICZM and Climate Change in participating countries.

The development of MedICIP was possible thanks to the strong partnership between UNEP GRID and University of Geneva and Plan Bleu and eleven countries around the Mediterranean basin, namely: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Montenegro, Palestine, Syria, and Tunisia .

The main objective of MedICIP is to reinforce regional coordination on data sharing and exchange of information.

The outcome of the effort was the creation of a Geographical Data Infrastructure (GIS) interface with more than 1400 layers available and the establishment of a network of experts coming from relevant institution dealing with climate change and ICZM in the eleven involved countries.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Within the framework of the "Integration of climatic variability and change into national strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean" project ("ClimVar & ICZM"), Plan Bleu, UNEP GRID and the University of Geneva developed the MedICIP in 2014.

MedICIP is a user-friendly platform that provides:

- Metadata services: users have access to information shared by national institutions.
- Cartographic services: users can display maps and overlay them with other layers of information.
- Policy on data sharing: users can download data available.
- Links to studies, documents, reference information related to Climatic Change and Variability and ICZM.

THE EXPERIENCE

The Mediterranean Region has long been identified as a climate change hotspot, most recently in the IPCC report of 2014. The regional context about the need for adaptation to Climate Change in the Mediterranean area for Marine and Coastal Zones was explicitly expressed and emphasized in the Marrakech declaration in November 2009, there is a "need for regional coordination on climate change adaptation and mitigation".

During the CoP 16 in Marrakesh (2009), the three following orientations have been highlighted:

- Building information, understanding and capacity to cope with climate change and impacts
- Integrating climate change risks and adaptation measures into national policies, plans and programmes
- Strengthening national adaptive capacity and capability in priority sectors and developing tools, especially for a regional cooperation on data sharing. Currently data providers and data users are not enough connected.

A possible answer to answer these gaps could be MedICIP.

Three main actions undertaken within the framework of MedICIP's development in the year 2014-2015. The first step was the technical development of the prototype. The second main step was the organization of two sub-regional capacity building workshops. The first one took place in Tunis, in June 2014 in French for Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia. The second one took place in Istanbul, in October 2014 for Albania, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Libya, Montenegro, and Palestine.

The main objectives of these workshops was, first to identify which kind of data national institutions host/produce / manage and to train countries on how to serve data and information they have through MedICIP. Based on some recommendations highlighted during workshops, MedICIP's interface was reshaped and improved.

A number of [training materials](#) and a demo on how to use the platform are available and accessible in a specific section of MedICIP interface.

The technology used is based on open source software and Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standards. A [specific interface](#) provides all information on this aspect on MedICIP.



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RESULTS



This tool is innovative and very topical. It's the first tool addressing the issue of data sharing on climate change and ICZM in the Mediterranean basin.

As far as data and maps are concerned, MedICIP currently hosts:

A default set layers, and categorized

Additional harvest and display of existing GIS layers from other initiatives/institutions that have Web Map Services available (1400 layers coming from different servers: SEDAC, IFREMER or projects: SHAPE,

PREVIEW, PEGASO, MEDINA, MediAMER).

As far as countries and library are concerned, MedICIP gathers institutions, national experts and publications related to CVC & ICZM for each participating countries. This section is the "human part" of the platform and allow to network national experts in countries. It's really useful to have a direct access to a specific database gathering experts dealing with climate change and ICZM. Currently, the network has around 100 experts and the library, 100 documents, studies, reports available in seven different countries.

Moreover, the two regional capacity building trainings enhanced the know-how of 10 experts in Tunisia and 30 in Turkey.

LESSONS LEARNED

The technical development of the platform did not encounter major problems. The main issue is to promote MedICIP in order to convince countries to continue the data sharing through the interface.

The real added value of MedICIP must be the contribution from countries to ease data discovery and sharing in a thematic geoportal. The main obstacle encounters so far is that after the two regional trainings organized project partners are still awaiting countries to contribute directly to the MedICIP's "map interface" in providing GIS layers. A solution could be to target "champion Institute(s)" in each country and organize a in-house training focused on data sharing.

The idea is obviously to extend the beneficiaries and contributors to the platform. But it's necessary to highlight specific conditions needed for as:

To know the political and socio-economic context of the countries. Indeed, production of data has a cost and data is also a strategic point for some country (it depends on which institutions are in charge of which kind of data). It's also important to really explain why data sharing is necessary and important for addressing common countries issues. Indeed data are useful if they are used and shared!

The platform has numerous chances to continue in the future if countries recognize it as the Mediterranean tool for data sharing regarding climate change and ICZM.

MedICIP will currently be hosted at UNEP GRID Geneva and administered by Plan Bleu.

IMPACTS

This innovative tool created a lot of expectations from countries. MedICIP has been presented in March 2015, during the 8th edition of PRESANORD forum. In his address to the participants, the Minister of Transport stressed the need to “Create a platform for collaborative area to:

communicate, organize awareness-raising activities and establish collaboration actions between all sectors (public / private) allowing them to anticipate risks.

assist decision makers to better work for the risk mitigation of impacts through raising awareness about forecasts weather forecasting and climate projections.”

MedICIP was presented during a conference organized by ASAL in Algiers (04-06, October 2015) and a representative from Morocco stressed “the need to network institutions, and their products, in charge of climate issues at national and regional scale”.

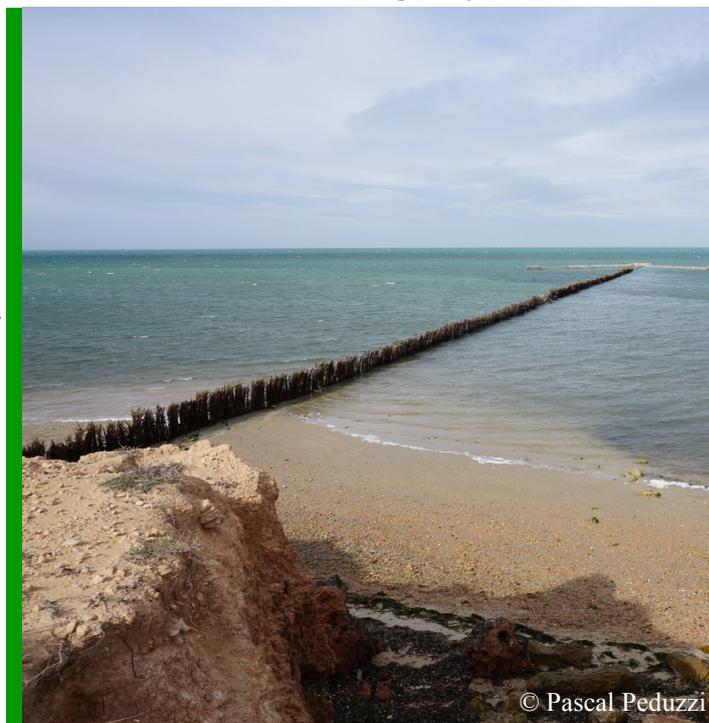
REFERENCES

For more information, please visit:

<http://medicip.grid.unep.ch>

<http://planbleu.org>

<http://www.unepmap.org>



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EXECUTING PARTNERS

Plan Bleu

Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre is one of Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) components. Plan Bleu aims at observing, analysing, addressing and communicating on the environment and development issues in the Mediterranean, and at proposing the best policies for a more sustainable development and future in the region.

Plan Bleu works with a network of National Focal Points, many regional and national organisations, as well as scientists, experts, and consultants in all Mediterranean countries.

UNEP/GRID

DEWA/GRID-Geneva is part of UNEP's global group of environmental information centres, known as the Global Resource Information Database (GRID) network. GRID centres not only facilitate access to but directly provide environmental data and information for decision-making and policy setting; underpin UNEP's ongoing review of environmental state and trends; and provide early warnings about emerging environmental problems and threats. Its main mission is to transform data into scientifically validated information to support environmental early warnings and assessments for sustainable development, from local to global scales.

KEYWORDS

Regional basin
Data sharing
Climate change
ICZM

Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem
MedPartnership

Together for the Mediterranean Sea



MedPartnership Project
UNEP/MAP Information Office
48, Vas Konstantinou, Athens, 11635, Greece

Executing partners: Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre, UNEP-Grid/Geneva and PAP/RAC

Participating countries: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Montenegro, Palestine, Syria, and Tunisia .