

# OPERATIONALISING THE WEFE NEXUS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Child Project 2.2 -  
Mediterranean Coastal  
Zones: Managing the  
Water-Energy-Food-  
Ecosystems Nexus



## Introduction

Child Project 2.2 is carried out within the framework of the GEF UNEP/MAP Mediterranean Sea Programme: Enhancing Environmental Security (2019-2026) and supports its overall goal of advancing priority actions aimed at reducing significant transboundary environmental pressures in Mediterranean coastal areas. The project provides actionable solutions that balance water, energy, food, and ecosystem needs in coastal zones, ensuring sustainable development and climate resilience.



SCAN  
TO SEE THE  
DOCUMENTS

## MedProgramme Framework

The programme engages:

### 9 BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES

Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina,  
Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro,  
Morocco, Tunisia

### 12 PARTNERS

UNEP/MAP, EBRD, UNESCO IHP, Plan  
Bleu/RAC, PAP/RAC, SCP/RAC, SPA/RAC,  
IUCN Med, WWF Mediterranean, GWP-Med

Child Project 2.2 addresses transboundary environmental pressures in the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem by analyzing trade-offs and synergies among water, energy, food, and ecosystems and proposing suitable solutions for existing challenges. The Project's focus areas are Lebanon, Albania and the Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima (TTA) Region in Morocco.

### Key contributions include:

Enhanced  
understanding  
of interlinkages  
across WEFE  
elements.

Facilitation  
of WEFE Strategies  
and Action Plans  
aligned with ICZM.

Identification of  
integrated solutions  
for climate resilience,  
biodiversity  
protection and  
energy and food  
security.

Testing of  
innovative  
approaches  
and scaling of  
successful  
interventions.

# STRATEGIC PILLARS & KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

## POLICY ANCHORING & REGIONAL RECOGNITION

The **"Strategy for WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean Source-to-Sea continuum"** was developed under the Project.

It has been adopted by processes under both key platforms for sustainable development in the region: the Barcelona Convention and the Union for the Mediterranean.

**WEFE Nexus constitutes** a regional policy framework.

## KNOWLEDGE, INCLUSION & REPLICATION

**National decision-makers capacitated** on the WEFE Nexus through integrated online course.

**Stakeholder Engagement & Gender Mainstreaming** fully implemented.

**Gender-responsive** consultations, workshops, and video storytelling.

**Source-to-Sea case studies** supporting learning, replication, visibility.

**National/regional/international** training modules and tools developed.

## INVESTMENT & FINANCING READINESS

**Morocco:** Floating solar & precision agriculture discussed with EU, EBRD, GCF.

**Lebanon:** Pre-feasibility studies; GCF funding requests.

Regional capacity building for bankable WEFE projects.

## GOVERNANCE & INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION

**"Inter-Ministerial Committees"** **activated** in Albania, Lebanon and Morocco/TTA Region to guide the implementation of activities through cross-sectoral decision-making processes.

**Regular policy dialogues and consultations** guiding Nexus Assessments and Action Plans.

**Multi-stakeholder engagement** ensures ownership of the project's outcomes.

## STRATEGIC CONTRIBUTION

**Operationalized the WEFE Nexus approach** as a regional policy and governance framework.

**Developed science-based decision-support tools** for cross-sector planning.

**Tested scalable solutions**, generating investment-ready opportunities for sustainable development.

## EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION SUPPORT

### Phase II National Assessment:

**Albania:** Pre-feasibility study for set of interventions in an irrigation reservoir with benefits across sectors.

**Lebanon:** Climate-resilient agricultural and water planning from source-to-sea in five river basins, including support to the preparation of the country's ICZM Strategy.

**Morocco:** WEFE Nexus analysis in the Source-to-Sea continuum to support territorial development in TTA Region, including for the preparation of the Regional ICZM Plan. Focus on food security analysis to drive discussions on planning agricultural production in the Loukkos basin.

## DEMONSTRATION & INNOVATION

**Tunisia:** Smart irrigation & solar pumping in Ghar El Melh; hydrological farm monitoring.

**Lebanon:** Precision agriculture pilots with smart agro-meteorological stations and soil humidity sensors.

## The Way Forward: Replication and upscaling

To further strengthen environmental security and sustainable resource management, Child Project 2.2:

**ENABLES** the implementation of Nexus strategies and action plans in targeted countries.

**SCALES UP** demonstration activities and innovative approaches for broader application.

**EXPANDS** multi-stakeholder engagement for improved collaboration.

**MOBILIZES** financing and investments to support sustainable WEFE solutions.

Child Project 2.2 continues to transition from analysis to action, building governance structures, enabling investment, and delivering practical solutions that enhance environmental security and sustainable development across the Mediterranean.