Bridging the Implementation Gap for Rio+20 Workshop and the Open Side Event to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

UN Secretariat North Lawn Building, Room 6, New York
July 2 – 3 2014
Presentation Outline

1. Water Scarcity in the Arab Region

2. Water Scarcity and Drought Management in Transition to Green Economy:
   - Case Study: UN-DESA Capacity Building project on Water Scarcity and Drought Management in West Asia/North Africa
Section 1: Water Scarcity in the Arab Region
Global Freshwater Availability, 2007

Freshwater availability (m³ per person per year, 2007)

Vulnerability in West Asia/North Africa to Water Scarcity

- About 90% of the West Asia & North Africa region is considered as arid or semi arid.
- About 70% of the region’s water flows across international borders (shared rivers).
Per Capita Renewable Water Resources in the Arab Region

Renewable water resources in the Arab region per capita

Note: *Area covering South Sudan and Sudan.
Source: Based on FAO AQUASTAT data (2011).
Advantages of Adopting a Water and Drought Management Policy

- Sustainable water RESOURCES levels, without consideration of effects of climate change
- Sustainable water RESOURCES levels, with worst-case climate change projection
- Actual water USE trajectory
  - !!!! Yemen, Jordan, Palestine
  - Egypt, Morocco
  - Algeria, Tunisia, Syria, Lebanon
  - sustainable limits periodically, or chronically exceeded
- Potential water USE trajectory with WDM policy implemented

Year 19xx, Year 20yy, Time
Efforts on WS&D Management: Supply Side Measures

• New Storage facilities
• Use of marginal resources (groundwater)
• Aquifer recharge
• Improved efficiency of water distribution networks
• Desalination
• Wastewater reuse
• Other measures
Efforts on WS&D Management: Demand Management Side Measures

- Water metering
- Mandatory rationing
- Restriction on municipal use
- Water markets (tariffs)
- Full cost recovery
- Water savings campaigns for voluntary actions
- Awareness campaigns to minimize drought damages
- Increase in regulation capacity for irrigation purposes
- Increase in the regulation capacity for urban supply
Section 2: Overview of Capacity Building Project on Water Scarcity and Drought Management in West Africa
This project is a response to Rio + 20’s:

- Call for urgent action to address desertification, land degradation, drought, and water scarcity
- Call for disaster risk reduction and the building of community resilience to disasters
Gaps in Current national drought management Plans in West Asia/North Africa

- Ex-post (reactive)
  - Emergency relief that take effect after or during a drought event.
"Droughts are hard to avert, but their effects can be mitigated.[...] The price of preparedness is minimal compared to the cost of disaster relief. Let us therefore shift from managing crises to preparing for droughts and building resilience."

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Message for 2013 World Day to Combat Desertification
17 June 2013
Strengthening National Capacities to Manage Water Scarcity and Drought in West Asia and North Africa

Main objective:

Capacity building in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of proactive and preparedness drought management strategies.
Geographic Locations

Water-scarce and in transition settings countries in West Asia/North Africa

Five (5) pilot countries among:
- Yemen
- Tunisia
- Syria
- Sudan
- Palestine
- Morocco
- Libya
- Lebanon
- Jordan
- Egypt
- Algeria
The Five Pilot Countries

**West Asia**
- Yemen
- Jordan
- State of Palestine

**North Africa**
- Tunisia
- Morocco
Fundamental Steps in developing and implementing a national drought plan:

- Creating Political Momentum and Authority
- Strategic Planning and Coordination
- Fostering Involvement and Developing Common Understandings
- Investigating Drought Monitoring, Risk, and Management Options
- Writing a Drought Plan
- Implementing a Drought Plan

Ref: The Near East Drought Planning Manual: Guidelines for Drought Mitigation and Preparedness Planning (By FAO and University of Nebraska)

a. Promoting standard approaches to vulnerability and impact assessment

b. Implementing effective drought monitoring and early warning systems

c. Enhancing preparedness and mitigation actions

d. Water scarcity and drought conflict prevention measures
Regional/National Stakeholders, Counterparts and Institutions

- Government Ministries
- National and local water authorities & water suppliers
- Farmer communities
- Water consumers and users
- Meteorological Departments and Research Institutions
- National and International NGOs
- Development Agencies and International Organizations

Study
- Expert advisory group meeting
  - Guidance notes
  - Training framework
  - Training modules

Pilot country #1
Pilot country #2
Pilot country #3
Pilot country #4
Pilot country #5

Evaluation and analysis
- Map out existing knowledge and practices and identify critical gaps in current Pre-impact and preparedness drought management in West Asia/North Africa (WANA)
- Discuss the findings of the study, gather further information, assess experiences provide directions to the project and establish project advisory Group
- Formulate and implement long-term water scarcity and drought management strategies
- Evaluate results and derive lessons learned
- A national assessment and consultation mission to each pilot countries
Activities in Pilot Countries

1. Support the planning and coordination process.

2. Provide technical advisory and supervisory services (national experts)

3. Assist with fostering involvement and developing common understandings through field visits to drought affected areas.
Activities in Pilot Countries

4. Conduct training seminars and training of trainers workshops to the national stakeholders and national experts.

5. Assist with developing country-specific preparedness and mitigation national drought management plan.
Thank you!