Sustainable Use of Transboundary Water Resources and Water Security Management (WATER SUM)

WATER SUM promotes the more sustainable use of water resources in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. The goal of the project is to reinforce integrated water resources management, regional cooperation and public participation in water-related issues, taking into consideration the impacts of climate change.

The project has two components: Water Resources Management Good Practices and Knowledge Transfer (WATER POt) and Water and Security (WaSe).
OBJECTIVES

WATER SUM contributes to regional cooperation to improve water management, foster adaptation to climate change and work towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The project facilitates dialogue and builds trust among national and local authorities, civil society and other stakeholders. The WATER PORt component provides a platform for building skills and transferring knowledge on integrated water resources management (IWRM) and climate change adaptation. Specific goals are to:

- build the capacities of national authorities for IWRM;
- create a common understanding among water practitioners and stakeholders on regional water issues; and
- strengthen skills for dealing with climate change impacts on water.

The WaSe component focuses on building local partnerships to ensure water security and promote ecosystem services. Its goals are to:

- support the introduction of local water security action plans (LWSAPs) in target municipalities;
- encourage partner communities to work together; and
- promote local environmental governance in partner countries benefiting from LWSAPs.

ACTIVITIES

Activities focus on:

- making institutional and behavioural changes in water governance and utilisation patterns through the transfer of knowledge and skills; and
- building partnerships to improve water security as an important aspect of environmental security that hinges on addressing resources scarcity, environmental risks and environment-related tensions or conflicts.

The project provides a structured opportunity to boost the development of participating countries, share new methods for improved water management, improve planning at all levels of governance and address unemployment and poverty. State-of-the-art instruments, tools, approaches and insights are used to bridge the gap between partners in the MENA region. The involvement of the Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement in the Maghreb (NECEMA), the Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA), the Arab Water Council (AWC), and the African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW) will help to ensure the sustainability of outcomes. Replicable approaches and methods can be transferred both within the MENA region and beyond, while harmonisation with other development interventions is also being promoted.