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2nd MEETING OF ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS FROM NEWS AGENCIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Improving climate change reporting in the Mediterranean: Science – Media interface

Dates: 11-13 November, 2016_____

Duration: two and a half (2.5) days

Venue: Marrakesh, Morocco.

11 November - Ryad Mogador Menara Hotel. Avenue Mohammed VI

12 November - Mogador Menzah Appart Hotel. Avenue Mohammed VI.

Proposed list of participants: Senior environmental and scientific journalists from the Alliance of Mediterranean News Agencies (AMAN), representatives of professional associations of environmental journalists (APIA and AECC in Spain), young journalists from North Africa, and delegates from key Mediterranean environmental organizations (IUCN, WWF-Med, UNEP/MAP). The debate will be open to local and other journalists interested in the event.

INTRODUCTION

The Fifth Assessment Report from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2013) highlights the Mediterranean as one of the most vulnerable regions in the world to the impacts of global warming. However, media coverage of climate change today is at a crossroads. Journalists are the key players in society to identify, access, shape and communicate the information that opinion leaders and the public at large will later use to judge the urgency to fight the negative impacts of climate change both at ecological and socioeconomic levels.

To empower Mediterranean media professionals in fulfilling their role, the second Meeting of Environmental Journalists from News Agencies in the Mediterranean will be held in Marrakesh during the **COP22 on Climate Change** from 7 to 18 November, 2016. The aim of this second encounter is to steer the **debate among scientists and journalists** on the real and clear bearings of climate change in the Mediterranean and enhance the **capacity** of

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young environmental and scientific journalists from North African and Mediterranean countries to cover this type of news by providing them with the right data, sources and tools.

The Meeting is jointly organized by the **IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation** and the Spanish news agency **EFE**.

The support of the agencies member of the **Alliance of Mediterranean News Agencies (AMAN)** is vital for the success of this endeavour to raise awareness on major environmental challenges in the region. This joint venture promoted by the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation in collaboration with other key regional environmental organizations was launched in 2015 with the valuable support of AMAN and EFE, materializing in the organization of the first meeting of environmental journalists from news agencies in the Mediterranean last December in Malaga, Spain.

The organization of this second meeting focusing on climate change is a key step forward towards the consolidation of a networking among environmental and scientific journalists in the Mediterranean.

THE CONFERENCE

The Debate Forum will bring journalists, scientists, government officials and environmentalists together to explore the many facets of climate change stories in order to improve the quality and accuracy of environmental reporting in the Mediterranean region, both from the scientific and the press points of view.

Day One sessions will bring light to the various dimensions of climate change in the Mediterranean region affecting science, economy and policy aspects. Between three and four experts will participate in every round-discussion moderated by a journalist. Day Two will be devoted to media training and ways to improve the dialogue between scientists, policy-makers and journalists to communicate effectively the challenges of climate change in the Mediterranean.

The meeting will be complemented with a field visit to showcase projects developed in Morocco to fight and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The bulk of presentations during the two-day debate will be open to all media on site, subject to space limitations.

The meeting's working languages will be English and French

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TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

(subject to changes upon confirmation of speakers)

Improving climate change reporting in the Mediterranean: Science – Media interface

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	Arrival to Marrakech
	Arrival of participants and check-in at selected Hotel
19.30	Meeting at the lobby of Hotel and Welcome dinner <i>(optional)</i>
Friday, 11 th November 2016	
8.30 - 9.00	Reception and registration of participants
9.00 - 10.00	<p>Welcome address and opening remarks by key local and regional institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abderrahim Houmy– Secretary General, High Commissariat for Water and Forests and the Fight against Desertification (Morocco) ▪ Antonio Troya, Director, IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation. ▪ Khalil Hachimi Idrissi, Director, Maghreb Arabe Presse, Morocco. ▪ Arturo Larena, Director, EFEverde, Spain

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10.00 – 11.30	<p>Overview: The scientific dimension of climate change in the Mediterranean</p> <p>Journalists will have the opportunity to access the main and latest science behind climate change to help them understand the impact and proportions of global warming and the tools and solutions available to counterbalance it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Antonio NAVARRA, President of the Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change.▪ Dr. Mohammed-Saïd KARROUK, President of the Moroccan National Committee of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, Expert on Climatology, University of Hassan II, Casablanca - <i>Climate change in the Maghreb region</i>▪ Joel GUIOT, Director of Research - French National Center for Scientific Research - <i>Climatologist, specialist of impacts of climatic changes on Mediterranean vegetation, co-PI of the Mediterranean Experts group on Climatic Changes (MedECC).</i> <p>Chairperson: Omar ER-ROUCH - Moroccan News Agency (MAP)</p>
11.30 – 12.00	Coffee break
12.00 – 13.30	<p>Round Table: The climate change impact on Mediterranean natural resources</p> <p>Mediterranean nature and all forms of life are being affected by a rapid changing scenario where development, at the core of global warming, is deploying key natural resources. Water and food resources can become scarce and people need to adapt and cope with it to survive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Jean JALBERT - Directeur général, Tour du Valat, Institut de recherche pour la conservation des zones humides méditerranéennes - <i>Climate Change, Water and Wetlands.</i>▪ Edward PERRY, Global Climate Change Policy Coordinator, Birdlife - <i>Role of the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot in Climate Change.</i>▪ Dorra MAAOUI - Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) - <i>Marine biodiversity and climate change.</i>▪ Sarra TOUZI - Senior Programme Officer, Global Water Partnership Mediterranean - <i>Prospects of Water Resources in the Mediterranean in relation to climate change</i> <p>Chairperson: Sanaa NEHME, National News Agency, Lebanon (NNA), (TbC)</p>

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13.30- 15.00	Lunch
15.00 – 17.00	<p>Round Table: The socio-economic and political dimension of climate change in the Mediterranean</p> <p>Since climate change is a cross boundary issue and involves several fields of action (water, energy, wildlife, biodiversity, climate refugees, social conflicts, biodiversity), the networking developed in the last decades could be seen as a fruitful opportunity to build mitigation and adaptation capacity in the Mediterranean. Understanding the need and urgency to adapt and mitigate this impact is the only way forward to put into practice solutions for the benefit of people and nature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roberto ROSON, Professor at Economy Department, Ca' Foscari University, Venice - <i>Economic Impacts of Climate Change in the Mediterranean.</i> ▪ Dr. Maria SNOUSSI - Professor at Mohammed V University, Rabat-Morocco and Head of the 'Coastal Environment & Climate Change' Research Group at the Faculty of Sciences – Climate change on coastal areas. ▪ Olgu OKUMUŞ - Project Manager, UfM Energy Division, Union for the Mediterranean - UfM Climate Change Expert Group. ▪ Leila RADHOUANE, National Tunisian Institute for Agriculture Research – <i>Climate change impacts on agriculture in North African countries.</i> <p>Chairperson: Elsa ALVES - LUSA Agency, Portugal</p>
Saturday, 12th November 2016	
9.00 - 10.30	<p>Talk-Café: Stories about people life, what's is behind 2^o C</p> <p>As the climate issue moves further into public policy, journalists will face new challenges in sorting out the political and economic interests of experts with a dizzying array of opinions about the costs and benefits of combating global warming. In an open and creative conversation, some journalists from AMAN and other media will explain, based on their experience, examples of good stories on climate change that got more public impact, as well as the challenges that they face with their chief-editors or public opinion to explain, the policy side of the debate (eg COP), the scientific dimension or the potential economic impact of climate actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Caty ARÉVALO – Environmental journalist, EFEverde, Spain. ▪ Elias PALIALEXIS - Athens News Agency - Macedonian Press Agency (AMNA)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Khaled GHOBASHY - Deputy Editor-In-Chief, Middle East News Agency, Egypt (MENA). ▪ Yves SCIAMA - Association des journalistes scientifiques de la presse d'information (AJSPI), France ▪ Susan PHILLIPS - Energy reporter, WHYY in Pennsylvania <p>Chairman: Analía Iglesias, Journalist and professor. Collaborator for the newspaper El País, Spain. Professor at the UIR-Rabat, Morocco.</p>
10.30 – 11.00	<p>Lightning Talks on environmental projects across the Mediterranean</p> <p>International and regional organizations as well as environmental NGOs are invited to make five minutes presentations about a project relevant to the subject of this meeting.</p> <p>UNEP-MAP - United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan – Secretariat to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols GWP-Med – Mediterranean Programme – Global Water Programme IUCN – Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation</p> <p>Chairman: Analía Iglesias, Journalist and professor. Collaborator for the newspaper El País, Spain. Professor at the UIR-Rabat, Morocco.</p>
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee break
11.30 – 13.00	<p>Round-table: How to improve communication of climate change science</p> <p>Scientists, experts and journalists will discuss the current gaps in Mediterranean environment media coverage particularly concerning climate change and the challenges for journalists and agencies dealing with the topic.</p> <p>Animators: Ignacio Bayo, Vicepresident of the Scientific Association of Journalist in SPAIN, and Mario Salomone - President of Federazioni Italiana Media Ambientali (FIMA), with the participation of Joel GUIOT, Director of Research - French National Center for Scientific Research, and Olgu OKUMUŞ, UfM Energy Division, Union for the Mediterranean.</p>
13.00- 14.30	Lunch
14.30- 15.15	<p>Presentation: Initiatives for promoting networking environmental and scientific journalism</p> <p>Networking and IT tools are a must for environmental and scientific journalists aiming to enhance the quality of news, to benefit from sharing information and to access the know-how of colleagues and peers in the region. This session will feature some initiatives in place to foster environmental reporting in the Mediterranean.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rehab Abdalmohsen - Arab Science Journalists Association (ASJA) ▪ Pilar Valbuena - Mediterranean Forest Communication Network – ▪ Aline Robert -Euro Activ Network (Euro-EFE) <p>Chairman: IUCN-Med</p>
15.30 – 16.30	<p><i>IUCN-Med will present to the participants the Mediterranean Platform for Environmental Journalism, an online platform to support information exchanges between journalists and environmental organisations in the Mediterranean region, as well as the publication:</i></p> <p>“Environmental information in the Mediterranean- A journalist’s guide to key questions and institutions”</p> <p><i>Next steps for potential collaboration.</i></p>
16.30- 17.00	Conclusions and closing remarks
	Dinner
Sunday, 13 th November 2016	
8.30 - 17.00	Field visit to PN Toubkal to showcase existing projects to mitigate and adapt to climate change in Morocco .

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