

## MedECC: Network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change

“Establish a regional science-policy interface mechanism, including the social and behavioural sciences, endorsed by all the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, with a view to preparing consolidated regional scientific assessments and guidance on climate change trends, impacts and adaptation and mitigation options” is the Flagship Initiative under the Objective 4 “Climate change as a priority issue for the Mediterranean” of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025.

### Background

The network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC [www.medecc.org](http://www.medecc.org)) was established in 2015 as an open and independent international scientific expert network providing support to decision-makers and the public on the basis of available sound scientific information and ongoing research. The network includes more than 600 scientists from 35 countries, including 19 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, from the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities perspectives.

The creation of MedECC responds to needs and intentions expressed by UN Environment/MAP through the MSSD and the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean. It also responds to the needs expressed by the Expert Group on Climate Change of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM CCEG). Both UN Environment/MAP and UfM are members of the MedECC Steering Committee.

### Objectives

MedECC builds on a community of scientific experts providing their expertise on a voluntary basis. The objective is to bridge the gap between scientists and decision-makers and contribute to the improvement of policies at all levels by supporting decision-making with accurate and accessible information on current and future impacts of climate and environmental changes. MedECC also aims to contribute to future Mediterranean assessments through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). MedECC works in two complementary directions of interest for the implementation of the MSSD, namely publishing improved assessments and comprehensive synthesis of global change knowledge in the Mediterranean region, and building a relevant regional science-policy interface.

### Supporting institutions

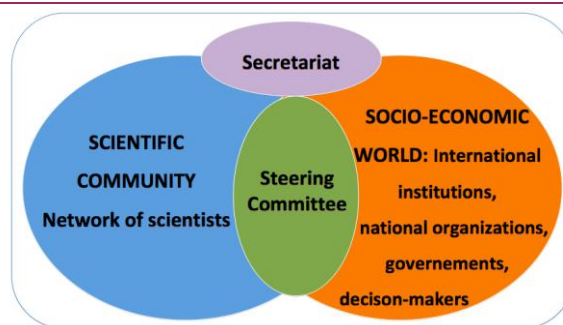
In 2017, Plan Bleu Regional Activity Center (UN Environment/MAP) signed an agreement with the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfMS) to jointly support MedECC. Other regional, national and local organizations and individual experts support MedECC. These currently include: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA); French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME), Mediterranean Integrated Studies at Regional And Local Scales (MISTRALS); Principality of Monaco; Métropole Aix-Marseille Provence, France; Aix-Marseille University, France; Advisory Council for the Sustainable Development of Catalonia (CADS), Spain; French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD), France; Laboratory of Excellence OT-Med, France; L'Association pour l'Innovation et la Recherche au service du Climat, France; ACTERRA Consulting, France.



## Structure of MedECC

MedECC is governed by two Coordinators and a Steering Committee that decides on its functioning and focuses on strengthening the science-policy dialogue, as well as the visibility of MedECC. The Steering Committee reviews the membership in the network ensuring a wide and balanced thematic and geographic coverage.

Established in May 2018, the secretariat of MedECC is hosted by Plan Bleu and supported and co-financed by the Union for the Mediterranean, notably through funds of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).



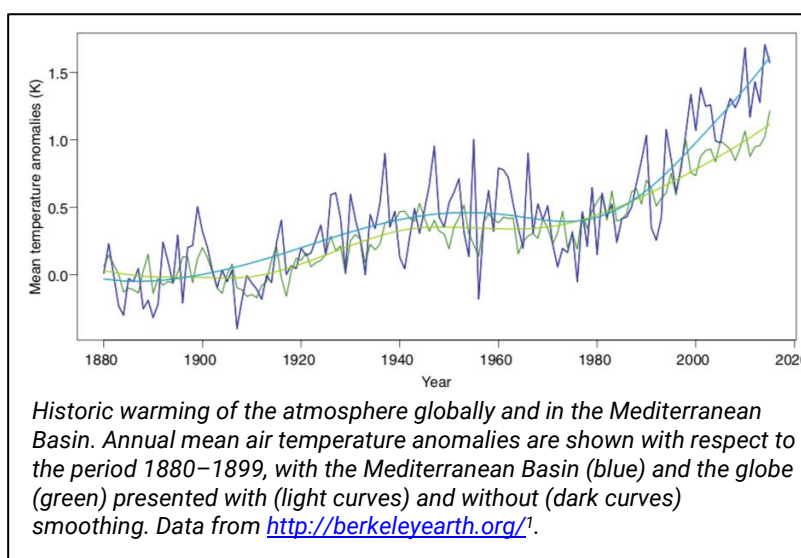
Structure of MedECC

## Main achievements

MedECC has succeeded in building and mobilizing a network of scientific experts and in gaining political recognition from Mediterranean countries and IGOs.

The main focus of MedECC is the preparation of the 1<sup>st</sup> MedECC Assessment Report (MAR1) on current state and risks of climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean basin. The Summary for Policy-Makers of MAR1 will be presented for discussion and approval by governments. The thematic scope and outline of this report were defined during five workshops in 2017-2018. The Coordinating Lead Authors and Lead Authors were appointed through an open call for self-nominations launched in May 2018.

In October 2018, a few scientists representing MedECC published in Nature Climate Change the first synthesis of multiple changes in the environment impacting livelihoods in the entire Mediterranean basin<sup>1</sup>. In December 2018, a preliminary assessment of risks associated with climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean region was prepared by MedECC, in collaboration with the Plan Bleu/RAC and UfM.



Historic warming of the atmosphere globally and in the Mediterranean Basin. Annual mean air temperature anomalies are shown with respect to the period 1880–1899, with the Mediterranean Basin (blue) and the globe (green) presented with (light curves) and without (dark curves) smoothing. Data from <http://berkeleyearth.org/><sup>1</sup>.

## Challenges and the way forward

MedECC is contributing to the 2019 State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean Report (SoED 2019) and support the MED2050 foresight study undertaken by Plan Bleu/RAC. The main challenge is to strengthen the stakeholder dialogue component by confirming governance and publishing the first MedECC Assessment Report (MAR1) in 2020.

## Resources

**Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC):** [www.medecc.org](http://www.medecc.org)

MedECC booklet: <http://www.medecc.org/?p=1807>

**UfM Climate Change Expert Group (UfM CCEG):** <https://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-climate-change-expert-group/>

**Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre:** [www.planbleu.org](http://www.planbleu.org)

Athens, Greece, April 2019



United Nations Environment Programme  
Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit  
Barcelona Convention Secretariat  
[www.unepmap.org](http://www.unepmap.org)

<sup>1</sup> Cramer W, Guiot J, Fader M, Garrabou J, Gattuso J-P, Iglesias A, Lange MA, Lionello P, Llasat MC, Paz S, Peñuelas J, Snoussi M, Toreti A, Tsimplis MN, Xoplaki E (2018) Climate change and interconnected risks to sustainable development in the Mediterranean. *Nature Climate Change* 8, 972-980, doi: 10.1038/s41558-018-0299-2