



A CHANGING MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATE

When Adaptation Becomes a Priority

CONFERENCE SERIES

3rd EDITION | SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2023

CaixaForum Macaya

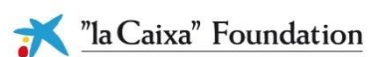
Passeig de Sant Joan, 108 – Barcelona



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INFORMATION

Opening and Dialogue 1

20 September 2023

18:00-19:45

Venue: CaixaForum Macaya

Sala Macaya

Pg. de Sant Joan, 108, Barcelona

English with simultaneous translation to Spanish

PRESENTATION

Are We Ready for the Heat? Exploring Climate Adaptation Needs in the Mediterranean

Recent years have witnessed an increase in the number and intensity of climate-related events all over the world and across the Mediterranean region. As the Mediterranean region, a climate change hotspot, is expected to warm by 2,2°C above the pre-industrial level by 2040 (MedECC), this is set to have devastating consequences for the region, increasing the number and intensity of extreme events and the pressure on vulnerable ecosystems, which would altogether **impact all Mediterranean territories** including coastlines, forests, oceans, urban and rural areas.

Still, it is not too late, and, although climate change and its damaging consequences outlined above can now no longer be avoided, some light remains towards providing our societies and ecosystems with the necessary tools to protect themselves and find **sustainable pathways toward climate change adaptation**; this is only possible if we act now. Are we ready to face this future?

This session is meant to be an introduction to the whole conference series, setting the scene for discussing the climate adaptation needs in the Mediterranean Basin. It aims to first explore climate change **impacts on current natural resources and human societies**, and consequently, the **areas where adaptation is crucial** to protect from the potential damages arising from a disrupted climate and maintain the integrity of our societies, ecosystems, and environment while seizing opportunities. In addition, the dialogue questions **the readiness and capacities of the Mediterranean countries** to adopt adaptation strategies, the challenges they face in this endeavour, and the cooperation opportunities that can contribute to finding common solutions. Finally, the dialogue is meant to link climate adaptation needs and strategies to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Why do we now talk about climate adaptation, once considered a secondary issue? What does it mean? Does adaptation mean giving up on climate mitigation? What synergies are there between mitigation and adaptation? Is there a limit to what we can adapt to?

How are our Mediterranean territories and societies going to be affected by this temperature increase? What are the most concrete adaptation needs? How are they distributed geographically?

Where do we stand in term of implementing climate adaptation strategies in the Mediterranean region? Who decides on adaptation measures? Is it only at the national level or what can we do on a more local level?

Are there any striking examples of good adaptation practices arising from the Mediterranean that could be replicated elsewhere?

What solutions can regional cooperation bring to tackle adaptation challenges?

How can we link climate adaptation and the achievement of the SDGs? To which extent climate adaptation can lead us to rethink our development model? How to ensure justice and equality in adaptation?

Introductory remarks: **Jaume Lanaspa**, President of the Barcelona Office, Club of Rome; **Senén Florensa**, Executive President, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed); **Barbara Pons Giner**, Commissioner for the Agenda 2030, Barcelona City Council

Keynote speech: **Mamphela Ramphela***, Co-president, Club of Rome

Moderator: **Judit Alonso**, Freelance Journalist specialised in Climate Change and Environmental Issues

Speakers: **Elen Lemaitre-Curri**, Assistant Director, CIHEAM-Montpellier

Carol Chouchani Cherfane, Director, Arab Center for Climate Change Policies, UN ESCWA, Lebanon

