

Under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI



XIX WORLD WATER CONGRESS
International Water Resources Association (IWRA)
Marrakech, Morocco | 1-5 December 2025

Kingdom of Morocco



Ministry of
Equipment and Water

Outcomes of the WEFE Nexus sessions in the Mediterranean Regional Processes for the last World Water Forums

Juan Ojeda Couchoud
Técnica y Proyectos, S.A. (TYPESA) / IME
01 December 2025



The WEFE Nexus in the MWF & WWF

The **Mediterranean Water Institute** (IME) has been working on the WEFE Nexus for more than a decade and has presented the topic in WWFs since Brasilia 2018:

- III Med Water Forum Cairo (2018)
- VIII World Water Forum Brasilia (2018)
- Part of the NCR session in the IV Med Water Forum Malta (2021)
- Not present in the IX WWF Dakar (2021)
- V Med Water Forum Tunis (2024)
- X World Water Forum Bali (2024)
- VI EuroMed Water Forum Rome (2026)

The objective is not to replicate other major initiatives on the WEFE Nexus in the region, such as the GEF/UNEP MAP MedProgramme (Child Project 2.2 'Mediterranean Coastal Zones: Managing the WEFE Nexus') or the PRIMA WEF4Med Project. Instead, it aims to contribute as an active participant to strengthen the vision, particularly regarding the goal of planning, financing, and **implementing solutions**





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III Med Water Forum (Cairo, 2018)

 **3^{ème} Forum Méditerranéen de l'Eau**
Processus Régional Méditerranéen pour le 8^{ème} Forum Mondial de l'Eau
Le Caire, 23 janvier 2018
the 3rd Mediterranean Water Forum
Mediterranean Regional Process for the 8th World Water Forum
Cairo, 22-24 January 2018

 **Mediterranean Water Forum**

WG3 - DEVELOPMENT: WATER – ENERGY – FOOD – ECOSYSTEMS NEXUS

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 **Global Water Partnership
Mediterranean**

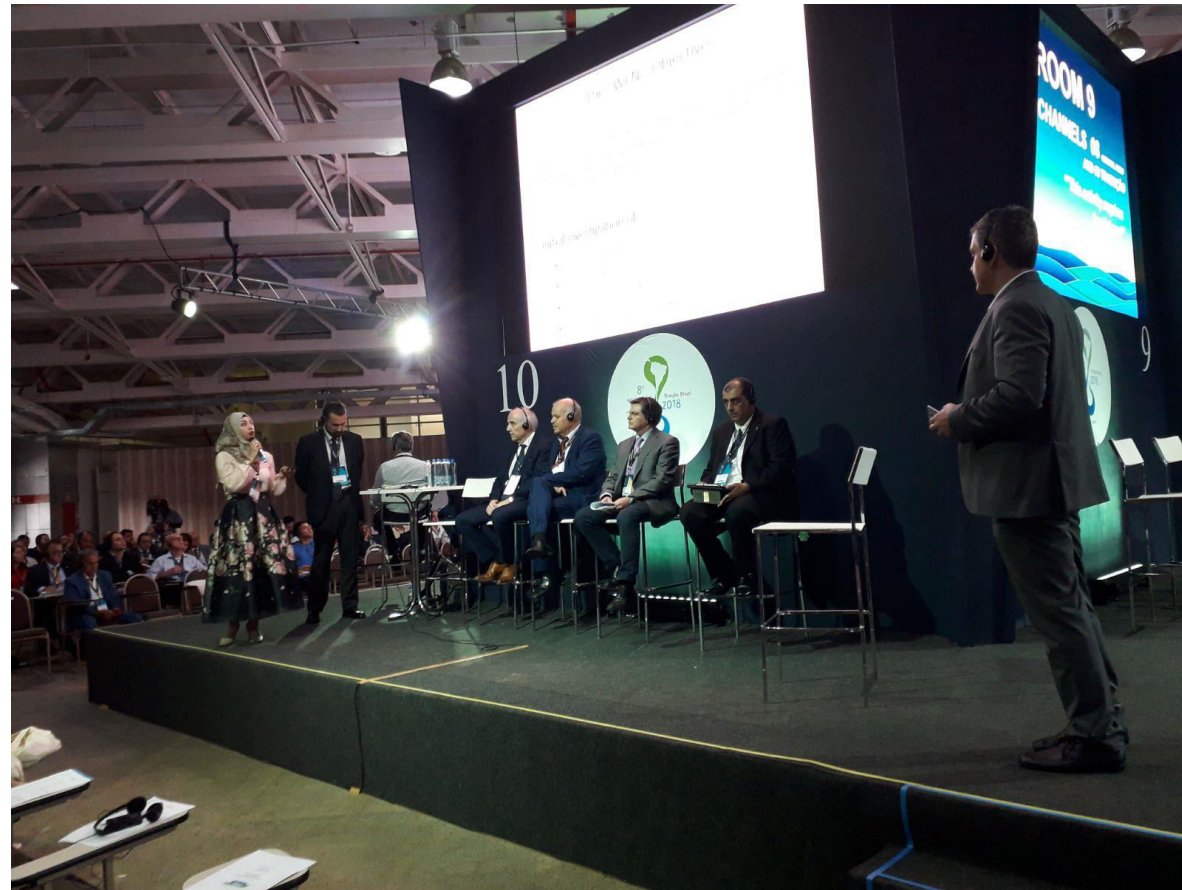
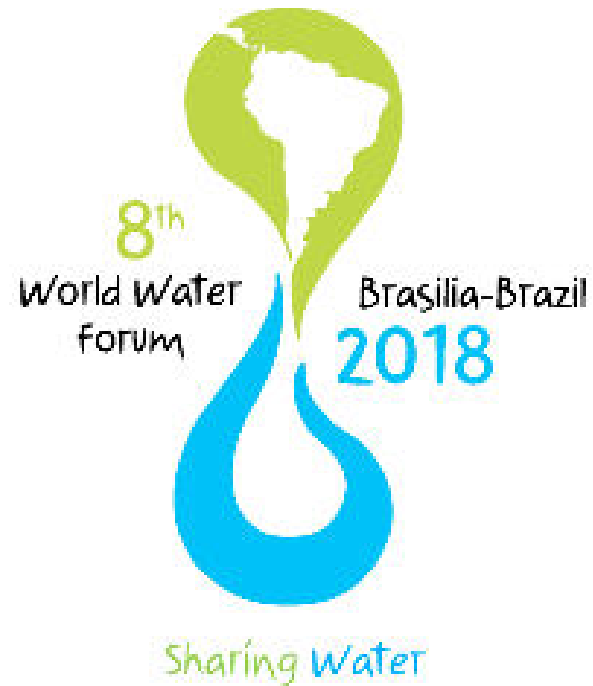
 **TYPSA
INGENIEROS
CONSULTORES
Y ARQUITECTOS**



VII World Water Forum (Brasilia, 2018)



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VII World Water Forum (Brasilia, 2018)

- **Benefits from nexus application** are multiple: from security of sectors to social – economic and environmental, including job creation. However, it is important to make explicit these benefits for a wider acceptance of the nexus approach by means of developing monitoring framework to evaluate the level of success when implementing nexus applications and by the application of ex-post analysis of specific examples to strengthen the case of the nexus at different levels and scales.
- Provide targeted **support**, including structural aspects, for **institutions** to tackle the difficulties of handling complexity relating to nexus application. This includes paying attention to the allocation of responsibilities of Ministries and how they affect the nexus application.
- When applying nexus approaches, there is a need to include different **stakeholders** from all levels, ensuring their active involvement through appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks.
- **Technology** needs to be adequately integrated in all activities to accelerate the meeting of sustainable development objectives.
- Water professionals need to **think beyond the water box** and consider options for integrating and synergizing energy and food production aspects as well





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IV Med Water Forum (Malta, 2021)

NO WEFE Nexus Session, included as part of the NCWR Topic



4th Mediterranean
Water Forum 2021



Mediterranean
Water Forum



9th WORLD WATER
FORUM | DAKAR 2021

**IS DESALINATION THE GLOBAL SOLUTION TO WATER SUPPLY
PROBLEMS IN THE ARID REGIONS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN? AN
ANSWER BASED ON THE NEXUS**





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V Med Water Forum (Tunis, 2024)



SERIES OF WEBINARS IME
Towards sustainable management and planning of water resources in the Mediterranean

On the following topics:
Water and Agriculture, Water and Energy, Information System, Climate Change

From March to October 2023

The approach of this series of webinars is to consider water resources planning and management systems and their coherence with the planning and management of other sectors (in particular energy and agriculture) in a context of climate change.

This approach is focused on:

- ✓ Exchange of experiences, successes and challenges in countries around the Mediterranean
- ✓ Positive coordination between strategic visions and local concrete actions
- ✓ Coherence between sectorial policies



5^{ème} Forum Méditerranéen de l'Eau
5-7 février 2024, Tunis

PROJET DE PROGRAMME DU FORUM (version 15.01.2024)

SAVE THE DATE
LANCEMENT DU 5^{ème} FORUM MÉDITERRANÉEN DE L'EAU, TUNIS 2024
Ensemble pour une sobriété hydrique partagée
18 octobre 2023 à Valence, Espagne
Processus préparatoire pour le 10^{ème} Forum Mondial de l'Eau de Bali, Indonésie





V Med Water Forum (Tunis, 2024)

- The problems of the water sector in the Mediterranean region cannot be solved by applying the traditional "silo approach" methodology. A **multi-sectoral approach** bringing together Water Energy Food & Eco-system should be adopted.
- This approach does not consider one sector above another. **Ecosystems** should not be considered as a subordinate element, but as a cross element that if it is not considered could jeopardize the whole analysis.
- Pilot projects have proved their effectiveness, but there are still many obstacles to be overcome before they can be rolled out on a large scale: technological, regulatory, cultural, financial, etc.
- The **integration of NCWR and renewable energies** is a challenge facing the Mediterranean region, where not only the water and energy sectors are involved, but also food and eco-systems.
- Integrating the WEF&E into **sectoral planning and policies** opens up the possibility of an inclusive and participatory process with broad social involvement to create an integrated vision that takes into account the expectations of women and men.
- The mission of **wastewater services** needs to be redefined as a "**multi-resource**" service, as the WEF&E framework offers us the opportunity to do so → become producers of water, energy, fertilizers and other components, as well as playing a public health role in the detection and monitoring of pandemics and micro pollutants.



X World Water Forum (Bali, 2024)



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Tuesday 21 May

Regional Process

RM1: WEFE Nexus

Presented by: **Juan OJEDA COUCHOUD**, Head of Water Engineering at TYP SA member Mediterranean Water Institute (IME)

📍 **KINTAMANI 3**
🕒 **13h00-14h30**

Speakers:

- Florika FINK-HOOIJER - DG Environment
- Almotaz ABADI, Deputy Secretary General Union for Mediterranean
- Ali RHOUMA, PRIMA Foundation
- Teodoro ESTRELA Former Water General Director, Government of Spain
- Jean-Marc PHILIP, Canal de Provence





X World Water Forum (Bali, 2024)

- To strengthen **policy integration and coordination**, it is essential to encourage policymakers to align WEFE Nexus principles with National Adaptations Plans and NDCs. Promoting inter-ministerial cooperation will ensure cohesive policy implementation across the water, energy, food, and ecosystem sectors.
- Enhancing **stakeholder** engagement is vital. This can be achieved by fostering inclusive and participatory processes involving local communities, private sector stakeholders, and international partners. Developing platforms for continuous dialogue and knowledge sharing among stakeholders is also crucial.
- Scaling up pilot projects is necessary for broader regional implementations. This involves addressing existing obstacles—technological, regulatory, cultural, and financial—that hinder the **scaling up** of **WEFE Nexus projects** implemented by several donors
- Developing **financial mechanisms** that attract private sector investment in WEFE Nexus projects and highlighting the economic advantages of integrated resource management will incentivize private sector engagement





From challenges to solutions

- WEFE Nexus could be **too theoretical**: It is difficult to move from the theory to practical solutions... And we NEED practical solutions! (The so-called WEFE Nexus Projects are most times a combination of different solutions that could have been made without any “NEXUS approach” theory)
- It has **no boundaries**: Almost everything could be under the umbrella of the NEXUS... and everyone thinks that they know exactly what is the most important part of it
- It is **too orientated to the Water Sector**: The level of approach in the Energy and Agroalimentary sectors is less developed
- Even the concept and practical use of the NEXUS is under discussion... Is just a more fashionable name for something that have been done since long time ago but under other names?



- “You can only improve what you can measure” (Lord Kelvin). Use of indicators (Virtual water?)
- At a policy level: Include WEFE Nexus approach in the sectorial plans (not just as an ethereal “coordination among sectors” recommendation)
- At a project level: Implementation of a **WEFE Nexus Assessment Plan** in the same way that a Environmental Impact Management Plan has been implemented decades ago



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Thank you!

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✦ www.worldwatercongress.com ✦