
West Asia/ Gulf Cooperation Council subregion

“The importance of sharing knowledge and information regarding climate change adaptation cannot be emphasized enough; regional networks that allow organizations to collaborate and share their experiences and lessons deserve our full attention and efforts. AGEDI is proud to have contributed to the LAKI process as the subregional coordination entity for the GCC and will continue working towards actively closing knowledge gaps.”

Ahmed Baharoon, Acting Director of the Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI)

Countries covered by the LAKE in the West Asia/GCC subregion



II.

West Asia/GCC subregion

Partnership with Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI)

Context

The second LAKE priority-setting workshop was held from 15-17 June 2015 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The workshop focused on adaptation knowledge gaps in the West Asia/Gulf Cooperation Council subregion which encompasses six countries.

The subregional MSG was composed of 18 experts from the private and public sector, civil society organizations and, most prominently, regional research institutions and academia.

Scoping paper

The scoping paper for the subregion identified 24 adaptation knowledge gaps through a literature review. The gaps fell into six thematic areas:

- > Water resources
- > Ecosystems (terrestrial and marine)
- > Coastal zones
- > Public health
- > Food security
- > Cross-cutting

Priority-setting workshop

Step 1

Refining the pool of knowledge gaps

The MSG reviewed the knowledge gaps identified in the scoping paper, adding, deleting, amending, and/or merging gaps and categorizing them in thematic groups. A total of 72 adaptation knowledge gaps were identified for consideration.



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Step 2

Prioritizing the knowledge gaps

The MSG defined seven evaluation criteria and their relative weights (see annex I). Over the course of two Delphi rounds, MSG members used these criteria to narrow the 72 gaps down to 10 priority gaps (see Table 2).

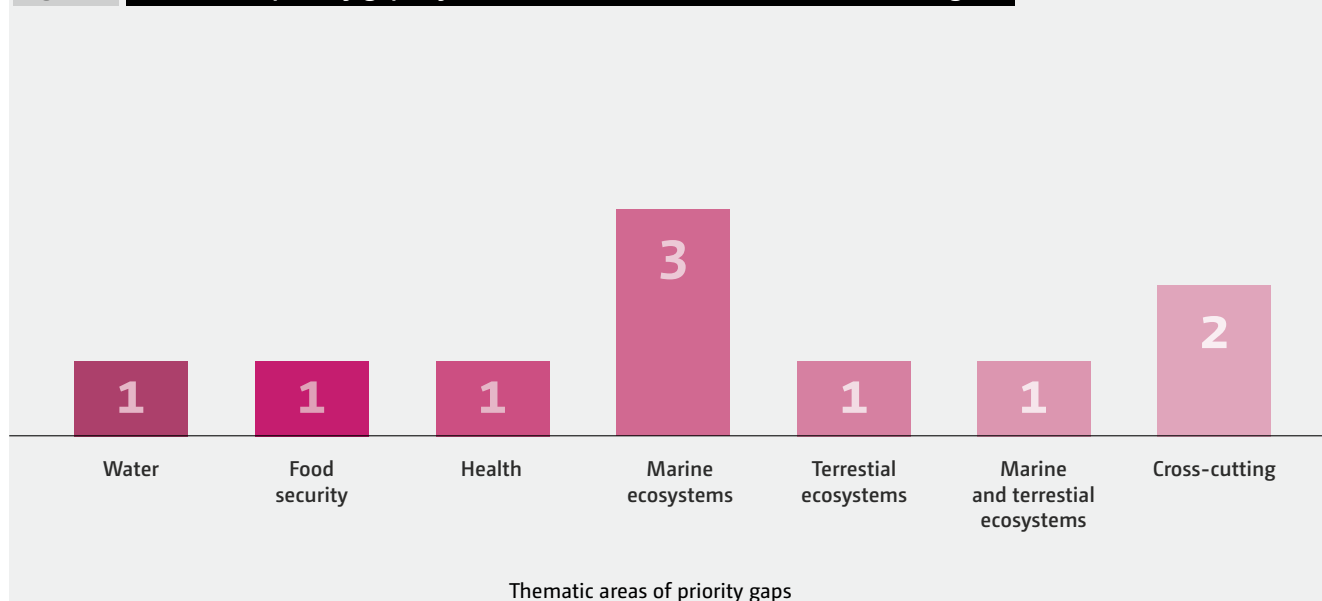
These gaps were fairly evenly distributed across seven thematic areas, with a slight concentration in the area of marine ecosystems (see Figure 5). The underlying cause of the gaps was also evenly mixed across the four cluster types, with most relating to two or more causes.

Step 3

Designing possible response actions

During the third step of the workshop, the MSG proposed potential response actions and noted implementing organizations that were well placed to carry these out. For gaps four and six related to insufficient information and technical capacity to address climate change impacts on marine ecosystems, the MSG suggested creating a habitat map of ecosystem services and a joint programme for capacity building. The MSG also suggested that gap one on water resources and gap eight on human health would benefit from improved data sources including technical and statistical reports as well as policy briefs.

Figure 5 Number of priority gaps by thematic area for the West Asia/GCC subregion



Implementing actions to close knowledge gaps

The outcomes of the priority-setting workshop for the West Asia/GCC subregion, including the full workshop report, were disseminated through the Adaptation knowledge portal.⁵

The results were complemented by a comprehensive (12 sub-projects) analysis of the impacts climate change is having and will have on the Arabian Peninsula⁶ released by AGEDI. The analysis was the product of AGEDI's Local, National, Regional Climate

Change Programme (2013-2017). AGEDI has also been active in a number of national and regional initiatives that are relevant to closing LAKI knowledge gaps. These include contributing to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, establishing national and regional blue carbon technical working groups, and supporting the Second Global Adaptation Network (GAN) Forum that was held in Abu Dhabi on 20-21 March 2018.

5. see: www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWP/Pages/LAKI-Asia.aspx

6. see: <https://www.ccr-group.org/cc-inspectors>

Table 2 | Priority knowledge gaps for the West Asia/GCC subregion

No.	Thematic area	Gap description	Cluster	Knowledge user
1	Water	Limited availability and access to observed data on quantity and quality of conventional (groundwater reserves, surface water, shared transboundary flows, recharge levels) and non-conventional (treated wastewater, desalinated water) water resources	Lack of data, lack of access [Mix]	Decision makers, planners, media, researchers, civil society including non-governmental organizations. Ministries of environment, water, agriculture and energy
2	Cross-cutting	Limited availability and lack of access to scenario data at various spatial scales for projected climatic variables, including temperature, precipitation, wind, evapotranspiration, drought, flash floods, sea level, extreme events, etc.	Lack of data, lack of access [Mix]	Climate modelers, researchers, climate change stakeholders
3	Terrestrial ecosystems	Fragmented baseline data (biological, ecological and climate) and lack of standardized methodologies for consolidating information on terrestrial ecosystems at the subregional level	Lack of data, lack of access [Mix]	National implementers, environmental agencies, research institutes, public authorities, academia
4	Marine ecosystems	Incomprehensive data and information as well as lack of integrated approaches related to climate change impacts on coastal and marine ecosystems' goods and services	Lack of data, lack of actionable knowledge (e.g., in need of repackaging existing knowledge), lack of tools/methods [Mix]	Environmental hubs in the region, decision makers
5	Marine ecosystems	Inadequate knowledge and awareness on coastal defense and protection services provided by coastal and marine ecosystems and their response to a changing climate	Lack of data, lack of access [Mix]	Decision makers, academia, civil society including non-governmental organizations
6	Marine ecosystems	Insufficient technical capacity for monitoring, assessing and projecting impacts of climate change in the marine ecosystems	Lack of access, lack of actionable knowledge (e.g., in need of repackaging existing knowledge), lack of tools/methods [Mix]	Municipalities, planners, policymakers

No.	Thematic area	Gap description	Cluster	Knowledge user
7	Food security	Limited knowledge of climate smart agricultural practices	Lack of actionable knowledge (e.g., in need of repackaging existing knowledge) [3]	Consumers and producers, farmers, decision makers, ministries of agriculture
8	Health	Lack of information and knowledge on the direct and indirect impacts of climate change on human health	Lack of data, lack of actionable knowledge (e.g., in need of repackaging existing knowledge) [Mix]	Ministries of health, faculties of medicines, syndicates of pharmaceuticals, World Health Organization, health agencies
9	Cross-cutting	Limited knowledge on developing adaptive measures and projects	Lack of tools and methods [4]	Local communities, civil society including non-governmental organizations
10	Marine and terrestrial ecosystems	Lack of knowledge of the costs of climate change impacts and adaptation investment opportunities for sustainable development in the marine and terrestrial ecosystems	Lack of tools and methods [4]	Gulf Cooperation Council Secretariat General Ministries

For more information, see the full workshop report available via the Adaptation knowledge portal at <http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/nwp/Pages/Home.aspx>