



Promoting sustainable groundwater resources in the Mediterranean Basin: improving technical and administrative skills in selected Mediterranean Basin municipalities to alleviate pollution of groundwater

Priority 2 Promotion of environmental sustainability at Basin Level

Measure 2.1 Prevention and reduction of risk factors for environment and enhancement of natural common heritage

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Programme
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REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Project in brief

Groundwater is the world's most important source of freshwater, constituting 97% of the earth's freshwater reserves. In many parts of the Mediterranean region, this resource is increasingly being polluted by human activities, causing the use of some aquifers to become endangered and undermining the role of groundwater in the hydrological cycle. While significant attention has been paid to national efforts to protect groundwater resources the role of local authorities has received considerably less attention. Given the large role they play in overseeing industrial and other polluting activities in their jurisdictions, local governments can in fact become significant actors in efforts to protect shared groundwater resources. This project aims to empowering a selection of Mediterranean municipalities with the technical and administrative skills to alleviate sources of groundwater pollution in their jurisdiction as well as enhancing cooperation across Mediterranean Basin municipalities to protect common natural heritage.

Beneficiary

EcoPeace Middle East Environmental NGO Forum / Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME) (Israel, Palestinian Authority and Jordan)

Partnership

1. Malaga County Council, European Resources Department (Spain, Andalucía)
2. Water and Environment Development Organisation (Palestinian Authority)

Specific objectives

- Improving technical and administrative skills at the municipal level to implement best practices for the protection of natural groundwater resources through the extension of pilot programs developed in the Middle East
- Building a broad and collaborative network of Mediterranean Basin municipal staff who can share knowledge and experiences on the protection and management of natural groundwater sources
- Creating commitment within the selected Mediterranean Basin municipalities to improve environmental performance within their jurisdictions using best practice guidelines
- Promoting joint awareness campaigns on common challenges regarding the pollution of groundwater across the Mediterranean Basin

Expected results

- Hazard reduction and Prevention Guidelines
- Memorandum of understanding signed by each participating municipality
- Trained municipal workers
- GIS map of hazards and pollution
- Mediterranean network of skilled municipal workers
- Municipal hazards audit report and implementation report
- Enhanced public awareness through dissemination

Target groups

- Municipal staff from 28 municipalities of Israel, Jordan, Palestinian Authority and Spain
- Water professionals

Final beneficiaries

- Local populations from the municipalities participating in the project (1,440,000 residents)
- All other residents in Israel, Jordan, Palestine and Spain who consume from the same water sources

Duration

30 months

Budget

- Total budget: € 1.599.138
- Programme contribution: € 1.439.224 (90%)
- Project co-financing: € 159.914 (10%)

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