

Training programme

Enhancing public and private sectors capacities to understand climate change impacts in the water sector, and design, finance and implement gender-sensitive and inclusive adaptation responses

First Integrated Training Workshop

For Public Sector Climate Finance Programming, Private Sector Climate Finance Programming, and Development of the Climate-Resilient Water Investment Programme

7 - 9 October 2025

Petrovac, Montenegro, Hotel Monte Casa

Concept Note and Agenda

In the framework of the MNE GEF Water Readiness Project:
Building technical and institutional capacity in the water sector in Montenegro to
facilitate inclusive climate resilience initiatives

Background

Montenegro is increasingly exposed to the impacts of climate change, the vast majority of which are water related. Changes in temperature and precipitation patterns are already disrupting hydrological cycles, leading to more frequent and severe droughts, water shortages, and seasonal stress on agriculture, energy systems, and public water supply. These impacts directly affect not only the water sector but also other key economic sectors such as tourism, hydropower, and agribusiness — putting long-term development at risk.

Yet, despite water being the primary vector through which climate change manifests in Montenegro, the sector remains largely absent from national climate policy frameworks. Existing climate change strategies are heavily mitigation-focused, with minimal attention to water-related adaptation needs. On the other hand, water sector policies and plans rarely incorporate climate risk considerations, resulting in fragmented planning and limited institutional readiness for climate-resilient water management.

This disconnect is further compounded by a critical lack of financing for adaptation — both domestic and international. Access to global climate finance mechanisms remains limited, and there is no dedicated platform or coordinated effort to develop water-related climate investment pipelines. While Montenegro's National Adaptation Plan identifies water as a priority sector, it currently includes limited, mainly short-termed adaptation actions.

Institutions such as the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Water Management, Directorate for Water Management, Water Administration and the Water Council are engaged in water governance but face technical and financial barriers that limit their ability to assess climate risk, plan adaptive responses, and prepare viable funding proposals. Without targeted capacity building and cross-sectoral coordination, Montenegro risks falling behind in securing the support needed to protect its water resources and economy from escalating climate impacts.

The Green Climate Fund (GCF), a financing mechanism of the 2015 Paris Agreement and the world's largest fund dedicated to financing climate change mitigation and adaptation projects, presents a unique opportunity for Montenegro to address its water and climate resilience needs.

Barriers to accessing Green Climate Fund investment for water and climate resilience, identified through baseline assessments include:

- Limited knowledge of GCF and climate finance procedures.
- Insufficient analytical tools and data to identify and quantify climate impacts on water systems.
- Low private sector engagement, especially in climate-sensitive sectors like energy production and irrigation.
- Lack of integration between public agencies, NGOs, and community stakeholders in climate planning.

- No consolidated methodology to screen or prioritize water-sector investments for adaptation value.

Project's interventions to address identified barriers to achieve water sector climate resilience

The project "***Building Technical and Institutional Capacity in the Water Sector in Montenegro to Facilitate Inclusive Climate Resilience Initiatives***" is a 24-month Readiness initiative (2024-2026) aimed at strengthening Montenegro's capacity to respond to climate change in the water sector. The project is financed by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), executed by the Global Water Partnership (GWP), and implemented by the Global Water Partnership Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and the Government of Montenegro. With a budget of approximately 797,000 USD, this initiative focuses on the Adriatic watershed in Montenegro and seeks to achieve the following objectives:

1. **Strengthen Institutional Capacity:** Enhance the understanding and response capabilities of key public and private sector actors in the water sector, ensuring they can effectively address climate change challenges.
2. **Develop Adaptation-Focused Investment Opportunities:** Create a pipeline of investment opportunities focused on climate adaptation, including at least one GCF Concept Note and a full Climate-Resilient Water Investment Plan. These steps will translate Montenegro's already identified water and climate resilience priorities towards bankable projects that can attract needed financing.
3. **Establish a Water and Climate Resilience Working Group:** Set up a working group integrated with the National Designated Authority (NDA) to facilitate continuous, inclusive stakeholder engagement throughout the project and beyond. This group will play a crucial role in aligning efforts across sectors and ensuring all relevant actors are informed and involved in decision-making towards water climate change resilient projects.
4. **Create an Online Knowledge-Sharing Platform:** Develop a platform to capture and disseminate lessons, tools, and best practices gained throughout the project. This platform will serve as a resource hub for stakeholders, enabling them to access relevant knowledge and apply it to future climate resilience efforts in the water sector.

Integrated Training Workshop Objectives

This workshop represents a continuation of activities in the implementation of the GCF Readiness project in line with objectives outlined above. The first training workshops for public and private

sector participants on climate finance programming — including the development of GCF concept notes — will be held back-to-back with the inaugural workshop on the development of the Climate-Resilient Water Investment Programme and aims to:

- Present a training programme for gender-sensitive and inclusive climate resilient water sector, developed in response to a capacity building and training needs assessment conducted during the inception period of the project implementation.
- Conduct the first training on Green Climate Fund financing mechanisms and procedures to access climate finance in the water sector.
- Present initial findings of the study *Development of Climate and Water Investment plan for Montenegro* commissioned by the project to provide high quality input data for future Water investment plan and seek stakeholder's feedback and validation. During the workshop the following outputs will be presented:

TASK 1: Development of Rapid Climate Risk Assessment (RCRA) in the Water Sector, and

TASK 2: Preparation of a Baseline Assessment of Water Sector Investment Needs.

Expected results

This first integrated training workshop brings together separate sessions designed for public sector, private sector, and investment programme development into a single, cohesive learning experience. The aim is to:

1. Foster cross-sectoral understanding, efficiency, and collaboration in developing and financing climate-resilient water investments.
2. Maximize synergies and learning potential with blended approach of theoretical training sessions with practical applications in development of the RCRA and gender-sensitive and inclusive adaptation responses by bringing diverse perspectives together in a common learning environment
3. Provide an overview of the capacity building and training programme to be implemented throughout the series of training and workshops.
4. Strengthen institutional coordination and collaboration in enhancing climate resilience of the water sector in Montenegro by improving the knowledge of the the Water and Climate Resilience Working Group members.
5. To enhance understanding of climate finance mechanisms and improve knowledge and capacities to access GCF resources.
6. Take stock, improve understanding and knowledge on historic and future climate change impacts on water sector in Montenegro and related investment needs.

Agenda

DAY 1 – Tuesday 7 October	
10:00-10:30	Registration of Participants
10:30–11:00	Welcome and Opening Remarks - Mr. Zoran Dabetić, State Secretary, NDA, Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, and Northern Region Development - Ms. Ivana Grujić, NDA, Director General of the Directorate for Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, and Northern Region Development - Mr. Dimitris Faloutsos, Regional Coordinator, Team Leader for Transboundary Issues, WEFE Nexus and Environment, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med)
11:00-11:15	Coffee Break
11:15-11:30	Status of the GCF Water Readiness Project: achievements and activities ahead Mr. Novak Čađenović, Senior Officer of GWP-Med and Head of GWP-Med Office in Podgorica
11:30-12:00	Capacity building assessment, GCF Training Programme Ms. Gergana Majercakova, Learning Specialist, GWP Secretariat  ↑ Upitnik
12:00-13:00	Training session: Introduction to Green Climate Fund - Mr. Rene Schieritz, Programme Specialist -Water and Climate Resilience, Global Water Partnership - Ms. Anjali Lohani, Senior Water & Climate Resilience Specialist, Global Water Partnership
13:00–14:30	Lunch
14:30–15:30	Training session: Introduction to Climate Rationale Methodology in water projects Mr. Rene Schieritz, Programme Specialist -Water and Climate Resilience, Global Water Partnership

	Ms. Anjali Lohani, Senior Water & Climate Resilience Specialist, Global Water Partnership
15:30–15:45	Coffee Break
15:45–16:45	Group Work: Introduction to Climate Rationale Methodology in water projects - Mr. Rene Schieritz, Programme Specialist -Water and Climate Resilience, Global Water Partnership - Ms. Anjali Lohani, Senior Water & Climate Resilience Specialist, Global Water Partnership
16:45-17:00	Closing Remarks and Introduction to Day 2 GWP-Med Podgorica
DAY 2 – Wednesday 8 October	
09:00-09:30	Registration of Participants
09:30-11:00	Presentation of the methodology and results of the Rapid Climate Risk Assessment (RCRA) in the Water Sector - Civitta David Heywood Riccardo Magini Hovhannes Atabekyan - Participant engagement, feedback
11:00-11:15	Coffee Break
11:15-13:00	Presentation of the ongoing and planned investments in the water sector and assessment of investments needs - Civitta David Heywood Riccardo Magini Hovhannes Atabekyan - Participant engagement, feedback
13:00–14:30	Lunch
14:30–16:45	Training & Group Work: Climate Change Vulnerability, Risk and Impacts identification in the context of GCF project concept development - Mr. Rene Schieritz, Programme Specialist -Water and Climate Resilience, Global Water Partnership - Ms. Anjali Lohani, Senior Water & Climate Resilience Specialist, Global Water Partnership
16:45-17:00	Closing Remarks and introduction to Day 3 GWP-Med Podgorica

DAY 3 – Thursday 9 October	
09:00-09:30	Registration of Participants
09:30-11:30	Training session: Identification and prioritization of Climate Change responses in the context of GCF project concept development - Mr. Rene Schieritz, Programme Specialist -Water and Climate Resilience, Global Water Partnership - Ms. Anjali Lohani, Senior Water & Climate Resilience Specialist, Global Water Partnership
11:30-11:45	Coffee Break
11:45-13:00	Co-design knowledge exchange platform Ms. Gergana Majercakova, Learning Specialist, GWP Secretariat, Stockholm, Sweden  Water Knowledge hub
13:00	Closing and Lunch