

## Preparation of the Second Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR2) Call for self-nominations of experts

**The Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change (MedECC) is pleased to announce a call for experts to contribute to the preparation of the Second Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR2). We are seeking a diverse group of experts willing to participate in the online Scoping Meeting scheduled for April 2025. Through this call, we also invite the scientist to indicate their willingness to contribute as an author for MAR2. The timeline of the process and different levels of authorship are indicated below.**

### About MAR2

Strong interest from Mediterranean governments and decision-makers in the First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1)<sup>1</sup> and subsequent Special Reports<sup>2</sup> has solidified MedECC's role as a trusted reference in the science-policy dialogue for the region. The MedECC work programme for 2025-2028 includes the preparation of the Second Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR2), aimed at providing updated scientific knowledge on the challenges of climate and environmental change, tailored to the Mediterranean's unique characteristics and supporting decision-making related to climate and environmental change and the associated risks. Building on the rapid evolution of scientific knowledge, MAR2 will reflect significant research advancements on key themes, encompassing the entire range of issues and assess progress on actions since MAR1. MAR2 will also identify knowledge gaps, informing the areas that require further research and data collection, as well as identify action needed to address climate-related challenges. The preparation of MAR2 will align with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) model of publishing reports approximately every seven years.

The report will represent the collaborative efforts of a team of leading experts and scientists who will volunteer their time and expertise without any financial compensation. Its preparation will follow the established principles of scientific assessments, similar to those applied for MAR1 and the IPCC, involving an open and rigorous process of author selection, external peer-review, and stakeholder consultation. The development of the report will include several stages of drafting, an open and transparent review and revision process, and consultation with stakeholders to ensure scientific accuracy and robustness, as well as strong policy-relevance. The Summary for Policymakers (SPM) will be the main outcome of the report and is anticipated to undergo the approval procedure by Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Member States

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<sup>1</sup> [Climate and Environmental Change in the Mediterranean Basin - Current Situation and Risks for the Future. First Mediterranean Assessment Report - MedECC](#)

<sup>2</sup> Special Reports (1) [Climate and environmental coastal risks](#), (2) [Interlinking climate change with the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems \(WEFE\) nexus](#), and (3) Environmental change, conflict and human migration.

representatives, Focal Points of the United Nations Environment Program/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and Plan Bleu/Regional Activity Center, as well as the submission for endorsement at the 25th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP25) in December 2027. The precise content and outline of the MAR2 will be developed in consultation with scientists, experts and stakeholders during the coming months.

## Call for self-nominations

We here invite **self-nominations from experts from the full range of scientific, technical and socio-economic expertise and backgrounds linked with the Mediterranean region**. We particularly invite experts from the southern and eastern Mediterranean to apply. It is very important that all the countries and subregions of the Mediterranean are represented among the MedECC report authors in a balanced way. Moreover, experts in economic, social and political sciences are encouraged to apply. This call is not restricted to scientists who already joined MedECC. To the contrary, you are invited to share this call with other experts of these matters you know. We are keen to extend the pool of MedECC authors and further enhance diversity in this community.

**This call is open from 27 January to 2 March 2025. You are invited to submit self-nominations [online](#) or by email to the MedECC Secretariat: [contact@medecc.org](mailto:contact@medecc.org). Please, indicate in the message subject field “MAR2 - call for experts”.**

## Participation opportunities

### 1. Scoping meeting participant:

Experts are invited to **participate in the online Scoping Meeting** scheduled for April 2025. This meeting aims to draft the outline for MAR2, ensuring that the report addresses the most critical issues and incorporates the latest scientific knowledge.

The MedECC Steering Committee (SC) will select participants based on the following criteria: scientific, technical, and socio-economic expertise, geographical representation, experience balance (a mix of experts with and without previous MedECC experience), gender balance, stakeholder and user group representation.

### 2. Authors for MAR2:

We also invite scientists to express their **willingness to contribute as authors**. Following the Scoping Meeting, a further nomination process will complete the selection of authors, ensuring that all expertise gaps are filled. The condition is to be an active scientist in the domain of the report with a PhD degree and publications. All self-nominations should indicate preferred author's role(s), key area of expertise within the topic of the report and be accompanied by a summary (maximum 4 pages) curriculum vitae in English. The MedECC Steering Committee (SC) will select Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs) and Lead Authors (LAs). The selection of Contributing Authors (CAs) will be a matter for the CLAs and LAs of each report and this will be decided during the writing phase.

Author roles for MedECC are assigned through a selection process overseen by the MedECC SC and are not remunerated. Authors should expect to dedicate a significant amount of time to this work, which will span approximately three years. Below, you will find further details on the selection process and a description of the author roles.

## Report timeline

The proposed preparation of each report follows the general principles applied in scientific assessments, as applied for MAR1. Author in-person meetings will be held yearly. Moreover, in order to reduce the amount of travel, the drafting of the report is expected to progress through online exchanges, supported by the MedECC Secretariat and Steering Committee (SC), held regularly on an established schedule. Please note that the work on the preparation of the reports will be conducted in English. The assessment process involves several stages ensuring thorough expert evaluation and iterative refinement of the drafts. Here's an overview of the MAR2 scheduled stages.

<p>2025 Q1-Q2 January 2025 - June 2025</p>	<p>Scoping of the report, nomination of authors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call for experts</li> <li>• Pre-scoping survey on interests</li> <li>• Scoping of the report content among scientific experts and key stakeholders, resulting in an outline approved by MedECC SC and major stakeholders</li> <li>• Selection procedure of (voluntary and self-nominated) Coordinating Lead Authors and Lead Authors emphasising scientific competence but also regional and gender diversity, the resulting list approved by the MedECC SC</li> <li>• Development of annotated outlines</li> </ul>
<p>2025 Q3-Q4 July 2025 - December 2025</p>	<p>Development of Zero Order Draft (ZOD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Lead Author Meeting</li> <li>• Preparation of ZOD chapters: collaborative assessment of the available scientific literature, guided by the Report Coordinators, assisted by MedECC Coordinators, Scientific Secretariat and MedECC SC, involving regular online meetings</li> <li>• Submission of the ZOD and internal peer-review (4 weeks)</li> </ul>
<p>2026 Q1-Q2 January 2026 - June 2026</p>	<p>Development of First Order Draft (FOD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second Lead Author Meeting</li> <li>• Preparation of FOD Chapters and Executive Summaries</li> <li>• Submission of the FOD and external peer-review (6-8 weeks)</li> </ul>
<p>2026 Q2-2027 Q1 July 2026 - March 2027</p>	<p>Development of Second Order Draft (SOD) and draft Summary for Policymakers (SPM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Third Lead Author Meeting</li> <li>• Preparation of SOD and draft SPM</li> <li>• SPM workshop</li> <li>• Submission of SOD and the SPM, external peer-review and consultation with stakeholders, governments, and policymakers (6-8 weeks)</li> </ul>
<p>2027 Q2-Q4 April 2027 - December 2027</p>	<p>Development of Final Draft and final SPM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fourth Lead Author Meeting</li> <li>• Preparation Final Draft SPM</li> <li>• Plenary consultation SPM (September 2027)</li> <li>• UNEP/MAP COP 25 (date tbc): submission for endorsement</li> </ul>
<p>2028</p>	<p>Preparation Final Draft of chapters Edition, final publication and dissemination UNFCCC COP 33</p>

### Roles and responsibilities

MedECC assessments are produced by selected experts who can play the following roles: Assessment Coordinators, Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs) of the assessment chapters, Lead Authors (LAs) of the chapters, Contributing Authors (CAs), Expert Reviewers (ER). The CLAs and LAs are responsible for drafting the report and revising it taking into account comments submitted by reviewers. The CLAs will also contribute to drafting, revising and finalising the SPM. The task of CLAs and LAs is a demanding one. Please, refer to the definitions here below for the description of the roles according to IPCC definitions.

<p><b>Report Coordinators</b></p>	<p>Usually, two and sometimes more experts are selected to serve as Coordinators of an assessment. Their role is to assume responsibility for <b>overseeing the preparation of an assessment report, including its Summary for Policymakers (SPM)</b> and ensuring that the report is completed to the highest scientific standard and addresses the key scoping questions. Besides overseeing the development of the assessment, a Report Coordinator can also contribute text to one (or more) chapters. A Report Coordinator is also responsible for coordinating with the CLAs to ensure that the chapters are delivered in a timely manner. Once the assessment has been approved, Report Coordinators engage in the outreach for the assessment deliverables.</p> <p>Time commitment can vary depending on the period of work and is typically between 20 and 30% of their time to the coordination of their assessment. They are expected to participate in coordination meetings: the author meetings, MedECC task force meetings, MedECC Steering Committee meetings, the Plenary Consultation and outreach events. The names of all assessment Report Coordinators will be acknowledged prominently in the assessment report.</p>
<p><b>Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs)</b></p>	<p>A CLA's role is to <b>assume overall responsibility for coordinating major sections and/or chapters of an assessment report</b>. CLAs have similar roles as LAs with the added responsibility of ensuring that major sections and/or chapters of the report are completed to a high standard, collected and delivered to the report coordinators and the MedECC Secretariat in a timely manner, and conform to any overall standards of style set for the document. They coordinate the work of the LAs and CAs involved in their chapter to ensure the highest scientific quality of the chapter as a whole. They also ensure that any cross-cutting scientific or technical issues which may involve several sections of a report, are addressed in a complete and coherent manner and reflect the latest information available.</p> <p>CLAs <b>coordinate the drafting of the executive summary</b> and based on this executive summary, <b>of the key messages of their chapter in the SPM</b>.</p> <p><b>Time commitment</b> can vary depending on the period of work and is typically 20% of their time to contribute to the coordination of their major section and/or chapter. They are expected to participate in the coordination meetings, including the author meetings, relevant chapter meetings, task force meetings and outreach meetings. All CLAs will be acknowledged in the assessment report.</p>
<p><b>Lead Authors (LAs)</b></p>	<p>A LA's role is to <b>assume the responsibility of producing designated sections or parts of chapters based on the best scientific, technical and socio-economic information available</b>. LAs typically work in small groups that together are responsible for ensuring the various components of their sections are brought together on time, are of uniformly high quality and conform to any overall standards of style set for the document. The essence of the LAs' role is to synthesise material drawn from the available literature and fully-justify unpublished sources, contributing authors, stakeholders and experts where appropriate.</p>

	<p>LAs can identify CAs who can provide additional technical information or graphics on specific subjects covered in the chapter. During the final stages of the report preparation, when the workload may be particularly heavy, LAs are dependent upon each other to read and edit material, and to promptly agree on any changes deemed necessary. LAs are also required to take account of expert and government review comments when revising text. LAs must have the ability to develop text that is scientifically, technically and socio-economically sound and that faithfully represents, as much as possible, contributions by a wide variety of experts. LAs are required to record in the report views which cannot be reconciled with a consensus view, but which are nonetheless scientifically or technically valid.</p> <p><b>Time commitment</b> can vary depending on the period of work, and is typically 15% of their time producing relevant sections and parts to their dedicated chapters. They are also expected to participate actively in the author meetings.</p>
<p><b>Contributing Authors (CAs)</b></p>	<p>A CA's role is to <b>prepare technical information in the form of text, graphs or data for inclusion by LAs in the relevant sections or part of a chapter</b>. Input from a wide range of contributors is key to the success assessments. Contributions are sometimes solicited by LAs but spontaneous contributions are also encouraged. Contributions should be supported, as far as possible, with references from peer-reviewed and internationally available literature. CAs are responsible only for contributing to a specific part of the chapter and do not work on the chapter as a whole. They will be listed as a CAs only if their input is included in the final report. CAs are not formally nominated. They are not privy to all communication in the chapter team but work directly with the LA or CLA who is coordinating the CA's technical input into the chapter.</p>
<p><b>External Reviewers (ERs)</b></p>	<p>ERs <b>carry out the external review of the First and Second Order Drafts of the assessment report and the SPM</b>. They have to register as an ER in order to be able to comment on the accuracy, completeness and the overall balance of the scientific, technical and socio-economic content of the drafts. An ER evaluates the quality, validity and relevance of the assessment. The aim of an external review is to provide authors with constructive feedback that will help in preparing an assessment of the highest quality.</p> <p>Experts who are not selected as authors are encouraged to contribute to the report as external reviewers. ERs are independent experts (i.e. experts not involved in the preparation of that particular chapter). They will be mentioned as expert reviewers in the final report.</p>