
First Water Integrity Training Course for MENA Region Concluded

Thirty participants from Oman to Morocco trained on improving transparency, accountability and participation in the water sector

Dead Sea, Jordan, 15 January 2015.

Thirty participants from Oman to Morocco successfully participated in the first water integrity training course for the Middle East and North Africa region held on 14 and 15 January 2015 at the Dead Sea in Jordan in connection to the 3rd Arab Water Week. The participants learned about methods to improve transparency, accountability and participation in the water sector for more sustainable water management.

This first regional course marks the start of training workshops, specifically tailored for the Middle East and North Africa region as part of the regional Water Integrity Capacity Building Programme in the Middle East and North Africa (WI MENA). For this purpose the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Water Governance Facility at the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) is cooperating with AWARENET, the Arab Integrated Water Resources Management Network, a Cap-Net UNDP affiliated regional network on capacity development in sustainable water management for the Arab region hosted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA), International Union for Conservation of Nature - Regional Office for West Asia (IUCN-ROWA), the Global Water Partnership (GWP) Mediterranean and for this event in Jordan with the Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA).

Promoting water integrity and fighting corruption in the water sector has the potential to create dramatic and lasting improvement for human dignity, health and equitable access to water. Additionally, it helps create a fertile ground for socio-economic development and investments in water. The overall objective of the regional water integrity training is to develop capacities of various water sector stakeholders for water integrity in the MENA region, thereby improving transparency and accountability practices in water resources management. This training in particular aims at reaching out to the wider MENA region; beyond the five pilot countries and the specific target groups of the WI MENA programme.

Starting in 2014, the UNDP Water Governance Facility at the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) is implementing the WI MENA program in collaboration with its regional and local partners. During 2014 the programme conducted water integrity risk assessments and mapped the capacity needs of the main stakeholders in water resources management in five pilot countries, namely Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia. Existing training material on water integrity was adapted to fit the needs of the region and a pool of water integrity trainers has been created to deliver water integrity trainings on the ground.

Contacts: SIWI, Ms. Alice Jaraiseh, alice.jaraiseh@siwi.org, AWARENET, Mr. Ralf Klingbeil, Network Coordinator, awarenet-escwa@un.org, IUCN-ROWA; Mr. Mufleh Abbadi, mufleh.abbadi@iucn.org