



WES-BCA
Water and Environment Support -
Biodiversity and Climate Action
in the Neighbourhood South region

WES-BCA Technical/Legal Roundtable on the Review of the NBS Analytical Regulatory Assessment and the Prioritisation of Legal Entry Points for Water-Related NBS

24 June 2026

Amman, Jordan

Signia Hilton, Meeting room III

**Activity Title: “Recommendations for the development of regulations in support
of NBS implementation”**

Activity Code: C1_N-JO-2

Concept Note & Agenda

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT

The regional EU funded “Water Environment Support-Biodiversity and Climate Action (WES-BCA)” project is the continuation of WES project and capitalises on the experience of three more successful predecessor regional EU funded projects SWIM-Horizon2020 SM, SWIM SM and Horizon 2020 CB/MEP. It supports the countries of the Southern Neighbourhood Region in addressing the improvement and protection of the environment, the restoration of biodiversity and the management of scarce water resources, while enhancing the resilience to climate change in the Mediterranean region, strengthening the formulation and enforcement of the relevant policies of the Partner Countries (PCs) and the two regional political frameworks, namely the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Barcelona Convention. WES-BCA will enhance the capacity of relevant stakeholders in order to support them in formulating and implementing policies in the aforementioned issues, raise awareness, increase knowledge and improve public understanding, stimulating behavioural changes needed for appropriate climate action and environmental protection.

WES-BCA has two components which run hand-in-hand:

COMPONENT I (Water, Biodiversity and Environment) with the specific objectives:

- to promote an integrated approach to biodiversity protection/restoration and pollution reduction/prevention
- to manage more efficiently scarce water resources in the Southern Neighbourhood

COMPONENT II (Communication and Outreach) with the specific objective:



WES-BCA

Water and Environment Support -
Biodiversity and Climate Action
in the Neighbourhood South region

- to raise awareness and better understanding by the general public (and specific segments of the population) including youth and women to stimulate adoption of appropriate behaviours and attitudes towards improved climate action and effective environmental protection.

1.2. CONTEXT

Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) are increasingly recognised as an important tool for addressing water-related challenges while simultaneously supporting climate resilience, ecosystem restoration, and biodiversity conservation. By working with natural processes and ecosystems, NBS can complement conventional infrastructure and contribute to stormwater management, aquifer recharge, erosion control, wetland restoration, soil-water conservation, and the protection of water resources. Such approaches are particularly relevant in Jordan's semi-arid environment, where enhancing the retention, infiltration, and efficient use of water is a national priority.

Despite growing interest in NBS and the implementation of several pilot initiatives in Jordan and the wider Mediterranean region, their uptake remains limited and fragmented. While elements supporting NBS can be found within existing legislation and regulatory frameworks, there is currently no comprehensive regulatory framework that explicitly promotes and facilitates the systematic integration of water-related NBS across sectors. Common challenges include limited legal recognition of NBS approaches, fragmented institutional responsibilities, insufficient coordination among water, land-use and environmental authorities, and a lack of dedicated financial and regulatory incentives to support their implementation and long-term management. Building on previous work undertaken under the WES project, including the activity on Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM) in Jordan, **this WES-BCA activity seeks to strengthen the enabling regulatory environment for the integration and upscaling of water-related NBS.**

The activity will review selected legal and regulatory frameworks in the areas of water resource management, land-use planning, and environmental and biodiversity protection in order to identify opportunities, constraints, gaps, and potential legal entry points for NBS integration. It will also examine institutional arrangements and identify options for improving policy coherence and coordination across sectors.

Based on the findings of the review and consultations with relevant stakeholders, the activity will develop **targeted recommendations and illustrative enabling provisions to support the integration of water-related NBS within existing regulatory frameworks.** It will further identify high-level options for financial and non-financial incentives and prepare a concise implementation roadmap outlining possible follow-up actions, responsible institutions, and enabling measures. Through this process, the activity aims to support Jordan in strengthening its regulatory

framework for water-related NBS while ensuring alignment with national priorities, international commitments, and relevant regional and international good practices.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE ROUNDTABLE

As part of Task 1 of Activity C1_N-JO-2, WES-BCA undertook a targeted review of the legal and institutional frameworks relevant to the integration of water-related NBS within existing regulatory frameworks in Jordan. The review focused on three priority sectors: water resource management, land use and spatial planning, and environmental protection and biodiversity conservation.

The work included the mapping of relevant laws, bylaws, regulations, and instructions; an assessment of institutional mandates and responsibilities; and an analysis of the extent to which existing frameworks recognise, enable, constrain, or omit water-related NBS approaches. The review also identified regulatory gaps, overlaps, inconsistencies, and potential legal entry points that could facilitate the future integration of NBS within existing frameworks. In parallel, a preliminary screening and prioritisation of identified legal entry points was undertaken using assessment criteria, resulting in an initial shortlist of the most promising provisions for further consideration.

The findings of this work have been consolidated in the Draft NBS Analytical Regulatory Review Report. **The present roundtable constitutes the main consultation and validation step under Task 2** and provides an opportunity for the Technical/Legal Committee - formed within the framework of the activity - to review the findings, provide technical and legal feedback, and jointly agree on the priority legal instruments and entry points that will form the basis for the preparation of targeted recommendations under Task 3.

The objectives of the roundtable are to:

1. Present the findings of the legal and institutional review undertaken under Task 1, including the mapped legal frameworks, institutional mandates, identified gaps, overlaps and inconsistencies, and the legal provisions flagged as potential entry points for the integration of water-related NBS, and to gather stakeholder feedback to refine and validate these findings.
2. Review and discuss the preliminary prioritisation (high, medium, and low priority) of the identified legal entry points and build consensus on the most promising provisions to be taken forward for the preparation of targeted recommendations under Task 3.
3. Confirm a shortlist of up to three legal instruments and 3–5 priority legal entry points, validated against the applied screening criteria, which will serve as the basis for the development of targeted recommendations and indicative enabling provisions under Task 3.



3. APPROACH TO MEET THE EVENT'S OBJECTIVES

The roundtable will be conducted as an interactive technical and legal consultation and validation exercise designed to support consensus-building among members of the Technical/Legal Committee regarding the findings and proposed prioritisation emerging from the Analytical Regulatory Review.

Given the relatively small number of participants (approximately 20), the roundtable will be organised in an interactive plenary discussion format using a U-shaped seating arrangement to facilitate direct interaction, open dialogue, and collective review of the findings in a collegial setting. The approach is intended to encourage active exchange among representatives from the water, environment, land-use, agriculture, and urban planning sectors, while allowing for detailed technical and legal discussion without the need for breakout groups.

Following the opening remarks, the roundtable will begin with an **overview of the objectives, scope, and expected outputs** of the WES-BCA activity, followed by an **introduction to the concept and categories of water-related NBS relevant to the Jordanian context**, and a presentation of the **analytical methodology** and **assessment framework** applied under Task 1. This will include the **screening approach** used to assess the extent to which legal and regulatory frameworks recognise, enable, constrain, or omit water-related NBS approaches, as well as the **prioritisation criteria** applied to rank the identified legal entry according to their relevance, feasibility, expected impact, legal clarity, strategic importance, and alignment with national priorities and commitments.

The main findings of the review will then be presented in a structured manner covering:

1. reviewed policy and strategic frameworks;
2. reviewed laws, regulations, and bylaws;
3. institutional mandates and coordination arrangements;
4. identified regulatory gaps, overlaps, inconsistencies, and constraints.

The presentations will be followed by a facilitated plenary discussion to gather technical and legal feedback from committee members and identify any additional considerations requiring reflection in the final Analytical Regulatory Review Report.

A dedicated working session will focus on the discussion and preliminary prioritisation of the legal instruments and provisions flagged as potential entry points for strengthening the integration of water-related NBS under Task 3. Participants will collectively review the proposed shortlist and discuss the proposed prioritisation considerations applied under the review process, including whether any additional considerations should be reflected from the perspective of the participating institutions and sectors. The proposed prioritisation considerations are:

- Relevance to water related NBS, national priorities and sectoral strategies;
- strength and legal clarity of the identified legal and institutional entry point;



- practicality and feasibility within the Jordanian legal and institutional context;
- Strategic significance including potential to support cross-sectoral coordination and implementation; and
- potential impact for enabling, operationalising and scaling of water-related NBS.
- Alignment with relevant national and international commitments

The prioritisation exercise will use an electronic scoring system to support comparison, discussion, and consensus-building during the session. Participants will individually complete online prioritisation and scoring exercise electronically during the session through an online link accessible via laptop or mobile phone. During the break, the project team will compile and consolidate the automatically consolidated results and prepare their presentation to support the subsequent plenary discussion and consensus-building process on the priority legal instruments and entry points to be reflected in the final version of the Analytical Regulatory Review Report and guide the preparation of recommendations under Task 3.

4. RESOURCE PERSONS & MODERATION

The roundtable will be facilitated by the WES-BCA expert team responsible for implementing Activity C1_N-JO-2 and supporting the legal and institutional review of frameworks relevant to the integration of water-related NBS in Jordan. Main Resource Persons:

- Prof. Michael SCULLOS – Team Leader, WES-BCA
- Ms. Seta TUTUNDJIAN – International Expert, Senior Legal and Policy Expert on Water-related NBS and Technical Coordinator of the Activity, WES-BCA
- Ms. Hala GHATTAS – Local Expert, Legal and Governance Specialist, WES-BCA
- Mr. Stelios VAVOULOGIANNIS – Junior NBS Expert, WES-BCA
- Ms. Suzan TAHA – Key Water Expert, WES-BCA
- Ahmad Bali - WES-BCA Water Focal Point, Head of Planning of Water Demand Department, MWI

The expert team will:

- Present the analytical approach and findings of the regulatory review;
- Facilitate the technical and legal discussions;
- Support the validation and prioritisation process for the proposed legal instruments and entry points;
- Guide the consensus-building process; and



- Document comments, feedback, and agreed outcomes to be reflected in the final Analytical Regulatory Review Report and subsequent Task 3 recommendations.

5. RESOURCES FOR PARTICIPANTS

To support informed participation and effective engagement in the roundtable discussions, **participants will receive a set of reference and working materials in advance of the meeting.** These materials will **include the Draft NBS Analytical Regulatory Review Report;** the draft **recommendations section and summary of the key findings translated into Arabic** to facilitate accessibility and discussion among participants; and the **concept note and agenda.** Additionally, **electronic copies of the laws and regulations reviewed** under the activity and referenced in the Analytical Regulatory Review Report will be compiled and made accessible to participants through the project platform/website as a reference resource during and after the roundtable. A limited number of flash drives containing the compiled legal and reference materials will also be made available during the meeting.

Participants are kindly requested to bring their laptops or tablets to facilitate access to and review of the reference materials during the discussions.

In line with the project's efforts to minimise paper use and promote environmentally responsible practices, the roundtable will be conducted primarily using digital and online reference materials. During the roundtable, participants will also be provided with:

- notebooks and pens;
- electronic access to the presentation slides and reference materials used during the sessions; and
- flipchart to support discussion and documentation of key points.

All presentations, reference materials, and any additional materials emerging from the roundtable discussions will remain electronically accessible to participants on WES BCA website following the event.

6. TARGET AUDIENCE

The roundtable is intended for members of the Technical/Legal Committee established under Activity C1_N-JO-2 to support the review of Jordan's regulatory frameworks relevant to the integration of water-related NBS.

The committee brings together representatives of key institutions with technical and/or legal expertise relevant to water-related NBS, including the MWI, Ministry of Environment (MoEnv), Ministry of Public Works and Housing/Jordan National Building Council, Ministry of Agriculture



(MoA), Greater Amman Municipality (GAM), and Ministry of Local Administration (MoLA). In addition, representatives from relevant technical and research institutions may participate, including the Jordan Institute for Standards and Metrology (JISM), National Agricultural Research Center (NARC), Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), and Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

The roundtable is designed to ensure balanced input from the water, environment, land-use, agriculture, and urban planning sectors, and may be complemented by additional institutions or subject-matter experts where specific expertise is required to support the review and prioritisation process.

7. REQUIREMENTS FROM THE PARTICIPANTS

Participants are expected to:

- review the Draft NBS Analytical Regulatory Review Report **in advance** of the roundtable;
 - actively participate in the technical and legal discussions and share perspectives from their institutional mandates and areas of expertise;
 - contribute to the validation of the findings, including identified gaps, overlaps, constraints, and opportunities related to the integration of water-related NBS within existing frameworks;
 - engage in the prioritisation and consensus-building exercise regarding the proposed legal instruments and entry points to be taken forward under Task 3;
 - provide technical and legal feedback on the proposed recommendations and implementation considerations; and
 - **bring laptops or tablets**, to facilitate access to the electronic reference materials during the discussions.
- No preparatory presentations or written submissions are required from participants.

8. LANGUAGE

The meeting will be conducted in English, with simultaneous interpretation provided - EN/AR/EN.

9. DATE AND VENUE

The event will be held **24 June 2026 in Amman, at the Signia Hilton Hotel (formerly Kempinski), Meeting room III**, in line with the daily schedule set out in the agenda.



AGENDA

WES-BCA Technical/Legal Roundtable on the Review of the NBS Analytical Regulatory Assessment and the Prioritisation of Legal Entry Points for Water-Related NBS

24 June 2026

Amman, Jordan

Signia Hilton, Meeting room III

Time

(Amman)

09:00-09:30	Registration and Welcome Coffee
09:30-09:45	Welcome and Opening Remarks
15'	▪ Prof. Michael SCULLOS, Team Leader, WES-BCA (TBC) ▪ Mr. Omar ABU EID, Programme Manager Energy, Environment & Climate Change, Cooperation Section at the Delegation of the European Union to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan ▪ Mr. Thaer ALMOMANI, Assistant Secretary General for Technical Affairs, MWI (TBC)
09:45-10:20	Presentation of the activity
5'	Overview of the Activity, Objectives, and Expected Outputs ▪ Ms. Suzan TAHA, Key Water Expert, WES-BCA
5'	National Perspective on the Importance of the Roundtable and the Prioritisation Process ▪ Mr. Ahmad BALI, WES-BCA Water Focal Point, Head of Planning of Water Demand Department, MWI
10'	Introduction to Water-related Nature-Based Solutions ▪ Mr. Stelios VAVOULOIANNIS, Junior NBS Expert, WES-BCA
5'	Analytical Methodology and Assessment Framework ▪ Ms. Seta TUTUNDJIAN, International Expert, Senior Legal and Policy Expert on Water-related NBS, technical Coordinator of the activity, WES BCA
10'	Q&A and Clarifications
10:20-11:20	Presentation of the Findings
10'	Presentation of Review Findings: Institutional Frameworks ▪ Ms. Seta TUTUNDJIAN, International Expert, Senior Legal and Policy Expert on Water-related NBS, technical Coordinator of the activity, WES BCA Q&A and Clarifications



WES-BCA

Water and Environment Support -
Biodiversity and Climate Action
in the Neighbourhood South region

Time

(Amman)

20'	Presentation of Review Findings: Policies and Strategies Ms. Hala GHATTAS, Local Expert, Legal and Governance Specialist, WES-BCA Q&A and Clarifications
30'	Presentation of Review Findings: Laws and Regulatory Frameworks - Ms. Seta TUTUNDJIAN, International Expert, Senior Legal and Policy Expert on Water-related NBS, WES-BCA - Ms. Hala GHATTAS, Local Expert, Legal and Governance Specialist, WES-BCA Q&A and Clarifications
11:20-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-12:50	Interactive Working Session: Discussion and Prioritisation of Legal Entry Points for Water-related NBS
30'	Presentation of Prioritisation Criteria and Preliminary Recommendations on and Proposed Legal frameworks and Entry Points, Ms. Seta TUTUNDJIAN, International Expert, Senior Legal and Policy Expert on Water-related NBS, WES-BCA
30'	Moderated Technical and Legal Discussion on Findings Moderated by: - Mr. Ahmad BALI, WES-BCA Water Focal Point, Head of Planning of Water Demand Department, MWI and - Ms. Hala GHATTAS, Local Expert, Legal and Governance Specialist, WES-BCA Discussion of identified gaps, overlaps, and institutional coordination issues Discussion of the preliminary recommendations of the prioritisation of legal frameworks and entry points Additional comments and reflections from committee members
20'	Prioritisation Exercise (involving all participants) Online individual scoring to prioritise legal instruments and entry points
12:50-13:10	Prayer and Coffee break and result consolidation
13:10-13:30	Consensus on Prioritization
40'	Moderated by Ms. Seta TUTUNDJIAN Summary of results of prioritisation exercise Discussion and agreement on prioritisation results
13:30-13:45	Next Steps and Closing Remarks (15 min)
15'	Ms. Suzan TAHA and Ms. Seta TUTUNDJIAN Finalisation of the Analytical Regulatory Review Report; Preparation of targeted recommendations under Task 3; Indicative timeline and stakeholder engagement process
13:45-14:00	Workshop Evaluation
14:00-15:00	Lunch