

WES-BCA PRESS RELEASE

The WES-BCA project water activity on supporting the integration of Water-Related Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) into Jordan's legal and regulatory frameworks

Athens, 24 June 2026

Following the online Kick-off Meeting of the WES-BCA water activity “Recommendations for the development of regulations in support of water-related Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) implementation in Jordan”, a Roundtable was held in Amman, Jordan, on the 24th of June 2026, to support a consensus-building among the members of the Technical/Legal Committee (representing the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, Local Administration and other institutions), regarding the findings of a Review of Jordan’s legal and institutional frameworks relevant to water-related NBS.

The Roundtable was organised as an interactive technical and legal consultation and validation exercise, during which the draft NBS Analytical Regulatory Review Report, focusing on three priority sectors: water resource management, land use and spatial planning, and environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, was presented and thoroughly discussed.

The draft NBS Analytical Regulatory Review Report and the preliminary prioritisation of legal entry points for Water-Related NBS, prepared by the team of WES-BCA water experts, covered the mapping of legal frameworks and institutional mandates, the analysis of regulatory gaps, overlaps and inconsistencies and constraints, as well as the identification of legal provisions that may serve as potential entry points for the integration of water-related NBS within existing regulatory frameworks.

Its main findings were discussed among the participants. Indeed, the open dialogue encouraged an active exchange among representatives from the water, environment, land-use, agriculture, and urban planning sectors and allowed a detailed technical and legal discussion.

The discussion also focused on the preliminary prioritisation of legal entry points and the validation of the proposed shortlist of priority legal instruments and entry points to be taken forward under the next phase of the activity.

The plenary discussion and consensus-building process will contribute to the preparation of targeted recommendations and high-level options for financial and non-financial incentives. These outcomes will be accompanied under the next phase of the activity by a concise implementation roadmap, outlining possible follow-up actions, and enabling measures.

The Nature Based Solutions 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.

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WES-BCA project

The EU funded “Water and Environment Support-Biodiversity and Climate Action (WES-BCA) project in the Neighbourhood South region” is the continuation of the WES project and aims to improve the 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 and the two regional political frameworks, namely the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Barcelona Convention.

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