



Cross-sectoral impacts and adaptation assessments - the CIRCE Mediterranean case studies

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To integrate the assessment of cross-sectoral impacts of climate change, the EU-funded CIRCE project - <http://www.circeproject.eu/> - is undertaking selected case-studies for urban (Athens; Alexandria; Beirut), rural (Tuscany; Apulia; El Hadya, Syria; Judean Foothills) and coastal (Gulfs of Valencia, Gabes and Oran; West Nile Delta) environments. A set of briefing notes provides an overview of the 11 case studies including the justification for selecting them, key hazards and vulnerabilities, data availability, and access to regional stakeholders and policy makers. The key issues vary depending on case-study type. For rural areas, for example, agriculture, water resources, biodiversity and tourism are crucial issues. Whilst energy use, air quality and thermal comfort, together with the related health issues, are major concerns for urban areas, as is water supply and demand. A rigorous common framework will be used for all the case studies - which is outlined in a conceptual framework document. This document describes the process being used to identify a common set of environmental, vulnerability and sustainability indicators tailored specifically for the Mediterranean. These indicators will be constructed using outputs from the wider CIRCE project, including new coupled atmosphere-ocean RCM simulations focusing on the Mediterranean. They will be used to identify likely adaptation and mitigation strategies using bottom-up (via regional workshops with stakeholders and policy makers) and top-down approaches.