

CLIMATE ACTION PATHWAY

WATER

Executive Summary

November 2019



Vision statement

By 2050 the water sector will be largely decarbonized through the use of alternative energy sources such as solar and combined heat and power cogeneration, as well as through aggressive conservation, reuse and efficiency efforts. Water infrastructure will be designed and built to be both robust and flexible across a range of possible climate futures, providing reliable service and improved performance over time. Water resources management will be integrated into climate planning at all levels (including transboundary), and across sectors to ensure that water is available in adequate quantity and quality at the time it is needed for both people and ecosystems. This will be accomplished by instituting climate-resilient water governance, institutions, basin organizations, and regulatory and legal frameworks that ensure full inclusion of all stakeholders, especially disadvantaged and underrepresented groups, such as ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups. The private sector contributes by analyzing and sharing water-related risks, measuring and reporting water use data, funding innovation, and taking steps to reduce impacts on water in operations and throughout the value chain.

Water resources will be used to contribute to the recovery and maintenance of terrestrial and marine carbon sinks including wetlands, peatlands, and mangrove forests. In turn these ecosystems will improve the resilience of communities around them by providing habitat for inland and coastal fisheries, buffers from extreme weather, water filtration, storage in times of water scarcity and additional absorptive capacity during floods. Society is thriving due to improved access to water and sanitation, which leads to lower rates of water-borne illness, forced migration and resource conflict, higher rates of school attendance, reduced poverty, and improved economic productivity.



Milestones towards 2050

By 2020

- Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and national adaptation plans (NAPs) will be updated to include resilient water management approaches/tools.

By 2030

- Enabling environment for resilient water management is put in place.
- Access to conventional and alternative climate finance for water-related mitigation and adaptation projects is mainstreamed.
- Climate adaptation and resilience efforts will be underway in at least 100 river and groundwater basins worldwide (including transboundary).

By 2050

- Transition to low-carbon climate-resilient water infrastructure and governance, based on resilient water management is completed.
 - Water is considered in all national climate mitigation and adaptation plans.
 - At least 100 cities have developed and implemented integrated urban water resilience planning and investment to address critical vulnerabilities in water-related infrastructure and management.
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Progress

- As of 2019, over USD 8 billion in certified climate water bonds has been issued, in compliance with water infrastructure criteria for both built and nature-based water projects set by the Climate Bonds Initiative. Standards for hydropower are expected in 2020.
- As of 2018, 150 national adaptation focal points have received basic training on resilient water management for enabling climate change mitigation and adaptation goals. Dozens more are set to receive in-depth training through month-long regional adaptation training certifications, set to start in 2020.
- As of 2019, over 50 companies with USD 650 billion in annual revenue have joined the Business Alliance for Water and Climate (BAFWAC) commitment to: Analyze and share water related risks to implement collaborative response strategies, measure and report water use data, and reduce impacts on water in operations and throughout their value chains. At the same time over 160 companies have endorsed the CEO Water Mandate Pledge.
- As of 2019, roughly 80% of intended NDCs include water-related adaptation measures.

Climate Action Table

This summary should be read in combination with the corresponding Climate Action Table for this area that outlines concrete actions for 2020, 2030 and 2050 with respect to policies, finance and investment, technology and innovation, business and services and civil society towards fully implementing the Paris Agreement.

Contributions

Under the leadership of the High-Level Champions and through the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, the development of this Climate Action Pathway was led by the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA) in collaboration with CDP, French Water Partnership, Global Alliances for Water and Climate (GAFWaC), Global Commission on Adaptation Water Action Track, IUCN, UNESCO-IHP, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and the World Water Council.