



IMPLEMENTATION LAB

Unlocking Implementation: Climate-Resilient Water Systems & Participatory Governance

Concept Note

Version: 20 April 2026

Friday, 24 April 2026 | 10:30 – 12:30 (KST) | Room: Seminar Room 4

Background and Scope

At 2026 UNFCCC Climate Week 3 (CW3), Implementation Labs, as part of the Implementation Forum, are designed as hands-on, solution-oriented sessions focused on implementation bottlenecks and tested solutions for scaling implementation, convening non-Party stakeholders (NPS), including private sectors, civil society, and subnational entities as well as policy makers to discuss enablers and barriers to escalating solutions from perspectives of each stakeholder groups. Topics of the Implementation Labs correspond to the six axes of the Global Climate Action Agenda in alignment with the first GST outcome.

Droughts, floods, and other extreme climate events are intensifying across the world, threatening water security. At the same time, innovative approaches and participatory governance models are increasingly demonstrating how to deliver safe, climate-resilient water management outcomes in high-risk contexts.

As part of Axis 4 - Building Resilience for Cities, Infrastructure and Water of the Global Climate Action Agenda, over 100 initiatives are dedicating efforts developing resilient cities, infrastructure, and water systems to withstand climate shocks through integrated governance, sustainable construction, and inclusive urban planning to ensure climate-ready futures. Their collective work converges around three Plans to Accelerate Solutions - [Water Management and Participatory Governance](#), [Just Water Partnerships](#), [Ensuring Access to Safe Water for Communities in Vulnerable Situation](#). This Implementation Lab aims to identify bottlenecks in implementing climate-resilient water management and participatory governance, and to collaboratively unlock scalable solutions with policymakers, subnational entities, civil society, private sector, and finance stakeholders.

Objectives

- Diagnose implementation bottlenecks in climate-resilient water management and participatory governance, particularly in high-risk contexts;
- Workshop scalable solutions that strengthen climate-resilient water management through participatory governance, enabling access to safe water in vulnerable contexts;
- Facilitate dialogue between implementers and investors to support the development and scaling climate-resilient water management;
- Produce concrete, actionable recommendations.

Preliminary Agenda

10:30- 1. Welcome and Introduction

10:40 Moderator: **Ms. Emmanuelle Pinault**, Director, Action Agenda Delivery, Climate Champions Team



 10:40- 2. Pulse Check: Identifying implementation challenges

 10:45 Mentimeter interactive activity

10:45- 3. Panel Discussion: Lessons on Participatory Water Governance

- 11:15
- **Ms. Gabriela Antunes, Brazil Ministry of Integration and Regional Development**, representing the Plans to Accelerate Solutions on Water Management and Participatory Governance and Ensuring Access to Safe Water for Communities in Vulnerable Situation
 - **Ms. Gihye Shin**, Senior Manager/Water Sector Specialist, K-Water/KOICA
 - **Ms. Julie Teng**, Technical Specialist on Adaptation Planning and SCALA Global Coordinator, UNDP
 - **Ms. Debra Tan**, Director and Head, CWR
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11:15- 4. Implementation Unlocking – Strengthening Water Security & Participatory Governance

12:00 Exploring root causes of priority bottlenecks and examining proven solutions and collaboratively identifying the specific enabling conditions needed to scale implementation. There are two breakouts in which participants self-select:

Financing Participatory Governance

Facilitator: Ms. Julie Teng, Technical Specialist on Adaptation Planning and SCALA Global Coordinator, UNDP

- What are good examples of water funds, results-based mechanisms, and blended finance?
- What unlocks sustained investment in governance rather than just infrastructure?
- What can enable institutional buy-in and long-term commitment?

Policy, Regulation & Local Delivery

Facilitator: Ms. Maria Clara Nascimento, C40 & COP 30 Presidency

- What legal and institutional frameworks allow communities to meaningfully co-manage water resources?
- What are the enabling factors for decentralization?

Data, Tools & Technology

Facilitator: Ms. Gihye Shin, Senior Manager/Water Sector Specialist, K-Water/KOICA

- Who owns the data? Is it accessible and trustworthy? How does it feed into decision-making?
- What makes citizen science, real-time monitoring, and participatory platforms work? How can they be scaled?

In the final 10 minutes, each group will identify two key takeaways to briefly share with the plenary.

12:00- 5. Closing and Next Steps

 12:05 Presenting concise implementation insights and next steps, with a synthesis of cross-cutting messages to inform Climate Week outcomes and COP 31 discussions
