



**UNFCCC COP 24  
Katowice, Poland**

**Outcome Document  
Action Event: Water**

Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

Friday, 7 December 2018  
15:00 – 18:00

Organised by: Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA), Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), French Water Partnership (FWP), German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Global Alliances for Water and Climate (GAfWAC), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), UNESCO-IHP, World Water Council (WWC)

# Section 1 – Outcomes of the Action Event at COP 24

## Key Messages

Freshwater is an essential component for both climate change mitigation and adaptation. Because water is a master variable for life on earth, if we fail to address water management within our plans and actions, we will fail to reach our climate goals. For this reason, we must also ensure that climate finance is directed towards mitigation and adaptation activities that - at a minimum - do not inadvertently exacerbate existing and anticipated water stress, and ideally help alleviate these stresses.

As we move into the implementation phase of the Paris Agreement, water can be an important mechanism through which countries - together with private actors, research institutions, NGOs, international organisations and networks - scale up and diversify our climate action. Adaptive water management approaches and tools, as illustrated in our COP24 Water Action Event, can offer a wide range of co-benefits for sequestering carbon, reducing GHG emissions, and adapting to a range of possible climate futures. Nature-based solutions such as green infrastructure offer cost-effective options for humans to adapt with nature, can act as important carbon sinks and help make our communities more resilient in the face of shocks and stressors such as storms and drought. These tools and approaches can contribute to increasing NDC ambitions, also through important cross sectoral benefits for cities and human settlements, oceans, energy, agriculture and landscapes. Hence adaptive water management solutions can build resilient societies whilst delivering mitigation solutions.

Private sector innovation and leadership is key; water underpins our economies and sustainable management of our limited resources is critical for economic growth and sustainable development. Our Water Action Event at COP24 featured two sessions highlighting positive water solutions both for Parties looking to strengthen their NDCs, and for the private sector, where companies like IKEA are working not only to account for water in their supply chains but to positively contribute to improved water quantity and quality in the ecosystems surrounding their facilities, while reducing the need for energy-intensive water supplies within their operations.

## Impacts and progress showcased

### 1. Impacts or high-impact levers that the Action Event addressed

The first session focussed on the role of water as a connector to achieve resilient NDCs and the contributions of state and non-state actors. Main impacts were:

Role of Wetlands for NDCs:

- Protect and restore degraded peatlands to mitigate and adapt to climate change and enhance biodiversity and disaster risk reduction.
- Identify peatlands as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) for global climate change regulation as an additional argument to existing Ramsar criteria to better harmonise Ramsar and climate goals.
- Connect the impacts and challenges of urbanisation, increased agriculture and climate change for sustainable wetland management.
- Align global biodiversity goals with Ramsar Guidance and implementation of climate action

Role of ecosystem-based strategies:

- Invest in ecosystem-based (also called nature-based) strategies, as cost-effective components that combine disaster risk and climate change adaptation and mitigation policies and practices
- Set standards and regulatory limits governing discharges into water bodies, ecological standards in water quality, and minimum run-off in order to maintain intact ecosystem services
- Green roofs for capturing rainwater
- Improved management of urban run-off (infiltrations, permeable pavements)
- Planting of crops across slopes to reduce erosion and increase infiltration
- Forest landscape restoration to abate flood impacts, stabilise slopes and provide clean water
- Connecting rivers to floodplains and aquifers
- Provide riparian buffers to maintain water quality and reduce erosion
- Conserving and restoring wetlands: purifying wastewater and alleviating flooding
- Rehabilitation and conservation of natural water reservoirs, such as lakes and groundwater
- Implementation of sustainable land use planning, for example by creating water retention areas (flood plains) that are practical in hydrological terms and useful in ecological terms

Improve water and sanitation services to realise mitigation potentials:

- Energy efficiency in water distribution & water losses
- Use of innovative technologies and smart meters for low-emission wastewater management
- Solid waste management: transform thermo & waste to energy

Make use of climate risk informed decision making.

- Use climate-smart water management practices
- Improve engagement with local communities through participatory approaches
- Include gender perspectives to planning and implementation.

The second half of the GCA Water Event focused on the role of the private sector in addressing water and climate risks, re-assessing the complex and shifting trade-offs between sectors and the environment in order to actively move towards more sustainable production and consumption models, in line with both the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030 (SDG12). The SDG12 mandate of “doing more and better with less” requires a fundamental reevaluation of current business models and our session provided Parties and companies with positive examples of how freshwater can contribute to reaching the ambitious targets under the Paris Agreement as well as the SDGs. For example:

- **IKEA** is reducing its need for energy-intensive water treatment in all of its plants and factories through water harvesting, re-use and recycling. In 40 factories throughout 10 countries, they are using green roofs to collect (non-polluted) rainwater that can be re-routed to recharge groundwater or improve wetlands surrounding their facilities.
- **The City of Paris** is currently piloting an innovation programme to design and build a facility that will methanise the whole organic fraction of Greater Paris’ municipal waste, together with a large fraction of its wastewater treatment sludge, in a way that maximizes energy and biogas (biomethane) production, minimises by-products from the process, avoids residual product being returned to the soil, while meeting the highest environmental standards.
- In Albania, a **Youth Water Community-led project called *Fishme Ishmi*** is working to reduce plastic pollution in the Ishmi River and create green jobs, using drones to monitor and track plastics in the river and to recover and recycle the plastic. They have also launched an education campaign, teaching community members and school children to be better stewards of the Ishmi, one of the most polluted rivers in Europe.
- In response to the recent 10 year drought, **Australia** has launched a water information campaign that aims to educate consumers about sustainable water use and now requires new labels showing the water use efficiency of all water-using appliances sold in the country so that consumers can make informed choices.

- **TechMarket**, a Swedish company that researches and designs technological innovations for sustainable energy and environmental applications, has developed a new scheme for retrieving nutrients and energy from eutrophic waterbodies. The excess nutrients are dredged and then used on nearby agricultural fields or in the production of biogas. This process is financed in part by companies looking to offset their carbon emissions.

## 2. Goals to achieve

### Short-term:

- Assist parties with water related activities for NDC ambition strengthening
- Update NDCs until 2020 by aligning national water strategies with climate strategies
- Include adaptive water management tools and approaches within country-level adaptation and mitigation plans

### Mid-term:

- Adopt an integrated manner to planning, investing and implementing the NDC's and SDG's in order to be efficient and sustainable on water dependent cross-cutting issues regarding for instance health (management water-prone diseases), agriculture (sustainable irrigation), energy (cooling-processes and energy efficiency), ecosystems (ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation)
- Align wetland protection and climate action in national planning strategies to combine adaptation and mitigation co-benefits.
- Align DRR and climate risk strategies.

### Long-term:

- Greenhouse gas emissions in the water sector are reduced
- Ecosystem services are preserved through improved and more effective regulation of the water and environmental sector
- The restoration of ecosystems helps to provide natural means of water purification, thereby ensuring that drinking water supplies are of high quality.
- The water supply of a specific target group can be assured despite the likelihood of water scarcity developing as a result of climate change
- Enhanced data, information and analysis systems used for water resources management will flow into infrastructure planning and will increase the ability to predict water-related risks, thereby offering a basis for appropriate planning

## **Section 2 – Outcomes of the work of The Thematic Area in 2018**

### **Overview of progress in 2018**

One of our primary objectives, through our work in the Marrakech Partnership, is to increase the coherence and connectivity between the global climate and water communities, to ensure that actions taken are both water-smart and climate-resilient. Over the past year our members have held several climate and water events and sessions including at the 8th World Water Forum, SB48, UN High Level Political Forum, Stockholm World Water Week, and elsewhere with the objective of demonstrating the

benefit of adopting robust and flexible management tools and approaches to climate adaptation and mitigation within the NDCs and the UNFCCC more generally. This COP24 Water Action Event showcased water solutions for climate adaptation and mitigation that are particularly relevant to NDC implementation.

In the short to medium term, we aim to influence the revision and implementation of NDCs to include adaptive water management tools and approaches within country-level adaptation and mitigation plans. In the initial NDCs, water management was included in over 90% of INDCs including an adaptation component. While this is a positive indication that countries are quite aware of the importance of water for adaptation, we are still working to demonstrate water's benefit for mitigation activities. In our event, we also highlighted that whilst water is identified as a priority area in the NDC's, the other priority areas (agriculture, health, ecosystems...) are all water dependent and many priority areas are mirrored in the SDG's. Therefore, at the national and local level, it is essential to adopt an integrated manner to planning, investing and implementing the NDC's and SDG's in order to be efficient and sustainable. With its strategy for interlinking water, the environment and climate change, BMZ published a mandatory guideline for Germany's official development cooperation. It sets a good practice for integrating and aligning national water strategies with climate strategies.

Whilst data collection and monitoring is essential for planning and decision making, all the impacts of climate change cannot be predicted and many trade-offs are expected. Hence it is important to develop bottom up approaches to decision making that takes into consideration the risk uncertainties and adopt a no regret perspective. A practical example of how this could be reached was highlighted in October of 2018. UNESCO launched a new guide book for making improved water decisions under climate uncertainty, co-authored by a few members of the GCA Water group. This stepwise approach, entitled Climate Risk Informed Decision Analysis (CRIDA), helps managers, particularly in regions with limited climate and hydrologic data, make informed decisions regarding infrastructure and other investments that are robust and flexible, in light of future climate uncertainty. This methodology has been utilized in a diverse array of countries including Mexico and Zambia and has a growing community of practice. It was presented at the COP, both at the Water Action Event as well as during a Climate Classroom session with the IPCC. More information is included in the "new initiatives" section.

Additionally, we held two official UNFCCC Talanoa Dialogue events at World Water Week in Stockholm, bringing the Talanoa spirit to the global water community and discussing with climate and water experts how to better integrate resilient water management tools and approaches within country NDCs, to help ensure better outcomes for mitigation and adaptation activities on the ground. Over 2018, we contributed to the Talanoa Dialogue at the Bonn 48th intersession and through online submissions. We also supported the process through RINGO's contributions.

## **Impacts and progress showcased**

### ***Existing initiatives:***

- The Global Alliances for Water and Climate (GAFWaC):
  - The purpose of GAFWaC is to develop and support common projects involving water stakeholders with complementary approaches focusing at different levels and on distinct domains: urban level, basin level, and industry/business level
  - In 2018 we are supporting 10 climate change adaptation projects in river basins throughout the world. We also launched a region-specific, 5-year initiative, "100 water and climate projects for Africa", all under the framework of the Incubation Platform of the Global Alliances for Water and Climate (GAFWaC) and as a commitment to the first "One Planet Summit" (December 2017, Paris). The Incubation Platform (GAWCIP) provides assistance to project holders to develop project proposals that are technically and financially mature enough to be submitted to climate finance donors. With support

from the World Bank, the French Development Agency and France’s Water Agencies, the incubation of 20 of the “100 water and climate projects for Africa” are already under development, with exemplary projects developed for instance in the transboundary river basins of Senegal, Niger and the Congo. In order to share our expertise and lessons learned, the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) in its role as the Secretariat for GAFWaC, has just co-authored a practical guide on [how to finance climate change adaptation in transboundary basins and prepare bankable projects \(see: https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/31224\)](https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/31224). The study, initially published in English, will be available in Spanish and French in March 2019.

- Participating entities/organizations:
  - Alliance of Basins for Climate (steering committee): the International Network of Basin Organizations
  - Alliance of Megacities for Water and Climate (steering committee): UNESCO-IHP, ICLEI, SIAAP, ARCEAU-IdF
  - Business Alliance for Water and Climate Change (steering committee): CEO Water Mandate, Suez, CDP, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
  - Global Clean Water Desalination Alliance (steering committee): IRENA, Clean Energy Business Council, Masdar, Engie, ACWA Power, Mascara
  
- #ClimatelsWater initiative
  - Impact: #ClimatelsWater is an ongoing effort, forming a coalition of water partners to speak with one voice for water. The main objective is to strengthen the position of water within international climate summits and UNFCCC processes. It provides a platform where members of the water community can share information among themselves and beyond their networks, and collaborate to create a louder, unified voice to achieve higher impact in reaching out to the climate community at every level for better consideration of water issues.
  - Throughout 2018, #ClimatelsWater held several meetings to coordinate strategies and draft a communication plan with key messages through 2018. In addition to this the initiative has been involved in several milestone events throughout the year engaging with its supporting organizations and organizing several sessions (8th World Water Forum and Stockholm World Water Week).
  - Participating entities/organizations from the Marrakech Partnership: World Water Council, SIWI, AGWA, UNESCO-IHP, IUCN, INBO, French Water Partnership
  
- Nature Insurance Value: Assessment & Development (NAIAD 2020)
  - Impact: The NAIAD Horizon2020 Project aims to demonstrate the role that nature can play as an insurance system against the impacts of climate change, by developing a replicable method for the planning and implementation of Nature Based Solutions (NBS), supported by the development of financial instruments and novel business models in support of their implementation. For public institutions dealing with water risks, we will deliver tested, applicable, sustainable, technically sound and financially viable solutions to water risks mitigation. In order to contribute to knowledge and sustainable development, we will deliver a decision support and visualization tool for NBS planning and deeper understanding of ecosystem dynamics. For private sector, investors and insurance companies, we will elaborate viability of nature-based solutions as part of their insurance business, responding to climate change and changing socio-economic environment.
  - The NAIAD project held 10 stakeholder meetings over the course of 2018 in all of its demonstration site locations across Europe and project partners participated in dozens of additional meetings and workshops throughout 2018, including COP24 in Katowice.

In 2019, the project will be producing its final deliverables, including results from all demo sites.

- Participating entities from the Marrakech Partnership: AGWA, SIWI
- Action Platform on Source-To-Sea Management (S2S Platform) and the Circular Economy
  - The Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management (S2S Platform) is a multi-stakeholder initiative that helps freshwater, coastal and marine experts to contribute to global knowledge generation on source-to-sea interconnections, connect and engage in collaborative projects, promote best practices, and take collaborative action to improve the management of land, water, coastal and marine linkages.
  - During 2018 World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden the Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management (S2S Platform) and the World Ocean Council brought together business leaders to share efforts by individual companies and to explore source-to-sea solutions that can help scale innovations during their *Business Leadership for Oceans – Source-to-Sea Solutions* showcase. The initiative follows from a voluntary pledge by members of the Swedish Leadership for Sustainable Development to contribute to sustainable production and consumption by addressing the inter-linkages between land and sea in core operations. One example is IKEA, which has committed to phase out single use plastics by 2020. Caroline Reid, responsible for Strategic Sustainable Management for Inter IKEA Group, highlighted the importance of the S2S Platform supporting collaboration and innovation by bringing together different stakeholders to find new solutions.
  - Participating entities from the Marrakech Partnership: SIWI, AGWA, UNESCO-IHP

#### ***New initiatives:***

- Collaborative Risk Informed Decision Analysis (CRIDA)
  - Impact: CRIDA is an adaptive water management approach that is highly relevant to the implementation of NDCs - helping managers make informed decisions that ensure that investments are not subject to unacceptable risk from changing conditions on the ground. Additional information available here: <http://agwaguide.org/about/CRIDA/>.
  - The official launch of the CRIDA handbook took place in Paris, France, at UNESCO headquarters in October 2018. Over 16 countries are now piloting projects and documenting preliminary results.
  - Participating entities from the Marrakech Partnership: AGWA, SIWI, UNESCO-IHP
- Building A Resilient Future Through Water Initiative
  - Impact: Effective delivery of the targets set for the Paris Agreement and 2030 Agenda requires that we adequately account for value of water in development, that we ardently build water resilience and, thus, greater water security. Water is at the core of the global development and climate agenda. An integrated and holistic approach with water at the heart of policies, planning and investments, provides the foundation for a transformation towards sustainable, low-carbon and climate-resilient societies.
  - In 2018 we authored an Open Letter to the UN Member States and the General Assembly outlining our vision for a more resilient future. This letter was signed by dozens of organizations and institutions and will form the basis of a dedicated workstream linking sustainable development and climate change going forward.
  - Participating Entities from the Marrakech Partnership: SIWI, AGWA, World Water Council, UNESCO-IHP

- Water-Forest-Landscape Nexus
  - The Water - Forest Nexus Champions group was started in 2017 with the aim of providing common ground for the network to engage in international processes, stressing the importance of the forest-water nexus for sustainable development, successful landscape restoration and climate change mitigation/adaptation.
  - In 2018 we held the 2nd meeting of the working group at World Water Week in Stockholm, focusing on the linkages between forests, water, and climate change. The outcomes from these meetings were the creation of synthesized recommendations stemming from several recent reports on forests and climate change, along with a submission to the Talanoa Dialogue, based on those recommendations.
  - Participating Entities from the Marrakech Partnership: SIWI, AGWA, FAO, IUCN
  
- Water and Climate Working Group
  - The Water and Climate Working Group was launched at the High Level Panel on Water and Climate co-organised by the World Water Council, SIWI and AGWA during the 8th World Water Forum. The main objective of the WCWG is to strengthen the role of water as a key enabler of positive climate change and implementation of the countries' NDCs through the identification of bottlenecks to improve the prominence of water within climate dialogue and bilateral engagement with parties to the UNFCCC.
  - Several meetings have been held throughout 2018 to define the main objectives, tasks, and members of the WCWG.
  - Participating entities from the Marrakech Partnership: World Water Council. SIWI, AGWA, GIZ
  
- City Water Resilience Approach / Framework
  - The City Water Resilience Approach (CWRA) outlines a detailed methodology for developing resilience and a suite of resources to help cities grow the adaptive capacity that allows them to survive and thrive in the face of shocks and stresses. The CWRA process has been developed based on a mix of field and desk research, collaborative partnerships with subject matter experts, and direct engagement with eight city partners. With over 2 billion new urban residents anticipated by 2050, there is a growing need for urban water management that ensures consistent, adequate and high-quality water services for cities. However, the scale and complexity of this need presents a challenge to city decision-makers across multiple-sectors, taking account of the shocks and stresses on urban water systems from variable climate. CWRA provides a framework, tools and case study examples from developing and developed cities to share best practice and build capacity within the spectrum of city stakeholders.
  - In 2018 five cities - Amman, Cape Town, Mexico City, Greater Miami and the Beaches, and Hull - were chosen to pilot the Approach. As part of this partnership, the project will explore each city's specific water concerns through field research and stakeholder interviews. Data and findings will be used to establish qualitative and quantitative indicators to measure city water resilience, for use in any city anywhere. The resulting City Water Resilience Framework will be a global standard for water resilience, which enables cities to diagnose challenges related to water and utilise that information to inform planning and investment decisions.
  - Participating entities from the Marrakech Partnership: SIWI, AGWA, The World Bank