



UNFCCC COP 27
Sharm El -Sheikh, Egypt

Climate Action Event
Concept Note

**The power of water: the unexplored potential for
climate resilience**

Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

November 14th 2022

TIME 10:00 - 12:00

Blue Action Zone, Ibis Action room

Organised by SIWI, WRI, IWMI and High-Level Climate Champions
Contributions from APCO, Forest Trends, Taproot Earth, Water for climate
community including TNC, INBO, FWP, FDCO, AGWA, CDP and WWF

MPGCA Water Action Event: *The power of water: the unexplored potential for climate resilience*

<p>Description</p>	<p>The event will showcase recent signals of change in water for climate across the globe. It will demonstrate tangible water solutions to inspire more ambitious water action.</p> <p>The aim is to offer a cross-sectoral perspective that moves beyond thematic silos by including non-traditional water voices and the potential for non-state actors to broaden and deepen engagement globally.</p> <p>Also, the aim is to build a business case for water. The event will showcase opportunities for accessing finance flows for water and climate related implementations. The event will include the launch of initiatives aiming to bolster resilience, boost nature-based solutions funding and calling for more actions from non-state actors.</p>
<p>Headline</p>	<p>Climate insecurity is water insecurity: By way of holistic and inclusive action we can tap into the true potential of water as the solution to climate change.</p>
<p>Outcomes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thinking about the Cross Sectors - multi-stakeholder engagement/collaboration is important because water is cross sectoral 2. Stocktake of progress opportunities in scaling up NbS and how to strengthen collaboration. Non-state actors call for national and regional representatives to take more ambitious and inclusive water action. By highlighting the solutions within the water community, we offer the opportunity to reflect this ambition in NDCs. 3. Closing finance gap for water: the potential of private and public finance for water solutions realised, current barriers to a significant increase in funding and examples of how they have been solved, with the focus on the Global South.
<p>Objectives</p>	<p>COP27 is implementation focused. This water action event will showcase successful implementation, talk about the challenges, how to unlock finance and the importance of working together across sectors.</p> <p>As part of this event, we intend to showcase work being done in several key areas that align with the Water Action Pathway. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protecting people - Protecting and restoring water resources and ecosystems <p>The emphasis will be on collaboration and cross sectoral actions and the link to economic prosperity and development. Key points to discuss will be the importance of data sharing and cooperation across various industries.</p> <p>The projects which will be showcased align with the water action pathway and will demonstrate progress, highlighting how various voices have been incorporated and areas of improvement. The event will hear from individuals working in water and in other sectors.</p>



	<p>The second panel will bring voices from banks and corporations who can speak about the role that banks and companies can play in advancing the water action pathway and what they have done so far in the water space. This panel will provide insights on how collaborations have been successful and what is needed to scale up finance.</p>
<p>*Participants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Local actors, marginalised voices, and underrepresented groups (indigenous people, women, youth and global south perspective) - often the first to experience the effects of climate change but seldom promoted in decision-making. ● NGOs - advocacy work and frameworks with a direct impact on water for climate ● Governments - representatives leading the integration of water in their climate change policies. ● Academics and research institutions - Bringing the scientific urgency to act now. Also, establishing the need to think holistically and to incorporate the interlinkages between water, food security and climate change. ● Civil society - who is advocating for climate action across sectors ● Private sector - including corporations with water/climate impact
<p>Key messages</p>	<p>This entire event is to both help shape a common narrative that weaves together the current and future initiatives and commitments toward the common goal post UN 2023 Water Conference. Will show advancements made in financing and collaborations for water for climate actions. Key messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Climate insecurity is water insecurity ● Water can contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation efforts and successful stories show it is possible. Non-state actors play an essential role in maximising ambition. ● Cross sector action with a holistic approach is necessary to break silos for water and climate ● Nature-based solutions need to be scaled up. ● Opportunities for accessing finance flows for water and climate related implementations need to be increased and long-lasting.

Agenda

SESSION DESCRIPTION	SPEAKERS
SEGMENT #1 - Setting the scene with opening statement and a call for action	
<p>BRIEF INTRODUCTION</p> <p>Introducing the “vision of a water resilient future”, linking it to the Water for climate action pathway and highlighting the important and often forgotten role of non-state actors in achieving this.</p> <p>This event will showcase examples of success stories, ambitious initiatives that provide clear, actionable, and credible water-wise climate solutions that are already being implemented and can be transferred or scaled to their specific context. These actions will pave the way for the action-oriented spirit of the UN 2023 Water Conference.</p> <p>We will seek to break thematic silos, point to clear synergies where water is the solution to a compounding water, energy and climate crisis. In this way, we hope to extend the relevance of this event beyond the water box.</p> <p>Background: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/WaterPathwayVisionSummary.pdf</p>	<p>Master of ceremony: <i>Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs for The Kingdom of Netherlands</i></p>
<p>TED TALK STYLE: An appeal to our common humanity</p> <p>Colette will shed light on the state of the world’s water resources and on the uneven implications. Also, addressing the need to incorporate solutions for water in agriculture and food security. A call for non-state actors' role in building resilience and pressing for more ambitious water leadership.</p>	<p>Speaker: <i>Ms. Colette Pichon Battle, Esq, Vision & Initiatives Partner, Taproot Earth</i></p>
SEGMENT #2 : Cross-sectoral aspects of climate change adaptation and mitigation, successful examples	



Fireside chat style

- Objective is to underscore the cross-sectoral aspect of climate change adaptation and mitigation work.
- Conversation will be moderated by Henk Ovink who will steer the chat around the climate narrative into the UN2023WC. The conversation will also cover what cross-sectoral synergies are most important to achieve water and climate goals jointly.

Moderator: Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs for The Kingdom of Netherlands

Speakers:

- *Mathieu Tolian, Deputy Director Sustainable Development, Veolia*
- *Ruth Mathews, Senior Manager / Coordinator, Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management (S2S Platform)*
- *Ms. Agnes Yobterik, OGW is the Director for Programs, Special Projects and Strategic Initiatives at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in Kenya.*
- *Mrs. Coletha Ruhamy, Deputy Executive Secretary for Lake Victoria Basin Commission*

INITIATIVE SPOTLIGHT: Water Resilience for Economic Resilience

While most of the negative impacts of climate change are expressed through the medium of water cycle, water is also the medium for coherent water resilience. Water resilience needs to be embraced as a mechanism for inclusive, resilient development, to enable economies to ride the coming waves of shocks and stresses.

Speaker: Ala'a Kolkaila, MIT Sloan School of Management

Solutions that are delivering climate outcomes

This panel will feature two 4/5 min case study videos showcasing the projects on the ground that have been successful.

The panel will address opportunities in scaling up NbS and how to strengthen collaboration between national governments and NPS. The panel will send a clear signal to take more ambitious water action. By highlighting the solutions within the water community we offer the opportunity to reflect this ambition in NDCs.

Layered segment with videos + discussions

- [VIDEO #1: The Nairobi Water Fund, The nature conservancy](#)

Brief description:

To help restore and conserve the Tana River, a water management plan known as the Upper Tana Nairobi Water Fund, was instituted to help protect the river's watershed. A team of scientists from academia, government and NGOs led by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), came together under this project to determine



The panel will highlight the role of non-state actors in building credibility and transparency by bringing various voices together.

the potential benefits and costs of conservation activities in the Tana watershed, with a focus on improving farming activities.

The premise behind the water funds is that it is cheaper to invest in protecting water at the source (upstream) than it is to address water problems when they occur downstream. Upper Tana-Nairobi Water Fund now serves as a model for new water conservation efforts across Africa.

- [VIDEO #2: Forest Trends](#)

Brief description:

Local voices leading on indigenous practices for water and climate resilience in the Andes

Speakers:

- *Julie Mulonga, Director of Eastern Africa Wetlands International*
- *Dario Soto Abril, ES/CEO at GWP*
- *Bianca Dager Jervis, Co-founder and CEO of Premios Verdes*

INITIATIVE SPOTLIGHT – TNC, Nature 4 water facility

Brief description of initiative:

This initiative is a collaboration between The Nature Conservancy and Pegasys – provides technical assistance to local clients developing watershed investment programs that employ Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for water security, biodiversity, climate, and livelihood outcomes. The initiative aims to execute 40+ watershed investment programs and will open-source its tools and learnings to scale NbS within the broader water sector.

Speaker: *Mr. Fred Kihara, Africa Water Funds Director, The Nature Conservancy*

SEGMENT #3 Building a business case for water action and the role of the private sector

Access to finance

Scaling access to climate finance for water and climate solutions. The objective for the segment will be to present the tools and methods that can be mobilised to accelerate the preparation of well-designed, bankable climate resilient water projects that will attract funding from the wide range of private and public donors of climate finance.

Speakers:

- *Ms. Cate Lamb, Head of Water at CDP*
- *Mr. Alisher Mamadzhanov, Climate Policy and Governance Specialist, Green Climate Fund*
- *Mr Daniel Strechay, Director of sustainability, communications and engagements at Mars Inc.*

INITIATIVE SPOTLIGHT: Fair Water footprint

Launching and signing the Fair Water Footprint Declaration at COP26 was a breakthrough moment for the water and climate agenda and action. It plays a unique role by bringing together governments from the global north and south which trade thirsty and polluting commodities, along with financiers, corporations, and civil society to put resilient and equitable water management at the heart of the global economy. The Declaration targets the five SDG 6 aligned outcomes of: zero pollution, sustainable withdrawal, universal WASH, promotion of nature and effective drought and flood management by 2030.

Speaker: *Ms. Terhi Lehtonen, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change for Finland*

ANNOUNCEMENT: International Finance Institution Commitment Goal

IFIs commit 30% of climate financing to directly benefit biodiversity by 2025. Cassilde will speak about the rationale behind AFD's prior commitment, how it has made a difference for AFD's operations, and any other related comments as part of the first four minutes of the talk.

Speakers: *Cassilde Breniere, Deputy head of Executive Direction for sustainable development solutions at AFD and Andrea Erickson from TNC*

CLOSING

Statement for the future

Mina Guli has completed 120 marathons since March 23rd by Water Day. And have 80 still to go until the UN Water Summit which will be a way of linking the two events. Aim to share visual elements like photos & videos of communities & ecosystems from her marathons across the globe. This innovative way of knowledge sharing will inspire people outside the water sector.

Speaker: *Mina Guli, Water Activist, CEO of Thirst Foundation and Run Blue*

CLOSING REMARKS

Reconnect to the "vision of a water resilient future".

Speaker: *Nigel Topping, High Level Champion*

CLOSING WORDS

Henk will summarise and highlight what are the most impactful areas non-state actors are contributing and can step up with further actions.

Treating water and climate as Global Public Goods. If we acknowledge that, we recognize our shared responsibility.

Speaker: *Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs for The Kingdom of Netherlands*