

Scaling Up Climate Action through Water

Preparing to Adapt: The Untold Story of Water

COP 24 High-Level Event

Monday, 10 December, 11:00-12:15

NDC Partnership Pavilion, Area E

[#ClimateChange](#)

[#NDCs](#)

[#COP24](#)

[#ClimatelsWater](#)

www.gwp.org

This High-Level Event will showcase the findings of new research connecting insights from:

- A GWP analysis of over 80 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), compared with national development plans and frameworks
- The UN's 2018 report on progress on integrated water resources management
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C

The NDC analysis by GWP highlights a few compelling messages:

- 1. 9 out of 10 countries prioritize water actions for adaptation in their NDCs.**
But water management is complex, and successful in the long-term only if decisions are taken across sectors, multiple governance layers, and among competing priorities of equity, economic development, and the environment. This integrated approach is essential to deliver on adaptation commitments and SDG targets.
- 2. The NDC process presents valuable lessons on achieving cross-sectoral coordination.**
The water community, in turn, offers tested mechanisms for inclusive stakeholder participation to identify synergies and assess trade-offs on water-related adaptation and mitigation.
- 3. There is a mismatch between a voracious appetite for water infrastructure and weak progress on strengthening institutions for managing water.**
Countries seek to strengthen their ability to design and manage projects so investments in infrastructure and institutions are urgent – and inseparable.

With inadequate water management approaches, forging ahead with major infrastructure investments to enhance climate resilience can have negative consequences. Many of the countries prioritizing infrastructure investments fare poorly in the 2018 assessment on progress towards implementing integrated water resources management (SDG 6.5.1).

The GWP analysis of 80 NDCs shows that countries need urgent support to improve water security and adapt to climate change. Most countries highlight the need to climate-proof water supply networks and build new resilient physical water infrastructure, including dams, canals, hydropower plants, and irrigation canals, as well utilize natural infrastructure such as wetlands, aquifers, and watersheds. But **strengthening water governance through robust water management institutions is a prerequisite to building resilience.**

Solutions to stabilize global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius require unprecedented efforts to cut fossil-fuel use in half in less than 15 years and eliminate their use almost entirely in 30 years. This calls for the transformation of economies, diversifying the energy mix and employing water efficiency and green technologies to capture CO₂ emissions.

The urgency laid out by IPCC SR15 emphasizes the need to explore a range of adaptation options across water-subsectors, specifically emphasizing **water as an entry point to build cross-sectoral adaptive capacity and enable transformative change** that strengthens systemic resilience in national economies, livelihoods, and natural ecosystems.

AGENDA

11:00 -11:15	<p>Introduction</p> <p>What the world needs to know - Transformation, Ambition and Action in connecting water, NDCs, and SDGs in the context of IPCC Special Report 1.5 Degrees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Monika Weber-Fahr, GWP Executive Secretary & Dr. Amadou Maiga, GWP Chair of Chairs
11:15 -11:25	<p>Special Address</p> <p>Raising ambition on water management in the context of NDCs and SDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H. E. Nezha El Ouafi, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment, Morocco & Co-Chair of NDC Partnership
11:25 -12:15	<p>Ministerial Dialogue</p> <p>Moderated by: Dr. Oyun Sanjaasuren, Director Partnerships, Green Climate Fund (GCF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ambassador Seyni Nafo, African Ambassador to COP24, Advisor to the President of Mali, Former Chair of the Africa Group of Negotiators, Mali• Mr. Sidi Mohamed El Wavi, Coordinator of the National Program on Climate Change, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Mauritania• Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal, Joint-Secretary & Head of Climate Change Management Division, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal• Dr. R. D. S. Jayathunga, Director of Climate Change Secretariat, Ministry Mahaweli Development and Environment, Sri Lanka <p>Summary and Path Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Ingrid Gabriela Hoven, Director General of the Department for Global Issues, BMZ