



INBO

**International Network
of Basin Organizations**

Report of Activities 2016

www.riob.org



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10th INBO World General Assembly

From 1st to 4th June 2016 in Merida - Mexico

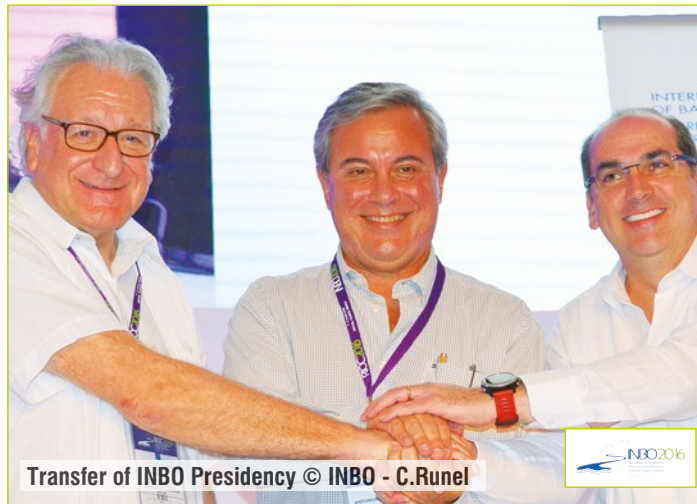
Faced with major global challenges, water management in basins is essential everywhere in the world!

20 years after its first General Assembly in Morelia, the 10th INBO World General Assembly gathered in Merida in Mexico more than 600 participants from 50 countries, including Mr. Rolando Zapata Bello, Governor of Yucatan, Mr. Abdelaziz Zerouali, representative of Ms. Charafat Afaïlal, Minister Delegate for Water (Kingdom of Morocco), Presidency of the COP22, Mr. Diène Faye, Secretary of State for Water (Senegal), Mr. Péter Kovács, Secretary of State for Water (Hungary), Mr. Jacques Ganoulis, Special Secretary of State for Water (Greece), Minister Rafael Pacchiano Alamán, Federal Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources - SEMARNAT (Mexico), Mr. Ibrahim Addulkarim Mansoor Obeidat, Ambassador of Jordan to Mexico, and Mr. Roberto Ramírez de la Parra, Director General of the National Water Commission of Mexico (CONAGUA).

The General Assembly led to the organization of a Forum of International Cooperation Organizations and four thematic roundtables:

- Adaptation to climate change in basins,
- Mandates, composition, role and means of the Basin Councils and Committees,
- Sustainable basin management: planning and funding,
- Participation of the economic sectors and citizens.

Mexico +20!



The topic of the first roundtable has become a priority of the Climate Conferences since the COP21 in Paris. It was addressed several times during the General Assembly, especially with the presentation and signatures of the "Paris Pact on Water and Adaptation to the Effects of Climate Change in the Basins of Rivers, Lakes and Aquifers", which has already been signed by 359 organizations over the world..

Mr. Roberto Ramírez de la Parra, Director General of CONAGUA, presented water management in Mexico, the host country of the General Assembly.

He particularly stressed the two biggest challenges facing his administration: ensuring adequate water supply to all uses with scarce resources and limiting the hydro-meteorological risks and their impacts in the context of climate change, increasing activity of hurricanes in the Caribbean and Pacific regions of the country.

The INBO World Presidency was transferred from Mr. Lupercio Antonio Zioldo (President 2013-2016) to Mr. Roberto Ramírez de la Parra, Director General of CONAGUA, (new President 2016-2019).

The new INBO President is committed to promoting the development of River Basin Organizations and the implementation of a basin integrated management policy in liaison with the High Level Panel on Water.

His action plan sets six objectives for the 2016-2019 period:

- 1 Strengthening INBO Regional Networks to transform them into true resources centers to help professionalize the technical and administrative executives of Basin Organizations and their partners.
- 2 Encouraging studies on adaptation to climate change in basins in support to participatory decision-making processes.
- 3 Ensuring access of developing countries to international resources to reduce gaps in institutional organization and infrastructure equipment, so that basin management is increasingly effective.
- 4 Building national, regional and international capacities to progressively implement new water resources and basin management models, including transparency, information management and financial resources.

- 5 Promoting the modernization and development of hydrological cycle and climate variables measurement systems and, more broadly, the design and implementation of genuine Water Information Systems (WIS) and those on aquatic environments, both at basin level and at national and transboundary level.
- 6 Improving performance indicators on sustainable management of river basins and water user systems, especially within the OECD Water Governance Initiative.

At the end of its work, the General Assembly adopted the "Merida Declaration", which calls for integrated water resources management at basin level to be taken into account as a priority in the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA), approved at the COP21 in Paris, as well as in the work of the High Level Panel on Water and Sustainable Development.

Find the Declaration of Merida, as well as the various documents and photos from the General Assembly on the Website:

www.inbo-news.org



"FOR BETTER BASIN MANAGEMENT IN THE WORLD"

9 November 2016 - Marrakech - Morocco

Freshwater finally recognized as a priority in the Global Climate Action Agenda

As part of the Global Climate Action Agenda - GCAA (successor of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda - LPAA), the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) was designated by the two Climate Champions, the Environment Minister of the Kingdom of Morocco, Ms. Hakima El Haite, and the French Ambassador for the negotiations on climate change, Ms. Laurence Tubiana, as facilitator of the Water Action Day, in partnership with the World Water Council and the Moroccan Ministry Delegate for water.

Two official events were organized on 9 November 2016:

- A "Water Showcase", in the morning, dedicated to promoting practical initiatives;
- A "Water Dialogue", in the afternoon, built as a high-level debate on major water and climate policy issues.

On this occasion, the "Blue Book on Water and Climate" (collection of orientations and recommendations) was launched by the Moroccan Government and its partners as a concrete outcome of its interim International Conference on Water and Climate, hosted in Rabat in July 2016, in cooperation with the French Government, INBO and the WWC.

"This aligns perfectly with COP22, which is striving to be a COP for action!", remarked Ms. Charafat Afailal, Minister Delegate for Water in Morocco. "Now, we need to realize what is at stake, since water insecurity leads to increased conflicts, tension between populations, and also provokes migrations that threaten overall stability".

Climate justice was also a priority of the Water Action Day, as evidenced by the launching of the "Water for Africa Initiative", established by the Kingdom of Morocco and supported by the African Development Bank.

Global Alliances for Water and Climate

The four "Alliances" for Basins (Paris Pact), Megacities, Business and Desalination, created at the COP21 in Paris and strongly involved in water and climate action, which today represent more than **450 organizations worldwide**, jointly committed themselves to mobilize their partners, identify and disseminate good practices and support the development of new projects by field stakeholders involved in adaptation and resilience of the water sector.



These "Alliances" reported, in particular, during the "Water Showcase" on:

- the positive progresses made with the Flagship Projects on water adaptation launched at the COP21, such as the Hydrological Information System of the Congo River, the integrated management of the Hai River in China, the strengthening of the new Mexico Metropolitan Organization for Urban Stormwater Drainage or the "Eco-cuencas" Climate Adapt cooperation project between European and Andean countries,
- new adaptation projects announced at COP22's Water Day, for example, the Sebou River management in Morocco, the creation of the "Water Adapt Training Center HYDRUS" in Brasilia, or the future use of the SWOT satellite for hydrological observations, among other things".

"Adaptation of water resources to climate change must be organized at the natural level of national or transboundary basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers, where water is flowing from upstream to downstream, and mobilize all field stakeholders, including local authorities, economic sectors and civil society, to achieve, through dialogue and in due time, a common vision to face the climate change challenges", said Mr. Roberto Ramirez de la Parra, INBO World President.

In addition, INBO also organized or participated in a dozen side events on adaptation to climate change that promoted the "Paris Pact", the joint management of ground and surface waters, Water Information Systems (WIS) and Social Innovations (AfriAlliance project).

Finally during the COP22, INBO, in partnership with the International Secretariat for Water (ISW), presented the "Blue Passport" initiative, which aims to promote basin citizenship and encourage new commitments to improve the management of rivers, lakes and aquifers.

A personal "Blue Passport" was handed to Ms. Ségolène Royal, French Minister for the Environment, Energy and the Sea, and to Ms. Judith Enaw, Secretary General of the International Congo-Ubangui-Sangha Commission (CICOS) and President of the African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO), in recognition of their respective contributions for better management of the French and African river basins and of their action for climate.

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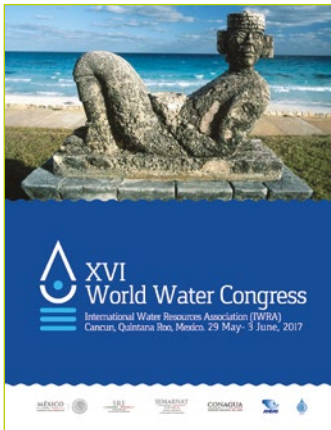
MARRAKECH
COP22|2016|CMP12
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE



Signing of the 4 Alliances' Declaration ©INBO - C. Runel

IWRA XVI World Water Congress

29 May - 2 June 2017 - Cancun - Mexico



The XVI World Water Congress focused on "Bridging Science and Policy" and was held in Cancun, Mexico.

It was organized jointly by the International Water Resources Association (IWRA), the National Water Commission of Mexico (CONAGUA) and the National Association of Water and Sanitation Services (ANEAS).

The purpose of the Congress was to facilitate cooperation and coordination among professionals in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those related to water, as well as the climate agreements established under the auspices of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The **International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)** actively participated in this Congress by facilitating a Special Session on "The Legacy of COP22: Implementing the Global Action Agenda for Climate and Water (GCAA-Water)".

A meeting of the **Global Alliances for Water and Climate**, that were created at the COP22 in Marrakech and of which INBO is the Secretariat, also took place on this occasion.



Mr. Jean-François Donzier, INBO Secretary General, participated in the High Level Panel on Water and Climate © INBO - C. Runel

For the first time, a special session was also devoted to vocational training for water professionals, including leaders and partners of Basin Organizations.

INBO was also invited to a special session hosted by the Australian Government and dedicated to data and indicators useful for following-up the UN-SDG 6 on Water.

International Water Resources Association (IWRA)

www.iwra.org

www.worldwatercongress.com



CONAGUA
comisión nacional del agua



INBO is getting mobilized for the COP23

The next United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP23) will be held from 6 to 17 November 2017 in Bonn (Germany), under the chairmanship of Fiji Islands.

This Fijian Presidency will be an opportunity to draw attention to the problems of the Small Island States and coastal lowlands due to the global warming and its impacts, such as rising sea levels and the intensification of extreme meteorological events.

The United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) has published a series of reports detailing the impact of climate change on the Pacific islands community.

INBO will participate in COP23 by presenting the progress made in two years by the "Paris Pact on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Basins of Rivers, Lakes and Aquifers", today signed by 359 organizations worldwide and on the many related projects.

The four **Global Alliances for Climate and Water**, created at the COP22 in Marrakech, will also present the progresses made over the past year thanks to the mobilization of basin institutions, metropolises and business, including the "incubation" of many pilot projects.

www.cop-23.org



COP23 FIJI
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
BONN 2017

Launching of the 8th World Water Forum

18 - 23 March 2018 - Brasilia - Brazil



On 27 and 28 June 2016 in Brasilia, Brazil, the launching of the 8th World Water Forum gathered 800 participants, with an important number of representatives from the Latin American States and Brazilian civil society.

The structure and organization of WWF8 were at the core of the discussions. The Forum will focus on five processes: Policy, Regional, Thematic, Citizen and Sustainable Development.

The thematic process seems to be the most structured at this stage. It broadly reflects the structure and priorities of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In this thematic process, INBO was selected as a member of the "Governance" Coordination Group, especially with regard to transboundary cooperation and to the **Global Alliances for Water and Climate**, of course, on water adaptation to climate.

The ninth edition of the Forum will be organized in 2021 in Senegal in Dakar.



Roundtable of Development Partners: "Strengthening Hydrometeorological Services for Sustainable Development"

13 - 14 April - Geneva - Switzerland



The group of participants

INBO participated in this roundtable organized by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the World Bank (WB), in partnership with the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR).

The event aimed to promote increased

international support to the development and enhancement of investment and technical assistance for the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs).

It gathered a wide range of participants, representatives of Multilateral Development Banks and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) from developed and developing countries.

These stakeholders initiated thinking about the principles and good practices to be implemented in order to respond to the need for better coordination of the different capacity building programs for NMHSs, in particular:

- **Hydromet Africa** (Regional Framework Program for Improving NMHSs in Sub-Saharan Africa),

- **The CREWS initiative** (on the strengthening of systems for prevention, information and warning about dangerous hydrometeorological and climatic events),
- **The WISER Program** (Strengthening Weather and Climate Services in East Africa).

The participants in the Roundtable highlighted, on the one hand, the key role that National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030 and, on the other, the difficulties encountered in establishing sustainable and autonomous funding mechanisms for official development assistance to these services.

They also stressed the need to finance not only infrastructure but also the sustainable functioning of NMHSs and the capacity building of their staff, services to end-users and operation and maintenance of infrastructure.

Like the Paris Pact on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Basins of Rivers, Lakes and Aquifers, which especially targets the strengthening of water measurement networks and Water Information Systems, this initiative helps to promote the idea that good water management is conceivable only with a good knowledge of the resource and its uses.

We cannot manage
what we cannot measure!

Stockholm Water Week

SIWI WORLD WATER WEEK

28 August - 2 September 2016 - Stockholm - Sweden

The Stockholm Water Week, as a step towards 2016 COP22, broadly addressed the issue of the relationship between water and climate.

Many side events have highlighted the initiatives launched at COP21 for follow-up in Marrakech COP22, such as the "Paris Pact on water and adaptation to climate change in the basin of rivers, lakes and aquifers", the Alliance of Megacities and the Business Alliance.

INBO participated in a working meeting organized by the French and Moroccan presidencies of COP21 and COP22 to present the history of the Paris Pact and its prospects.

INBO also intervene in the side event organized by the World Water Council, "Actions speak louder than words".

The event aimed to follow-up the interforum thematic roadmaps between the 7th World Water Forum in South Korea in 2015 and the 8th World Water Forum in Brazil in 2018.

As a "Champion for the Daegu-Gyeongju implementation commitment" (DGIC) for theme 4.3 "Cooperation to reduce conflicts and improve transboundary water management", INBO presented the progress made in the past year.

In addition, INBO facilitated a roundtable on the theme of transboundary management to highlight the links between the SDGs, to enhance the actions carried out and present the implementation prospects before the World Water Forum in Brasilia.

Finally, as a member of the Steering Committee of the OECD Water Governance Initiative, INBO also participated in the side event on good water governance indicators, together with the Scientific and Technical Association for Water and Environment, Crossflow Consulting, Transparency International, and the Water Integrity Network.



Mr. Eric Tardieu, Deputy Permanent Technical Secretary of INBO

International Events

19th International Rivers Symposium



12 - 14 September 2016 - New Delhi - India

The Himalayan mountain range is the headwaters of 10 major rivers that provide ecosystem services, water, energy and food to more than 1.5 billion people in Asia, i.e. one fifth of the world's population.

It is therefore essential to work towards the development of a more optimal river management in this region.

On the basis of this observation, the India Water Partnership (IWP) organized, in partnership with the International River Foundation, the 19th International Rivers Symposium, on the theme **"Great rivers of the world: Management for shared benefits"** and the issue: how to better balance economic development and environ-

mental protection in various regions of the world?

5 topics were discussed during the plenary sessions of the Symposium, which gathered about 500 participants representing various sectors and regions of the world:

- The Water-Energy-Agriculture nexus in the Himalayan river basins: balancing the benefits,
- Understanding and adapting to climate change,
- Protecting and restoring river ecosystems as part of integrated river basin management,
- Developing community resilience: linking local action to basin planning,



- Cooperative management approaches in transboundary basins.
- Jean-François Donzier, INBO Secretary General, was a keynote speaker in the climate session, in**

which he presented the implementation of the Paris Pact on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change in River, Lake and Aquifer Basins.

<http://riversymposium.com>

Africa

African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO)



6th General Assembly and Liaison Bureau

20 - 22 September 2016 - Kigali - Rwanda



The 6th ANBO General Assembly, which took place from 20 to 22 September 2016 in Kigali, has a special place in the history of the institution, created in 2002 and then designated in 2007 as Technical Committee of the African Ministers' Council on Water

(AMCOW).

It shows the growing importance of the Network with the adoption of its new statutes and recognition of its key role in the implementation of the 2016-2025 Priority Action Plan for Water Resources Management in Africa, pro-

duced by the Technical Advisory Committee of AMCOW.

This Priority Action Plan aims to achieve the **2025 African Water Vision**: i.e. "An Africa where water resources are used and managed in an equitable and sustainable way for poverty reduction, socioeconomic development, regional cooperation and environmental protection".

The General Assembly also enabled to evaluate past actions, present the budgetary situation of ANBO and introduce future projects.

Mr. Eric Tardieu, INBO Secretariat, presented the **"AfriAlliance"** project, whose implementation will be the subject of close cooperation with ANBO.

It aims to network European and Afri-

can stakeholders in innovation to reduce water management vulnerability to climate change in Africa.

INBO, as facilitator of the COP22 Water and Climate Day, presented the organizational plan for this event and invited the African partners to be represented at the best level.

The approval of ANBO new statutes was unanimously welcomed. ANBO Secretariat is taken care of by the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS).

The General Assembly finally elected **Ms. Judith Enaw** (Secretary General of the International Commission of the Congo-Ubangui-Sangha Basin - CICOS) as the new ANBO President.

www.raob-anbo.org

AWIS

The African Water Information System (AWIS)

By sharing experience and knowledge, the African River Basin Organizations can find solutions to the many challenges they face.

They differ in terms of seniority, experience, size and mandate and this diversity offers a great opportunity to exchange, learning, capacity building and cooperation among them.

In this sense, the African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO), through the African Water Information System (AWIS), is establishing a common platform for

the African continent to support the exchange of experience, knowledge and expertise between Member Organizations, to improve coordination and harmonization of policies, strategies and practices in transboundary water management.

In 2016, an analysis of the existing sites in Africa and elsewhere in the world was carried out, and AWIS weaknesses and strengths were analyzed, at a participatory workshop held in April 2016 in Dakar, taking into account the opportunities.



Workshop in Dakar - Senegal

This workshop recommended some main lines for AWIS development strategy.

www.awis.org



The African Great Lakes Conference

2 - 5 May 2017 - Entebbe - Uganda



More than 200 participants

The African Great Lakes Conference, organized by The Nature Conservancy with the support of many partners and sponsors, including INBO, provided a regional framework for jointly discussing the challenges to be faced and ensuring conservation and sustainable development.

More than 200 representatives from local and national governments, African Great Lakes Basin Organizations (Lake Albert, Lake Edward, Lake Kivu, Lake Malawi / Nyasa / Niassa, Lake

Tanganyika, Lake Turkana and Lake Victoria), donors, academic institutions, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, discussed ways to improve the management of river/lake basins and associated resources in this vast region spanning 850,000 km², where 12 countries share the benefits of rich biodiversity.

In addition to the speeches of its representatives and partners, of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), the Lake Chad Basin Com-

mission (LCBC), the Congo-Ubangui-Sangha International Commission (CICOS) and the Volta Basin Authority (VBA), in three thematic sessions (Governance and Financing at Basin Level - Climate Change Impacts, Mitigation, Adaptation, - Balancing Conservation and Development), INBO held two events:

- **The AfriAlliance workshop**, organized in partnership with the International Office for Water, (IOWater), which brought together around 40 participants to identify the challenges and solutions related to water and climate in the region.
- **A side event on "The Legacy of COP22 and the Global Alliances for Water and Climate"**, that gathered more than 80 people to discuss case studies on climate change adaptation in basins.

In his speech at the closing session of the Conference, Mr. Jean-François Donzier, Secretary General of INBO, reminded that basins of national or transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers are the places where appropriate and "no regret" measures must be taken without delay to adapt water resources to the effects of climate change.

www.greatlakesofafrica.org



Mr. Jean-François Donzier, INBO Secretary General

Innovative solutions for water and climate in Africa



AfriAlliance kick-off meeting - Delft - The Netherlands

Africa is one of the regions that need to find innovative solutions to address the challenges related to water and adaptation to climate change.

Funded by the EU Research and Innovation Program (H2020), the **AfriAlliance project** aims to build Africa's capacity to meet the water-related challenges and climate change by developing joint work and the sharing of innovative solutions between existing African and European networks.

Over the next five years (2016-2021), the 16 partner organizations of the project, in which INBO is in charge of communication, will work at increasing and enhancing research and innovation related to water and climate change.

Entering into a continuous process of transfer of technology and knowledge, the first project action consisted in establishing five thematic groups, made up of researchers, managers, NGOs, etc., that address the following issues:

- Integrated Water Resources Management,
- Food security and Agriculture,

- Capacity Building,
- Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation,
- Networks for water data monitoring, collection and analysis, and climate forecasting.

A second line of work focuses on the innovation needs at local and regional level in Africa.

The identification of the needs and existing solutions is starting, including through workshops held across Africa such as ANBO General Assembly, from 20 to 22 September 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda, the WaterNet / WARFSA / GWPSA Symposium in Gaborone, Botswana, from 26 to 28 October 2016, the COP22 in Marrakech, Morocco, on 8 November 2016 or the African Great Lakes Conference, from 2 to 5 May 2017 in Entebbe, Uganda



AfriAlliance workshop - Entebbe - Uganda

First Conference in South Africa in March 2017

The first "AfriAlliance" Conference was organized as a side event of the Local Climate Solutions for Africa (LoCS4Africa) 2017 Congress in Ekurhuleni, on the outskirts of Johannesburg, from 22 to 24 March 2017.

This inaugural "AfriAlliance" conference enabled to present the AfriAlliance Action Groups and their areas for action, to promote initiatives in research, innovation and African capacity building by seeking new European and African partners and to provide input and proposals on the development of the AfriAlliance project activities.



Ms. Uta WEHN
Coordinator AfriAlliance



afrialliance.org



Congo River Basin - "CICOS"



The Rhine and the Congo River Basins : an old and lasting relationship



Group photo of CICOS stakeholders in Brazzaville - November 2016

Since 2013, IOWater, INBO Secretariat, has been helping in the implementation of the Master Plan for Water Development and Management (SDAGE) of the International Commission of the Congo Ubangui-Sangha Basin (CICOS) with support from the French Rhine-Meuse Water Agency (AERM).

Cooperation between the Congo and the Rhine indeed dates back to the creation of "CICOS" in 1999, supported at that time by the Central Commission for Navigation of the Rhine.

"AERM" experts intervened during the "CICOS"s' Fourth Regional Consultation Platform held in Brazzaville in November 2016, to share experience on the functioning of the Rhine-Meuse Basin Committee and its participatory approach, which "CICOS" wishes to inspire from.

Adaptation to climate change in the Congo River Basin

During the COP 21 in December 2015 in Paris, a new financing agreement was signed by the French Development Agency (AFD) and the International Commission of the Congo-Ubangui-Sangha Basin (CICOS).

This new project started when the new Secretary General of "CICOS", Ms Judith Enaw, took office.

The project specially aims to improve the monitoring of water resources in the Congo River Basin, combining the

classical "in situ" approach and the innovative use of satellite altimetry.

The SWOT satellite program ("Surface Water and Ocean Topography") is a French-American project of Earth observation satellites that will provide spatiotemporal variations of continental water levels for 2020.

A Working Group on Space Hydrology, established in 2014, gathers AFD, BRLi, CNES, CNR, IRD, IRSTEA, and IOWater.

As part of this "CICOS" project, this group supports the installation of new hydrometric stations, as well as carrying out an analysis of hydrological monitoring and space applications in the Congo River Basin.

The results of this study will help guide the design and implementation of "CICOS" Hydrological Information System.

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Ms. Judith Enaw at the COP22 in Marrakech
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www.cicos.info



Mono River Basin Authority (MBA)

Togo and Benin together in a same Basin Authority

The Mono River Basin Authority (MBA) is entering into its operational phase.

Following its establishment, the Ministers of the two countries chose Benin as host of the "MBA" Executive Directorate.

The strategic plan of the institution is being validated by the various stakeholders.

The establishment and operationalization of the "MBA" are supported by the ECOWAS Water Resources Coordination Center, as well as by IOWater, INBO Secretariat, and pS-Eau with the support of the French Rhone-Mediterranean-Corsica Water Agency (AERMC).

The project also promotes the emergence of water and sanitation cooperation projects carried out by French Local Authorities in both countries. Three partnerships are currently being formalized, involving French Local Authorities and solidarity associations.



The Mono River



North America - The Caribbean

Cuba



Support to the management of water bodies supplying Havana

Signing of the cooperation agreement in Havana in March 2017



The cooperation project, carried out by IOWater, INBO Secretariat, and co-funded by the French Adour-Garonne Water Agency, focuses on the Integrated Management of the Water Bodies that supply the agglomeration of Havana.

The central partner of the cooperation project is the **National Institute of Water Resources (INRH)**, whose mission is to manage, carry out and monitor the implementation of the State policy for planning, control and protection of water resources in Cuba.

The Authorities are aware of the great difficulties they have to face that are especially caused by:

- The extended operation of the infrastructure without appropriate maintenance;
- The impact of extreme meteorological events on the infrastructure;
- Resource overexploitation practices;
- The low cost billed to the user for the service provided;
- Financial constraints;
- The fact that water has not been recognized as an item of the National Economy Plan until 2010.

Pollution problems in rivers and aquifers, saline intrusion phenomena are regularly observed and often get worse, especially for the two river basins and groundwater bodies that supply water to the 3 million inhabitants of the capital.

In this pilot river basin region, the project aims to help the Cuban partners in establishing a most appropriate governance and in developing the necessary management tools:

- Consolidation of a Basin Council and of its Executive Secretariat;
- Support to the characterization of the basin: monitoring, parameters, global vision;
- Planning methodology and Basin Management Plan;
- Information System and data management.

It also includes a capitalization component at national level.

The cooperation agreement was signed for the next two years on the occasion of the "CubaAgua" week in March 2017.

Latin America

"EcoCuencas"



Funding of adaptation to climate change: Economic mechanisms for Latin American basins

The "EcoCuencas" project, which, since January 2015, has been dedicated to the development of economic mechanisms for adaptation to climate change in Latin America, continued its efforts during its second year of implementation.

Co-funded by the European Union, the project proposes to theoretically develop and practically apply incentive economic instruments, dedicated to water resources management that can also be strategic structural tools for long term adaptation to climate change.

With a high degree of ownership, the project involves a wide variety of stakeholders, such as the National Water Authority in Peru and the National Water Secretariat in Ecuador, the PCJ Agency in Brazil, the Cuenca Verde fund in Colombia, IOWater and Asconit in France, the IRAGER Institute in Peru, the German Ecologic "think tank", and OECD, INBO, REBOB and different Spanish, Italian and French basin organizations.

The project aims to give a true picture of the existing economic mechanisms in Latin America, and the tracks to follow to improve their efficiency in adapting to climate change.



EcoCuencas binational meeting for the Catamayo-Chira Basin 30 August - 3 September 2016 - Poechos Dam

The "EcoCuencas" project involves three pilot basins offering a wide panorama of situations:

- that of **Catamayo-Chira boundary river** shared by Ecuador and Peru,
- the **Brazilian basin of the Piracicaba, Capivari and Jundiá rivers** that supply drinking water to the city of São Paulo,
- the **river basin of the Rio Grande II dam in Colombia**, essential to the water consumption of the Colombian city of Medellín.

Designed to serve as a basis for further activities, analyses of the effects of climate change and of existing economic mechanisms have been published in each basin.

Their preparation was implemented by the Latin American partners in the project. It led to specific workshops rich in experience sharing in the first half of 2016.

At the same time, a guide dedicated to economic mechanisms for water resources management in a context of climate change was also drafted.

It will be back-fed by the lessons learned from the practical implementation of its proposals in the various pilot basins.

The proposed pilot actions, undertaken by partners in 2016, are taking various forms depending on the context and relevance of their implementation: establishment, strengthening, broadening of economic fees for water use and pollution, development of payment mechanisms for environmental services, etc.

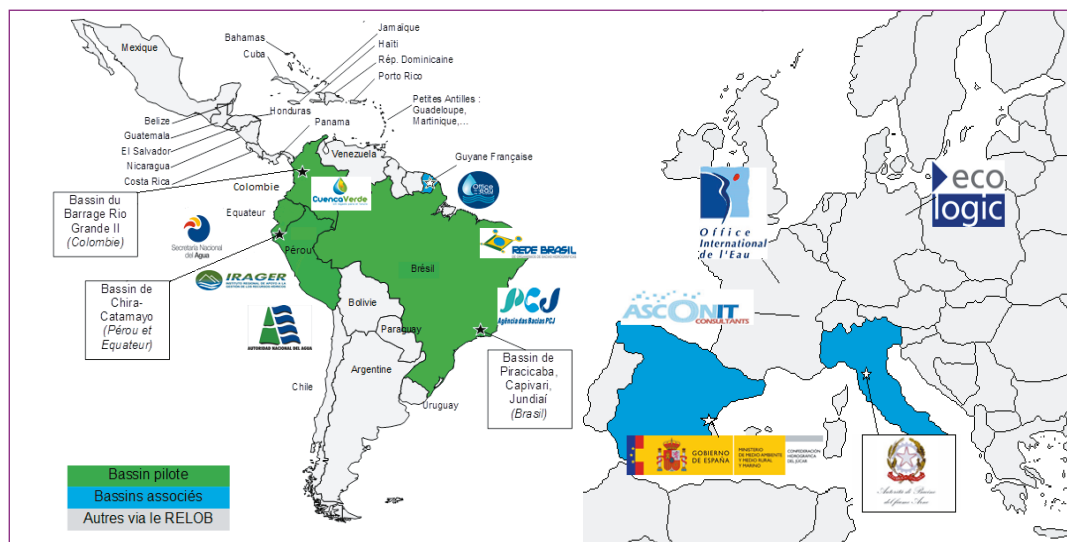
As regards adaptation, the project also provides for action planning and prioritization of measures against the effects of climate change.

Finally, "EcoCuencas" deals with the institutionalization of water resources management in a transboundary context to enhance the shared adaptive potential with, for example, the significant progresses made by Ecuador and Peru in 2016 towards the establishment of a sole commission for better management of their nine transboundary basins.

The Brazilian (REBOB), Latin American (LANBO) and international (INBO) Networks of Basin Organizations, involved in the project, have a central role in facilitating the networking and dissemination actions needed to share the lessons learned.

Note: This article was written with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the authors and it cannot be considered to reflect the EU's position.

www.ecocuencas.com



Latin America

Brazil



Triangular cooperation for better basin management

For three years, a cooperation program between the Basin Organizations of the Piracicaba, Capivari and Jundiá Rivers (PCJ) in the State of São Paulo and the Basin Committees of the Rio Grande do Sul State has been implemented with support from the French Loire-Brittany Water Agency (AELB).

After the PCJ Basins and the State of Rio in 2015, a visit of the water stakeholders of the Rio Grande do Sul was organized in 2016 in the State of Ceara in Northeastern Brazil, where the country's oldest Basin Agency is located, **the Water Resources Management Company.**

This agency, founded in 1996, is financing, with economic fees for water use, a much elaborated system for the participatory management of dams and canals.

Twelve Basin Committees coordinate the work of fifty-four water allocation Commissions that organize the sharing of this valuable resource among farmers, industry and inhabitants of this semi-arid region.

The most significant Brazilian experiences were also analyzed,

A delegation, led by the State Secretary for the Environment of the State of Rio Grande do Sul and several Presidents of Basin Committees, was invited in France at the home office of the Loire-Brittany Water Agency in Orleans and at the delegation of Le Mans during a week from 13 to 17 June 2016.

Alternating technical presentations, field visits and discussions with the staff of the Agency and its partners, exchanges enabled the Brazilian delegation to understand how the French



Agencies manage to mobilize local basin stakeholders to achieve Good Ecological Status.

Territorial Contracts and a strategy to fund project managers and facilitators across territories especially caught the attention of the participants.

Based on this knowledge, cooperation is entering into a new phase of establishment of **an Agency in the Pilot Rio Ibicuí Basin, a tributary of the Rio Uruguai, located at the extreme south of Brazil.**

Drawing lessons from the analyzed Brazilian experiences and inspired by the approach of Territorial Contracts set up by the "AELB", local partners developed **a Pact for Water Resources Management in the Ibicuí Basin**, to be proposed to technical and financial policymakers.

On such a basis, the first technicians of the pilot agency should be recruited in 2017.



Peru



The Blue Passport: an instrument for citizen mobilization



The Blue Passport is an initiative of the International Secretariat for Water (ISW), the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) and institutions that are interested in disseminating this citizen awareness-raising tool.

Receiving a Blue Passport is an official recognition of involvement in water protection, use, conservation and management.

It promotes local, individual and / or collective citizen actions that benefit the protection of the water resources on the basin scale.

The ISW and its local partners held on March 5, 2016 a public consultation in the Cachi River Basin, in Ayacucho in Peru.

Approximately 1,200 blue passports were delivered to citizens, mainly coming from indigenous communities, who participated in this public consultation.

The participants especially expressed themselves on:

- The constitution of a communal authority to manage and conserve the basin;

- Prioritize the use of resources coming from ecosystem's services compensation to support rural water supply and sanitation projects.

The results of this public consultation were sent to the Peruvian authorities.

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India-EU Water Partnership

Capacity building on governance and river basin planning

As part of the India-EU Water Partnership, a workshop was organized on 14 and 15 June 2016 in New Delhi, to analyze the governance problems in the Ganges River Basin and to propose some solutions resulting from the experience of the European Union in river basin management.

This workshop made an overall presentation of the status of water

resources in India, current challenges and plans to address them.

It also provided an overview of the European and international experience in Integrated Basin Management, which allowed the identification of common points as well as the potential for adaptation in India of the tools, methodologies and measures implemented within the European Union to respond to water management problems.

About fifty participants attended the event, including representatives of the National Mission for Clean Ganges (NMCG), the National Water Mission (NWM), the Indian States, the European Union and its Member States and water resources managers, experts and researchers.

The International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) presented its international experience on the

structures, mechanisms and challenges of basin organizations.

It also facilitated and reported on the conclusions of the Working Group organized on the 2nd day of the workshop on the establishment of basin organizations in India and the lessons that can be learned from the European experience.

Central Asia

High-level Symposium on SDG 6 and its targets

9 - 11 August 2016 - Dushanbe - Tajikistan

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in partnership with the United Nations organized in Dushanbe an International Symposium, which gathered 700 people representing 66 countries and whose aim was to specify the measures needed to rapidly implement the water SDG and its targets: Access to water and sanitation (6.1 and 6.2), Reduction of water pollution (6.3), Increase of water use efficiency (6.4), Integrated Water Resources Management - IWRM (6.5), Protection and restoration of water ecosystems (6.6), Expanding international cooperation (6.a) and strengthening the participation of local communities in water and sanitation management (6b).

The exchange of experience and good practices was organized around 8 thematic sessions that swept across the SDGs.

The **International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)**

actively participated especially regarding Integrated Water Resources Management – IWRM and innovative cooperation mechanisms.

The symposium was also the occasion of bilateral and multilateral

meetings organized on the initiative of six European countries (Germany, Finland, France, Hungary, the Netherlands, Switzerland) to establish, within the United Nations System, a new intergovernmental body specialized in the manage-

ment of freshwater resources with a strengthened secretariat.

Water is the victim of a great institutional fragmentation: more than thirty United Nations Agencies work in one way or another on water management.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY	2 ZERO HUNGER	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13 CLIMATE ACTION	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	15 LIFE ON LAND	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Europe

14th International "EUROPE-INBO 2016" Conference

19 - 22 October 2016 - Lourdes - France

The 14th Conference of the "EUROPE-INBO" Group took place in Lourdes, France, from 19 to 22 October 2016, at the invitation of the French Water Agencies, the City of Lourdes and with ONEMA's support.

It gathered 199 participants, representatives of national administrations, basin organizations, as well as of NGOs, companies, international and regional organizations, coming from 44 countries.

The work of the conference was organized around four round tables which discussed the following topics:

- WFD review for 2019;
- Governance of transboundary basins;
- Adaptation to climate change and water resources, scarcity and drought management;
- Knowledge of flood risks, management of aquatic environments and preventive measures in the basins.

Prior to the conference, three workshops were organized on:

- ◆ The Programs of Measures under the Peer-Review Mechanism;
- ◆ The Smart Water Management System, "SAID" project;
- ◆ Circular Economy and Wastewater Reuse.

In addition, the EDgE (End-to-end Demonstrator for improved decision making in the water sector in Europe), ADAPT-Climate (European Climate Adaptation Platform) and EcoCuencas projects were presented in side events of the conference.

The WFD review

The WFD is to be reviewed by 2019 and the first challenge is its future beyond 2027, when it is clear that the objective of "Good Status" of Water Bodies will not be achieved in all the European basins at that date.

After an extraordinary meeting of the Water Directors on 6 October, the European bodies and Member States have now started thinking of the issue.

Everyone recognizes the progress made by the WFD, but its implementation should be boosted and its credibility to the set objectives be restored.

At this stage, several factors should be taken into account:

The WFD principles and its high environmental goals are now widely recognized.

The investments already made to implement the WFD, both from the point of view of the organization and practical work, should be amortized and sustained.

Integrating the objectives by sector, especially in the areas of agriculture, industry, land management, and the marketing of chemical products remain a challenge.

There are still some difficulties in defining real techniques for "Good Status" and the way of reporting the progress made and the improvement of the health of aquatic ecosystems.

The principle "one out, all out" masks the progress actually made.

Finally, adaptation to climate change should start quickly.

The Conference participants considered that a cautious approach to the WFD review should be adopted and, rather than modifying the wording of the WFD itself, it would be better to improve the operational conditions for its implementation with both a pragmatic approach to the objectives set, based on established scientific data,

and by integrating its objectives into the other EU sectoral policies (agriculture, energy, transport, marketing of chemical products, etc.).

It is also necessary to take into account the evolution of the global context with the adoption by the United Nations in September 2015 of the Agenda 2030 and of Sustainable Development Goals, and with the adoption, in December 2015, of the Paris Agreement on climate at the end of the COP 21. These two events, which place water at the highest level on the global agenda, must be taken into account in the WFD review.

Water governance in transboundary basins

The EUROPE-INBO Conference participants reminded their wish for effective application of international regulatory instruments - 1992 Water Convention, 1997 UN Convention, draft article on transboundary aquifers - for better management of transboundary waters.

At the EU level, these instruments are largely taken into account and their implementation is real, but given



199 participants from 44 countries © INBO - C. Runel

"TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EUROPEAN WATER DIRECTIVES"

on the Water Framework Directive implementation



the decisive role of the International Commissions in the implementation of the EU Directives, even beyond EU borders, greater support to these Commissions of transboundary Districts must be considered.

Governance should also aim at better coordination between the WFD, the Flood Directive and the Framework Directive on the Marine Environment Strategy, in transboundary basins and marine areas, including those shared with the riparian non-EU countries.

Adaptation to climate change

As underlined during the COP 21, held in Paris in 2015, we must increase our efforts for properly assessing the effects of climate change on water resources, and appropriate adaptation measures must be decided and quickly implemented in basins.

The "Paris Pact on water and adaptation to the effects of climate change in the basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers" was signed by 359 organizations, and now it is necessary to resolutely take action.

The official Water Day of the COP 22 in Marrakech, facilitated by INBO, is a privileged place to discuss the measures to be taken for adaptation in the basins and to exchange on the projects already committed under the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA).

The document "Water and Adaptation to Climate Change in Transboundary Basins: Lessons Learned and Good Practices" published by UNECE and INBO in 2015, is a very practical source of inspiration.

In the European Union, the River Basin Management Plans and future Programs of Measures must integrate the adaptation measures taken with a multi-sectoral approach to all economic sectors that impact water and river basins and take into account all pressures such as demography, urbanization or agricultural development.

The EUROPE-INBO participants recommended **strengthening Water Information Systems** to include climate change data and monitoring and control systems for correcting plans and programs in real-time, keeping in mind the degree of uncertainty induced by climate change.

The systems to be established must include structural and non-structural measures.

To anticipate droughts

The structural measures concern actions that allow, for example, water saving, reuse of treated wastewater, increased storage capacity in a multi-functional approach.

Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM) and, more broadly, green infrastructure are to be favored to improve the sustainable availability of resources.

Such an approach leads to better resilience of the environments and greater flexibility of any existing infrastructure and thus addresses the need for «no regrets» measures imposed by the uncertainty linked to climate change.

At the same time, non-structural measures have to be taken to incite users to reduce their consumption, regulate water abstractions, establish a drought crisis management framework and facilitate the society's responsiveness to any extreme water scarcity event.

For better flood management

Better integration between the WFD, the Flood Directive and the Marine Strategy Directive should be looked for.

Coordination between River Basin Management and Flood Risk Management Plans, required during their drafting, should continue during the whole implementation process, especially in the case of transboundary basins where cooperation among the Member States themselves and with the neighboring countries should be strengthened.

The EUROPE-INBO participants recalled that flood prevention can be better achieved by relying on the natural functions of rivers and aquatic ecosystems and by developments that favor the use of wetlands and natural areas for flood mitigation or the dynamic slowing of floods.

More specifically, public policies must aim at the preservation or restoration of the riparian areas of rivers with buffer strips, zones of free circulation of water, flood retention areas...

Mr. Jean LAUNAY was elected President of the EUROPE-INBO Group for the year to come, until the next conference in 2017.

The next two EUROPE-INBO Conferences will take place in Dublin and Seville, in 2017 and 2018 respectively.



Europe

International Conference on "Water and Climate"

Meeting of the Great Rivers of the World

23 - 25 October 2017 - Rome - Italy

The Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea will hold the International Summit "Water and Climate: Meeting of the Great Rivers of the World" from 23 to 25 October 2017 in Rome, Italy.

This international summit is organized under the patronage of the Presidency of the Italian Republic and of the Presidency of the Italian Council of Ministers, in partnership with the International Network of Basin Organizations, the Global Alliances for Water and Climate (GAfWaC), AquaMadre and UNECE.

It will be closed on Wednesday 25 October by the President of the Italian Republic.

This event is designed as a milestone in the preparation of COP23 (Bonn, 6 - 17 November 2017) and of the

World Water Forum (Brasilia, 18 - 23 March 2018).

It will promote further integration of water as one of the top priority issues of international negotiations on climate change and it will call on donors and project holders to take action for the financing of ambitious projects intended to improve knowledge, governance, public participation, ecosystem protection and risk prevention for water and adaptation to climate change.

The focus will be on addressing the impacts of climate change on water resources and their dramatic consequences (floods, droughts, etc.).

The summit will be a unique occasion to match project proposals and financing opportunities and to foster experience sharing between great river basin organizations, local, national and



Rome - Fountain of the Four Rivers - Navona Square

regional administrations in charge of climate change adaptation policies and water resources management, bilateral and multilateral donors and other institutions interested in adaptation to climate change and basin management

(UN agencies, Secretariat of the UNFCCC and UNFCCC Member States, etc.).

Let's participate !

www.inbo-news.org



Budapest Summit

28 - 30 November - Budapest - Hungary

In 2013, in partnership with the World Water Council and United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, Hungary had organized a first Water Summit that had played a key role in the definition and adoption of a water-dedicated goal and targets as part of Agenda 2030

for Sustainable Development.

Under the patronage of János Áder, President of Hungary and Member of the High-level Panel on Water SDG, this second Summit was an important event in the preparation of the 8th World Water Forum of Brasilia.

It aimed to promote the practical implementation of this Water SDG6 and its targets, as well as of the water-related objectives of the Paris Agreement on the climate.

It included a Scientific Forum, a Citizen Forum, a Youth Forum, a Women's Forum and a Water Professionals' Trade Fair.

2,200 participants from 117 countries contributed to the discussions on the 6 targets of the "Water" SDG.

INBO Secretary General, Mr. Jean-François Donzier, spoke in plenary meeting to introduce session 3 dedicated to "good governance" in the Citizen Forum.

He reminded the need to work on river basin management, transboundary cooperation and capacity building.

He also participated in the High Level Panel on the benefits of aquatic ecosystems and green engineering.

These topics were identified as priorities in the "Budapest Declaration".

www.budapestwatersummit.hu



Water Framework Directive

Success for the EU Peer-Review Mechanism

The Peer Review process, implemented since September 2014 by the International Office for Water, INBO Secretariat, together with the National Institute of Hydrology and Water Management (Romania) and the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisation' Secretariat (Spain), was achieved in December 2016.

The purpose of this mechanism, supported by the European Commission, was to develop a voluntary and targeted system to allow mutual learning between peers about the Water Framework Directive (WFD) implementation in Europe.

Sixteen River Basin District Authorities in 11 EU Countries decided to take part in this process and have some specific parts of their River Basin Management Plans reviewed.

Out of 71 candidates, **40 experts were selected** to actively participate in the process because of their experience and ability to respond to requests from candidate District Authorities.

All the participants were very satisfied with this mechanism, and the Member State representatives at the Common Implementation Strategy's Strategic Coordination Group (CIS-SCG) expressed the wish to have it developed over time.



Reviewing mission for the South Baltic District - Sweden

In parallel with the Peer Review missions, specific workshops were organized during 2016 on the topics which received most attention: "Data management", "Groundwater", and "Program of Measures and economic analysis".

These workshops gave the opportunity to gather a higher number of experts in order to discuss more in details these topics and reach an agreement on some key recommendations regarding the implementation of the WFD.

Visit the project Website:

www.aquacoop.eu/peer.review

Twinning agreements between European River Basins

Bulgaria: East Aegean River Basins



Signing of the Bulgaria-France Cooperation Agreement in Lourdes

The Bulgarian East Aegean River Basin Directorate and the French Artois Picardy Water Agency have taken advantage of the International EUROPE-INBO Conference in Lourdes to renew for five years their cooperation agreement.

In addition to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), especially regarding environmental objectives and exten-

sion of deadlines, this agreement now contains a component devoted to the Flood Directive including flood risk assessment at trans-boundary level, taking into account links between the Management Plan of the WFD and the Management Plan of the Flood Directive.

It also includes a point on the taking into account of climate change in water resources management.

Upper Vistula Regional Water Management Authority

On the 4th of July 2016 in Krakow, the Polish Upper Vistula Water Authority and the Artois Picardy Water Agency renewed, for five more years, their historical cooperation agreement that has existed since 1995.

This agreement now contains a component on the Flood Directive with the implementation of the Flood Risk Management Plan and flood risk maps, as well as a component for the protection of water resources in the context of climate change.



Signing of the Cooperation Agreement in Krakow

Meeting of the Great Rivers of the World
Water and Climate:
October 23-25, 2017 - Rome - Italy
Please register: www.inbo-news.org



The website of basin management over the world

- The International Network of Basin Organizations
- The Regional Networks of Basin Organizations:
 - Africa - ANBO
 - Latin America - LANBO
 - North America - NANBO
 - Asia - NARBO
 - Brazil - REBOB
 - Central Europe - CEENBO
 - Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia - EECCA-NBO
 - The Mediterranean - MENBO
- "EUROPE-INBO 2017" - Dublin - Ireland - 20 - 23 September 2017
For European Water Directives Implementation
- Handbooks for Integrated Basin Management
- World Water Forum 2018 in Brasilia
- COP23 :
"Paris Pact on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change"
Global Alliances for Water and Climate

Privileged links with websites:

worldwaterforum8.org / worldwatercouncil.org
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N° ISSN : 2071-9418 - Online: ISSN 2310-5852
www.inbo-news.org



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