



INBO

International Network
of Basin Organizations

Report of Activities 2017

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International news

Great international events

International Summit on the Great Rivers of the World: “Taking action for water and climate”



The Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea organized the International Summit on “Water and Climate; Meeting of the Great Rivers of the World”, from 23 to 25 October 2017 in Rome, Italy.

This international summit was organized in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), the Global Alliances for Water and Climate (GAWC) and Aquamadre.

It gathered more than 350 high-level participants from 56 countries and representatives from, in particular, the European Commission, the major UN agencies, the Union for the Mediterranean, the largest river basins in the world, and his Holiness Pope Francesco.

The President of the Italian Council of Ministers, Mr. Paolo Gentiloni, officially opened the Summit on the morning of 23 October and the closing ceremony on 25 October was celebrated in the presence of the President of the Italian Republic, H.E. Sergio Mattarella.

As has now become clear, climate change is already having a visible impact on freshwater resources, with dramatic consequences (floods, droughts, erosion, ecosystem degradation, etc.).

This Summit has been an important milestone for the preparation of the Bonn COP 23 (6-17 November 2017) and the Brasilia World Water Forum (18-23 March 2018). Its goal was to further integrated freshwater management issues into the top priorities of the international negotiations on climate change and of the Global Climate Action Agenda.

It especially focused on the need for quick action to finance projects, to improve knowledge, governance, public participation and take immediate measures for water adaptation to climate change.

The summit was an outstanding occasion to match project proposals to financing opportunities and to foster experience sharing between great river basin organizations, local, national and regional administrations in charge of climate change adaptation policies and water resources management, bilateral and multilateral donors and other international institutions interested in adaptation to climate change and in basin management.

The work of the Summit was organized around four major topics, which were presented in high-level panels and widely discussed among participants:

- n Acquisition and sharing of knowledge on the impact of climate change on water resources;
- n Nature-Based Solutions,

- Public participation and involvement of the economic sectors and local authorities;
- Financial mechanisms for adaptation to climate change in the water sector.

At the end of the discussions, the following priority recommendations were formulated for reporting to COP23 in Bonn:

- **Integrated water management**, organized at the level of coastal, national or transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers basins, is needed all over the planet;
- In particular, **regional and trans-boundary cooperation** in climate change adaptation is crucial to effectively address this change, when there are surface or groundwater resources shared between several riparian countries;
- **The establishment and development of local, national or transboundary basin organizations** is to be supported as well as the strengthening of institutional and technical cooperation between counterpart basin organizations from the same region and other parts of the world;
- In each country and each basin, the organization and improvement of **the production, gathering, conservation and exchange of data is to be supported within integrated Water Information Systems (WIS)**, which are to be sustained in the long term, while taking climate change into account. Flood and drought early warning systems should be strengthened or developed wherever necessary;
- Stronger linking is needed for **scientific knowledge-based** decision making;

Rome - Italy - 23-25 October 2017 – Capitoline Palace

Closing Ceremony in the presence of the President of the Italian Republic, H.E. Sergio Mattarella © INBO – C. Runel



- **The effective participation of the civil society and all stakeholders** in decision-making and management processes is to be fostered. In particular, it is necessary to use dialogue frameworks, such as Basin Committees or Councils, Local Water Commissions or river or aquifer contracts for this purpose;
- It is important to promote exchanges of experience on the most effective mechanisms for dialogue and participation of water stakeholders worldwide and to create links between representatives of local authorities, economic sectors and the civil society involved in these processes. It is advisable that **the members of**

the Basin Committees and Councils, that already exist in many countries, organize an enhanced cooperation among themselves, as part of a joint initiative that would fit in with the “Citizens” process of the forthcoming World Water Forum in Brasilia in March 2018;

- **We need to promote Nature Based Solutions (NBS).** The restoration of flood plains is recognized as one of the most important challenges and a key issue for natural flood management, groundwater recharge, biodiversity protection and the security of human communities. The multiple benefits of Nature-Based Solutions contribute to reducing the cost of action.

The Rome Summit thus called for the signing of a declaration to support the integration of the use of such Nature-Based Solutions in the “Marrakech Partnership’s Agenda for Global Climate Action”, during the official Action Day for Water and Climate at the COP23 on 10 November 2017 in Bonn.

- Governments and the international community must **ensure the mobilization of essential funding** for the implementation of urgent actions to adapt water to climate;
- **Africa**, which is the continent that is the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, must be able to count on the mobilization and solidarity of all partners

through the “**Water for Africa**” initiative, launched at the International Conference on Water and Climate in Rabat in July 2016.

- **Attaining the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and implementing the Paris Agreement** require an acceleration of funding, from all sources, of climate action in the water sector;
- **Funding should support** not only infrastructure projects, but also serve to improve knowledge of resources and climate change impacts, capacity building, governance, water culture, the monitoring and evaluation of policies.

It is advisable that donors recognize and strengthen the essential role of basin organizations in sustainable water resources management, by financially supporting projects related to the commitments and principles set out above to address climate change.

For further information and see the papers and photographs:

www.inbo-news.org



350 high level participants from 56 countries © INBO – C. Runel



International news

Great international events

COP23 – UNFCCC - 17 November 2017 – Bonn - Germany:

Signing of the International Declaration “Nature Based Solutions”, during the official “Action Day for Water and Climate” on 10 November 2017 © INBO - C. Runel



Created at the COP22 in Marrakech in 2016, the “**Global Alliances for Water and Climate – GAWaC**”, gather the four “Alliances” of the Basins (Paris Pact), Megacities, Desalination and Business, themselves established at the COP21 in Paris a year earlier. Today, they represent more than 450 organizations around the world, which have committed themselves to mobilize their partners, identify and disseminate good practices and support the development of new projects by field stakeholders involved in adaptation to climate change and in the resilience of the inland freshwater sector.

The Global Alliances for Water and Climate have been designated by the two Moroccan and Fijian “Climate Champions” to prepare and coordinate, with their partners in the sector, the “**Official Action Day for Water and Climate**”, which took place on Friday 10 November 2017 as part of the COP23 in Bonn and which followed the International Rome Summit on “Water and Climate” held from 23 to 25 October.

This day was an opportunity to remind decision makers that freshwater is one of the first victims of climate change.

Indeed, freshwater resources are already and will be more and more directly affected by climate change, and this in the coming years.

The consequences, depending on the regions, will be an increase in intensity and frequency of floods and droughts, the strengthening of extreme hydro-logical and hydrogeological phenomena, a flow deregulation of the rivers originating in the mountains, due to the melting of glaciers and the reduction of snow cover.

It will be also necessary to fight against an increased erosion caused by the modification of plant species and soil cover, and changes or even reduction in agricultural production, a change in flows at the mouth of rivers, as well as salt intrusions on the coasts and in coastal aquifers, due to the rising of sea levels, an increased prevalence of water-borne diseases or the arrival of invasive species in ecosystems, especially caused by the warming of surface water.

The demographic, economic and ecological consequences are likely to be very significant and require global mobilization to quickly prepare the necessary adaptation programs at the level of each basin, taking surface water and groundwater into account.

Areas with big human settlements and economic activities will be seriously threatened, with the risk of large population displacements, especially in rural areas.

These effects are compounded by significant pressures already linked to population growth, urbanization and development. Global warming is a “**multiplier of threats**”, aggravating difficult situations and increasing tensions, even in stable regions!

We must act quickly, before it is too late, and the mobilization of all stakeholders is essential at the global level, in order to urgently develop the programs needed to prevent the effects of global warming and adapt to them.

In 93% of their National Contributions (NDCs), the countries have identified water as a priority for adaptation. As water is essential for human health, food security, energy production,

industrial productivity, tourism, navigation, biodiversity, in addition to basic human needs, securing water resources means ensuring security in all these areas of economic, social and environmental development.

Adaptation to climate change is one of the conditions for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 in the water sector.

The Action Day for Water and Climate was organized around a review of the actions that have been carried out, especially by the four Global Alliances for Water and Climate, since the COP22 in Marrakech last year **and four thematic sessions** on:

- improving the funding of adaptation projects,
- the knowledge needed in the field of water to respond to climate uncertainty,
- water and urban resilience,
- water, sustainable agriculture and food security.

This Day has shown, with the presentation of many actions already in progress, that “no regrets” solutions exist and can be implemented immediately, but also that difficulties must be overcome.

Among the recommendations made, it can especially be noted that:

- ① **Integrated water resources management should be organized at the level of coastal, national or transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers basins**, because, in particular, regional and transboundary cooperation is crucial and must be increased where there are surface or groundwater resources shared by several riparian countries.

Freshwater victim of climate change: We must act quickly!



Plenary session on “Finance” during the official “Action Day for Water and Climate” © INBO - C. Runel

- In each country and each basin, the organization and improvement of the production, gathering, conservation, exchange and dissemination of data are to be supported within integrated Water Information Systems (WIS), which are to be sustained in the long term,** while taking climate change into account, **because we do not know how to manage what we cannot measure** and the delay in this area is important: Flood and drought early warning systems should be strengthened or developed wherever necessary.
 - Water management needs to be organized in a cross-sectoral way** involving local authorities, including municipalities, economic sectors, especially agriculture and energy, and the civil society as a whole. Effective participation of all relevant stakeholders should be promoted in the decision-making and management processes and in the development of field projects. From this point of view, the Alliances created between basins, cities and businesses allow a better mobilization of these partners, a shared vision of the issues and solutions, the cross-dissemination of good practices and the pooling of support means.
 - Multiple benefits are provided by Nature-Based Solutions,** which have proven effective alongside conventional infrastructure and which contribute to reducing the costs of action: they need to be promoted and skills have to be provided to develop this “green engineering”. In this regard, during COP 23, an appeal was launched for the signing of a Declaration to support the use of Nature-Based Solutions into the **“Action Agenda of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action”**, which has already gathered more than 70 signatures from international or national organizations involved.
 - Governments and the international community must ensure the easier mobilization of essential funding for the implementation of urgent actions to adapt water to climate.** The achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of the Paris Agreement require accelerating funding from all sources for climate action in the water sector.
- Financing, whose procedures should be simplified, must not only support infrastructure projects, but also serve to improve knowledge of resources and climate change impacts, capacity building, governance, training, water culture, monitoring and evaluation of policies or the use of Nature-Based Solutions.
- Project incubation resources, to facilitate their funding from the various “Climate Funds”, appeared very useful in the light of current experiences.**
- The next World Water Forum, to be held in Brasilia from 19 to 23 March 2018, will be the occasion for a new mobilization around these objectives.
- The Global Alliances for Water and Climate (GAWaC) regroup:**
- The Alliance of the 360 signatories of the “Paris Pact on water and adaptation to climate change in the basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers”, in 94 Countries,** facilitated by the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) in partnership with UNECE,
 - The Business Alliance for Water And Climate Change - BAFWAC,** launched by the Carbon Disclosure Project - CDP, the CEO Water Mandate, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and SUEZ, which has now 65 member organizations, including 47 leading companies,
 - The Alliance of Megacities for Water and Climate,** facilitated by UNESCO, ICLEI, SIAAP and Arceau-IDF, gathering 16 Mega-cities for a total population of more than 300 million inhabitants,
 - The Global Clean Water Desalination Alliance,** gathering dozens of companies and research centers in this field.

www.-water-climate-alliances.org



International news

Great international events



"ONE PLANET SUMMIT"

100 projects for water and climate in Africa

On the occasion of the "One Planet" Summit in Paris last 12 December, the President of the French Republic, Mr. Emmanuel MACRON, announced an initiative to develop "100 new projects for water and climate in Africa", under the Incubation Platform of the Global Alliances for Water and Climate (GAFWaC-IP).

Africa is indeed the continent most vulnerable to the effects of climate change: Seven of the ten most endangered countries in the world are in Africa. 65% of Africa's inhabitants may be facing water stress by 2025.

Climate change is also an important factor in accelerating migration, especially of rural populations. Thus, Africa should be able to count on the solidarity of all partners, especially through the "Water for Africa" initiative, launched at the International Conference on Water and Climate in Rabat in July 2016.

The incubator initiative "100 projects for water and climate change in Africa" aims to mobilize 20 million Euros to support, over the next 5 years, the incubator and the preparation of new projects.

The Declaration of Support to this initiative was signed by France, Italy, Chad, Burkina Faso, UNESCO, UNECE, the African Development Bank, the French Development Agency and the Global Alliances for Water and Climate and its 4 partners (International Network of Basin Organizations, Business Alliance and Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate, Global Clean Water Desalination Alliance), considering that water is one of the first victims of climate change and that there is an urgent need to step up the pace of adaptation and enhance the number of projects relating to water in Africa.

The difficulty for project-holders to mobilize support in the early stages of project preparation, which hinders

their capacity to access public and private financial instruments, was also underlined.



Hubs of State and Government at the Paris Summit

www.water-climate-alliances.org

Opening of the website of the "Global Alliances for Water and Climate"

On the occasion of the COP23 in Bonn, the Global Alliances for Water and Climate – GAFWaC – opened their website to inform all stakeholders involved to combat the effects of climate change in the water sector.



The "Alliances" website will be a showcase for Water and Climate, including the progresses made with the Flagship Adaptation Projects launched at the COP21, such as the Hydrological Information System of the transboundary 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 "EcoCuencas" Climate Adapt Cooperation project between European and Andean countries.

The site also presents the projects launched at the COP 22, such as the Sebou River management in Morocco, the creation of the "Hydrus" Water Adapt Training Center in Brasilia, cooperation between the Agglomerations of Paris and Manila, the launching of a Euro-Mediterranean water information platform or the future use of the SWOT satellite for hydrological observations of the earth, among others.

It will report on the activity of the four GAFWaC Constitutive Alliances, international water and climate events and their conclusions, incentive projects for new approaches and interesting

publications on the subject matter.

It will also foster the GAFWaC "incubator of new projects", to facilitate their funding from the various "Climate Funds".

It was already enriched by the conclusions of the Rome International Summit and the "Action Day for Water and Climate", as part of the COP23 in Bonn, and by the outcomes of the "One Planet Summit" in Paris.



www.water-climate-alliances.org

Actions for Water and Climate



"GAWaC-IP":

The Incubation Platform for Projects

Climate change is already seriously affecting the water cycle all over the world.

cities and desalination specialists. The GAWaC Incubation Platform focuses on the priorities of the "Paris



The resulting water crisis is a key factor in current and future social, economic, environmental and migration crises, affecting health, food and energy security and economic growth; essential to the sustainable development of many countries.

Donors are mobilized on the issue, but stress their difficulty in finding sound projects to finance. At the same time, project holders regret their lack of capacities to initiate the preparation of new projects and to access funding given the complexity of the procedures.

The Incubation Platform of the Global Alliances for Water and Climate (GAWaC-IP) was created at COP22 in Marrakech, to fill this gap. It mobilizes the 450 partners involved in the four Global Alliances for Water and Climate gathering Basin Organizations, companies, large

Pact on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Basins of Rivers, Lakes and Aquifers".

Launched at COP21, particularly for strengthening water governance, protecting better and saving resources, developing hydrometeorological and environmental monitoring networks and Water Information Systems (WIS), or designing and operating sustainable financing mechanisms. It also incorporates priorities shared with other GAWaC member alliances, such as water resource protection, nature-based solutions, development of sustainable desalination solutions or circular economy in cities and companies.

On an experimental basis, ten projects including three in Africa could be supported by the Platform in 2017, with the help of the French Ministry of Ecology.

These projects could benefit to 33 million people. At the end of the first year of operation, GAWaC-IP completed the incubation of 10 projects and contacts were established with potential donors.

Funding for several projects has already been secured.

A second phase of the much more ambitious Incubation Platform is being finalized following the presentation of the results at COP23 in Bonn.

The incubated projects in 2017 were:

- Securing populations and eco-systems around the Diama Dam in the Senegal River Delta;
- Resilience to the impacts of climate change: towards better efficiency in industrial wastewater treatment in the city of Fes in Morocco;
- Fight against climate change and restoration of the Zarqa River Basin in Jordan;
- Development of Water Information Systems for adaptation to climate change in the Congo River Basin;
- Adaptation to climate change and flood/drought risk management in the Syr Darya Basin in Kazakhstan;
- Development of a climate change adaptation strategy and a priority action plan for the Sava Basin;

- Launching of the first "Water and Climate" courses at the "HYDRUS" Training Center in Brasilia;
- Support to the operationalization of Burkina Faso's National Water Information System;
- Mediterranean Water Knowledge Platform: Support to the development of National Water Information Systems (NWIS) in 4 pilot Southern Mediterranean countries;
- BAFWAC: Global Platform for Joint Action and Learning for Business.

The Rome International Summit on Water and Climate, 23-25 October 2017, recommended that "Funding should support not only infrastructure projects, but also serve to improve knowledge of resources and climate change impacts, capacity building, governance, the monitoring and evaluation of policies".

The Italian Government allocated 5 million Euros to immediately launch three of these incubated projects.

These very encouraging first results were presented at COP23 in Bonn last November.



President E. Macron at the "One Planet Summit"

Training for preparing bankable projects for climate change adaptation in transboundary basins

Dakar - Senegal - 21 - 23 June 2017



Workshop on project preparation in Dakar

A training workshop for preparing bankable projects for climate change adaptation was organized by UNECE, from 21 to 23 June 2017 in Dakar, Senegal, in partnership with **INBO**, the African Water Facility, the World Bank, European Investment Bank, Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment and the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency.

This workshop was hosted by the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS), which is in charge of the Secretariat of the African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO).

It gathered more than 30 participants, including representatives of the World Bank, African Development Bank, European Investment Bank,

French Development Agency and European Water Facility as well as of Transboundary Basin Organizations (TBOs) from Africa, Europe and Asia.

The participants received practical training on how to prepare their request for financing climate change adaptation projects in transboundary basins. They were also trained to make the distinction between adaptation and resilience, as well as between adaptation and development projects.

They were introduced to donors' procedures and project financing cycles and trained on how to develop project proposals for adaptation to climate change, including, in particular, the identification of the impacts of climate change, the vulnerabilities and the needs for adaptation, while fitting their project proposal with the national or transboundary context and climate change adaptation priorities defined in other related sectors.

TBOs should include in their proposals actions that would deliver positive results for both mitigation and adaptation, as such "co-benefits" are highly valued by donors.

Donors informed of the difficulties they encounter to finance TBOs as these often lack of proper financial resources to qualify as direct borrowers. The donors intervene more frequently with the riparian countries rather than with the international structures they created between them. This is why the Ministries of Finances of the riparian countries, which are the contact point of the donors, should be involved in projects from the start.

However, the TBOs provide a consistent framework at the regional level and allow for a real technical and economic integration enabling a sounder use of water resources throughout their basin, where unilateral actions of each riparian State taken separately might not be coordinated with those of other upstream and downstream countries of the basin.

INBO presented the Incubation Platform of the Global Alliances for Water and Climate (GAFWaC-IP)

that aims to bridge the gap between donors, looking for quality adaptation projects, and project holders, ignoring how to access climate funds and comply with their procedural requirements.

GAFWaC-IP provides technical assistance to project holders, to help them build their proposals and reach access to funding.

The training made it clear that there is a strong demand for GAFWaC-IP services.

The workshop was highly interactive, with the presentation of projects for the Basins of the Lake Victoria and Niger River, of OSS (Sahara and Sahel Observatory) accreditation to the Adaptation Fund, of the European Investment Bank procedures.

Exercises with individual or group work on drafting a project proposal to donors were much appreciated by the participants, who wished the continuation of this first training event.

INBO and ANBO presented the AfriAlliance project for innovation in the water and climate sector, aiming at boosting research for the preparedness of Africa to climate change.

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Basin Management on the Web



International news



OECD: Water Governance Initiative



Initiative meeting in Rabat in January 2017

The Water Governance Initiative was launched by OECD at the 6th World Water Forum in Marseilles in 2012.

This work gave a first result in the publication by OECD in 2015 of the 12 principles of water governance that are a real world reference framework.

The various partners in OECD Initiative then worked on indicators of good governance practices.

INBO is been actively involved in this

initiative, especially in research and definition of governance indicators applicable on different scales: country, region, basin and city.

In 2018, this work will result in a summary document on water governance and a set of indicators to measure the status of this water governance in countries, basins and cities.

The latest version of the proposed indicators was subjected to a feasibility test in the first half of 2017 with 12 volunteer pilot institutions.

The 9th workshop of the Water Governance Initiative, held in Paris on 3 and 4 July 2017, allowed a dialogue on the problems encountered when using these indicators. This led to adjusting a new version that was full-scale tested with these volunteer pilot institutions

in autumn 2017.

At the 10th meeting of the members of the Water Governance Initiative, on 20 and 21 November 2017, in Vienna, Austria, the test feedback-based results were discussed and the requirements to ensure the full success of the use of this set of indicators were defined.

At the same time, the 60 or so “Water Governance stories” collected in 2016 and 2017 were analyzed in order to extract the main lessons learned.

At the Initiative meeting in Rabat in January 2017, Mr. Jean-François Donzier, Secretary General of INBO and the Global Alliances for Water and Climate (GAWaC), presented the conclusions of the official Action Day for Water and Climate of COP 22 in Marrakech.



Initiative meeting in Vienna in November 2017

A delegation from the Brazilian Inter-municipal Consortium and PCJ Water Agency was invited to present the very positive results of the “EcoCuencas” cooperation project, which aimed at testing in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru new economic tools to adapt to the effects of climate change in the selected pilot basins.

www.oecd.org

World Water Data Initiative

WMO - Geneva - 4 - 5 September -2017



The Geneva workshop

On 4 and 5 September 2017, **the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) was invited to participate in a work meeting of the World Water Data Initiative.**

This workshop was held on the premises of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in the presence

of some thirty experts representing the World Bank, the Australian Government, various UN agencies and several NGOs.

This initiative was launched in 2016 by **the High-Level Panel on Water (HLPW)** set up by the UN Secretary General and the President of the World

Bank Group. It aims to promote the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal related to Water (SDG6), which identified access to water data as an essential condition for the implementation of its Action Plan, published in September 2016.

The World Water Data Initiative, managed by the Australian Government until 2018, aims to improve access to water data for stakeholders by providing advice on the right parameters to use by stimulating new technologies and harmonizing common standards.

During this meeting, **INBO** underlined its willingness to actively collaborate in this important strategic initiative, given the significance of data access to achieve effective integrated water resources management in basins and at the national level.

INBO fosters links with local stakeholders in order to better organize access to data (which are often dispersed in multiple national and local organizations) and supports the development of Integrated Water Information Systems.

INBO's forthcoming publication of a handbook on Water Information Systems is scheduled for the Brasilia World Water Forum in March 2018.

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International Events

8th World Water Forum

Sessions on Basin Management and Climate Adaptation Issues

The 8th World Water Forum will take place from 18 to 23 March 2018 in Brasilia, Brazil. As Champion of the Daegu-Gyeongbuk Implementation Commitment (DGIC) for the Theme 4.3 “Cooperation for Reducing Conflict and Improving Transboundary Water Management”, INBO is preparing with its partners many sessions related to basin governance, transboundary cooperation, adaptation to climate change and citizen participation.



● THEME 1 CLIMATE:

Session 1.b.1: How climate change affects water users: the need for cross-sectoral approaches, Tuesday 20th March, 14:30-16:00, Room ST8

Session 1.b.2: Innovative financial mechanisms for adaptation to climate change, Tuesday 20th March, 16:30-18:00, Room ST8

Session 1.b.3: Do not reinvent the wheel: Many non-regret adaptation measures are already available, Wednesday 21st March, 9:00-10:30, Room ST8

● THEME 5 ECOSYSTEMS:

Session 5.a.1: Balancing water needs for human beings and nature, Monday 19th March, 16:30-18:00, Room ST9

Session 5.a.2: River basin revitalization for supporting water quantity and quality and human well-being, Tuesday 20th March, 9:00-10:30, Room ST9

● THEME 6 FINANCE:

Session 6.b.3: Exploring synergies between water-related SDGs and the UNFCCC Adaptation Agenda, Wednesday 21st March, 11:00-12:30, Room ST4

● THEME 8 CAPACITY:

Session 8.a.1: Information and training for decision makers, Monday 19th March, 16:30-18:00, Room ST3

● THEME 9 GOVERNANCE:

Session 9.b.1: For efficient transboundary basin organizations, Tuesday 20th March, 14:30-16:00, Room ST7

Session 9.b.2: Monitoring, assessment, data and knowledge sharing in transboundary basins, Tuesday 20th March, 16:30-18:00, Room ST7

Session 9.b.3: Successful negotiation and implementation of transboundary cooperation agreements, Wednesday 21st March, 9:00-10:30, Room ST7

● SPECIAL SESSIONS:

Strengthening citizen participation in basin management: policy, representativeness and challenges, Wednesday 21st March, 9:00-12:30 Room SC1

Data and tools for water management and decision-making, Wednesday 21st March, 14:30-16:30, Auditório Águas Claras 254

Contact : www.inbo-news.org

<http://www.worldwaterforum8.org/en/program-0>



Please come and participate!

AfriAlliance

Innovative solutions for water and climate in Africa



Workshop, Great Lakes Conference, Entebbe, May 2017

Funded by the European Union's Research and Innovation Program (H2020), the AfriAlliance project aims to build Africa's capacity to respond to climate change challenges by developing joint work and sharing innovative solutions between existing networks in Africa and Europe.

Meeting with field stakeholders, thinking about emerging themes such as social innovation, establishment of a database to collect research and innovation needs related to the challenges of water management and climate change, proactive communication,

these are some of the major issues that IOWater and INBO have dealt with in the AfriAlliance project (2016-2021).

During the first 18 months, 4 workshops, organized and facilitated in Botswana, Morocco, Uganda and Ghana, as well as a series of interviews, allowed identifying a first list of research and innovation needs.

A phase of identifying solutions has started in order to make available, **in the first quarter of 2018, a summary presenting the existing solutions to the identified needs.**

The collected information will also be used to draft the AfriAlliance's research and innovation agenda when no solution is identified or when a development is required.

In terms of communication, the first series of thematic fact sheets on social innovation is now available on the project website. The purpose of these fact sheets is to highlight the specific conditions for innovation in the water sector. They are aimed at potential solution providers, resource managers and local communities and stakeholders such as NGOs.

The main theme of this first series deals with monitoring.

Five sub-topics were developed to detail the specific challenges of monitoring related to water and climate change in Africa:

- Monitoring of drinking water quality for improving health;
- Monitoring of water availability in quality and quantity sufficient for food security;
- Climate monitoring for early warning systems to prepare for extreme weather events;
- Monitoring of groundwater quantity to ensure its sustainable use and avoid water conflicts;
- Monitoring of water pollution for industries and urban areas to protect human health and ecosystems.

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www.afrialliance.org



15th “EUROPE-INBO 2017” Conference 20 -

The 15th “EUROPE-INBO” International Conference took place in Dublin-Malahide, Ireland, from 20 to 23 September 2017.

The participants, coming from 33 countries, discussed, in four roundtables, the current crucial issues related to water resources management in the European Union, such as:

- The future of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) to be reviewed in 2019;
- Adaptation to climate change in basins;
- Stakeholder and public participation in water resources management;
- New threats for aquatic environments.

Workshops allowed, on the one hand, discussing the organization of water data management and reporting to the Commission, and, on the other hand presenting the progress made by the European cooperation “EcoCuencas” project, whose purpose is the development of financial mechanisms, with a view to sustainable development, for adaptation to climate change in pilot basins in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

The participants formulated many recommendations on all these topics during these workshops and the four roundtables.

It was recalled that, despite efforts made to reduce the pressures of human activities on water resources, the goal of “Good Status” of Water Bodies will not be achieved in all basins by the 2017 deadline.

Giving thought on the future of water policy in Europe must rely more on experts from Basin Organizations.

The review of the Directive must be concerned with a better citizens’ acceptance in order to achieve greater efficiency.

This implies that the objectives are understandable to the people, accessible and appropriate, and that progress made is recognized.

It is necessary to improve water governance by better involving Local Authorities and the economic field stakeholders.

The arrangements for allocating European funds must be simplified in order to enable more efficient and sustainable investments to meet the needs of the least developed countries of the European Union.

The “one out, all out” principle, applied to the assessment of “Good Status”, masks the progress recorded and is demobilizing for the stakeholders involved at all levels.

The WFD should evolve on a wider basis of proven scientific advances. A cautious approach to revising it should be a continuation of the process, with a particular focus on improving the effectiveness of field actions.

Indeed, there is a need to improve the operational conditions for its implementation by both a more pragmatic approach, based on reliable data, to the objectives and deadlines to be achieved, and by the inclusion of the WFD into a European water policy better integrated in the other EU sectoral policies (agriculture, energy, transport, marketing of chemicals, etc.).

Innovative projects should be promoted and the provision of adequate financial and technical support should increase.

Enabled by the gradual implementation of the INSPIRE Directive, the development of information systems and their interoperability will be the key drivers of this better integration by extending them to climate change data in a context of great uncertainty. The current system is still largely insufficient to assess the real status of water and environments and their evolution in many EU territories.

The preparation of the 3rd cycle of River Basin Management Plans for 2022-2027 must already be initiated, with a more realistic definition of the objectives to be achieved and by taking into account the UN Sustainable Development Goals including SDG6, as well as the Paris Agreement on Climate.

Regarding adaptation to climate change in the freshwater sector, the COP 21 of Paris in 2015 and the COP 22 of Marrakech in 2016 demonstrated the need to accelerate without delay the implementation of appropriate actions to be quickly included in the Basin Management Plans.

The Paris Pact on “Water and Adaptation to the Effects of Climate Change in the Basins of Rivers, Lakes and Aquifers” launched by INBO in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) during COP21, clearly summarizes the priority actions to be implemented for adaptation in basins.

As a follow-up to this pact, an inventory of innovative projects and successful experiences in adapting to climate change in pilot basins should allow for the dissemination of knowledge and a better sharing of good practices and the use of a common language and references.

Better integration between the WFD, the Flood Risk Management Directive and the Marine Strategy Directive should be sought for, especially when defining climate change adaptation measures to be incorporated into the Basin Management Plans and Programs of Measures.

The application of these Directives is still too sector-based and too often depending on separate administrative services!



126 participants coming from 33 countries © INBO – C. Runel

“TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EUROPEAN WATER DIRECTIVES”



Given the development of water shortages in many EU regions, it is becoming essential to better manage water demand, foster water savings and especially to improve the recycling of treated wastewater and the Nature Based Solutions.

These adaptation measures must be based on a multisectoral approach with all economic sectors having an impact on the concerned areas, basins and sub-basins. Sectoral policies (energy, agriculture, urban planning, transport, recreational activities, fisheries and fish farming, etc.) and the adaptation measures that concern them, must also be integrated and consistent.

The development of new Programs of Measures should be an opportunity to improve or reinforce some adaptation actions already present in current programs, taking into account the evolutions that will be highlighted by the improvement of local knowledge on climate change and its effects on territories, uses and environments.

The stakeholders' and public involvement in basin management is crucial for improving water resources management.

Stakeholders' information and participation in decision-making processes from the start should still be developed for greater ownership of the measures and actions of the Basin Management Plans.

Public access to monitoring results and to knowledge about water and aquatic environments, their status and evolution, is an obligation that facilitates this ownership and therefore improves effectiveness.

From the start, the WFD emphasized the need for public participation in the drafting of Basin Management Plans.

This participation is based not only on the setting up of decision-making or consultative bodies at different local levels but also on a relevant representation of the different categories of users in these bodies.

It is also necessary to enhance the public understanding of the challenges ahead and efforts must be made for the consultations to mobilize more users with better representativeness so that the financial efforts needed are understood and accepted.

The participants in "EUROPE-INBO" Conference stressed the importance of these participatory approaches to achieve better results in water resources management.

As regards the emerging environmental issues, improved knowledge and better measurement tools enable to show new threats to aquatic environments: new pollutants coming from the human, animal or plant health protection sector, new hazardous substances or micro-pollutants, endocrine disruptors.

More difficult to control than organic pollution, these pollutants, that are present in small quantities, can enter the food chain with harmful effects on health or the environment.

Aquatic environments also have to deal with the quick development of invasive alien species for which the remedies are poorly understood.

Finally, river basins suffer from the effects of hydromorphological changes induced by human actions (river works, works on the banks, obstacles to flow, etc.).

All this inevitably leads to a degradation of environmental assets, this is why it is essential to bring water and biodiversity policies closer and to give priority to Nature Based Solutions, whenever possible.

The participants in "EUROPE-INBO" Conference highlighted the need to take actions that are more effective and more respectful of nature to find the best remedies to this degradation of our aquatic heritage.

The conference also examined various international cooperation initiatives for the development of good governance in the basins and sub-basins of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia or of the Mediterranean area.

These examples show that the EU and the Member States must maintain a high level of solidarity with the neighbor countries and help funding good governance. The implementation of the principles and tools of the European Directives in these countries of the Neighborhood Area, supported by Twinning Projects with Member Countries in particular, allows for a significant improvement in water governance and enables transboundary cooperation, when the case arises.

The participants congratulated **Mr. Jean LAUNAY**, President of the French National Water Committee, for the masterful way in which he fulfilled with determination and success the chairmanship of the **EUROPE-INBO** group during the year 2016/2017.

The Presidency of the EUROPE-INBO Group for the coming year has been entrusted to Ireland until the next conference in 2018 to be held in Seville, Spain, from 17 to 20 October 2018.



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Basin Management on the Web



The Mediterranean

Lebanon



6th Beirut Water Week

The Ministry of Energy and Water of Lebanon and the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations (MENBO) organized, from 27 to 29 March 2017, the 6th Water Week of Beirut, on the topic: “Post COP22: What possible governance for the Water-Energy-Food nexus?”

Exchanges dealt with climate change and the establishment of necessary adaptation policies.

Financing, account taking of geopolitical conflicts and hydrodiplomacy for the management of transboundary basins, securing hydraulic infrastructure, technologies and information systems fed

the discussions. The importance of jointly considering the limitation of CO2 releases and the adaptation to change and of addressing governance issues on all scales (local, basin, country and world-wide) was reminded. The means for action are globally the same at all geographical levels:

- Dialogue and cooperation to avoid conflicts,
- Observation, measurement to know the resources in quantity and quality,
- Planning via water management schemes,
- Sharing information and experiences,
- Promoting basin management,
- Training the stakeholders,

These actions have been promoted by **INBO** and its networks for more than 20 years.



Mr. Pierre Roussel, IOWater President, honored at Beirut Water Week



Turkey



“Young Ambassadors” for the protection of natural resources

An EU-funded technical assistance project was awarded to the group led by WYG Turkey. It aims at raising the awareness of the Turkish society to the protection of the environment and water resources.

Training of trainers, development of educational material, study visits to EU Member States have been implemented. The Western Mediterranean Basin, the Konya Basin and the Eastern Black Sea Basin are the 3 pilot basins of the project.

Two delegations of some forty Turkish students came to meet French water stakeholders in August and September 2017.

The young “Ambassadors” were able to meet people of the European Commission and Parliament, the French Seine-Normandie and Artois-Picardy Water Agencies, the Interdepartmental Syndicate for the Sanitation of Greater Paris (SIAAP), **INBO** and **IOWater**.

These meetings were an opportunity to share information and recommendations on projects for youth and on the process of Youth Parliaments for Water in France on

several scales.

In a general manner, bridges have been established between various initiatives raising youth awareness to water management and partnership agreements should be established between the institutions concerned.



The “Ambassadors” visit at INBO home office in Paris

Latin America



“EcoCuencas”

The project is ending in style

“EcoCuencas”, a project funded by the WATERCLIMA program of the European Union and coordinated by **IOWater, INBO** Secretariat, is ending its third and final year in the best conditions, with tangible results in all the partner countries: Peru, Ecuador, Brazil and Colombia.

After the completion, in each river basin, of an analysis of existing redistributive financial mechanisms and their ability to finance adaptation to climate change, the various Latin American partners developed until December 2017 innovative pilot actions, coordinated by Asconit and under IOWater’s impetus.

In Peru, the work carried out by the National Water Authority (ANA) was devoted to existing fees for “uses” and “discharge” in the country. They have led to tangible developments to improve the coverage and efficiency of the fee levying process, broadened the fee liability basis and increased rates in relevant situations, with a view to equity and funding for Integrated Water Resources Management.

At the same time, the project provided thoughts on adaptation to climate change, using innovative methodologies (no regret measures, cost of inaction, etc.).



“EcoCuencas” Workshop at the “EUROPE-INBO 2017” Conference in Dublin – Ireland

In Ecuador, the National Secretariat for Water (SENAGUA) developed a new national instrument for financing water resources protection (entitled “tarifa agua cruda”): definition of the collection formula, proposal for a management model, taken into account in the regulation, support to the constitution of Basin Councils, or formulation of projects able to be financed by the new redistributive instrument.

Peruvian and Ecuadorian work carried out in the shared pilot Catamayo-Chira River Basin also facilitated closer links between the Basin Councils on both sides of the border to steer the management of the nine boundary basins. A meeting of these Basin Councils was held in early October 2017. The actions were coordinated with the “Aguas Sin Fronteras” project, funded by the same European Union’s program WaterClima.

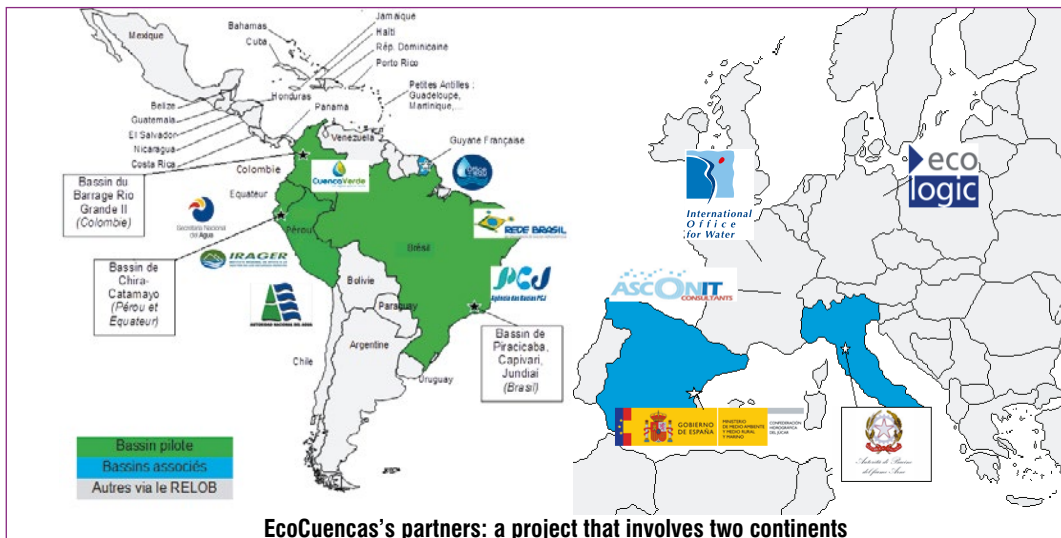
In Colombia, the Water Fund of the “Corporación Cuenca Verde” has designed and implemented a pilot project of “payment for environmental services” in the micro-basin of the Rio Grande II dam, essential for the supply of drinking water to the city of Medellín.

The process started with the identification and the complete analysis of the plots potentially concerned, then with the prioritization of these plots according to objective criteria. After the signing of specific agreements, 25 families were able to benefit from a payment in exchange for services allowing the improvement and / or the conservation of water quality in the basin. This payment, the amount of which was defined by a method based on opportunity costs, was accompanied by technical assistance for the evolution of agricultural and forestry production practices.

In Brazil, the project allowed the Piracicaba Capivari Jundiá (PCJ) Basin Agency to conduct strategic thinking on the reform of existing fee mechanisms (inflation-linked indexation, integration of new parameters for discharge fees), institutional functioning of planning (proposals for the internalization of this function), adaptation to climate change and good practices in this direction, or even the operation of Water Information Systems.

Feedback, summarized from the outcomes of the project and of various events organized in all countries, as well as from a participation in international highlights, such as the OECD Water Governance Initiative (WGI) in June 2017 in Paris, EUROPE-INBO in Dublin in September 2017 or ENCOB in Aracaju in November 2017, is available on the “EcoCuencas” website:

www.ecocuencas.com



EcoCuencas’s partners: a project that involves two continents



**Water and Climate:
8th World Water Forum
18-23 March 2018 - Brasilia
Basin Management and Climate Change
Please participate in the sessions!**

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 2018" - Seville - Spain - 17 - 20 October 2018
For European Water Directives Implementation
- Handbooks for Integrated Basin Management
- World Water Forum 2018 in Brasilia
- COP21 - COP22 - COP23 :
"Paris Pact on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change"
Global Alliances for Water and Climate

Privileged links with websites:

worldwaterforum8.org / worldwatercouncil.org
gwp.org / iowater.org / emwis.org
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