

# Beyond COP-15: Water Security and Development

**Building water security to support climate change adaptation for development must be intensified and accelerated as negotiations for a global climate deal progress.**

This was the central message to emerge from multi-stakeholder dialogues carried out in Africa and China. These dialogues, supported by the Global Water Partnership (GWP), were held as a follow up to the Conference of the Parties in Copenhagen (COP 15).

The dialogues continued to build the case—advocated by the global water community—that better water resources management is key to climate change adaptation. The dialogues emphasised the importance of *partnerships and coordination* toward achieving regional and national priorities and adaptation to climate change.

## Summary of Recommendations

### 1. Integration with National Development

**Strengthen water resources management and climate change adaptation as part of economic development planning at basin, national and regional levels.**

This recognises that a scenario-based approach—taking into account climate change risks and better water management as part of national development planning—is an inherent climate change adaptation measure and goes a long way to meeting the challenges of poverty eradication, socio-economic development and environmental sustainability.

### 2. Information, Infrastructure, Institutions

**Build capacity of institutions and stakeholders to integrate water and climate change activities into development planning, and strengthen water infrastructure.**

This recognises that strengthening local institutions with knowledge and capacity is essential to climate change adaptation. Building infrastructure and local capacity for

better water management contributes to increased resilience to climate change and safeguards development investments. Awareness raising and mobilising political will is a first step to building the human and institutional resources required.

### 3. Investment

**Finance water security to support national development priorities and adaptation to climate change.**

This recognises the need to increase national, regional and global capacity to access funding. In addition, today's investments in water should be seen as part of a strategy to build a climate-resilient world.

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Central to the implementation of these recommendations is a multi-stakeholder partnership approach. This includes cross-sectoral collaboration within countries and coordination at basin, regional and global levels in political processes and dialogues.

#### A Water Secure World

The Global Water Partnership is an intergovernmental organisation with a worldwide network of 13 Regional Water Partnerships, 73 Country Water Partnerships and more than 2,000 Partner organisations in 150 countries. The GWP network is committed to building a water secure world.

Stakeholders at the African dialogues expressed concern about the definition of 'concrete adaptation projects and programmes' used in the Adaptation Fund guidelines for Parties to access resources from the Fund (paragraphs 10 and 11). Under the definition, water resources management activities may not be seen as legitimate for climate change adaptation financing. An immediate outcome was to draft two recommendations to the UNFCCC as part of its review of the Adaptation Fund (see box).

## The Dialogues

### AFRICA

In collaboration with the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), GWP organised two dialogues:

West Africa: Cotonou, Benin, February 2010

Eastern and Southern Africa: Nairobi, Kenya, March 2010

These dialogues brought key players from water, finance and environment ministries as well as UN agencies, WMO, IUCN, climate change negotiators, and representatives from private and community organisations.

### GWP submitted two key recommendations to the UNFCCC

1. That it be recorded that the strengthening of water resources management in order to enhance the resilience of a community, country or transboundary area is explicitly recognised as an example of a "concrete adaptation programme" and thus an appropriate activity for adaptation funding.

2. That a concrete adaptation programme be defined as "a programme of activities designed to increase the resilience of a community, country or transboundary area to the impacts of climate change and to strengthen its ability to adapt to such change."



A pre-COP 15 dialogue was held in Bamako, Mali, for national leaders in November 2009, on the linkages between water resources management and the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA). The gathering, organised by GWP West Africa and GWP Mali with financing from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, was comprised of a technical workshop and a high level meeting. Recommendations included:

- strengthen the system for collecting and disseminating information on climate and water resources
- strengthen cooperative frameworks for water management
- strengthen the synergy between the NAPA and the IWRM plans
- increase gender mainstreaming in the NAPA actions
- restore vegetation cover by reforestation
- involve local governments in implementing these recommendations.

### CHINA

A high-level Roundtable on Climate Change and Water Security was held in Beijing in April 2010. With the support of the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the meeting was jointly organised by GWP China and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. Co-sponsors included a range of government and international agencies. An expert panel discussion summarised four main categories for consideration by decision makers:

1. water quality becomes even more important in the water scarce society of China
2. prioritise livelihoods of the poor and the rural people

3. value ecosystem services and their management
4. promote water saving and look at lifestyles.

GWP China Chair and Vice Chair of the Financial and Economic Committee of the 11th National People's Congress, Mr. Wang Shucheng, in his closing remarks concluded that:

- the Chinese Government is determined to take countermeasures to secure its water resources
- in the next Five-Year Plan 2011-2015, China will proactively combat climate change
- the Low Carbon Society aims at 15% fossil fuel dependence from today's 70%.

## MORE RESOURCES

*Climate Adaptation is Water Adaptation* – A GWP article published by Sovereign Publications Ltd for the G8 Summit in Italy in July 2008

*Climate Change Adaptation and Integrated Water Resources Management* – GWP Technical Committee Policy Brief 5

*Better water resources management: Greater resilience today, more effective adaptation tomorrow* – A Perspectives Paper on water and climate change adaptation

*Water Management, Water Security and Climate Change Adaptation* – GWP Technical Committee Background Paper No. 14