

Global support programme on NDCs, Water, Climate, and Development

SDGs and NDCs provide an opportunity for countries to put water on national agendas.

By the end of November 2015, 129 countries (including the EU), submitted their INDCs to the UNFCCC. Ninety-two per cent of them included water as a priority. Prior to this, world leaders adopted the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in September 2015 with a specific goal on water. In the 2015 World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report, water topped the list of the world global top 10 risks to business and economic progress. With water as a development priority, we must act now.

Water is the most cited 'sector' in NDCs followed by agriculture and health, which both depend on water!

- Water is mentioned by 89 Parties
- Agriculture is mentioned by 82 Parties and
- Health is mentioned by 67 Parties

The strong focus on water in NDCs confirms the importance of water to climate change adaptation and development. Scientific evidence shows that climate related disasters are increasing in frequency, intensity, and impeding progress towards sustainable development.¹

In the past decade, average economic losses from disasters averaged USD 190 billion per year. Average insured losses were USD 60 billion per year. Seventy-eight per cent of reported disasters between 1970 and 2014 are climate related: droughts, floods, heat waves, storm surges, and others. In this century already, direct economic losses due to disasters were around USD 2.5 trillion.

The adaptation component of NDCs provides an opportunity for countries to outline current and future actions to improve water security. For many countries, water security is key for climate change adaptation and essential to economic development.

While water is not explicitly mentioned in the Paris Agreement, a survey² by the French Water Partnership (FWP) reports water is the first priority noted for adaptation. Most of these NDCs are from countries in Africa, Latin America-Caribbean, Asia-Pacific, and others.

Many countries link water management to food security, ecosystem health, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable development. Investments in water contributes to climate resilience.

¹ https://www.wmo.int/wcdrr/sites/default/files/2015.03.10%20-%20WMO%20Key%20Messages%20Post-2015%20Framework%20for%20DRR_0.pdf

² http://www.iwa-network.org/downloads/1448965142-2015%2011%2029_Review%20of%20Water%20integration%20in%20NDC_VF.pdf

Countries need support to implement concrete actions and develop capacity for NDC implementation. For water related actions, support is needed to increase investments in water security, scale up investments in water infrastructure, strengthen water information, implement flood and drought management measures, expand hydro-meteorological networks and systems, increase water storage capacity, among others.

GWP recognizes the challenge many countries will face in adapting to climate risks. Many developing countries faced challenges in preparing their NDCs. Many will face challenges in implementing their actions in NDCs. National systems for implementation of NDCs, SDGs and national development strategies, need to be upgraded and strengthened.

Stronger coordination and synergies across sectors and between adaptation and mitigation actions is needed. Scaled up financial support and capacity development is essential for progress.

GWP is stepping up to this challenge by mobilizing its global network of over 3,000 partners to support countries in implementing the water related actions in NDCs.

GWP support to NDCs will build on the foundation of GWP's flagship climate change programme and associated programmes on drought and flood management, jointly implemented with WMO.

Since 2012, GWP, through its climate programme, has assisted over 60 countries on four continents (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and Caribbean) to integrate water security and climate resilience into national development. Countries also receive support to meet water related adaptation needs and contribute to national adaptation plans (NAPs). NAP support is provided in collaboration with the UNDP-UNEP Global Support program for NAPs.

GWP support to countries on NDCs is based on country needs and priorities.

- 1. Support to formulation of NDC implementation roadmaps and plans at the national, water sector and subsector level. This will be linked to existing and planned adaptation activities, including NAPs and other water related strategies.**
- 2. Support to formulation of investment plans to finance implementation of NDC roadmaps. This includes estimating the finance and investment requirements, sources of finance, linking national budget planning processes medium expenditure frameworks, absorption, financial management capacity, and potential to mobilise private investments.**
- 3. Support to project preparation and development of funding proposals to implement NDC road maps including NAP road maps and plans. Countries will be assisted to prepare proposals for submission to international climate funds such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and others.**
- 4. Capacity development for planning, implementation, and monitoring of NDC related activities.**
- 5. Promote coordination at all levels in implementation of water related actions in NDCs, NAPs, and SDGs.**