



2024 - 2027 Action Plan

International Network of Basin Organizations

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Details of INBO 2024-2027 guidelines

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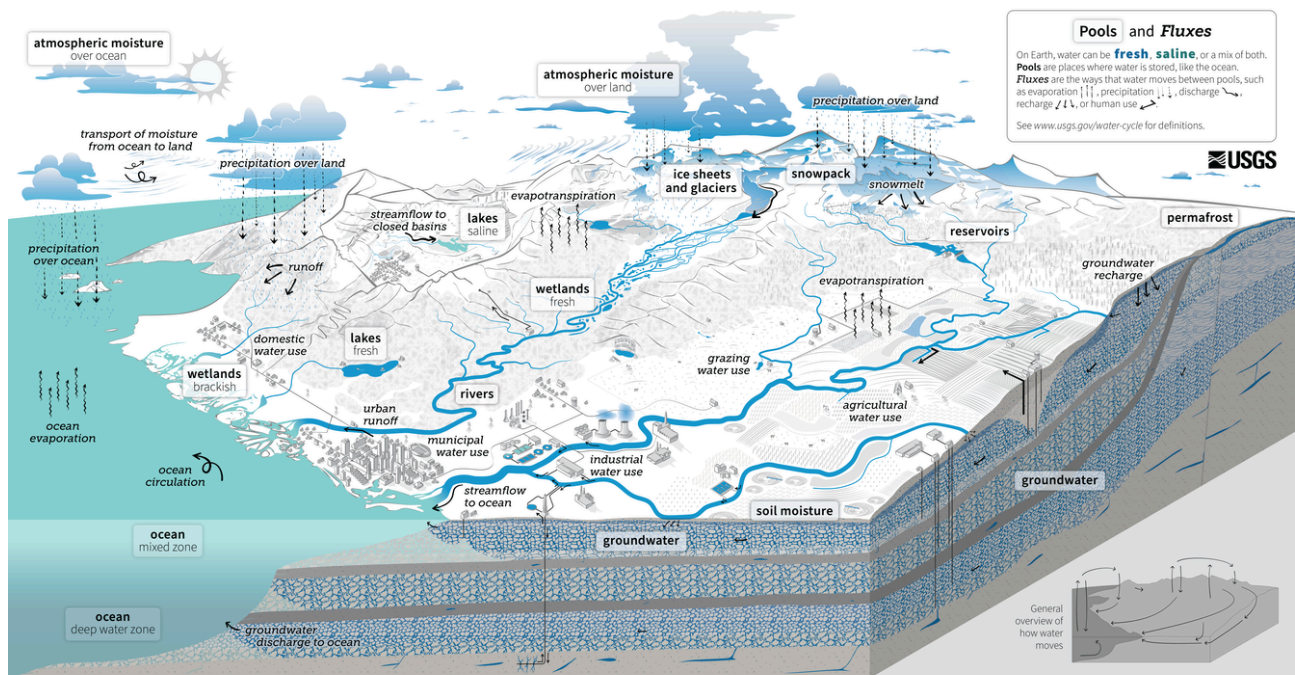
Vision and methods of action

In 2024, INBO celebrates the thirtieth anniversary of its foundation. Since the end of the 20th century, Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at the level of river basins has established itself as an effective operational tool for better management of water resources.

INBO has played its part in the necessary explanation and awareness-raising work by disseminating its message internationally on the relevance of basin approaches, the need to strengthen the role of basin organizations and the conditions for the operational success of IWRM.

1. Networking to promote IWRM at basin level

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at basin level is at the heart of INBO's manifesto. It is based on the natural scale of the river basin, going beyond the usual administrative or national boundaries, and seeks to balance resources and uses.



The Water Cycle

The water cycle describes where water is found on Earth and how it moves. Water can be stored in the atmosphere, on Earth's surface, or below the ground. It can be in a liquid, solid, or gaseous state. Water moves between the places it is stored at large scales and at very small scales. Water moves naturally and because of human interaction, both of which affect where water is stored, how it moves, and how clean it is.

Liquid water can be fresh, saline (salty), or a mix (brackish). Ninety-six percent of all water is saline and stored in oceans. Places like the ocean, where water is stored, are called **pools**. On land, saline water is stored in **saline lakes**, whereas fresh water is stored in liquid form in **freshwater lakes**, artificial **reservoirs**, **rivers**, **wetlands**, and in soil as **soil moisture**. Deeper underground, liquid water is stored as **groundwater** in aquifers, within the cracks and pores of rock. The solid, frozen form of water is stored in **ice sheets**, **glaciers**, and **snowpack** at high elevations or near the Earth's poles. Frozen water is also found in the soil as **permafrost**. Water vapor, the gaseous form of water, is stored as **atmospheric moisture** over the ocean and land.

As it moves, water can transform into a liquid, a solid, or a gas. The different ways in which water moves between pools are known as **fluxes**. **Circulation** mixes water in the oceans and transports water vapor in the atmosphere. Water moves between the atmosphere and the Earth's surface through **evaporation**, **evapotranspiration**, and **precipitation**. Water moves across the land surface through **snowmelt**, **runoff**, and **streamflow**. Through infiltration and **groundwater recharge**, water moves into the ground. When underground, groundwater flows within aquifers and can return to the surface through **springs** or from natural **groundwater discharge** into rivers and oceans.

Humans alter the water cycle. We redirect rivers, build dams to store water, and drain water from wetlands for development. We use water from rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and groundwater aquifers. We use that water (1) to supply our **homes and communities**; (2) for **agricultural** irrigation and **grazing** livestock; and (3) in **industrial** activities like thermoelectric power generation, mining, and aquaculture. The amount of available water depends on how much water is in each pool (water quantity). Water availability also depends on when and how fast water moves (water timing), how much water is used (water use), and how clean the water is (water quality).

Human activities affect **water quality**. In agricultural and urban areas, irrigation and precipitation wash fertilizers and pesticides into rivers and groundwater. Power plants and factories return heated and contaminated water to rivers. Runoff carries chemicals, sediment, and sewage into rivers and lakes. Downstream from these types of sources, contaminated water can cause harmful algal blooms, spread diseases, and harm habitats. **Climate change** is also affecting the water cycle. It affects water quality, quantity, timing, and use. Climate change is also causing ocean acidification, sea level rise, and extreme weather. Understanding these impacts can allow progress toward sustainable water use.

Source : U.S. Geological Survey

It therefore assumes :

- **A cross-sectoral approach** that considers water as a central element in energy, agriculture, finance, industry, tourism, the environment and fisheries.
- **Transboundary cooperation** across intra- and inter-state administrative boundaries, to take into account the relevance of the hydrological unit of the

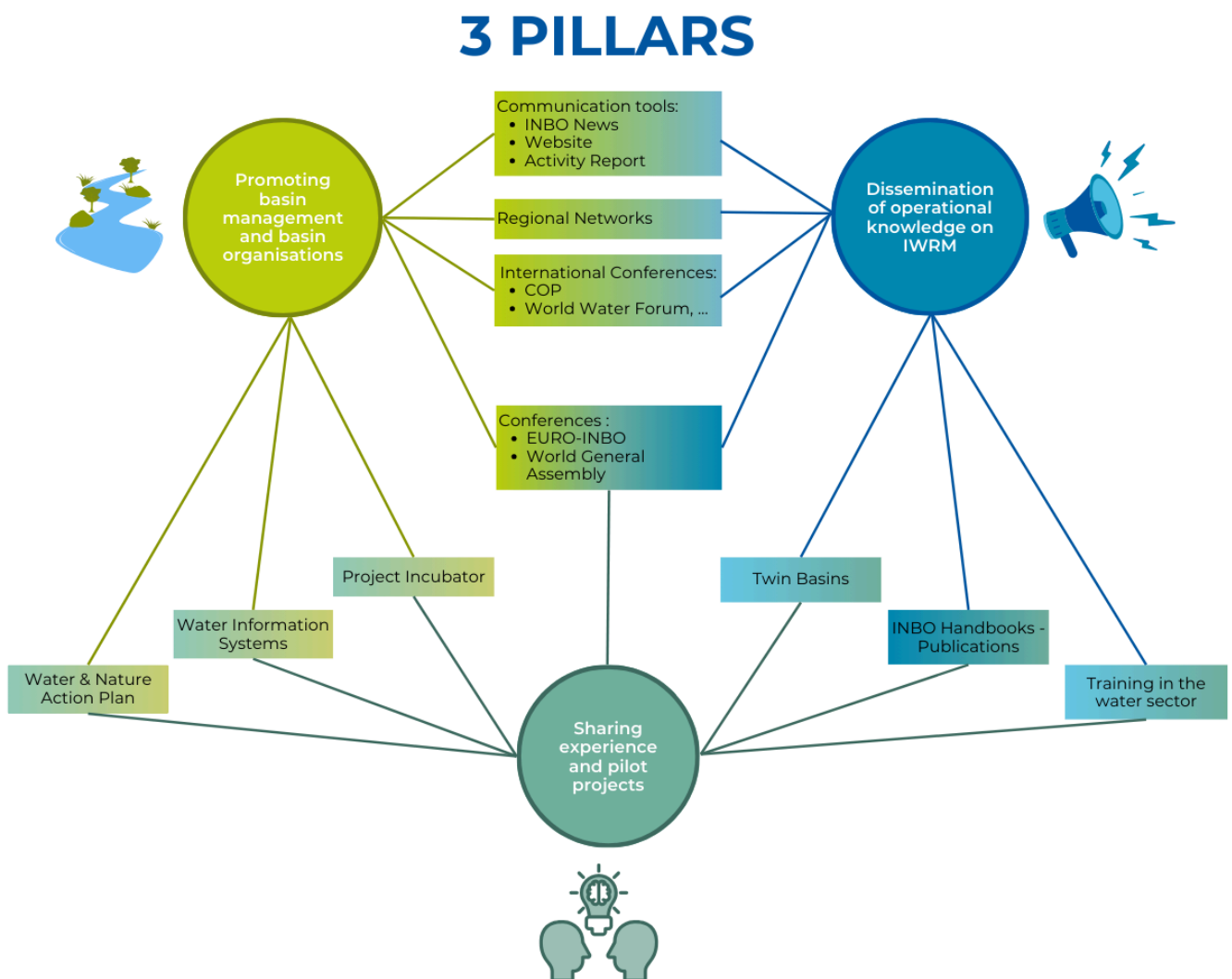
basin.

- Taking account of the need to **adapt to climate change, preserve biodiversity and achieve sustainable development objectives.**

From the outset, the Network's operational management has been entrusted to the International Office for Water, which provides the Secretariat through a regularly updated agreement to make resources available.

INBO builds its global action around 3 pillars:

- the promotion of basin management and basin organizations through ongoing advocacy at international level,
- the dissemination of operational knowledge on the conditions for the successful implementation of IWRM approaches at basin level,
- the sharing of experience and pilot cooperation projects.



INBO is a worldwide network; it is supported by regional networks for each major continent, each with its own structure and dynamics. The Secretariat endeavors to promote the work and priorities of the regional networks through their participation in all the events organised.

For 2024-2027, INBO will focus in particular on involving regional networks in the

implementation of the Twin Basin Initiative. The new partnership agreement signed in May 2024 at the World Water Forum in Bali between INBO and NARBO will be implemented.



2. Solid partnerships dedicated to our members

From the outset, INBO has been committed to building relationships with international partners. In particular, it is recognized as a partner of UN-Water and works closely with a large number of UN agencies, organizations and international financial institutions, including :

- UNECE, with which INBO has been coordinating the network of pilot basins for adaptation to climate change since 2012,
- UNESCO, in particular for the joint management of surface and groundwater,
- WMO, with which INBO is coordinating the task force on satellite imagery applied to basins (launched at the World Water Forum in Bali in 2024),
- the FAO, with which INBO is working on water issues in agriculture (notably with the "IWRM and sustainable fisheries" initiative). the World Bank, regularly invited to INBO events devoted to financing IWRM at basin level.

More generally, INBO has forged close links with the entire international water community. In particular, it is a member of:

- the steering committee of the Water Governance Initiative led by the OECD since 2013,
- the IWRA Board of Governors,,
- the World Water Council.

INBO's role and representativeness have led it to be entrusted with coordinating the preparation and organization of the basin segment of the political process of the World Water Forum in Bali in May 2024, through a partnership agreement signed with the Republic of Indonesia and the World Water Council. This enhanced visibility creates a new responsibility for INBO.

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Priority orientations

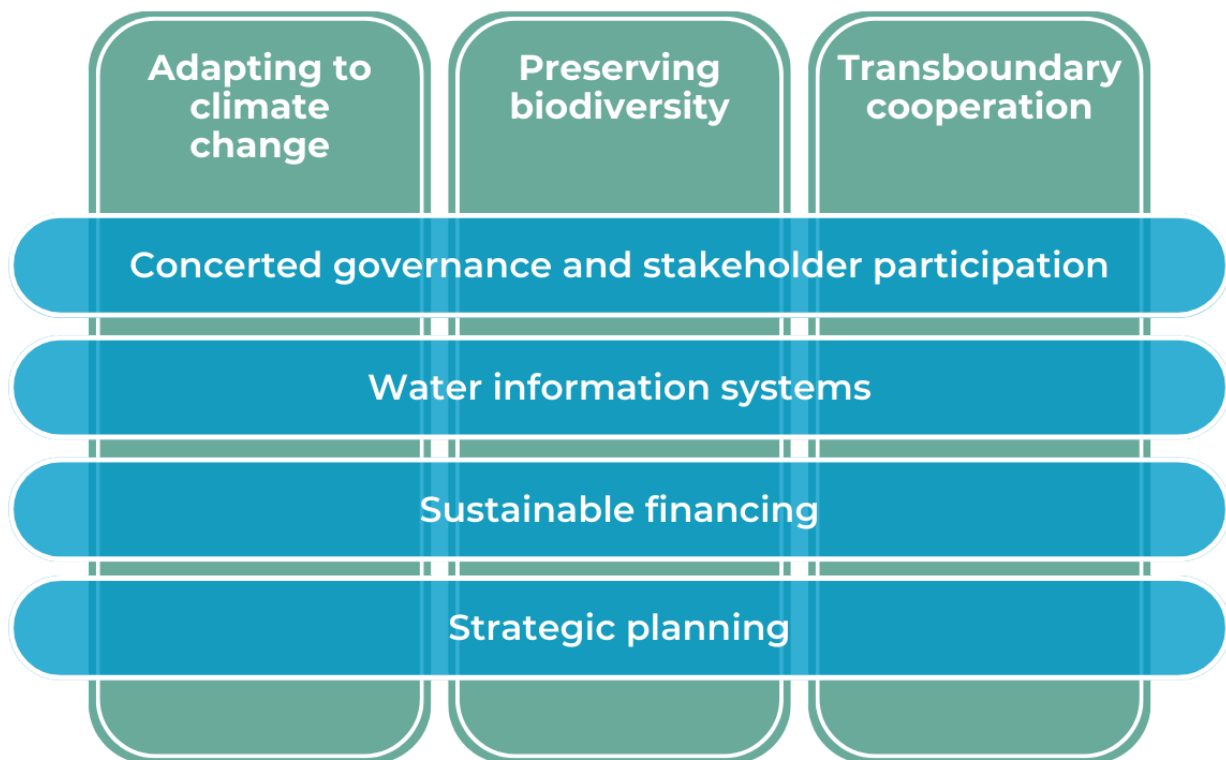
As a reminder, INBO's action plan for the 2019-2024 period focused on 7 priorities that underpinned INBO's activity over this period.



All actions and initiatives are described in the two activity reports covering the period 2019-2022 and 2022-2024.



For the period 2024-2027, the network's orientations are broadly consistent and are summarized in the following diagram, built around three main thematic priorities and four levers for action, at basin level.



1. Thematic priorities

For the period 2024-2027, INBO has selected three main thematic priorities, in continuity with its previous action plan, and in response to the major challenges facing basin organizations today.

- Climate change adaptation

INBO has been taking part in the Climate COPs since 2015, and has devoted one of its manuals to adapting to climate change at basin level. (<https://www.inbo-news.org/documents/water-and-climate-change-adaptation-in-transboundary-basins/>).

Outlook for 2024 - 2027:

- Continued participation in the Climate COPs and co-leadership of the network of pilot basins for adaptation to climate change with the UNECE, with a view to valorizing the experience gained at basin level.
- Integration of climate change adaptation requirements into pilot projects conducted by the Secretariat.

- Biodiversity protection

The integrated approach to water resources at basin level implies particular attention to preserving the functioning of aquatic ecosystems, a key factor in water security and risk prevention.

Outlook for 2024 - 2027:

- Coordination of the water and nature action plan (see Global Initiatives).
- Promotion of Nature-based Solutions, sharing the experiences of the Secretariat and INBO members in their implementation.

- Transboundary cooperation

Many active INBO members are transboundary basin organizations. The specificities of international cooperation within shared basins have thus been a permanent focus of INBO's action since its origins. Outlook 2024 - 2027 :

- Continued partnership with UNECE and the Water Convention Secretariat.
- Participation in the Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition.

2. Levers for action in the basins

Basin-based approaches require the implementation of practices, methods and operational tools adapted to the challenges of each territory.

For the period 2024-2027, INBO will focus its activities on 4 action levers to disseminate the principles and recommendations synthesized in the INBO manuals and implemented in the projects carried out by the Secretariat.

- **Concerted governance and multi-stakeholder dialogue** (stakeholder participation, organization of basin organizations)
Outlook for 2024 - 2027:
 - Support for the creation and strengthening of basin organizations, councils or committees.
 - Capacity-building for players and stakeholders in water resource management, notably in the context of the Bali Coalition on Training in the Water Sector,
 - Continued partnerships with the OECD (Water Governance Initiative) and the International Water Association (IWA) (collection and dissemination of best practices along the lines of the jointly published handbook "Cities connected to their basins: connecting city stakeholders to their basins").
- **Water information systems**
Outlook for 2024 - 2027:
 - Support for the creation and strengthening of data-sharing protocols and interoperable water information systems,
 - Development of the interface between research into innovative solutions and their implementation, in particular satellite data and imagery (with the taskforce on new satellite tools),
 - Continuation and development of partnerships with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and UNESCO on the strengthening of monitoring networks and water information systems.
- **Sustainable financing**
Outlook for 2024 - 2027:
 - Support for the creation and strengthening of sustainable financing mechanisms for basin management.
 - Strengthening the capacity of basin organizations to set up projects and secure financing, particularly on promising themes such as adaptation to climate change (incubation of water and climate projects, UNECE workshops on the preparation of bankable projects on climate adaptation in transboundary basins).
 - Continuation and development of partnerships with financial institutions to increase their support for the network, its members and its actions (Global Interbasin Twinning Program, Water and Nature Action Plan, Coalition for Transboundary Water Cooperation).

- Strategic planning

Outlook for 2024 - 2027:

- Support for the development of multi-year strategic planning documents.
- Reinforcement of the water-mix approach with joint groundwater/surface water management and integration of non-conventional water resources, and of the technical and financial participation of economic players in basin management.
- Continuation and development of partnerships with UN agencies responsible for IWRM, in line with target 6.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (UNESCO-IHP, UNECE and UNEP).

3. Global initiatives

INBO supports or is a partner in global initiatives to promote basin management, including:

- the Water and Nature Action Plan,
- the Water Governance Initiative,
- the Bali Coalition for Training in the Water Sector,
- the Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition , and, more specifically, the Twin Basin Initiative, a worldwide programme of twinning arrangements between basin authorities.

3

Sustaining INBO's visibility and impact

1. Renewing and strengthening the scope of paid-up members

INBO currently has around 200 members from 96 countries. It is important to constantly renew and expand the network's audience and members' contributions, either through their membership fees or through their active participation in the Network's events and initiatives. INBO is therefore planning to launch new recruitment campaigns to raise awareness of its activities and broaden the scope of its paid-up and active members.

2. Continuing to diversify our financial resources

From the beginning, INBO has been supported by France, which hosts its headquarters and Secretariat. In addition to this vital contribution, which forms the basis of INBO's scope for action, the Network has begun to strengthen and diversify its financial resources.

The initiatives launched by INBO, either alone or in partnership, aim to mobilize new funding from the Network's less traditional backers. This is already the case for various projects receiving funding from the European Union, such as Water for All, SpongeWorks and Innwater. As part of the Twin Basin Initiative, the "peer to peer" project supported by the European Union provides considerable support for INBO's means of action (€6M for 2024-2027).

The Secretariat's ambition is to further consolidate INBO's budget through a

wider range of projects and initiatives, following the example of these first examples, and in particular through:

- the Water and Nature Action Plan, and
- the water and climate project incubator.

At the same time, contacts will be strengthened with a view to mobilizing non-conventional stakeholders for INBO, such as insurance companies, banks and private foundations.

Finally, the economic model for the events organized by the Network will be amended, so as to also generate income for the implementation of actions in favor of basin management, in partnership with the host authorities.