



INBO NEWS- LETTER



INBO

International Network
of Basin Organizations



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The entire INBO team is delighted to present this new issue of the INBO Newsletter. In it, you will find a summary of the latest news from the network and its members, particularly regarding the three key priorities for action adopted in 2024 as part of the network's strategy: adaptation to climate change, better integration of water resources management and biodiversity protection, and finally cross-border cooperation. Regardless of geography or region, river basin organisations are striving to foster dialogue and improve the sharing of water resources, utilising the tools at their disposal: shared knowledge and governance, planning, and sustainable financing systems.

2026 is an important year for the network, with the first edition of the "World Basin Summit" (the new name for the General Assemblies) taking place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 15 to 19 June, at the invitation of the State of Rio. An opportunity to share our experiences and forge new links, particularly across the Latin American region, which is very active within INBO. The exchange of experiences between peers is, moreover, the central driving force behind the "Peer-to-Peer" (P2P) project launched in 2024 thanks to funding from the European Union. Following a call for applications, 61 river basin organisations (or national authorities responsible for river basin management) were paired into 21 peer groups, each of which has, since the start of 2026, developed a joint action plan to learn from one another, focusing on key topics such as: strengthening river basin governance, shared information systems, the wider adoption of Nature-based Solutions (NbS), etc. Over the next two years, these partners will exchange views on their practices and challenges; the results will soon be shared via a dedicated platform on our website. More broadly, this P2P project, implemented jointly with our colleagues from the African Network of Basin Organisations, is the first pillar of the global inter-basin twinning programme that INBO wishes to expand and sustain.

To conclude, I would like to share with you all the recognition of INBO as a body of 'general interest' by the French tax authorities in November 2025. This status paves the way for INBO to secure new funding through corporate sponsorship: this is a welcome prospect for diversifying and strengthening INBO's financial resources, which are essential to the continuation of our activities. The coming months are indeed set to be busy for the global water dialogue, with the next United Nations Water Conference at the end of 2026 and the next World Water Forum in March 2027.

Dr Eric Tardieu,
INBO Secretary General

MAIN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS 2025



1st Meeting of the Latin American Water Council

 13–14 March 2025

 Buenos Aires, Argentina

 www.inbo-news.org/first-meeting-of-the-latin-american-water-council-in-buenos-aires/



Global Workshop on Floods and Health

 19–20 March 2025

 Geneva, Switzerland

 www.inbo-news.org/events/global-workshop-on-floods-and-health



Global Workshop on Integrated Water Resources Management and Inland Fisheries

 18–20 March 2025

 Entebbe, Uganda

 www.inbo-news.org/events/global-workshop-on-integrated-water-resources-management-and-inland-fisheries/



19th World Water Congress

 1–5 December 2025

 Marrakech, Morocco

 www.inbo-news.org/events/xix-world-water-congress/



COP30 – Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention

 10–21 November 2025

 Belém, Brazil

 www.inbo-news.org/events/cop30-United-nations-climate-change-conference/



Webinars on “Nature-based Solutions”

 21 & 23 October 2025

 Online

 www.inbo-news.org/events/webinar-on-nbs-climate-adaptation-and-ecosystem-restoration-at-basin-level/

www.inbo-news.org/events/webinar-on-nature-based-solutions-and-innovative-finance/



Webinar: 'Combining in-situ and satellite-based water monitoring to improve basin management'

 22 April 2025

 Online

 www.inbo-news.org/events/inbo-webinar-satellite-monitoring/



22nd Euro-INBO International Conference

 19–23 May 2025

 Parma, Italy

 www.inbo-news.org/events/euro-inbo-2025/



COP 15 – RAMSAR

 23–31 July 2025

 Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

 www.inbo-news.org/events/cop-15-ramsar/



Global Workshop on the Conservation and Restoration of Ecosystems in Transboundary Basins

 16–17 June 2025

 Geneva, Switzerland

 www.inbo-news.org/events/global-workshop-on-ecosystems-conservation-and-restoration-in-transboundary-basins/



3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3)

 9–13 June 2025

 Nice, France

 www.inbo-news.org/events/3rd-united-nations-ocean-conference-unoc3/

11th World Water Forum (March 2027, Saudi Arabia)

As part of the Forum's political process, INBO is organising the third edition of the high-level political segment dedicated to river basins. As part of the thematic process, INBO and its secretariat, the International Office for Water, are coordinating the working groups on 'IWRM' (1C) and 'Data' (5C). INBO and its members will co-organise sessions and contribute to them.



TO FIND OUT MORE

[Discover INBO's handbooks](#)

Two new handbooks to be published

This Forum will provide an opportunity for INBO to expand its collection of handbooks by launching two new publications; one on Integrated Sediment Transport Management at the Basin Level, co-published with the International Association for Hydraulic and Environmental Research (IAHR) and the International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD). The other on Diversification of the Water Mix and Water Demand Management at the Basin Level, co-published by the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) and the International Desalination and Reuse Association (IDRA).

Support for river basin organisations and peer-to-peer exchanges

The Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Project, the first programme of the 'Twin Basin Initiative' led by INBO, with the support of the African Network of Basin Organisations (ANBO), aims to strengthen integrated and sustainable water resources management at the basin level against a backdrop of increasing pressures and climate change. This project is funded by the European Union.



4
years



21
pairings



61
organisations responsible
for water resources
management worldwide



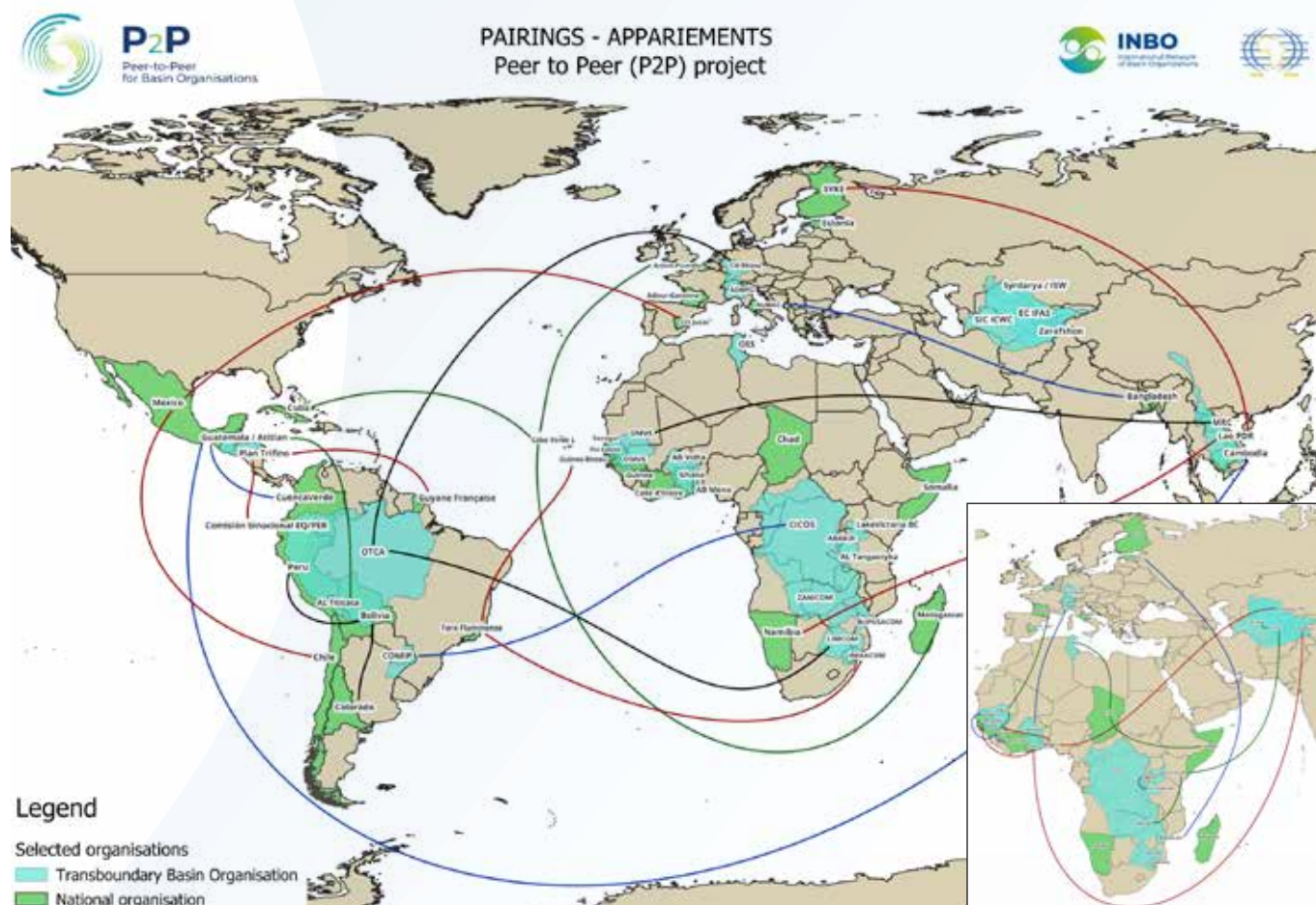
49
beneficiaries receiving
a total of €1.5 million in
financial support

The main objective of P2P is to strengthen cooperation and the sharing of experience to develop the skills of peer organisations in the field of IWRM at the basin level. P2P creates sustainable partnerships between national and transboundary basin organisations and enables them to build their skills through capacity-building between organisations, which thereby pool their respective expertise and develop solutions tailored to local and global challenges.

This project brings together organisations from Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe. These include national and transboundary river, lake and aquifer basin organisations, as well

as public authorities responsible for water resource management; the project is also open to civil society organisations and scientific and technical partners.

The first phase of the project's selection process, following a restricted call for tenders, resulted in the selection of 61 relevant organisations to form the future partnerships during a selection committee meeting held in Paris in May 2025. The second phase resulted in the formation of partnerships of 2 to 4 partners, formally established in October 2025, during a second committee meeting hosted at the premises of the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships in Brussels.





Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as part of the P2P project on 28 January at the Organisation for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS) between Mr Mamadou Max BANGOURA, Deputy High Commissioner of the OMVS, Ms Valérie BAYCHE, Director of Solidarity and International Cooperation at the Adour-Garonne Water Agency (France), Mr Ousmane HANE, Secretary General of the Organisation for the Development of the Gambia River (OMVG)

Activities for each partnership commenced in December 2025 with the production of a joint action plan and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). A total funding envelope of €1.5 million is made available to the pairs for the implementation of the actions planned within the framework of their pairing. In January 2026, during a third and final selection committee meeting held in Dakar at the ANBO's premises, the P2P project allocated funding to the pairs comprising the 21 pairings to carry out their activities.



49 Asian, Latin American and African project partners have been selected to receive a grant, with the aim of ensuring geographical balance in the distribution of these funds. The activities of the partnerships for integrated water resources management worldwide at the basin level encompass: financing mechanisms, data sharing and Water Information Systems (WIS), legal and institutional frameworks, collaborative governance, stakeholder participation, adaptation to climate change, etc.

The INBO World Basin Summit, which took place in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) from 16 to 19 June 2026, marked the first opportunity for peers to engage in activities on their respective themes, followed by the World Water Forum (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, March 2027).



"The P2P project helps to strengthen cooperation in Africa through international exchanges for better water management at the basin level."

Mr Mohamed ABDEL VETAH,
High Commissioner of OMVS – Secretariat of ANBO



"The European Union recognises the essential role of INBO in disseminating knowledge and promoting integrated river basin management. Through the P2P programme, the EU aims to strengthen the capacities of river basin organisations by providing them with tools, training and opportunities for cooperation. The objective is to develop sustainable and equitable water governance, based on robust legal frameworks such as the Water Framework Directive and the UNECE Water Convention."

Mr Kévin CHRETIEN,
Policy officer, European Commission (DG INTPA)



TO FIND OUT MORE

P2P



CONTACT AND INFORMATION
p2p@inbo-news.org



The UN is organising a World Water Conference in December 2026 to accelerate access to water and sanitation for all

Co-organised by the United Arab Emirates and Senegal, the 2026 United Nations Water Conference will take place from 2 to 4 December in Abu Dhabi. It aims to reinvigorate efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6), at a time when 2.2 billion people still lack access to safely managed drinking water. A high-level preparatory meeting has already taken place in Dakar on 26 and 27 January 2026.

INBO will contribute to the Conference programme. It will represent the voice of river basins in the six interactive dialogues and through the co-organisation of events promoting Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).



United Nations



2026 UN Water Conference

2 - 4 December, United Arab Emirates



Interactive dialogues

1 Water for People

Co-chairing countries

Ghana and Switzerland

Message conveyed by INBO

Drinking water comes mainly from river basins, lakes and associated groundwater, and wastewater all too often ends up there untreated. Guaranteeing the human right to water requires strengthening integrated basin management, including the training of professionals in the sector.

2 Water for prosperity

Co-chairing countries

China and Spain

Message conveyed by INBO

Target actions and geographical areas where there is the greatest scope for improvement, as identified in the report on the implementation of SDG 6.5, to better reconcile economic development across different sectoral uses with the conservation of natural resources.

3 Water for the planet

Co-chairing countries

Egypt and Japan

Message conveyed by INBO

Scale up the incubation of projects to deploy Nature-Based Solutions at the basin level to maximise cascading co-benefits (climate, biodiversity).

4 Water for cooperation

Co-chairing countries

Finland and Zambia

Message conveyed by INBO

Build trust through data sharing and promote operational cooperation through the creation and strengthening of transboundary basin organisations (and their legal and institutional frameworks).

5 Water in multilateral processes

Co-chairing countries

Germany and Mexico

Message conveyed by INBO

Ensuring the sustainability of SDG targets and indicators beyond 2030 and making the bridging of the gap to their achievement the exclusive objective of the political process of the World Water Forum and of negotiations between states within the framework of the United Nations Water Conferences.

6 Investments in water

Co-chairing countries

France and South Africa

Message conveyed by INBO

Invest heavily in river basin management by promoting a combination of traditional measures (implementation of management plans, strengthening of monitoring networks and water information systems) and innovative measures (satellite monitoring of water resources, digital twins).

At all latitudes, societies are primarily affected by climate change through the water cycle. These disruptions have cascading effects on the environment, ecosystems, people's access to water and many economic sectors dependent on this resource, such as agriculture, industry and energy. Adaptive water management is therefore a key factor in resilience in the face of climate disruption.

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is emerging as a key approach to ensuring a coherent and effective response to the challenges posed by these changes. By integrating environmental sustainability, social equity and economic efficiency, IWRM encourages concerted planning of sectoral policies and prevents conflicts of use. This approach is based on participatory governance founded on knowledge and anticipation of risks, enabling water uses to be adapted in a harmonious and sustainable way.



Basin governance: adapting to climate and reducing poverty in Brazil



São Francisco River Integration Project (PISF) © MIDR

Access to water is a cornerstone of development. Today, population growth and climate change are disrupting hydrological cycles, threatening sanitation, food security, and livelihoods, with the most severe impacts falling on low-income populations.

In Brazil, high climate variability and unequal water distribution exacerbate historical social inequalities. Basin-level governance serves as a vital bridge where climate adaptation and poverty reduction meet. By promoting equitable access, these organizations strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities.

Brazil's robust institutional framework, anchored by the 1988 Constitution and Law No. 9,433 (1997), establishes the river basin as the fundamental unit for management. This model fosters

coordination through River Basin Committees, bringing together Government entities, water users and civil society.

A landmark example of this strategy is the São Francisco River Integration Project (PISF). By increasing water supply regularity in Brazil's Semi-arid region, the project supports local productive activities, improves living conditions for 12 million people and mitigates the risks of climate-driven poverty.

The Brazilian experience demonstrates that effective climate adaptation requires governance grounded in territorial cooperation and sustained institutional integration.

Marina ROMÃO & Néilton Miguel FRIEDRICH,
Ministry of Integration and Regional Development, Brazil



Taskforce Resilient Westhoek sets course for the future in Belgium

Following the floods in the Yser basin at the end of 2023, the Flemish Government established the Taskforce Resilient Westhoek to repair the damage caused and prepare the region for wet and dry periods. Two years later, a third of the short-term actions have been realised. The focus is shifting to medium and long-term solutions, with extra attention to water quality.

The Taskforce Weerbare Westhoek consists of representatives from the Flemish Land Agency, the Flemish Environment Agency, De Vlaamse Waterweg nv, the Province of West Flanders, the polder authorities and climate and hydrology experts.

The starting point is formed by the three Ps (prevention, protection, and preparedness). Damage is prevented and limited through installations, dykes, embankments, and rainwater wells. Flooding is prevented by buffering and draining water. Preparation is made for extreme rainfall or drought.

The proposals were condensed into around thirty field measures within an integrated investment programme, to be completed by the end of 2028. Dredging and maintenance work will be accelerated. Reliable infrastructure will be put in place for efficient water management and smooth shipping.

The discharge capacity of the IJzer, the Lokanaal, the Nieuwpoort-Duinkerke canal, and the Ganzepoot in Nieuwpoort is being increased, alongside a stronger focus on storage options within the water system. Measures are also being taken to protect individual



Le Blankart Nature Reserve. © Flemish Environment Agency

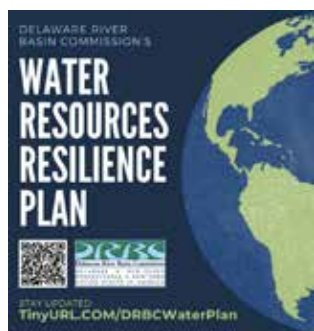
homes and farms, while the most vulnerable ones are gradually being phased out. In addition, buffer zones will be established closer to the river basin's source. Another major challenge is salinisation, which threatens drinking water production, agriculture, and livestock farming during periods of drought.

With the renewed Blue Deal, the Flemish government's water management programme aimed at improving climate resilience, the capacity to cope with both wet and dry periods is being strengthened. The Yser is identified as one of the strategic areas.



TO FIND OUT MORE

Website



Developing a resilience plan for the Delaware river watershed

The Delaware River Basin (DRB) supports diverse aquatic ecosystems and drinking water for over 14.2 million people in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware.

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) was created to manage these shared resources without regard to political boundaries. As the regulatory agency charged with collectively managing water resources, the DRBC is well-positioned to advance resilience in the face of climate change and other hazards. DRBC's 65-year track record has demonstrated the success of this cooperative management.

In June 2024, the DRB Commissioners directed staff to develop a plan to guide the Commission's efforts to develop management approaches, including recommended policies and rules, for improving resilience and adaptation to a changing climate.

The Water Resources Resilience Plan (WRRP) will recommend actions the DRBC can take to manage the Basin's shared water resources through the known and potential impacts of climate change and other challenges. The 3-phase WRRP will prioritize actions for evaluating climate change impacts and formulating management approaches to improve resilience and adaptation to a changing climate and other hazards.

Phase 1 was completed in March with the publication of A Framework for DRBC's Water Resources Resilience Plan. The report defines water resource assets and hazards, planning horizons, and future scenarios, as well as metrics for prioritizing recommended actions and activities. These decisions reflect input gathered from stakeholders.



TO FIND OUT MORE

Water Resources Resilience Plan

Climate resilience and technological innovation: OMVS's strategic commitment in the Senegal river basin



The Senegal river basin is facing an increase in major climate-related hazards, such as rainfall variability, prolonged droughts and recurrent flooding, which are exacerbating soil salinisation and degradation.

In response to these challenges, the Senegal River Basin Development Authority (OMVS) is implementing transformative initiatives aimed at strengthening the resilience of ecosystems and riparian communities. At the heart of this strategy, the

DREVE-Senegal River project, supported by the World Bank in an amount of \$200 million, is modernising data collection, securing agricultural areas and strengthening the resilience of border communities.

Drawing lessons from the major floods of 2024, OMVS now prioritises a community-based emergency communication approach through the implementation of a new-generation early warning system (EWS). This innovative system uses artificial intelligence to ensure that critical information reaches users in real time via appropriate channels. It combines a mobile app featuring a multilingual intelligent chatbot that facilitates interactions in local languages with an SMS alert service for areas with poor connectivity.

Managed via a dedicated administrative dashboard for local authorities, this system reduces the vulnerability of local residents through the precise dissemination of crisis messages while promoting the use of digital technologies.

At the same time, OMVS is continuing to implement its Vision 2050, placing climate resilience at the heart of its sectoral policies. This momentum is also reflected in the strengthened cooperation around the Senegal-Mauritania Aquifer Basin, confirming the organisation's commitment to integrated, sustainable and participatory water resource management.

Effective management of the River Tejo basin in the face of historical floods and fires

In 2025, the Confederación Hidrográfica del Tajo (CHT) strengthened its capacity to respond to extreme weather events, from historic flooding to devastating wildfires.

In March 2025, a series of storm systems brought continuous rainfall over a three-week period. The CHT carried out planned discharge manoeuvres (as in the Cazalegas dam) that allowed for the regulation of floodwaters, preventing damage to people and property. As a result, an all-time record for dam water was reached in May: 9,501.64 hm³, bringing the basin to 86% of its capacity for the first time on record.

During the summer, fires affected 50,000 hectares, with 76% of the area concentrated in Cáceres. The CHT invested 2.5 million euros in: emergency measures:

- Sediment control: Installation of check dams and fascines to prevent ash from contaminating watercourses through runoff.
- Green restoration: Forestry treatments, removal of burnt wood and planting of native species to recover shore vegetation.

In addition to emergency management, the CHT stood out for its transparency, receiving the highest rating from the Transparency



Council. Among other milestones are the emergency works at the Sifón del Bronco (Cáceres), the inauguration of the Tagus River Observatory in Monfragüe, and the start of the fourth cycle of hydrological planning 2028-2033, ensuring long-term sustainable management.



TO FIND OUT MORE

Forest fires in 2025



Half of the world's population lives in 310 transboundary river basins spanning 151 riparian states. Yet around 60% of these basins have no structured cooperation arrangements, and most of the 610 transboundary aquifers also remain without a governance framework.

In a context where tensions on water resources are intensifying due to climate change, population growth and unsustainable practices, transboundary cooperation is becoming a strategic imperative. Concerted management makes it possible to optimize the use of water resources, prevent conflicts and improve the resilience of shared territories.

Regional and international legal frameworks (including the 1992 Helsinki Convention), as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), encourage the development of transboundary governance mechanisms.

In particular, target 6.5 of the SDGs aims to ensure integrated management of water resources at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation. To meet these challenges, it is essential to strengthen the resources allocated to transboundary basin organizations and to increase coordination between states, in order to guarantee sustainable and equitable management of shared resources.



The Mexico-US Water Treaty: flexible cooperation mechanisms



Map of the Bravo, Colorado and Tijuana river catchment areas © CILA

The management of water resources shared between Mexico and the United States is based on a robust institutional framework, centred on the Colorado and Rio Grande/Bravo river basins. These vital waterways, which irrigate vast cross-border territories spanning a total of fifteen states, are governed by the 1944 Treaty on the use of international river waters. This fundamental legal framework sets out the annual allocation of water volumes: 1.85 billion cubic metres from the Colorado are allocated to Mexico, while the United States receives an average of 431.7 million cubic metres from Mexican tributaries of the Rio Grande. The

implementation of these provisions falls to the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), a binational body responsible for resolving disputes and ensuring rigorous technical and diplomatic enforcement.

However, this historic mechanism is now facing pressures from climate change and population growth. IPCC reports highlight the vulnerability of this arid region, where rising temperatures threaten to reduce water flows and intensify droughts. To address these challenges, the 1944 Treaty offers remarkable flexibility through the system of “Acts” (Minutes). These binding bilateral agreements allow management strategies to be adjusted without renegotiating the original text. In the Colorado River basin, Acts 319, 323 and 330 have introduced innovative conservation measures, including joint funding for infrastructure and environmental restoration of the delta. Similarly, Act 331, signed in 2024 for the Rio Grande, enhances the predictability of water supplies while prioritising human consumption and ecosystem resilience.

The effectiveness of this cooperation rests on a multidisciplinary approach involving governments, local authorities and civil society. Binational working groups draw on scientific data and precision engineering to modernise infrastructure and improve water quality. Ultimately, the sustainable management of these basins depends on the continuity of a dialogue based on mutual trust and a coordinated vision in the face of global climate challenges.

Reséndez Maldonado, Adriana Beatriz Carolina, Morales Galván, Manuel Alejandro and Luévano Grano, José de Jesús,
Mexican Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission of the United States and Mexico

Reforestation of the Koliba-Corubal basin: a natural solution for retaining water in the soil

The Gambia River Basin Development Organization (OMVG) plays a vital role in the sustainable management of natural resources within the Gambia, Kayanga-Géba and Koliba-Corubal basins. To this end, the Koliba-Corubal basin Integrated Water Resources Management Project (PGIRE), implemented in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Global Environment Facility, represents a strategic response to the major environmental challenges facing Guinea and Guinea-Bissau. Although this cross-border basin has exceptional ecological potential, it faces growing human pressures, notably deforestation and shifting cultivation, exacerbated by the effects of climate change.

The project proposes a holistic approach that balances resource use and conservation through inclusive governance, ecosystem restoration and rigorous hydrological monitoring based on scientific evidence. One of the flagship achievements involves the reforestation of 100 hectares in the prefectures of Koundara and Gaoual, as well as in the regions of Gabu, Bafata and Tombali. The use of resilient plant species, coupled with training programmes for local communities, ensures the sustainability of soil regeneration and biodiversity. This framework, which facilitates access to climate finance, is designed as a model that can be



© OMVG

replicated in other basins under the institution's jurisdiction. By strengthening water diplomacy and promoting agroecological practices, the OMVG is transforming the management of shared resources into a powerful driver of regional integration, climate resilience and lasting peace for the whole of West Africa.

Adulai TANZIGORA,

Project Monitoring and Evaluation Expert, OMVG

The Duero River: cross-border cooperation between Spain and Portugal



Saucelle Dam, the Huebra River and the final stretch of the Duero in Spain. © José Alfonso Bara Cerverio

Cross-border cooperation between Spain and Portugal on water management is rooted in a long tradition of bilateral friendship, the current legal basis for which is the Albufeira Convention, signed in November 1998. This collaborative framework sets out the arrangements for managing shared river basins, namely the Miño-Limia, the Duero, the Tagus and the Guadiana. In particular, the Convention establishes a system of minimum flow rates to be met at strategic points in order to preserve the hydrological and environmental functions of watercourses, while ensuring the sustainable use of water resources to meet current and future needs. It also sets out the criteria for identifying exceptional circumstances that justify a deviation from these flow rates.

The international Duero basin, the largest on the Iberian Peninsula at 98,103 km², is divided between Spain (80%) and Portugal (20%). For this area, the Convention provides for five flow monitoring points: Saucelle and Águeda in Spain, and Miranda, Bemposta and Crestuma in Portugal, the latter being situated near the mouth of the river. At the final Spanish monitoring point, the minimum annual volume is set at 3,800 hm³, equivalent to a quarter of the average resources generated in Spain. Similarly, at Crestuma, the minimum annual volume is 5,000 hm³.

Taking climate variability into account, exceptional criteria are triggered when rainfall in Spain falls below 65% of the historical values recorded between the hydrological years 1945/1946 and 2021/2022. The Albufeira Convention remains a fundamental instrument for regulating water relations between the two countries, promoting sustainable management of ecosystems and a coordinated response to extreme events such as floods and droughts.





Climate resilience in the Mekong Basin: the ambition for unified cross-border cooperation

Climate change is already affecting the Lower Mekong Basin. Higher temperatures, changing rainfall, floods, droughts, and rising sea levels are making life harder for people in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

To address these challenges, the Mekong River Commission (MRC) developed the Mekong Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (MASAP), which MRC Member Countries approved in 2017. MASAP offers a common plan for dealing with climate risks across the basin, while also meeting national and local needs.

Since 2018, the MRC has supported Member Countries in integrating climate adaptation into their national policies, plans, and programmes, ensuring regional ideas lead to real change. Transboundary projects like the 9C-9T Joint Project on flood and drought management and the Sekong, Sesan, and Srepok (3S) river basin cooperation show that countries can solve shared problems by planning together and building trust.

A good example is the 9C-9T sub-basin, which Cambodia and Thailand share. With help from the MRC, both countries agreed on a master plan and a joint plan that focuses on using nature-



© MRC

based solutions to adapt. Restoring and protecting these systems helps communities handle floods and droughts and supports their long-term livelihoods. These efforts are supported by data, economic studies, and easy-to-use tools like the online basin atlas, which are available in local languages.

Today, the MRC is still helping countries by finding climate funding, including working to get support from the Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund. This way, adaptation projects can grow and reach the people who need them most.

High-Tech approaches for sustainable water use: regional experience of EC IFAS and AFD in improving irrigation practices



Since 2025, the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS), with grant support from the French Development Agency (Agence française de développement - AFD), has been implementing the project "Correction of hydromodule zoning of the Syrdarya river basin using remote sensing data and satellite mapping technologies for correction of water consumption and irrigation regimes for agricultural crops cultivated in the region". The project covers over 1.7 million hectares of irrigated land in southern Kazakhstan and the Fergana Valley in Uzbekistan. Its main objective is to adjust the boundaries of hydromodule zoning (HMZ) and develop scientifically based recommendations for irrigation norms and regimes for key crops.

HMZ is considered an adaptive tool for managing water and land resources, taking into account climatic, soil-hydrological, and agronomic factors. The project integrates data from remote sensing, field observations, and Geographic Information System (GIS) technologies. The SEBAL model is used to assess actual water consumption.

The project results will include updated HMZ maps, an interactive mapping platform, adaptive irrigation recommendations, and a unified database, contributing to improved water use efficiency and the resilience of irrigated agriculture under changing climatic conditions.

The project is particularly relevant for the Aral Sea basin region, which is characterized by arid climate and limited water resources. Its implementation will enhance the resilience of agricultural production, promote more rational use of scarce water resources, and lay the foundation for the long-term sustainable development of the region.

S. BEKMAGANBETOV, S. SHALMAGANBETOVA
EC IFAS, Astana, Kazakhstan



Integrated Water Resources Management and the preservation of biodiversity are closely linked. They are solutions to the degradation of habitats and the disappearance of species, accentuated by the artificialization of natural environments, climate change and other demographic, economic and industrial pressures, and the alteration of the water cycle. To respond to this crisis, it is essential to harmonize water and biodiversity policies and implement Nature-based Solutions (NBS) at basin level. Natural Water Retention Measures

(NWRMs) play a key role in regulating water flows, preventing floods and droughts, and preserving ecosystems.

These actions can be financed by basin management plans and innovative mechanisms such as payments for environmental services. By mobilizing a concerted approach and multiplying these initiatives, river basins are becoming key territories for the sustainable preservation of biodiversity.



Shared resilience: a model for peace and restoration on the Colorado River



Ecological restoration site on the Colorado River, on the border between Mexico and the United States. © Restauremos El Colorado © Restauremos El Colorado

In a global context defined by growing water scarcity, the lower Colorado River basin, located on the border between Mexico and the United States, just before its historic mouth on the Gulf of California, has established itself as an international benchmark for cooperation and climate adaptation. Through the implementation of Acts 319 and 323 of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) under the 1944 International Waters Treaty between Mexico and the United States, both countries established an unprecedented framework for transboundary cooperation, allocating more than 400 million cubic metres of water for environmental purposes in one of the driest regions of North America.

Beyond the legal agreements, the strength of this process lies in its innovative participatory governance framework. Close collaboration between federal governments and organised civil society, coordinated by the Revive the Colorado River Alliance, has made it possible to move beyond theoretical planning to implement tangible actions on the ground through a strategic approach that integrates environmental monitoring and the ecological restoration of riparian habitats. This technical and operational synergy has facilitated the effective restoration of over

540 hectares, demonstrating that binational water management can be both inclusive and efficient. Furthermore, collaboration with local farmers offers a viable path to modernising agriculture and mitigating the effects of climate change.

The results of this joint effort are now visible in the landscape. The return of dense poplar and willow forests, coupled with the revitalisation of wetlands, has triggered a remarkable recovery in biodiversity: it is estimated that, on an average day during migration, the Delta is home to some 250,000 coastal birds. In turn, these coordinated efforts are fostering a reconnection between the communities of the Mexicali Valley and their river, by restoring spaces for coexistence and biocultural value in areas that had suffered deterioration.

This effort confirms that water security and ecological restoration are not mutually exclusive objectives, but rather complementary pillars for ensuring the future sustainability of transboundary river basins.

Morelos Michelle and De la Parra Renteria Carlos A.,
Alianza Revive el Rio Colorado

Reséndez Maldonado Adriana Beatriz Carolina,
Mexican Section of the International Boundary and Water
Commission between Mexico and the United States



Madagascar: water and biodiversity – an integrated approach



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In Madagascar, the management of natural resources, particularly water, is closely linked to the conservation of biodiversity. Madagascar is home to nearly 5% of the world's biodiversity, with over 250,000 recorded species, 70% of which are endemic, while forests have been reduced to around 10% of their original area (World Wide Fund for Nature – WWF).

When launching a project to support Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in a pilot basin (that of the Sambirano River) in the DIANA region in northern Madagascar, with technical and financial support from the Artois-Picardie Water Agency, it therefore seemed natural to include a component dedicated to biodiversity conservation. In this case, the idea is to support the creation of a biosphere reserve within the DIANA region itself.

Support for IWRM in the Sambirano basin will help to strengthen local governance on the one hand, inform discussions on water management at regional and national levels on the other, and also propose an action plan for the establishment of this reserve.

Just as facilitating access to essential services for the population is key, the protection of biodiversity will clearly be one of the cornerstones of this initiative's success: shared responses must be developed to address the pressures faced, such as deforestation, with the involvement of young people, to improve the living conditions of both the population and species, which are interconnected in the long term.

The NATALIE Project: restoring aquatic ecosystems to help regions adapt to climate change

The NATALIE project, supported by the European Union's Horizon programme, is a major international strategic initiative aimed at strengthening the resilience of regions to climate change. Bringing together 43 partners from 13 countries, this programme focuses on the deployment of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) to optimise the hydrological and ecological functions of ecosystems. Through eight demonstration sites across Europe, NATALIE promotes a collaborative approach involving local authorities, water managers, scientists and citizens to jointly develop sustainable responses to the challenges posed by increasing droughts and extreme weather events.

The demonstration site, located in the Vienne basin, illustrates this integrated methodology dedicated to the restoration of aquatic ecosystems. This component brings together major institutional stakeholders, notably the Vienne Public Regional Basin Authority (EPTB), the Millevaches Regional Nature Park in Limousin and the Vienne Basin Development Authority. Two complementary technical measures are being trialled there to safeguard the water supply. The first, located on the Mont peat bog and managed by the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Conservatoire d'espaces naturels, involves the deactivation of drainage channels in order to restore the wetland's natural water storage capacity and low-water flow support. The second measure aims to restore the ecological



Work to remove ponds in the Vienne Basin with the aim of restoring hydrological continuity
© EPTB Vienne

continuity of streams by removing dammed water bodies, thereby significantly reducing water loss through evaporation during the summer months.

By combining rigorous scientific monitoring with citizen science initiatives, the NATALIE project enables Nature-based Solutions to be integrated into watershed planning strategies on a long-term basis. This synergy between local, national and European priorities is fostering the emergence of more resilient water management models, capable of reconciling biodiversity conservation with the climate adaptation needs of local areas.

Elisa BEZIER, OiEau
Thelma PELLICER, OiEau



Funded by
the European Union



NATALIE



UK Research
and Innovation

From river to market: Mekong Riverweed brings new life to local livelihoods

In early November 2025, the Mekong River Commission, the Lao National Mekong Committee Secretariat, and Gulf Energy Development launched the Mekong Riverweed Product in Muang Kham Village. This project turns riverweed (Khai Paen), a nutritious river algae that local people have collected for years, into a modern, climate-friendly product that can reach more markets.

The project uses eco-friendly growing methods, better drying, and improved packaging to help farmers make higher-quality products, keep them fresh longer, and earn more money. It also protects the river ecosystem that Khai Paen needs, making the community stronger against climate change.

With help from the Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research, farmers get practical training that combines their local knowledge with modern science. This creates a product that keeps its traditional taste and nutrition but also meets today's market needs.



© MRC

The Riverweed initiative is really about people. It shows that climate adaptation, new ideas, and working together can turn local knowledge into lasting jobs. As local leaders and partners plan to expand the project, Mekong Riverweed is a good example of how communities can succeed while protecting the river they depend on.

IWRM and climate resilience in the Portoviejo basin: challenges and biodiversity



Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is a strategic tool for water security in the face of contemporary climate challenges, and climate adaptation and the preservation of biodiversity are essential pillars of regional resilience. The Portoviejo river basin, located in the province of Manabí in Ecuador, is vital for human consumption and agriculture. It experiences significant climate variability, ranging from prolonged droughts to intense rainfall linked to the El Niño phenomenon, which lead to increased erosion and a decline in water quality.

The implementation of IWRM in this basin prioritises conservation and ecological restoration strategies. The protection of water recharge areas, the reforestation of riverbanks with native species, and the promotion of sustainable agroecology are key measures for improving the natural regulation of the water cycle. These nature-based solutions use biodiversity as a strategic lever to mitigate flood risks and reduce environmental and social vulnerability.

The effectiveness of these interventions depends on inclusive governance bringing together basin organisations, local authorities and rural communities. This coordination ensures coherent regional planning and social ownership of conservation measures. In conclusion, the case of Portoviejo demonstrates that integrating biodiversity into water management is essential for building resilient basins. This approach is directly aligned with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDGs 6, 13 and 15, thereby ensuring the sustainability of ecosystem services and regional socio-economic development.



Strengthening Canada–United States Transboundary Water Cooperation through the International Joint Commission

For over a century, the International Joint Commission (IJC) has served as the cornerstone of water cooperation between Canada and the United States under the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty. Tasked with preventing and resolving disputes over shared waters, the IJC's effectiveness stems from an impartial, science-based approach and a commitment to consensus-based decision-making. This governance model ensures stable and predictable transboundary relations, managed through more than 15 boards dedicated to specific basins, including a vital advisory role under the Canada-US Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. In 2024, the IJC adopted three strategic priorities to modernize its mandate and address evolving environmental challenges.

The first priority, "Enhancing the Transboundary Watershed Approach", emphasizes an ecosystem-based lens for water level regulation, apportionment, and flood mitigation. Secondly, the Commission is "Enhancing the Role of Indigenous Peoples in Collaborative Governance". A landmark example is the joint study of water pollution in the Elk-Kootenai/y watershed, conducted alongside the Ktunaxa Nation, which highlights a commitment to braiding Western and Indigenous knowledge systems while respecting Indigenous rights. The third priority focuses on "Improving Internal Operations" through a unified "One IJC" approach to strengthen organizational value and communication. While water issues require locally tailored solutions, the IJC



IJC Commissioners (from left to right): Lance Yohe (US), Susan Chiblow (Canada), Merrell-Ann Phare (Canada), Pierre Baril (Canadian Co-Chair), Gerald H. Acker (US Co-Chair), and Robert Gioia (US). Photo taken July 2024, Sault Ste. Marie, Canada. © IJC

recognizes that global challenges like harmful algal blooms and extreme climate variability are universal. Consequently, the Commission actively seeks knowledge exchange with other international river basin organizations to foster cooperation and enhance resilience for the benefit of local communities and the shared environment.



TO FIND OUT MORE

International Joint Commission

Atitlán Floating School: Educational initiative by AMSCLAE for Water Management



© AMSCLAE

The Atitlán Floating School is a state-of-the-art educational programme promoted by the Authority for the Sustainable Management of the Lake Atitlán Basin and its Environment (AMSCLAE) in Guatemala. Conceived as a strategic tool for comprehensive water resource management, this initiative positions environmental education as the key driver for community empowerment, the application of science and respect for the region's cultural and natural identity. Through an innovative methodology of using a boat as a dynamic classroom, the project involves students from the latest primary education

cycles in a comprehensive training process structured in three consecutive annual phases. The academic framework covers six critical modules: lake ecosystem recognition, water quality, biodiversity, soil conservation and erosion, waste management and addressing emerging pollution.

During the first year, learning is developed in educational institutions through research and investigation activities on local ecosystems. The second phase brings the experience directly to the lake, enabling interaction that encourages critical reflection and collaborative work to propose environmental solutions. Finally, the third year focuses on replicating knowledge and implementing concrete actions for the benefit of the school and community environment. This initiative is supported by the Environmental Education Department of AMSCLAE and is closely aligned with the National Core Curriculum of the Ministry of Education. Following a successful cycle in 2025, involving more than 600 children and teachers from ten public centres, the programme will expand its coverage in 2026 to reach the basin's 15 municipalities, consolidating itself as a model of citizen training for water sustainability.

Climate challenges: the case of the PCJ basins (São Paulo, Brazil)

2025 confirms an alarming temperature trend, affecting freshwater supplies worldwide. In Brazil, the National Agency for Water and Basic Sanitation (ANA) forecasts a 40% reduction in water availability by 2040 in the main river basins.

Water stress in daily life

The PCJ basins (the Piracicaba, Capivari and Jundiaí rivers) are already under pressure. With an annual water supply of 937 m³ per capita (dropping to 450 m³ during periods of drought), the region established its water management system in 1989 through the PCJ Consortium. The monthly hydrological monitoring system put in place revealed stark climate instability in 2025: despite a rainy April, river flows remained below average, with November showing a 53.7% decrease compared to normal levels.

Practical measures to build resilience

To ensure water security, the Consortium is implementing a multi-pronged strategy:

- **Ecological restoration:** Planting of 4.5 million trees (800,000 tonnes of CO₂ sequestered).
- **Sanitation:** Wastewater treatment increased from 3% to 85%.
- **Efficiency:** Water losses reduced from 50% to 35%.
- **Infrastructure:** Construction of new reservoirs and integrated resource management.



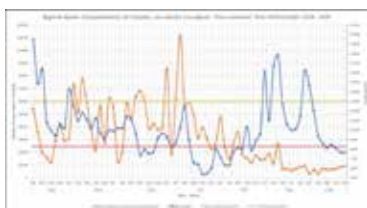
© PCJ

- **Raising awareness** and promoting public policies that encourage the sustainable use of water

Strengthening this systemic approach is vital to transforming current vulnerability into resilience in the face of extreme weather events.

Transboundary cooperation and applied science: key to the conservation of riverine biodiversity

Thirty years of Argentine-Paraguayan cooperation in the management of shared fish resources



The protection of river biodiversity, and in particular of fish fauna, is underpinned by the growing integration of scientific knowledge and the development of appropriate regulatory frameworks. In transboundary watercourses, this integration also requires effective international coordination, based on sustained and coherent processes.

In this context, science is no longer limited to describing species, but provides key technical parameters for the integrated management of water resources and the restoration of ecosystems. This perspective is fundamental in shared river basins, where decision-making requires coordinated approaches among the countries involved.

The experience of the Argentine Republic and the Republic of Paraguay serves as a notable example in the region. The 'Agreement for the Conservation and Development of Fish Resources in the Shared Sections of the Paraná and Paraguay Rivers', in force for over thirty years, has enabled the consolidation of a cooperation framework aimed at the comprehensive protection of the resource.

This framework facilitates the harmonisation of criteria for species monitoring, the updating of inventories, the assessment of extreme hydrological events and their impacts on the region's fauna, as well as the analysis of production practices and their effects on ecosystems.

It also promotes adaptive management based on scientific evidence, strengthening decision-making in the face of climate variability and change, and setting out new challenges for binational cooperation in the sustainable management of shared resources.



TO FIND OUT MORE

Web site

Ecosystem Conservation Strategies in the Machángara Sub-basin (Ecuador)

The ecosystem conservation of the water refill area of the Machángara sub-basin is vital for the use of environmental services, including water for human consumption for 60% of the population of the basin, irrigation for 3,900 families, the generation of 39.5 MW of hydropower and for the 134 industries of the industrial park.

Pressures and threats from changing land use and anthropogenic activities such as forest fires and extensive livestock farming put ecological stability, ecosystem conservation status and the availability of environmental goods and services at risk.

Accordingly, several strategies have been implemented, including the creation of the Areas of Conservation and Sustainable Use (ACUS) in 2021. This, in turn, prompted the present-day Ministry of Environment and Energy, in light of the fragile nature of the ecosystem and its ecological importance for the conservation of environmental services relied upon by the population, and on the basis of Article 405 of the Constitution, which states that:

“The national protected area system will ensure the conservation of biodiversity and the maintenance of ecological functions. The system will be integrated by the state, decentralised autonomous, community and private subsystems, and its governance and regulation will be exercised by the State...”



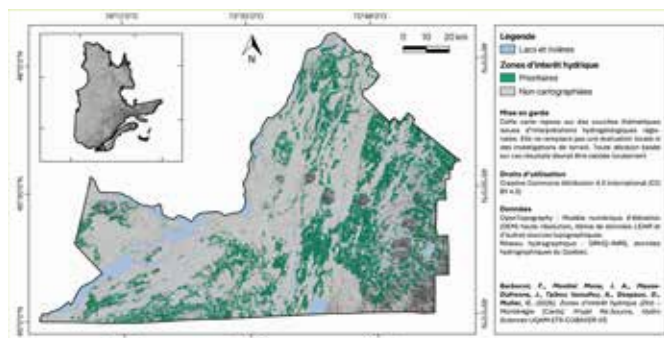
Create the State Protected Area Wildlife Refuge Machángara - Tomebamba, by means of Ministerial Agreement No. MAATE 2023-095, with an initial area of 24,958 ha, which was extended to 41,820 ha in November 2024 with Agreement No. MAATE-MAATE-2024-0072-A, thus generating connectivity with the Cajas national park.

With this declaration, 19,358 ha of the medium and high basin are incorporated into the National System of Protected Areas, ensuring the conservation of mountain ecosystems.

Calina DÍAZ GRANDA,

Director of the Technical Committee of the Conservation Committee of the Machángara River Basin

Re-Source: a regional partnership between researchers, catchment area organisations and local authorities aimed at protecting groundwater in the Montérégie region (Quebec)



As the cradle of agriculture in Quebec and a region experiencing rapid population growth, the Montérégie region is grappling with frequent summer droughts, which now require optimal water resource management.

The scientific component of Re-Source has gathered key information for the assessment of water resources in Montérégie. A significant effort was made to standardise the information, particularly regarding groundwater recharge, across the region, whilst including small aquifers not considered in previous

studies. A new map of areas of water interest was shared with partners, enabling the identification of areas to be protected in order to preserve water resources and prepare for the climate crisis that lies ahead.

The educational component offers a Guide to Good Practices for the Protection of Groundwater and Recharge Areas. This Guide presents 29 good practices under six themes : water conservation, contamination prevention, land use planning, promotion of water infiltration into the soil, monitoring and follow-up, and knowledge transfer and support. The best practices selected go beyond the legal framework, and their presentation is based on concrete examples from Quebec, elsewhere in Canada and France.

The results of Re-Source will equip municipalities in their planning and land-use management work to ensure the sustainability and protection of water resources through integrated management.

Lorraine CARON,

PhD, Consultant, COBAVER-VS

Florent BARBECOT,

PhD, UNESCO Chair in Global Environmental Change, UQAM

Estonia: safeguarding the status of waterbodies through Integrated River Basin Action



© Sven Zacek

The overall status of waterbodies in Western Estonia is affected by nutrient loads, legacy pollution, altered hydrology and land-use pressures. The EU-funded LIFE SIP WetEST project addresses these challenges through a systemic approach that strengthens river basin management, advances practical measures and improves cooperation between sectors.

The Western Estonian River Basin includes 347 rivers, 43 lakes and 14 coastal water bodies. In 2024, only 57% of surface waters reached good status. Improving this status requires actions both on land — where many pressures originate — and in waterbodies

themselves: reducing pollutants at their source and adapting land-management practices are essential for long-term improvement.

WetEST pilots demonstrate how ecological recovery can be accelerated. At Lake Harku, removing large numbers of small fish helps aquatic plants recover and improves conditions for native fish. In Haapsalu Bay, algae and mussel farming is explored as a nature-based method to lower nitrate concentrations and enhance overall water quality. Other actions address legacy pollution, hazardous substances, water-friendly agricultural practices and hydromorphological improvements such as removing migration barriers.

A new catchment-based governance model brings stakeholders together earlier and more consistently, enabling coordinated implementation of the Western Estonian River Basin Management Plan. This approach helps balance environmental objectives with agricultural and local development needs.

Through these combined efforts, WetEST aims to raise the share of waterbodies achieving good status to 70% and strengthen the foundation for sustainable, long-term management of Western Estonia's waters.

Mari SEPP,

LIFE WetEST project manager

Management of Lake Vesijärvi (Finland): a long-term restoration project

The Lake Vesijärvi Foundation is a Finnish initiative that combines public and private resources to secure funding for research and management efforts focusing on Lake Vesijärvi and neighboring smaller Lakes in the city of Lahti region in southern Finland. The foundation also works to improve the general public's awareness of water management in the drainage basin.

In the early 1970s, Lake Vesijärvi was known as a polluted and eutrophic large lake in Finland. A restoration programme began with the diversion of urban wastewater in the mid-1970s and has been followed by a wide range of measures both in the lake and in its catchment. Today, Lake Vesijärvi is a popular and vibrant recreational area where people can enjoy swimming, fishing, and boating. This transformation has been made possible through the efforts of the whole local community. In its report, Europe's state of water 2024, the European Environment Agency highlights the restoration of Lake Vesijärvi as a flagship case for lake management in Europe. According to EEA the work at Lake Vesijärvi showcases four key pillars for successful lake restoration: a good scientific understanding; effective policy and governance for lake management; public-private finance partnerships over decades and widespread local awareness of the social and economic benefits of restoration.

However, the lake requires continuous care and maintenance. Climate change highlights the need to combine measures related to reducing external stressors and mitigating internal burdens. Current efforts focus on water bodies where carbon and phosphorus cycles interact, given their implications for both climate and ecological status.



© Erika Vuori

Hangzhou 2025: pioneering a new era for biosphere reserves and river basin governance



Presentation of the alliance between the five UNESCO MAB Reserves along the Po River (Monviso, Collina Po, Ticino Val Grande Verbano, Po Grande, Po Delta) at the World Congress in Hangzhou © ADBPO

The 5th UNESCO World Congress of Biosphere Reserves, held in Hangzhou in September 2025, marked a decisive milestone for the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme. Bringing together 4,000 participants from 150 countries, the event reaffirmed the role of reserves as living laboratories for sustainable development. With the addition of 26 new sites, the global network now encompasses 784 reserves, reflecting a renewed ambition for biodiversity and climate adaptation. A central theme of the discussions was the synergy between these areas and river basin governance. In line with Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) principles, the MAB Programme provides territorial platforms to restore

freshwater ecosystems and promote inclusive governance across various scales.

Two framework documents were adopted during the proceedings: the Hangzhou Declaration, outlining a ten-year roadmap, and the 2026-2035 Strategic Action Plan, which sets 34 targets for ecological restoration and basin-scale cooperation. A key outcome was the official launch of the «People for Living Waters» network, specifically dedicated to rivers and wetlands. Coordinated by France, Germany, and Italy, this network brings together 200 sites to promote nature-based solutions in the face of anthropogenic pressures and climate change. The Italian experience, led by the Po River District Authority, was highlighted as a model, demonstrating that the coordination of reserves along a single river system optimizes territorial resilience. Finally, the Congress solidified the commitment to youth engagement, a role that will be further strengthened during the next global youth forum scheduled to take place in Italy in 2026. Hangzhou confirms that the MAB's flexible framework constitutes a major operational lever for river basin organizations on a global scale.

Ludovica RAMELLA,

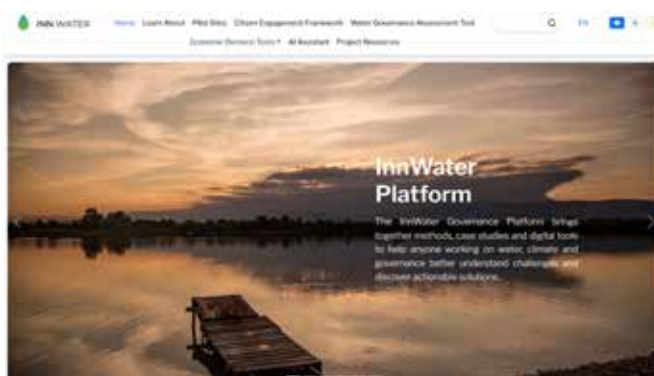
Technical Secretariat of the UNESCO MAB Po Grande Reserve at the Po River Basin District Authority

InnWater: supporting river basin organisations with operational tools and guidance

Across Europe, river basin organisations are under increasing pressure to secure water resources, balance competing uses and plan long-term investments in a context of climate change and uncertainty. InnWater, an EU-funded project coordinated by the International Office for Water (OiEau), addresses this challenge by turning field experience into operational tools and guidance for basin-level decision-making.

The project has been implemented in five pilot territories across Europe, including the European Union (EU) outermost regions, covering diverse water issues such as scarcity, water quality, allocation trade-offs and pricing. In each pilot, InnWater combined a governance assessment (actors, roles, coordination mechanisms, rules and capacities) with stakeholder dialogue and participatory processes involving institutions, water users and civil society. These resources help basin actors structure governance diagnostics, facilitate dialogue and compare policy or pricing options to identify realistic improvement pathways.

As the project reaches its final phase, InnWater is packaging its results into an online Governance Platform and a Learning Environment, designed to support capacity-building and replication beyond the pilot sites. In parallel, the project has explored transferability in additional European territories, identifying key factors for uptake and scaling.



By 2026, InnWater will provide river basin stakeholders with a coherent set of tools and lessons learned to improve coordination, support transparent decisions and accelerate implementation of sustainable water governance solutions.

TO FIND OUT MORE



Governance Platform

Project website



AUBAC: Deploying SPOT for a safer, smarter territory



© AUBAC

Amid intensifying extreme weather and need for infrastructure surveillance, the Italian Central Apennines River Basin District Authority (AUBAC), has introduced SPOT, Boston Dynamics' advanced quadruped, as a mobile digital node for safe data acquisition in difficult or inaccessible areas. SPOT weighs 32 kg and reaches a top speed of ~6 km/h; with 360° stereo cameras and depth sensors, it autonomously navigates terrain, avoids obstacles in real time, climbs stairs, and handles slopes up to

$\pm 30^\circ$. More than a "robotic dog," SPOT collects, pre-processes, and integrates imagery, thermography, and 3D surveys into the information flows, feeding the district's Digital Twin with a continuous data stream.

Through Autowalk missions and LiDAR/laser scanner payloads, the system performs repeatable inspections and high fidelity surveys even in GPS denied environments, alongside thermal analyses. Its modular payloads and edge computing capabilities reduce personnel risk and enable shift from emergency driven response to routine, data based prevention.

In prevention, this technology supports the continuous monitoring of riverbanks, channels, and hydraulic structures, detecting erosion and degradation; in emergency, it provides rapid reconnaissance after floods and landslides, streamlining damage assessment and intervention prioritization. Integration with GIS systems and alert platforms makes data usable by technical teams and communities, accelerating decision making and strengthening transparent governance.

Adopting SPOT enhances operational capacity, safety, and district resilience, turning the territory into a continuous source of reliable information and shortening the time from survey to analysis to decision, while reinforcing collaboration among technical teams, local administrations, and communities.

Joint Danube Survey 5 (JDS5): advancing science and community engagement



The International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) launched the 5th Joint Danube Survey (JDS5) on 1 July 2025 in Vienna, marking the world's largest river monitoring initiative. Covering more than 2,800 km of the Danube and its tributaries, JDS5 delivers a comprehensive assessment of the river's health, focusing on water quality, biodiversity and pollution trends. Building on previous surveys, this fifth edition integrates advanced techniques and innovative approaches to support evidence-based policies for sustainable river management.

Coordinated by the ICPDR and jointly implemented by 14 Danube countries, JDS5 brings together over 1,000 experts from more than 100 institutions. It aims to provide the most comprehensive and harmonised evaluation to date of the Danube's ecological, chemical, hydromorphological and microbiological status.

Early microbiological findings, led by Austrian researchers, reveal encouraging basin-wide trends. Austria's Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management reports significant improvements in water quality, particularly in downstream countries previously affected by faecal pollution. Sustainable wastewater management is delivering measurable results, with a long-term decline in microbiological pollution and marked progress in several downstream tributaries. The microbiology programme, coordinated by ICC Water & Health (MedUni Vienna, TU Vienna and KL Krems), focuses on standard faecal pollution monitoring and antibiotic resistance analysis, enabling unprecedented depth and accuracy in interpreting patterns.

For the first time, JDS5 integrates citizen science into its outreach. Under the motto "Let's Go Sampling Together",

ten schools across the basin collected water samples using kits provided by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, contributing valuable data while strengthening environmental awareness.

Laboratory analyses in chemistry, biology, hydromorphology, radioactivity, groundwater, wastewater, eDNA, micropollutants and microplastics are ongoing. Full results will be published in early 2027 in the JDS Scientific Report.



© ICPDR

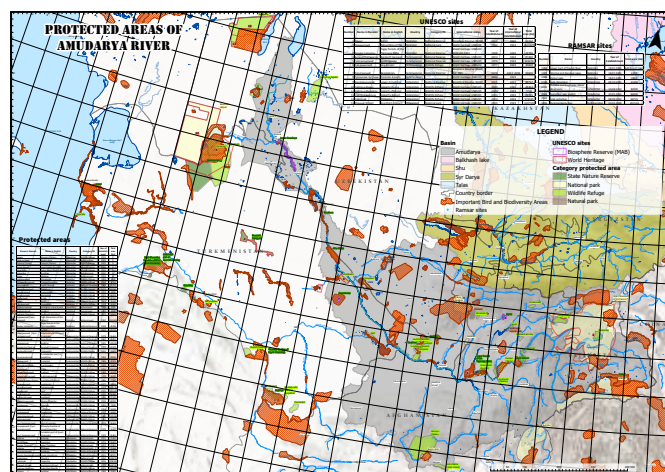
Integrating ecosystems into Amu Darya Basin planning

The Amu Darya river basin is the ecological spine of Central Asia, yet its unique biodiversity faces growing stress as river flow regimes change. To respond, a 2025 basin-wide study “Ecosystems of the Amu Darya River Basin: Current Status and Future Tasks” was prepared to support the GIZ-led Basin Dialogue under the “Green Central Asia” initiative.

This assessment was a collaborative effort by national expert teams from Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, coordinated by the Scientific Information Center of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination. By combining local knowledge, field missions and remote sensing, the teams mapped priority ecosystems and demonstrated the need to complement hydraulic management with an ecosystem-based IWRM approach across borders.

A key result is a validated GIS database of protected areas, harmonizing national and international datasets and resolving inconsistencies and boundary mismatches. The study highlights that biodiversity outcomes depend on reliable environmental conditions,

Priority solutions include basin-wide monitoring and mainstreaming ecosystem services and ecological flow requirements into planning, supported by Strategic Environmental



A map of the protected natural areas of the Amu Darya River Basin, with a list of sites. © SIC ICWC

Assessment (SEA), to help restore tugai forests and delta wetlands. Complementary options include strengthening biodiversity corridors (connectivity), and exploring joint UNESCO/Ramsar pathways for floodplain and wetland sites important for migratory birds. By integrating these findings into the Basin Dialogue, the region takes a significant step toward a future where water security includes the security of the natural world.

Dr. Dinara ZIGANSHINA,

Director, Scientific-Information Center of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (SIC ICWC)

Strengthening cooperation between Cambodia and Laos on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

For over a decade, the French Loire-Bretagne and Rhine-Meuse water agencies, in partnership with OiEau, have been actively supporting IWRM initiatives in Cambodia, in the Stung Sen basin, and in Laos, in the Nam Sa basin. As part of efforts to build on regional achievements, a meeting bringing together partners from both countries was held in February 2025. Recognising the importance of regional collaboration in addressing shared water-related challenges, these regional discussions are organised to promote institutional and technical dialogue, knowledge sharing and the development of a unified approach to sustainable water resource management in the Mekong basin.

This meeting enabled partners from the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MoAE) in Laos and the Tonlé Sap Authority and the Stung Sen Committee in Cambodia to draw practical lessons from their respective experiences in IWRM. In particular, Cambodia was able to learn about the Lao information system (LaoWIS) and the definition of environmental flows to improve water resource planning and monitoring, while Laos found useful



© OiEau

insights in the discussions on basin governance and funding models for agricultural infrastructure to strengthen its practices. For both sides, this mission confirmed the value of enhanced regional cooperation in the face of shared challenges.

These exchanges will continue in 2026, with a forthcoming study visit to Laos, between Vientiane and the Nam Sa basin.

How the Murray–Darling Basin Authority is adapting to climate change



© Murray–Darling Basin Authority 2025

The Murray–Darling Basin in Australia is expected to become hotter, rainfall likely to become more variable, and droughts very likely to become more frequent and severe.

The Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) has released the 2025 Murray–Darling Basin Outlook. This provides a forward-looking assessment of how climate change will shape the Basin's environmental, First Nations, social and economic future through to 2050 under existing management arrangements.

The Basin Outlook draws on the latest scientific evidence from the 2025 Sustainable Yields. These reports are whole-of-Basin assessments. They provide a comprehensive picture of the Basin's water resources and the potential impacts of climate change on

those resources. The reports utilise significant advancements in climate science and modelling capabilities.

By combining current evidence with future-focused science, the Basin Outlook helps identify where the Basin may be most vulnerable and where action is needed to strengthen resilience. It provides critical information to help governments, communities and industries plan for transition.

The Basin Outlook report highlights that climate change compounds existing challenges like river connectivity, water security and water quality – all key areas that will be explored through the 2026 Basin Plan Review.

The Basin Plan Review Discussion Paper will be released in early 2026, followed by a 12-week consultation period and call for submissions. The MDBA will release the Review Report, which will have findings and recommendations for Australian governments to consider, in late 2026.

TO FIND OUT MORE



Basin Outlook

Website



Practices and achievements in the integrated management of the Haihe River Basin

The Haihe River Basin, in North China, covers 320,600 km² and is one of China's seven major river basins. Current management emphasizes an integrated approach to flood control, water resources, ecology, and the environment.

Flood resilience relies on reinforced infrastructure, more accurate forecasting, and coordinated operational arrangements. In July, these measures supported responses to the Haihe “23.7” basin-wide extreme flood and the “25.7” regional flood event.

A modern water network is gradually taking shape, with optimized allocation patterns and strengthened inter-basin and cross-regional transfers. During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, 33.6 billion m³ were supplied to the basin, including through the South-to-North Water Diversion Project.

Ecological conditions show gradual improvement. Sections of the Beijing–Hangzhou Grand Canal now maintain continuous flow, the Yongding River, one of the main tributaries of the Hai River, flowing through the city of Beijing, runs year-round, groundwater

over-extraction has declined markedly compared with a decade ago, and both the extent and intensity of soil erosion have decreased.

Digital technologies increasingly support basin oversight through expanded monitoring systems and the development of a digital twin model of the Yongding River, contributing to more data-informed management.



Waters from the Yangtze River diversion water, the Yellow River diversion water, and inflows from the Wei Canal converge at the Si Nü Si Junction. © HWCC

China's water governance achievements and the New Era River Strategy

The year 2025 concludes China's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021–2025). During this period, water governance progressed in flood control, water supply, food security, and ecological protection.

By the end of 2024, the national system comprised 95,000 reservoirs, about 200 large and medium-sized water diversion projects, 6,924 irrigation districts of similar scale, and 318,000 km of levees. From 2022 to 2025, annual investment in water conservancy exceeded RMB 1 trillion, consolidating a comprehensive infrastructure network.

Flood conveyance and storage areas were delineated and protected, with management scopes defined for 1.7 million km of rivers and more than 3,000 lakes. Health assessments, improved hydrological connectivity, and ecological replenishment supported 122 river and lake restoration projects. Major lakes, including Dongting, Poyang, and Taihu, regained over 1,300 km² of water surface area.

Despite average annual economic growth of 5.5%, total national water use remained stable. In 2024, water consumption per unit of GDP and per unit of industrial output declined by 17.7 percent and 23.6 percent respectively compared with 2020. Water-saving



© INTCE & Songliao River Basin Commission

irrigation covered 42.5 million hectares, while non-conventional sources supplied 25.1 billion m³.

Digital twin systems are being introduced to support basin-level management. Legislative frameworks have been strengthened, River and Lake Chiefs appointed nationwide, and flood and drought command mechanisms established across the seven major river basins.

In June 2025, the Opinions on Comprehensively Advancing the Protection and Governance of Rivers and Lakes formalized the New Era River Strategy. By 2035, objectives include enhanced flood resilience, improved efficiency, ecosystem restoration, and reinforced governance arrangements.

From Glaciers to Deltas: ADB's Resilient River Basins Agenda



The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is scaling up its support for river basin programs across Asia, drawing on landscape-based approaches from the Yangtze River Economic Belt and Yellow River Ecological Corridor programs in the People's Republic of China, as well as integrated water resources management work in South and Southeast Asia. Building on these experiences, ADB recently launched the Resilient River Basins Initiative (RRBI), to strengthen basin-scale planning, governance, and investment readiness. RRBI integrates scientific risk assessments, hydro-economic analysis, and innovative financing approaches to improve long-term water and food security.

Across Asia, changing snow, ice, and rainfall patterns are reshaping water availability from headwaters to deltas. Basin institutions must manage deeper uncertainty, coordinate across

sectors, and access finance aligned with climate risks. RRBI links science, governance, and climate finance to support earlier, risk-informed decisions and more resilient investments,

Glaciers to Farms (G2F) is a regional program, with support from the Green Climate Fund, to address the urgent crisis of glacier melt, water scarcity, and food security for 380 million people in Central and West Asia. Running 2026–2035, it strengthens adaptation by securing reliable water and food supplies through policy reforms, technology deployment, nature-based solutions, climate-resilient infrastructure, and expanded access to finance across mountain and downstream communities.

The Southeast Asia Resilient River Initiative (SEARRI) strengthens resilience in monsoon-driven river basins across the ASEAN region. The program builds analytical foundations through diagnostics and data systems, promotes green financing policies and standards, strengthens basin planning, and prepares investments while establishing systems and instruments to sustain infrastructure and ecosystem services over the long term.

Together, these initiatives reflect ADB's commitment to advancing climate-resilient basins through stronger data, institutions, and financing.

ANBO: a strategic driver of cooperation between African river basin organisations



Workshop on WIS in Saly in November 2025. © RAOB

The African Network of Basin Organisations (ANBO) – through its Permanent Technical Secretariat hosted by OMVS – continued its commitment in 2025 to strengthening water governance in Africa, against a global backdrop marked by the growing effects of climate change and pressure on transboundary water resources.

As part of the DYNObA project, funded by AFD and coordinated by OiEau, ANBO managed Component 4, dedicated to promoting new ways of sharing experiences among African transboundary basin organisations. The year was marked, among other things, by the organisation of workshops on innovative financing and joint infrastructure projects of common interest, as well as capacity-building on Water Information Systems (WIS). Component 4 of the DYNObA project concludes in March 2026, having delivered numerous structural achievements for the network over the project's three-year duration.

At the same time, the Peer-to-Peer (P2P) project, funded by the European Union, is establishing itself as an innovative programme for cooperation and support for river basin organisations and peer-to-peer exchanges, led by INBO and ANBO. In 2025, the launch of the global call for expressions of interest and the approval of 21 pairings, 15 of which involved African partners, confirmed the priority given to the continent, in coordination with the Team Europe Initiative for African transboundary basins. The project also helped to strengthen the ANBO team, develop an educational programme and lay the foundations for future technical cooperation.

The key lessons from this year highlight the importance of strong regional roots, the ANBO's catalytic role in conjunction with AMCOW, and peer-to-peer learning to sustainably strengthen

the capacities of African river basin organisations. The outlook for 2026 focuses on the operational implementation of P2P partnerships, the mobilisation of funding, and the capitalisation on best practices to promote more resilient and inclusive IWRM in Africa.

Furthermore, from 20 to 23 January 2026, ANBO held its 9th Council (General Assembly) in Dakar, a major statutory meeting that provided an opportunity to review the network's strategic and institutional directions. This session was marked by the pre-validation of ANBO's 2026–2035 ten-year strategy, aligned with the African Water Vision 2063, as well as the adoption of the 2022–2025 activity report and the main programmatic and budgetary guidelines for 2026–2027.

The Council also proceeded with the renewal of the governing bodies, appointing the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) as Chair of the ANBO for a two-year term, alongside the Volta Basin Authority (ABV) as Vice-Chair and the OMVS as Permanent Technical Secretariat. These decisions mark the start of a new phase of consolidation and operational implementation of the network's strategy across the continent.



ANBO General Assembly in Dakar in January 2026. © RAOB

Technological innovation at the heart of IWRM in Côte d'Ivoire

Faced with demographic pressure, pollution from illegal mining, industrial discharges and intensive agriculture, as well as the effects of climate change (droughts, floods, hydrological imbalances), Côte d'Ivoire must improve its understanding and ongoing monitoring of its resources. The use of telemetry, forecasting and early warning systems, supported by innovative technological tools (connected sensors, Big Data, artificial intelligence and satellite data), enables data to be collected and analysed in real time, informs decision-making and optimises water allocation for hydropower, drinking water supply, agriculture, and fisheries and pastoral uses, while reducing wastage.

Ivorian start-ups and academics are implementing these solutions for hydrometry (water level, flow rate, water quality), cloud storage, monitoring changes in river levels and reservoir levels, managing warning thresholds, and hydrometeorological forecasting. Major water and agricultural infrastructure projects now incorporate digital technology.

Challenges remain: scattered data, inadequate measurement networks, limited maintenance and a need for specialist skills. Strengthening governance around integrated monitoring systems, and improving funding mechanisms and institutional interoperability are recommended. Adoption and roll-out must be stepped up, with funding and maintenance remaining the main obstacles. Greater collaboration with the private sector, capacity building and public-private partnerships are essential.

In 2023, 35 hydrometric stations were automated through the PREMU project, aimed at improving access to drinking water, and a further 24 are planned under the Water Security and Sanitation Project (PASEA) funded by the World Bank. Other projects concern hydro-agricultural developments, drinking water dams and hydroelectric facilities, coordinated by the Directorate General of Water Resources to ensure interoperability and efficient data sharing.



Water level sensor on a hydroelectric dam

Developing IWRM in Cape Verde: Partnership between ANAS and the Artois-Picardie Water Agency



© OIEau

Cape Verde faces growing quantitative and qualitative challenges in the management of its water resources. Rainfall is low (around 200 mm per year) and is concentrated in a short season (August to October). To support the country's sustainable economic development, water is a major challenge in meeting domestic, energy, tourism and agricultural needs, particularly given the effects of climate change.

In this context, the Cape Verde National Water and Sanitation Agency (ANAS) is launching a pilot scheme for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). Together with various institutions that formed a working group in 2025, ANAS is conducting

preliminary discussions with a view to establishing a Water Resources Management Committee on the island of Santiago in 2026. Bringing together users, local authorities and institutions, this body will aim to strengthen governance and promote integrated planning, using a cross-sectoral approach and Nature-Based Solutions.. This model takes into account the actual water resources and uses on the island, considering surface water, groundwater and non-conventional resources (desalination, wastewater reuse).

A memorandum of understanding on knowledge-sharing between the Artois-Picardie Water Agency and ANAS was signed in 2025 to support this initiative, with technical support provided by the International Office for Water (OIEau). This initiative builds on the long history of decentralised cooperation between associations and local authorities in northern France (notably Amiens and Saint-Omer) and municipalities in Cape Verde. A study visit was therefore organised in France in 2025. Furthermore, ANAS is involved in INBO's Peer-to-Peer (P2P) project in partnership with Cuba and Madagascar. With the support of the European Union, this project facilitates discussion on how to address the challenges of managing both small and large water cycles in island environments.

EPIC Africa: The Water-Energy-Food Nexus for the Volta basin

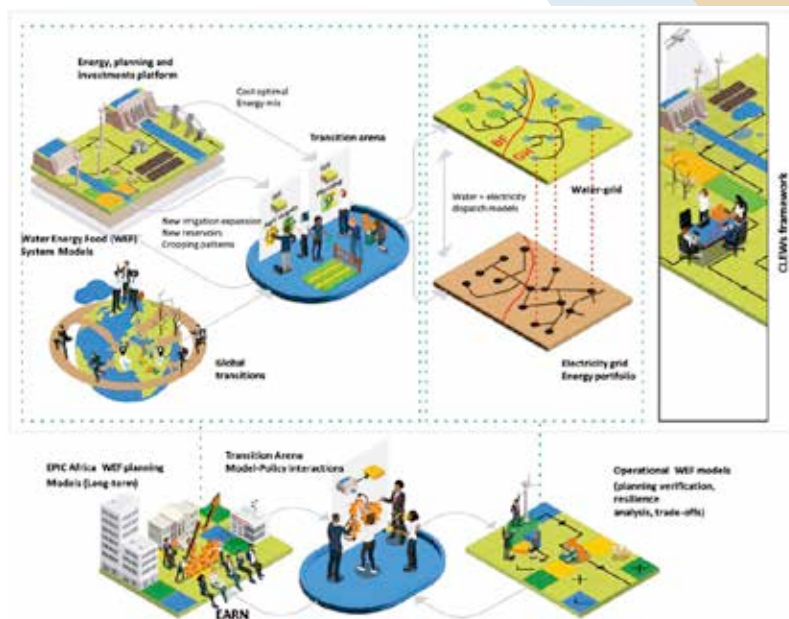
The EPIC Africa project aims to strengthen energy infrastructure planning in sub-Saharan Africa (the Volta and Tana basins) through an integrated Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus approach, which is used as a lever for climate change adaptation.

Institutional engagement involves mapping national stakeholders, conducting sector-specific interviews and identifying experts in the fields of water, energy and agriculture, in collaboration with research centres. These contributions inform the analysis of the coherence of policies, measures and actions. Transition forums also enable independent stakeholders to participate in the co-development of scenarios.

The project incorporates local visions to produce long-term development scenarios and nexus planning models, taking into account climate and operational uncertainties.

At the same time, EPIC Africa is evaluating technological solutions such as pumped-storage hydroelectricity and floating solar panels, in order to analyse water-land-climate interactions and identify trade-offs and synergies between different uses.

These deliverables serve as decision-making tools for a sustainable and coordinated energy transition.



This diagram shows the interaction between the project's eight Work Packages.



TO FIND OUT MORE

EPIC Africa

DRC: structuring water management by basin with the Congolese Water Authority

With one of Africa's largest freshwater reserves, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has exceptional water potential. However, this potential remains largely untapped due to challenges relating to governance, institutional coordination and planning. Strengthening Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) therefore appears to be a strategic lever for improving water security.

The creation of the Congolese Water Authority (OCE) is a key step in this process. This public body is responsible for planning the exploitation of water resources, developing management tools and fostering cooperation between stakeholders in the sector at national, river basin and sub-basin levels. The project to support its operationalisation is being implemented by a consortium comprising Nodalis Conseil and the International Office for Water (OiEau), on behalf of the Ministry of Water Resources and Electricity and the Water Resources Directorate, in collaboration

with the Water Projects Execution Unit (CEP-O), as part of programmes supported by the World Bank.

The work carried out within this framework recommends, in particular, organising water management at the level of river basin regions, with Congolese Water Authority basin offices acting as basin agencies and supported by basin and sub-basin committees. This organisation must be accompanied by planning tools at every level, a structured water information system and economic mechanisms such as charges for the use of the resource. The recommendations also highlight the importance of aligning national policies with cooperation initiatives in cross-border basins.

Thus, the operationalisation of the Congolese Water Authority marks a major step forward for water governance in the DRC.

Blaise DHONT,
Project Manager, OiEau



The French Presidency of INBO (2024–2026): a record of commitment, influence and international cooperation

Since October 2024, France has held the global presidency of the International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO). Under France's leadership and in close collaboration with its international partners, this presidency has placed Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at the basin level at the heart of major international agendas, against a backdrop of growing water stress and the accelerating effects of climate change.

For France, this presidency represented a unique opportunity for exchange and mutual learning based on IWRM models from around the world, particularly regarding the diversification of the water mix and resilience to climate change. It also provided an opportunity to showcase its own governance model, based on over 60 years of experience of water agencies, funded by the 'polluter pays' principle, as well as the progress made under its recent water conservation and ecological planning plan.

The year 2025 was marked by the concrete implementation of the commitments made at the 10th World Water Forum in Bali. The Twin Basin Initiative programme, supported by the European Union, resulted in 21 partnerships between basin organisations and national administrations, illustrating the power of "peer-to-peer" cooperation. On the political front, INBO consolidated its leadership by securing, for the 11th World Water Forum (Riyadh, 2026), the coordination of the political segment dedicated to river basins and two strategic topics: IWRM and data for public decision-making.



© INBO



Handover of the INBO presidency from the Kingdom of Morocco (represented by H.E. Nizar Baraka, Minister for Infrastructure and Water) to France (represented by Ms Barbara Pompili, Ambassador for the Environment). © INBO

The network has maintained its focus on biodiversity and climate issues, adopting an integrated water-food-ecosystems approach. INBO promotes IWRM in support of sustainable fisheries and resilient agriculture, under a cooperation agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), signed in October 2025. At COP30 in Belém, it co-organised eight events on adaptation. In Nice, at the United Nations Ocean Conference, it highlighted the importance of ecological continuity between freshwater and coastal waters, notably by co-hosting the World Delta Summit.

The integration of satellite technologies (SWOT) for resource monitoring and the strengthening of information systems has been a key area of expertise. INBO is one of the founding members of the One Water Vision Initiative, promoted by France at the One Water Summit held in December 2024 in strategic partnership with Kazakhstan and Saudi Arabia. Through these initiatives, the French Presidency has helped to build a more integrated, better equipped and more influential international water community. The French Presidency has raised the profile and strengthened the actions of the network, promoting basin-based IWRM as a solution to global water challenges. As the World Basin Summit in June 2026 in Brazil approaches, marking the end of the French Presidency, France calls for building on the momentum gained to make basin management a key lever in addressing the growing challenges of water, climate and biodiversity.

Ms Monique BARBUT

France's Minister for Ecological Transition, Biodiversity and International Negotiations on Climate and Nature

Spatial hydrology: INBO committed to the One Water Vision

INBO plays a strategic role in the One Water Vision (OWV), an international initiative launched at the One Water Summit in December 2024 to harness satellite observation, advanced modelling and artificial intelligence for water management, global water monitoring and the prediction of droughts and floods. OWV brings together more than 20 scientific institutions, space agencies and intergovernmental organisations within an International Research Consortium (IRC), with INRAE providing the secretariat and the French National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) offering structural support for scientific and institutional coordination at both national and international levels. The initiative focuses on the operational use of SWOT and TRISHNA data for practical, integrated decision-support tools.

INBO is a member of the initiative's Steering Committee. In this capacity, it contributes to shaping the strategy, validating priorities and ensuring coherence between science, technology and user needs. It participates in the "Blue Water" and "Data and Infrastructure" working groups and coordinates the "Users and Capacities" working group, ensuring that the needs of basin managers, local decision-makers and field practices are integrated into the development of OWV products and services.



"This year will provide an opportunity to clarify the themes to be addressed within the initiative, which will be set out in the 'international strategic research agenda', and to bring the working groups together around a common project that will take shape through a response to a European call for proposals concluding the Horizon Europe 2021–2027 programme. It will therefore be a year of consolidating governance, funding and, above all, science."

Mr Vincent BRENIER,

Head of International Priority Programmes, INRAE



TO FIND OUT MORE

One Water Vision



The FAO-INBO initiative for better integration of inland fisheries into IWRM



Philanthropy: strengthening INBO's capacity for action

INBO, recognised in France as a public interest organisation, is finalising its French tax status. From 2026, it will be able to receive philanthropic donations, strengthen its partnerships and expand its activities to promote integrated and sustainable water management at the international level.

Under the auspices of INBO, the FAO initiative on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and sustainable inland fisheries aims to better integrate inland fisheries into water governance at the basin level. This initiative responds to the growing awareness that inland fisheries are essential for food security, livelihoods and ecosystems, but are often overlooked in water management and development planning.

By fostering collaboration between basin management bodies and fisheries institutions, this initiative promotes more coherent policies that balance water uses whilst protecting aquatic ecosystems.

It encourages dialogue between sectors such as agriculture, hydropower, the environment and

fisheries, and supports the practical application of ecosystem-based and participatory approaches at the basin level.

Under this initiative, pilot projects are being implemented in the Lake Victoria, Lake Tanganyika, Mekong, Nile and Amazon river basins. In these regions, partners are working to integrate fisheries considerations into basin strategies, data systems and decision-making processes.

Through global and regional workshops, technical advice and institutional cooperation, the FAO-INBO initiative aims to strengthen governance, improve resilience and ensure that inland fisheries are managed sustainably as an essential component of integrated water resources management.

INBO's key figures



1994

Year of creation



Status

Non-profit association under French law.



Main objective

Support all initiatives in favour of the organisation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at the level of national or transboundary river basins, lakes or aquifers, in order to reconcile economic growth, social justice, environment and water resources protection, and participation of civil society.



Organisation

This platform for the exchange of knowledge and experience is managed by its President and the Liaison Office, which organises the Permanent Technical Secretariat provided by the International Office for Water (OiEau). Its World Basin Summit takes place every 2 years. INBO Presidency is held by France, since the GA of 2024, until 2026.



Actions

Exchanges of experience, twinning, events and partnerships (with OECD on water governance, with UNECE on transboundary cooperation and adaptation to climate change). Provision of the expertise of the Permanent Technical Secretariat provided by OiEau: technical and institutional support, training, data and information systems.



Network

192 Member-Organisations (basin organisations, governmental administrations in charge of water, bi or multilateral cooperation organisations) and Permanent Observers in 88 countries.



Implantation

8 regional networks, to strengthen the links between Member-Organizations from neighboring countries, to develop INBO's collective activities in the region, to organize joint activities of general interest.



INBO

International Network
of Basin Organizations

INBO Secretariat

Office International de l'Eau

22, rue de Madrid

75008 PARIS - FRANCE

+33 1 44 90 88 60

info@inbo.org

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Publishing Director:

Eric TARDIEU

Editor-in-chief:

Sabine BENJAMIN

Editorial coordination:

Edouard BOINET

Marjorie GERMAIN-LUPI

Myriam SONNI

Didier DELAGE

Design and graphic elements:

Sequoia

Layout: Marion BARIL

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