

ACTIVITY REPORT 2024-2026



INBO

International Network
of Basin Organizations

Introduction

The International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)'s objective is to improve the management of water resources and ecosystems worldwide in order to meet human, economic, and environmental needs in a balanced and sustainable manner. The watershed of rivers, lakes, and associated groundwater is a particularly relevant scale for developing any action aimed at achieving this objective while improving people's living conditions. In this context, INBO promotes basin-level management supported by structured organizations possessing the skills, knowledge, and funding necessary for the integrated and sustainable management of water resources.

Since its creation in 1994, INBO has strengthened national and transboundary basin organizations by promoting the operational implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), the development of Water Information Systems (WIS), strategic planning, and stakeholder participation. This approach has also gained global institutional recognition through the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6.5, which establishes IWRM at the basin level as the preferred governance tool for optimizing water use.



Yet, despite this recognition, global progress remains insufficient. The latest 2023 UNEP report gives a harsh assessment of IWRM implementation, with an average score of only 57 out of 100

(<https://www.sdg6data.org/indicator/6.5.1>), even as global challenges intensify: the impacts of climate change, population explosion, uncontrolled urbanization, pressures on the agricultural and energy sectors, and tensions over international watercourses. To address these urgent issues, INBO, supported by the expertise of its secretariat provided by the International Office for Water (OiEau), is taking action and contributing to major international processes (Climate and Biodiversity COPs, United Nations Water Conferences, World Water Forums, etc.) to promote best practices through the sharing of experience.

To this end, INBO outlines its commitments in its 2024-2027 Action Plan around three major thematic priorities: adaptation to climate change, biodiversity conservation, and transboundary cooperation. To turn these ambitions into results, the Network supports the development of four concrete levers for action in Integrated Water Resources Management in river basins: collaborative governance through multi-stakeholder dialogue, the deployment of effective water information systems, the mobilization of sustainable financing, and the strengthening of strategic planning.

I. Promoting river basin management planning

Since October 2024, the global presidency of INBO has been transferred from the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water of the Kingdom of Morocco to the **Ministry in charge of water in France**.

Meetings were held regularly in 2025 with the French global presidency of INBO (2024-2026) to discuss planned actions, their implementation, and the French presidency's involvement in the network's activities and events. Half of these meetings were held in person, and half via videoconference.

These meetings ensured the day-to-day management of the network and also facilitated planning for its contribution to major international events.

The **preparatory process for the 11th World Water Forum** (<https://worldwaterforum.org/>) was launched with its kick-off event, the first stakeholder meeting (April 14-16, 2025, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia). The INBO Secretariat participated in order to advocate for its thematic priorities, apply for the role, and be selected during the last quarter of 2025 to serve as coordinator:



- The 3rd edition of the segment dedicated to basin authorities within the political process,
- The coordination group for Topic 1C, "Integrated Water Resources Management,"



- The coordination group for Topic 5C "Data" (with its secretariat, the International Office for Water).

INBO continued to implement the commitments made following the 10th World Water Forum (Bali, May 2024) and formalized within the Bali Basin Champion Agenda.

Regarding **biodiversity**, INBO continued to promote the Water and Nature Declaration alongside The Nature Conservancy and the World Water Council. The message of this initiative is simple: "No water security without ecological security, no ecological security without water security!" Its goal is to rally a large number of stakeholders—including those outside the water community—to this idea in order to achieve more coherent sectoral policies.

INBO continued to serve as Chair of the steering committee for the "IWRM and Sustainable Fisheries" initiative, launched by the FAO in 2023. It expanded its cooperation with this Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The Memorandum of Understanding signed between the FAO and INBO on the sidelines of the Water Dialogues on October 14, 2015, in Rome, and the associated action plan, thus include two additional areas of collaboration: data collection and sharing, and improving IWRM for climate-resilient agriculture through ecosystem-based solutions (EbS).



INBO contributed to the agenda of the [Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands](#) (COP15; July 2025, Zimbabwe). In particular, it organized a thematic

session on “nature-based solutions.” The value of basin-level IWRM was presented there, with case studies of national basins (Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, WWF Zambia) and transboundary river and lake basins (UNECE Water Convention Secretariat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Zambezi River Commission (ZAMCOM)).

INBO also participated in the [3rd United Nations Ocean Conference](#) (June 9-13, 2025, Nice) and co-organized the “World Deltas Summit,” at which the Mekong River Commission, a member of INBO, delivered a presentation. These events underscore the need for better coordination of public policies at **the interface between freshwater and coastal water management**. INBO also organized an event on the “**transfer of solid waste and plastics into aquatic environments**” (see [the dedicated INBO handbook](#)).



Regarding **climate**, INBO was also a key player in the “water” events at the [United Nations Climate Change Conference](#) (COP30, Belém, with the secretariat in attendance from November 10-12). It co-organized 8 events on the importance of basin-level IWRM for adaptation, nature-based solutions, the incubation of water and climate projects, and satellite monitoring, including the ministerial water and climate event, the high-level event for non-state actors (“Water Action Event”), two official UNFCCC events, and

events at the France and Water for Climate pavilions. It also continued its activities to incubate water and climate projects.

Since June 2025, the INBO Secretariat has organized **preparatory meetings for the “World Watersheds Summit” (June 15–19, 2026, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)**, the new name for the INBO General Assembly. These meetings brought together representatives from the INBO Secretariat and the Brazilian host authorities. They provided an opportunity to publicize the event, define its thematic framework, and issue targeted invitations.

Discussions on the sidelines of COP30 Climate in Belém also provided an opportunity to present the role and responsibilities of the **global presidency of INBO, which Brazil will assume starting in June 2026** through the Ministry of Integration and Regional Development.



Signing of the agreement to organize the INBO World Basins Summit in the State of Rio

Maintaining and strengthening INBO’s institutional cooperation with other international organizations and networks has helped to promote basin-level IWRM politically on the international stage.

INBO has thus worked on:

- **Transboundary cooperation with the UNECE**, Secretariat of the Water Convention (1992), notably as a member of the Working Groups on

IWRM and monitoring, as a member of the steering committee of the Coalition for Cooperation on Transboundary Waters, and as a co-organizer of the UNECE global workshop “Conservation and Restoration of Freshwater Ecosystems in Transboundary Basins” (June 16-17, 2025, Geneva).



- With the **OECD on the Water Governance Initiative (WGI)** as a member of the steering committee, as well as on the **cities-basins dialogue**.



- On **data sharing, water information systems, and training** for water professionals with the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (**UNESCO-IHP**).



- On the **interface between research and the field** work of water management practitioners with the International Water Resources Association (IWRA), through co-publications (a special issue of the journal “Water International”) and by contributing to the program of [the World Water Congress \(December 1-5, Marrakech\)](#) with sessions on governance, training, and satellite monitoring



INBO's Participation in the 19th World Water Congress (Marrakech, Morocco – December 2025)



Workshop on Water and Ecosystem Resilience (Parma, Italy – May 2025)

II. Knowledge dissemination and application

INBO has continued to offer webinars and hybrid events in various formats and in collaboration with its partners to reach a wider audience:

- Webinar on satellite monitoring: “Between Sky and Earth: Combining In-Situ and Satellite Water Monitoring to Improve Watershed Management” (April 22; <https://www.inbo-news.org/fr/evenements/riob-webinaire-suivi-par-satellite/>)
- Webinars on nature-based solutions: “No-Regret Measures for Climate Change Adaptation and Ecosystem Restoration at the Watershed Level” (October 21; <https://www.inbo-news.org/fr/evenements/webinaire-sfn-ladaptation-au-changement-climatique-et-la-restauration-des-ecosystemes-au-niveau-des-bassins-versants/>) and “Innovative Financing” (October 23; <https://www.inbo-news.org/fr/evenements/webinaire-solutions-fondees-sur-la-nature-et-financement-innovant/>)

The two publications released for the 10th World Water Forum were presented

and distributed throughout the year:

- The [handbook “Transfer of Solid Waste and Plastics into Aquatic Environments.”](#) which offers an in-depth analysis of the characterization of pollution from waste and plastics, their sources, and their impacts, while exploring the management of flows within basins and upstream reduction methods, as well as solutions to mitigate their impact.



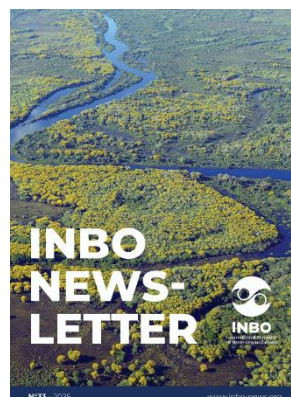
- The [special edition of the journal Water International](#), “Water Management in River, Lake, and Aquifer Basins: Challenges Ahead After 30 Years of Innovation.”

These publications join a [significant collection of handbooks](#) covering topics such as the restoration of aquatic ecosystems, data sharing, transboundary cooperation, and participatory management.

Promotion of this INBO handbook collection was carried out through all relevant INBO thematic activities.

INBO’s institutional communication continued through:

- The drafting and publication in three languages (French, English, Spanish) of the **INBO Newsletter**, featuring a greater number of interviews.



*The latest edition of the
INBO Newsletter*

- An enhanced presence on **social media** (LinkedIn) to announce, provide live updates on, and highlight INBO’s events and initiatives.
- The trilingual website, accessible in French, English and Spanish: <https://www.inbo-news.org>

INBO also contributes to the promotion and dissemination of knowledge derived from research. It is a partner in numerous European Horizon Europe projects, the European Union's framework program for research and innovation.

It thus contributes to identifying priority needs in research and development (Water4All), innovative governance (InnWater, Govaqua), nature-based solutions (NATALIE, SpongeWorks), the deployment of unconventional resources (AWARD), and basin-level IWRM in general, particularly in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia (EOCAC; with the EU4Green Recovery East project).



Water4All Workshop at the EURO-INBO 2025 International Conference (Parma, Italy – May 2025)



GOVAQUA Workshop at the EURO-INBO 2025 International Conference (Parma, Italy – May 2025)

III. Exchange of experiences among basin organizations

Since 2024, INBO has promoted the idea of a global twinning program among basin authorities, named the “Twin Basin Initiative.”

The Twin Basin Initiative was launched during the 10th edition of the World Water Forum. Its objective is to promote and develop best practices in integrated water resources management (IWRM) by focusing on capacity building within the basin organizations themselves, through:

- Peer exchanges and twinning partnerships among advisory organizations,
- The development of expertise and capacities within basin organizations in the thematic areas of integrated water resources management:
 - Legal frameworks and institutional organization,
 - Development and implementation of river basin management plans with stakeholder participation,
 - Water monitoring and information systems,
 - Financing.

The initiative must provide financial and methodological support for these twinning arrangements, so as to widely disseminate the results obtained at various scales:

- Transboundary basins;
- National basins;
- Subnational basins (sub-basins, coastal basins, urban basins, etc.)

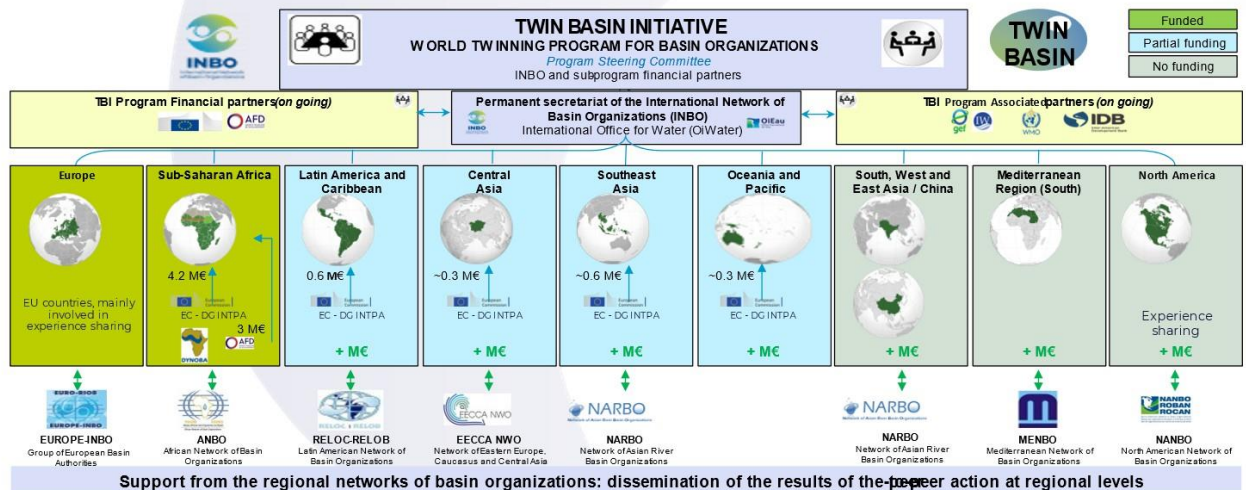
The target groups and final beneficiaries are professionals from river basin organizations, who have been at the heart of INBO’s work for over thirty years, particularly through its regional networks at the continental level (for example, ANBO since 2002 and RELOB since 1998).

The initiative is based on an open architecture designed to organize various types of activities, involving basin organizations from both the North and the South.

TWIN BASIN INITIATIVE

General organization of the program

Ongoing activity: Fundraising and partnership development



The flagship program of the Twin Basin Initiative is Peer-to-Peer (P2P), funded by the European Union (DG INTPA) with just over €6 million. With a duration of 48 months, it targets river, lake, and aquifer basin organizations (BOs) (both transboundary and national), government water agencies, as well as, to a lesser extent, NGOs, scientific and technical partners, and the private sector.

P2P is structured around two main components:

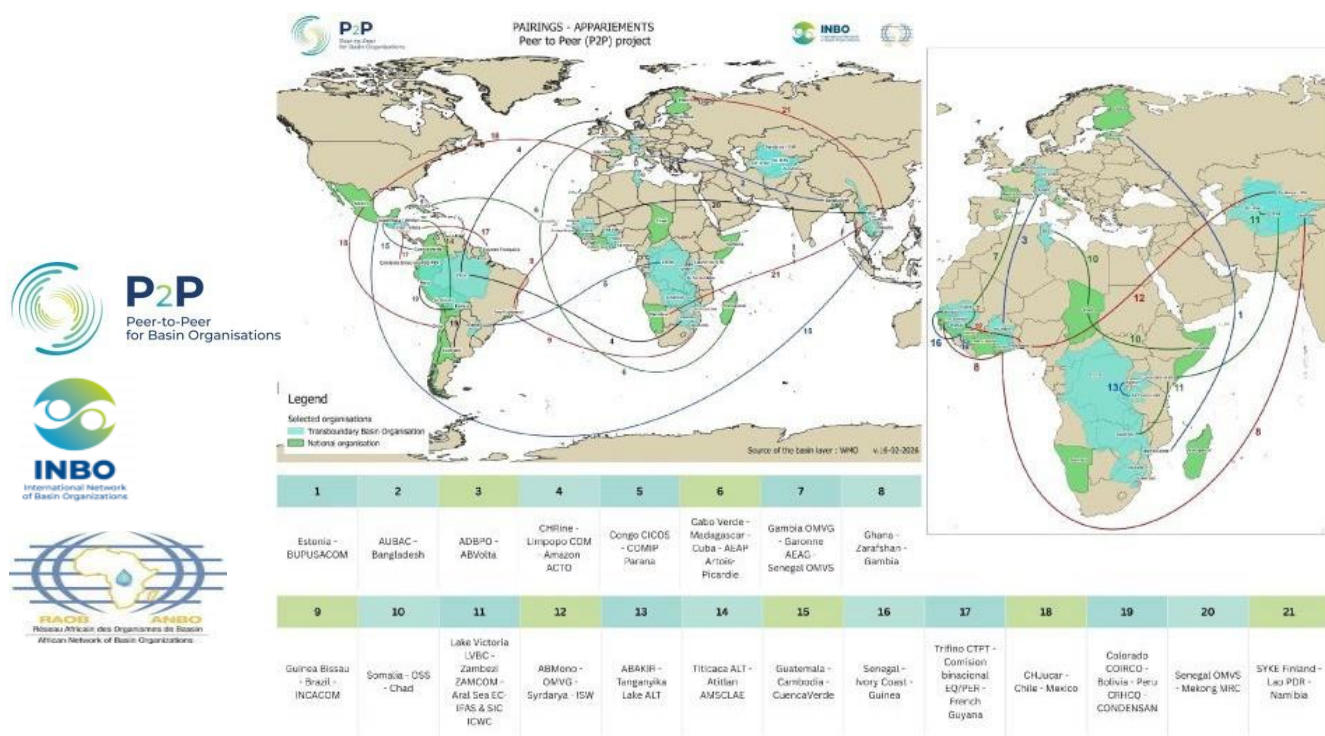
1. **Peer-to-peer exchanges** and partnerships are gradually being developed among basin organizations based on a new, effective mechanism,

2. The expertise and **capacities of river basin organizations** in the thematic areas of IWRM are developed (using EU directives and the principles of the 1992 United Nations Convention as useful references).

The target geography focuses primarily on **sub-Saharan Africa** (excluding North African countries “neighboring” the EU), but also includes the Americas and the Caribbean, with a particular focus on Latin America, Asia and the Pacific. Central and Southeast Asian countries, as well as EU countries and river basins, primarily involved in the exchange of experiences, are also focused on.

This is why the project is being implemented through a close partnership between INBO and ANBO.

The first P2P selection committee meeting was held in Paris in May 2025 and resulted in the confirmation of 65 pairs from among the applications received. A second matching committee (Brussels, October 2025) established 21 pairings of two to three main partners (involving 61 river basin organizations or national administrations), sometimes accompanied by secondary organizations. The first webinar presenting the project's institutional and technical aspects took place in November 2025 and will be followed by future webinars and in-person workshops that will form the educational program associated with the project.



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IV. Support for the Modernization of Information Systems

As part of the preparations for the **11th World Water Forum**, the International Office for Water (OiEau), the INBO Secretariat, applied for and was selected as the coordinator of the **“data” working group** for the forum’s thematic process.

Within the Forum’s political process, INBO is also the lead organizer of the high-level political segment dedicated to river basins. It will therefore ensure that data sharing is one of its priority themes.

Promotion of [the Manual on Water Information Systems \(WIS\)](#) continued across all INBO activities.

The implementation of the manual’s recommendations has been carried out notably through numerous projects implemented by the INBO Secretariat (EU4Green Project in Armenia, Moldova, Georgia, and Ukraine; support for the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS); the Bio-Plateaux project in the transboundary basins of the Maroni and Oyapock rivers, shared respectively by French Guiana and Suriname on the one hand, and by French Guiana and Brazil on the other)

INBO continued its work to promote **the value of satellite technologies and services (data and imagery)**, which are relevant for monitoring water resources when combined with the traditional network of in-situ monitoring stations.

Its secretariat thus disseminated the results of the SWOT (Surface Water and Ocean Topography) working group on space hydrology.



This group shares with national water resource management agencies and river basin organizations the observations, tools, and services derived from the SWOT (“Surface Water and Ocean Topography”) satellite, launched in 2022 by the U.S. (NASA), French (the French National Center for Space Studies—CNES), British (UKSA), and Canadian (CSA).

This work is complemented by:

1. two major international initiatives:
 - Since the World Water Forum in Bali (May 2024), a **satellite task force** with the WMO, aimed at developing and implementing pilot projects.
 - Since the One Water Summit (December 2024), the **“One Water Vision,”** which bridges the gap between research stakeholders and end-users of satellite monitoring services. INBO is a member of the steering committee, and the French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment (INRAE) leads the initiative.
2. a series of events aimed at raising awareness of the potential of satellite monitoring tools and

services (webinar, official UNFCCC event, special session at the World Water Congress).

The integration and utilization of satellite hydrology data—particularly SWOT satellite altimetry data, water quality data, and precipitation data—already constitute a major component of activities within many existing projects. Notable examples illustrating the geographic diversity of these initiatives include projects carried out in this field in Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, the transboundary basins of Senegal with the OMVS, and, as part of the Bio-Plateaux project, the transboundary basins of the Oyapock and Maroni rivers shared by French Guiana and, respectively, Brazil and Suriname.

In this regard, the Bio-Plateaux project serves as a showcase with a strong focus on the automated production, integration, and analysis of rainfall and water level data in conjunction with resource modeling tools.

Numerous project proposals were also developed in 2025 and incorporate this “satellite monitoring” dimension, which is increasingly coupled with modeling tools to advance the development of digital twins (notably in response to calls for proposals from the Space for Climate Observatory – SCO and the European Space Agency - ESA).



Joint mission to present the findings of the Bio-Plateaux project's research on spatial hydrology, May 4–8, 2026

V. Summary of the World Basin Summit Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), 16-19 June 2026

Key numbers:



- **400 participants from 48 countries**
- **More than 70 Water directors**
- **5 Ministers, Secretary of State or Special Envoys**
- **5 thematic plenary sessions**
- **9 special sessions and workshops**
- **5 languages** (French, English, Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, Sign language)
- **More than 50% of the Peer-to-Peer pairings presents**



Interactive workshop on sharing experiences of drought management and water resource allocation (GOVAQUA, Water4All, Water Resilience & Ecosystems, French Office for Biodiversity)



Participants of the 2026 World Basin Summit

Overview of the program :



Support: Organization: Realization:



TUESDAY 16TH JUNE

- 9.00 Official Opening
- 9.30 - 1.00 **WORKSHOP**
3 parallel sessions
- 2.30 - 5.30 **WORKSHOP**
3 parallel sessions
- 5.30 Welcome cocktail



WEDNESDAY 17TH JUNE

- 9.00 - 12.00 **HIGH LEVEL SESSION**
- 2.00 - 3.45 **SESSION 1**
From data to action: modernizing water resources monitoring for resilient basin management
- 4:15 - 6.00 **SESSION 2**
City-Basin dialogue for water security: reconciling urban, coastal and rural developments



THURSDAY 18TH JUNE

- 9.00 - 10.45 **SESSION 3**
Healthy waters, resilient basins: bringing consistency to water and biodiversity policies
- 11.10 - 1.00 **SESSION 4**
Climate change adaptation at basin level: controlling floods and droughts
- 2.00 - 3.45 **SESSION 5**
Circular water economy for basin resilience: diversifying the "water mix" with non-conventional resources



FRIDAY 19TH JUNE

- All day Cultural and technical visits



Scan me to see the full programme!

With French – English – Spanish – Portuguese interpretation

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 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-Organisations from neighboring countries, to develop INBO's collective activities in the region, to organize joint activities of general interest.



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N° ISSN: 1026-0331 - En ligne: 2310-5860

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