

INBO WORLD BASIN SUMMIT

REPORT - 2026 EDITION



INBO
International Network
of Basin Organizations

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COOPERATIVE BASIN GOVERNANCE FOR WATER SECURITY

HOSTING AUTHORITIES

Organization:



Realization:



Support:



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Main conference venue: Museu do Amanhã



P2P Workshop .
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Full auditorium.
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I. Introduction

For its 13th edition, this major international event has been redesigned and renamed: the **INBO World General Assembly** has become the World Basin Summit. This new name reflects a renewed ambition and a commitment to reinforcing the political priority given to sustainable basin management. In the context of climate change, which is accelerating floods, droughts, and water-related tensions on every continent, there is indeed an urgent need to promote the operational and cooperative implementation of basin management. This is an essential prerequisite for ensuring the water security of our societies and the ecosystems on which they depend.

The four-day program focused on five strategic themes, ranging from the modernization of data systems to the growing integration of non-conventional water resources.

The event once again brought together a wide range of high-level participants: ministers, national and transboundary river basin organizations, local, regional, and national governments, technical institutions, regional integration commissions, regulators, development banks, and United Nations agencies. All are key stakeholders engaged in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at basin, river, lake, and associated groundwater resources level.

The Summit was co-organized by INBO and the Rio de Janeiro State Secretariat for the Environment and Sustainable Development (SEAS). It received support from the French Office for Biodiversity (OFB) and active backing from Brazil's National Water and Sanitation Agency (ANA), as well as numerous local and national partners (AGENERSA, FFCBH, REBOB, AGEVAP, the Guanabara Bay and Ilha Grande Bay basins, the City of Rio de Janeiro, Águas do Rio, and ABAR). The discussions took place at iconic locations in the city: the Museu do Amanhã (Museum of Tomorrow) and the Museu de Arte do Rio (MAR).

As the new world president of INBO for the next two years, the Brazilian minister in charge of water management will represent the basins at upcoming major international events, including the 2026 United Nations Water Conference and the 2027 World Water Forum.



Countries represented at the INBO 2026 World Basin Summit.



400
participants



48
countries



More than 70
water directors



5
ministers, secretaries of State,
and special envoys



5
thematic plenary
sessions



9
special sessions
and workshops



5
languages: (French, English,
Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese,
sign language)



Over 50%
of the Peer-to-Peer project
attending

Handover of the Global Presidency of INBO

The INBO Presidency was handed over by:

Ms. Barbara Pompili, Ambassador for the Environment at the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, representing Her Excellency Monique Barbut, France's Minister of Ecological Transition, Biodiversity, Forests, the Sea, and Fisheries, to His Excellency Waldez Góes, Brazil's Minister of Integration and Regional Development.



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“France’s commitment to water issues will continue, particularly through active participation in INBO’s initiatives.”

Speech by Ms. Barbara Pompili

“Brazil must share its experience, just as much as it must benefit from the experiences of other countries [...]. It is therefore important for Brazil to be active in this global context and, even more so, to be able to share its experiences within INBO.”

Statement by H.E. Waldez Góes

High-Level Sessions

High-level session on “Water resource management at basin level for water security in Brazil”

Featuring: Brazilian Ministry of Integration and Regional Development, Water Agency of the State of São Paulo, Committee for the Integration of the Paraíba do Sul River Basin (CEIVAP), Brazilian Network of Basin Organizations, Brazilian Association of Regulatory Agencies.

Systemic integration between federal and state authorities, combined with the active participation of civil society through the basin committees, is an essential element for developing solutions within the framework of the Brazilian National Water Resources Management System (SINGREH).

The session highlighted three aspects:

- The institutional maturity of organizations such as CEIVAP, based on plans developed through a bottom-up approach and taking into account on-the-ground realities.
- Recent regulatory innovations, exemplified by the creation of SP-ÁGUAS, which strengthen the government’s leading role in overseeing and implementing rigorous protocols in the event of a water shortage.
- The São Francisco River Integration Project and the “Água Doce” program, presented as decisive steps toward water security and social inclusion on a continental scale.

To overcome the crisis of complexity resulting from the clash between the multiplicity of users and unprecedented climate instability, it is necessary to strengthen river basin organizations through REBOB (the Brazilian Network of Basin Organizations) and INBO, to modernize technologies in order to enable real-time monitoring, and to ensure the convergence of sectoral policies, thereby guaranteeing the sustainability of the basins and a legacy for future generations.

The consensus that emerged is clear: decentralized and participatory management, with the basin as the fundamental unit, is an effective means of strengthening water security, climate resilience, and sustainable development in Brazil.

[Detailed report on the session](#)



High-level panel in preparation of the 2026 United Nations Water Conference's Interactive Dialogue (d) "Water for Cooperation"

Featuring: the Brazilian Ministry of Integration and Regional Development; the Ghanaian Ministry of Works, Housing and Water Resources; the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Spanish State Secretariat for the Environment; the Mekong River Commission; the Peruvian National Water Authority; the Committee for Water Resources Regulation, Protection and Use of Kazakhstan, and the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships.



The High-Level Panel underlined that basin level cooperation, including at transboundary level, is not a mere technical challenge, but should become a political priority. Capacity building through peer-to-peer cooperation agreements was highlighted as an essential tool for increasing learning opportunities and overcoming political deadlocks through mutual technical trust, on the ground, at the basin level.

After insisting on the importance of cooperation for climate and ecosystems resilience, groundwater management, and food and energy security, the speakers emphasized the need for funding for river basin organizations and cross-border cooperation, as well as the necessity of adopting a holistic

approach that encompasses river basin organizations and the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem nexus.

The session concluded with a call to strengthen cooperation on water and to move toward participatory and inclusive models that ensure a leadership role for women, youth, Indigenous peoples, and vulnerable communities. Speakers agreed that the 2026 United Nations Water Conference will represent a crucial political moment to put water cooperation at the heart of the global political agenda.

[Detailed report on the session](#)



Mr. Antti Rautavaara, Special Envoy for Water, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland

"The success of interactive dialogue (d) 'Water for Cooperation' will be measured by our ability to take water cooperation from a technical challenge to a structured, rules-based global system."



Mr. Valder Ribeiro, Vice-Minister of Integration and Regional Development, Brazil

"Integrated Water Resources Management also depends on the ability to learn from experiences in different contexts and to make governance increasingly participatory and inclusive. No single country has all the answers."

Thematic Sessions

Session 1 - From data to action: Modernizing water resource monitoring for resilient basin management

Featuring: Ministry of Ecological Transition (Spain), Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, Geological Survey of Brazil, Murray-Darling Basin Authority (Australia), Binational Autonomous Authority of Lake Titicaca, Júcar River Basin Authority (Spain), Sahara and Sahel Observatory, Nile Basin Initiative.

This session demonstrated that modernizing water resources monitoring is not a technical luxury but a strategic imperative for strengthening basin resilience in the face of climate change. The major challenge identified is no longer data scarcity, but data fragmentation and the need to transform raw data into reliable, actionable information that supports planning, investment, risk management (floods, droughts, and pollution), and evidence-based decision-making.

- Multiple solutions have been shared during the sessions by the panelists:
- **Hybrid approaches:** combining the historical reliability of in situ monitoring networks with the broad spatial coverage of remote sensing and satellite observations (e.g., Sentinel-3 for Lake Titicaca).
- **Integration platforms:** establishing interoperable regional observatories and data platforms (e.g., ORA in the Amazon, GOTA in Spain, and the Nile Basin digital platforms) to integrate monitoring networks, improve transparency, support forecasting and early warning systems, and strengthen governance.



- **Inclusion and innovation:** engaging communities through citizen science (eDNA), valuing local and traditional knowledge, fostering international cooperation, and promoting open access to information to increase trust and support integrated basin management.

It is crucial to institutionalize data-sharing mechanisms and harmonize monitoring protocols to strengthen cooperation and build trust among institutions and countries. Technology should complement (not replace) classic but robust ground-based monitoring networks, which remain essential for scientific validation and calibration. Finally, the long-term sustainability of modern monitoring systems depends on continuous and sustainable investment in network automation and expansion, institutional strengthening, and the development of technical and human capacities to transform data into effective action for resilient water resources management.

[Detailed report on the session](#)



Mr. Nabil Ben Khatra, Executive Secretary, Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)

"Data creates value, and reliable, open, and transparent data fosters trust, partnership, coordination, and governance."



Session 2 - City-Basin dialogue for water security: Reconciling urban, coastal, and rural developments

Featuring: International Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin Commission (CICOS), Secretariat for the Environment and Sustainable Development of the State of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Brazilian Association of Regulatory Agencies, Department of Water Resources (Laos), Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform (Namibia), Basin Councils (Ecuador), Lake Vesijärvi Foundation (Finland), Paraná River Joint Commission (COMIP).



Participants strongly converged on the principle that water security is an institutional construct rather than a purely technical challenge. Reconciling urban, rural, and coastal developments requires diversified, adaptive, and highly participatory approaches:

- **Decentralized Governance & Funding:** The Portoviejo River basin model successfully integrates coastal management with Nature-Based Solutions through joint institutional funding.
- **Technological Innovation & Adaptation:** Windhoek, Namibia established the world's first Direct Potable Water Reuse plant, operates a Managed Aquifer Recharge system, and implemented an Adaptive Governance Cycle based on workshops involving regional authorities and stakeholders to periodically analyze the status of hydrological resources availability and ever-increasing demand.
- **Integrated Planning:** The Lao PDR pairs Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) with Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), supported by local Community Conservation Agreements.
- **Sustained Engagement:** Finland's

Lake Vesijärvi Foundation bridges the gap between national planning and local implementation through multi-stakeholder dialogue and stable financing.

To bridge the city-basin governance coordination gap, governance frameworks must be institutionalized to coordinate actors across territories, and maintain cooperation beyond political cycles. The panelists recommended implementing tools such as IWRM or EbA, diversifying water supply sources, securing stable funding mechanisms, and ensuring active community participation. Ultimately, while technological innovations provide essential support, sustainable water security depends above all on the joint management of a territory.

[Detailed report on the session](#)



Dr. Vinicius Benevides, President, Brazilian Association of Regulatory Agencies (ABAR), Brazil

"Water security is achieved when water ceases to be seen as a sectoral resource and begins to be understood as a collective asset, with management based on shared responsibility."

Session 3 - Healthy waters, resilient basins: bringing consistency to water and biodiversity policies

Featuring: Mekong River Commission, Adour-Garonne Water Agency (France), Secretariat for the Environment and Sustainable Development of the State of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Lake Tanganyika Authority, Haihe River Water Conservancy Commission (China), Trifinio Plan Tri-national Commission, Rhine-Meuse Water Agency (France), Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (Brazil).

Discussions highlighted the need to strengthen the integration of water and biodiversity policies to address the interconnected challenges of climate change, ecosystem degradation, and water security. Panelists emphasized that the conservation and restoration of ecosystems are essential to improving water quality and availability, enhancing territorial resilience, and supporting sustainable development.

The case studies presented have demonstrated the value of integrated approaches based on Nature-based Solutions, combining the restoration of aquatic ecosystems, the maintenance of environmental flows, the protection of natural areas, and sustainable land-use planning. They also underscored the importance of transboundary cooperation, multi-level governance and science-based decision-making in the design and implementation of effective public policies.

The discussions further stressed the need to strengthen governance frameworks by improving coordination between the water, biodiversity, agriculture, and land-

use planning sectors. Participants also highlighted the importance of reinforcing financing mechanisms through better alignment of existing funding instruments, the expansion of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes, and increased engagement of the private sector.

Finally, speakers reaffirmed that integrating biodiversity into development policies is a prerequisite for building resilient river basins and ensuring long-term water security. They emphasized that scientific knowledge, integrated planning, stakeholder cooperation, and the exchange of experiences are key enablers for the implementation of sustainable and effective solutions, adapted to both national and transboundary contexts.

[Detailed report on the session](#)



Session 4 - Climate change adaptation at basin level: Controlling floods and droughts

Featuring: Loire-Bretagne Water Agency (France), Piracicaba, Capivari, and Jundiaí River Basins Consortium and Agency (Brazil), Association for Water Management in the Paraíba do Sul River Basin (Brazil), National Water and Sanitation Agency (Brazil), Lake Victoria Basin Commission, Yellow River Water Conservancy Commission (China), International Boundary and Water Commission between Mexico and the United States, Flanders Environment Agency (Belgium), Fluminense Forum of Hydrographic Basin Committees (Brazil).

The session highlighted the fact that hydrological records indicate significant changes in the hydrological cycle, with more frequent and intense floods and droughts. These climate changes have been exacerbated by variability in rainfall patterns and by inadequate management of land use and water resources, as illustrated in particular by the 400 mm of rain that fell in a single week in Santa Bárbara d'Oeste, Brazil, in 2025, which overwhelmed the city's reservoirs.

Discussions emphasized that the challenges are numerous and interdependent, requiring a shift from a reactive response to crises to proactive and integrated risk management. Thus, to address the limitations of infrastructure and land-use planning, effective adaptation requires coordination across all sectors (water, agriculture, land-use planning, energy) and all administrative levels, from local municipalities to cross-border commissions.

Among the implemented solutions presented were nature-based solutions and ecological restoration projects, such as the reforestation of the Loess Plateau in China or the “Mananciais” program in Brazil. Other solutions also exist: strengthening international cooperation among basins, management based on continuous monitoring, periodic reassessment of scenarios, and the ability to adjust strategies over time, and inclusive governance involving vulnerable populations and local initiatives, as is the case in Brazil or in the Lake Victoria basin.

In conclusion, the session emphasized the importance of applying the precautionary principle, which means that basin-scale planning and risk management must take into account the most critical climate scenarios when allocating resources and developing public policies.

[Detailed report on the session](#)



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Ms. Marina Mendonça Costa de Assis, Advisor to the Executive Director, Association for Water Management in the Paraíba do Sul River Basin (AGEVAP), Brazil

“Beyond knowledge and projects, we must think about how to mobilize people and convey information to them in order to bring change and successfully address these new scenarios that are already a reality.”



Mr. Steven Vinckier, Water Resilience Expert, Flanders Environment Agency (VMM), Belgium

“We must integrate adaptation goals and programs at basin level and transition to a truly systemic approach that combines water, soil, and climate change adaptation with land-use planning.”

Session 5 - Circular water economy for basin resilience: diversifying the “water mix” with non-conventional resources

Featuring: Adour-Garonne Water Agency (France), Bouregreg and Chaouia Hydraulic Basin Agency (Kingdom of Morocco), Júcar River Basin Authority (Spain), Ceará Water Resources Management Company (Brazil), Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Turkey), Orange-Senqu River Basin Commission, Department of Sustainable Water Use of the Government of the State of Chihuahua (Mexico), National Agency for Integrated Water Resources Management (Algeria).



In the context of climate change, in order to copewithwaterstress,manyINBOmembers are using other water resources besides direct withdrawal from available surface and groundwater bodies. These alternative resources, also known as “non-conventional water resources,” include, in particular, rainwater harvesting and management, wastewater reuse, and seawater desalination. These alternative resources may require special treatment, depending on the type of end users.

In addition to nature-based solutions and demand management, IWRM, as a robust and flexible method, must consider how to effectively incorporate non-conventional water resources “from source to sea” into its tools, objectively taking into account their benefits and challenges based on experience, as part of a circular water economy cycle.

The case studies, which spanned a wide geographic range, provided an opportunity to discuss the role played by non-conventional water resources in basin resilience. Speakers

presented various implementation methods and ways to use non-conventional water resources (irrigation with treated wastewater, lithium recovery from brine generated by desalination processes, operation of water treatment plants using biogas, etc.). They emphasized that the benefits and limitations vary considerably depending on the context and concluded that social acceptance and robust regulatory frameworks are necessary to further develop the use of non-conventional water resources.

This session is part of a series of INBO activities on non-conventional resources, also including two webinars and a handbook on the diversification of the water mix and demand management.

[Detailed report on the session](#)



Ms. Lamia Lehtihet, Director General, National Agency for Integrated Water Resources Management (AGIRE), Algeria

« *Un usage raisonné des ressources en eau conventionnelles et non conventionnelles est essentiel pour préserver les réserves stratégiques, en particulier les eaux souterraines, pour les générations futures.* »

A few words about the Workshops

“Peer-to-Peer” Workshops

Implemented by INBO with support from ANBO and funded by the European Union, the Peer-to-Peer project brings together 21 pairings made of 61 peer organizations responsible for water management across Africa, Europe, Latin America, and Asia to strengthen the exchange of experiences and the capacities of basin organizations.



The INBO World Basin Summit in Rio de Janeiro marked an important milestone for the **Peer-to-Peer project**, bringing together and in person more than half of the 21 pairings involved in the project. This strong turnout made it possible to move beyond the initial remote exchanges that had taken place since the selection phase and to create a space for direct dialogue among the partners.

Two dedicated sessions were organized.

The first one focused on presenting the project and highlighting the first pairings. Several partners shared their expectations, the common challenges that motivated their collaboration, and the initial paths for cooperation they had identified. These testimonies provided concrete examples of the diversity of contexts represented while highlighting issues widely shared among basin organizations.

The second session took the form of a regional module of the P2P educational program and focused on two themes of particular relevance for the Latin American pairings: the governance of basin organizations and nature-based solutions.

Through a series of experience-sharing feedbacks, participants discussed their approaches, challenges, and the lessons learned from their working practices. This session also provided an opportunity to showcase the initial features of the P2P Knowledge Hub, the project's collaborative platform. Designed as a space for sharing knowledge and highlighting peers' experiences, it will gradually host educational resources, webinars, experience-sharing sessions, and lessons learned generated through the partnerships.

Beyond the topics covered, Rio 2026 helped strengthen the ties among partners and create a P2P peer community, foster informal exchanges between pairings from different regions of the world, consolidate the project's collective dynamics, and engage with other partners within INBO's Twin Basin Initiative. The strengthening of relationships among peers in the Peer-to-Peer project was demonstrated by the signing of two memoranda of understanding:



Pairing No. 14

Mr. Juan Ocola Salazar, Executive President, Binational Autonomous Authority of Lake Titicaca (ALT)

Mr. Mervin Pérez, Executive Director, Lake Atitlán Basin Authority (AMSCLAE), Guatemala



Pairing No. 20

Ms. Busadee Santipitaks, Chief Executive Officer, Mekong River Commission (MRC)

Mr. Mohamed Fawzi Bedredine, Regional Coordinator, Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS)

As part of the 13th World Basin Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the International Association for Hydro-Environmental Engineering and Research (IAHR) hosted two interactive workshops focusing on key priorities for integrated and forward-looking river basin governance: sediment transport management and digital transformation.

The workshop on **“Integrated Sediment Transport Management in Basins”**, organised by the IAHR, INBO and the International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD), highlighted the need to place sediment management at the heart of river basin governance. The discussions emphasised that sediments are not merely a technical issue, but a strategic factor that shapes the morphology of watercourses, the dynamics of floods and erosion, and the resilience of ecosystems and infrastructure. Contributions from river basin organizations, international experts and practitioners demonstrated that sediment-related challenges are increasingly influenced by dams, land-use change and climate variability, and that more integrated approaches are needed at the level of river basins and river sections. The session also supported the ongoing collaboration between INBO, the IAHR and the CIGB and provided input for INBO’s forthcoming handbook on basin-scale sediment transport management. One of the key outcomes was the recognition of the need to strengthen the international sediment management programme, which is due to be officially launched at the World Water Forum and for which a follow-up session is planned at the IAHR World Congress in Bari in 2027.

The workshop **“Digital Transformation for Basins: Road to Bari: 42nd IAHR World Congress”** focused on how digital transformation can effectively support decision-making in basin management. The session addressed the gap between rapid advances in data, artificial intelligence and digital tools, and their practical integration into operational and institutional decision-

making. Participants emphasised the importance of moving away from approaches that are ‘rich in data but poor in actionable insights’ towards human-centred digital systems that are decision-oriented and integrated into basin governance processes. The workshop contributed to the ‘Road to Bari’ process by positioning digital transformation as a strategic pillar of the IAHR World Congress in Bari in 2027, whose theme is ‘Steering Change Management in the Era of Digital Water and Transitions’. It also helped to clarify the roadmap and commitments leading up to Bari, whilst linking this process to the longer-term international trajectory towards Kobe 2029.

During these two workshops, the key takeaway was the need to bridge the gap between science, policy and practice through concrete, scalable and institutionally embedded solutions. Sediment management and digital transformation emerged as complementary aspects of cooperative river basin governance: one addressing the physical functioning and resilience of river systems, the other strengthening the capacity of institutions to use knowledge, data and tools to make more effective decisions.



Workshop on Integrated Water Governance in Metropolitan Regions in Brazil: The Link between Water Resource Management and the Regulation of Sanitation Services for Water Supply Resilience



The session aimed to demonstrate the synergy and complementarity of the actions taken by regulatory agencies and water management organizations for Integrated Water Resources Management and wastewater services, in ensuring water security and the resilience of public water supply in situations of crisis.

Basin management is intrinsically linked to ensuring the availability and quality of water for multiple uses, including public water supply. In certain Brazilian metropolitan areas, the complexity of water-related challenges, particularly in the context of scarcity, requires a coordinated approach among the institutions responsible for water resources management and the regulation of sanitation services.

This session aimed to present a governance model that integrates these different actors, illustrating how regulation by regulatory agencies contributes to the prevention, management, and control of water crises, while ensuring the continuity and quality of the water supply.

The discussions highlighted the importance of raising public awareness about the complexity of water management and the need for an integrated approach. They also underscored the fact that a collaborative governance model between regulatory agencies and management bodies is a key factor in water security.

The discussions emphasized the importance of:

- The interface between water management and sanitation services, thanks to which information and guidelines from management bodies (monitoring of water sources, permits, shortage protocols) are translated by regulatory agencies into operational requirements for water and sanitation service providers.
- The complementary roles, competencies, and responsibilities of regulatory agencies and water resource management bodies, enabling the coordination of their actions to ensure water security.
- The necessary investments in water resource resilience and monitoring, the protection of water intakes, and the monitoring of the impact of wastewater.
- The role of regulatory agencies in overseeing and certifying infrastructure investments that increase the resilience of water supply systems (interconnections, loss reduction).
- The service provider's perspective on the challenges and investment strategies for ensuring water supply security, including the search for new resources and the optimization of existing ones.
- The role of regulation in guiding and monitoring water demand management measures.
- The importance of transparent communication and the engagement of civil society as a partner in water management.

Workshop: “Four Decades of Cooperation Between Brazil and France on River Basin Management”

In 2027, Brazil will celebrate the 30th anniversary of Water Law No. 9,433 of January 7, 1997, a law that laid the foundations for Integrated Water Resources Management and participatory management of water resources in Brazil. This law was inspired by the French experience and by a fruitful bilateral cooperation between Brazil and France that began in 1988.

The session aimed to review the history and lessons learned from four decades of cooperation between Brazil and France in the field of basin management, which can be summarized in four periods:

1. The initial exchanges between France and Brazil between 1982 and 1985.
2. The first phase of cooperation between 1988 and 1998, featuring pilot bilateral cooperation projects to support the creation and implementation of the first river basin agencies in Brazil: the Rio Doce Project, the Paraíba do Sul Project, and support for the Piracicaba and Capivari river basins.
3. The second phase of cooperation between 1998 and 2011, characterized by decentralized cooperation missions and exchanges, as an extension of bilateral cooperation.
4. The third phase of cooperation, beginning in 2012, focused on inter-institutional cooperation projects to strengthen river basin organizations. This phase included

the following projects: InterAgencias, BioPlateaux, MARU on the monitoring of urban wastewater and its environmental impact, governance of Public-Private Partnerships, and OiEau-ABAR Cooperation.

The session aimed to help identify the lessons learned from these four decades of cooperation between Brazil and France in the field of basin management.

Presentations by stakeholders involved in this cooperation helped lay the groundwork for a seminar planned for 2027, focused on capitalizing on lessons learned, strengthening France-Brazil-Latin America cooperation in the field of Integrated Water Resources Management at the basin level, and strengthening the Latin American Network of Basin Organizations (RELOB).

This workshop provided an opportunity to initiate a preliminary discussion on the future of this cooperation, particularly regarding the roles and challenges of water agencies in Brazil and France, in the context of climate change adaptation and on the essential investments needed in Brazil in water and sanitation services to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, particularly through the MARU Guanabara Bay Project.





This series of interactive workshops on the theme of “sharing experiences on drought management and water resource allocation” provided an opportunity to present a variety of experiences and geographic contexts, ranging from the Americas (Brazil, Mexico, United States) to Europe (France, Spain), Africa (Senegal River, Southern Africa), and Central Asia (Tajikistan). The goal of these three workshops was to facilitate dialogue among peers and the exchange of tools and mechanisms necessary to transition from reactive emergency management to preventive planning and inclusive governance.



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Workshop 1 “**Case study on water security and governance in the metropolitan regions of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo**” highlighted the Brazilian experience through two presentations focused on water security and governance in the metropolitan areas of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. After detailing the 2014 - 2016 water crises in these regions and the operational lessons learned from them, the session emphasized that securing the public water supply requires a combination of multiple strategies. Thus, to successfully adapt to climate change, a clear paradigm shift is necessary: moving beyond traditional “gray infrastructure” alone, integrating nature-based solutions (NbS), managing water demand, and fostering ongoing dialogue among stakeholders to ensure good governance. Furthermore, a survey of the workshop audience revealed that nearly

half of the attendees considered their own basin to be “highly vulnerable” to water-related risks, confirming that the issues discussed are a major concern. Finally, two representatives from French water agencies took the floor to provide a European perspective and contribute to the discussion, particularly with the audience. These exchanges focused on prioritizing actions during a crisis, coordinating planning tools in France, and the communication protocol used by Brazilian agencies in times of crisis.



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The second workshop focused on “**Drought planning and water resources allocation in Central Asia, Austral Africa and Latin America**”. To begin, an interactive exercise using images demonstrated that the participants shared many common concerns: upstream-downstream dynamics, climate change, the inclusion of all stakeholders in governance and decision-making, the growing role of data and digital technologies, and competition between agriculture, domestic use, and biodiversity conservation when allocating water resources. These themes were addressed by the three speakers, who emphasized cooperation and institutional reforms as necessary actions to address these concerns: the Incomati and Maputo Rivers Commission (Eswatini, Mozambique, and South Africa), the Zarafshan Basin Organization (Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), and the International Boundary and Water Commission (Mexico and the United States).

At the end of the workshop, five main conclusions arose:

1. Drought is becoming a structural rather than an exceptional component of water resources management.
2. Water allocation is fundamentally a governance issue that requires transparent institutions and stakeholder participation.
3. Scientific information and digital tools are essential, but they cannot replace dialogue and political commitment.
4. Transboundary basins serve as valuable laboratories for cooperation and shared learning.
5. Agriculture remains at the heart of most debates on water allocation, reinforcing the need for integrated and participatory approaches.



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Workshop 3, “**Case study on negotiated water allocation in semi-Arid contexts: the Ceará State (Brazil), in dialogue with experiences in Africa and Europe**”, was divided into two parts. First, the historical vulnerability and the severe drought (2012 – 2017) in the Ceará region (Brazil) were presented. To address these challenges, the State of Ceará implemented:

1. A vast infrastructure network consisting of 157 public reservoirs, thousands of small dams, and hundreds of kilometers of interconnected canals and pipelines.
2. A decentralized governance system characterized by the division of the territory into 12 basins, managed by 12 basin committees and 40 reservoir user commissions.
3. A strategy of “negotiated water allocation” that includes all local stakeholders in the allocation of water resources.

The second part focused on two international case studies with a long tradition of managing water shortages and strong similarities to

Ceará. The Organization for the Development of the Senegal River provided a perspective on transboundary management and emphasized the importance of reliable data, institutional transparency, and consensus-based decision-making, in order to ensure acceptable solutions for each State and prevent any member, even in the minority, from being sidelined. The focus then shifted to the Spanish hydrographic confederations who gained experience in Integrated Water Resources Management and drought mitigation through a robust legal framework, an indicator-based assessment with defined thresholds, clear operational measures for each drought level, and diversification of the water supply mix.



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[Detailed report on Workshop 1](#)



[Detailed report on Workshop 2](#)



[Detailed report on Workshop 3](#)



Presentation of the EURO-INBO 2027 Conference

The Flanders Environment Agency (VMM), represented by Bernard de Potter (Director General) and Steven Vinckier (Water Resilience Expert), and the Wallonia Public Service (SPW) will host the next EURO-INBO conference in Brussels from May 25 to 28, 2027.

Mr. Bernard de Potter, Director General, Flanders Environment Agency (VMM), Belgium: “We are preparing a forward-looking conference that will address all issues related to water management”.



See you soon in Brussels!



Announcement of the host country for the 2028 World Basin Summit

Following a call for expression of interest, Namibia has been selected to host the 2028 INBO World Basin Summit.

Her Excellency Selma Nghinamundova, Ambassador of the Republic of Namibia to Brazil, presented the application submitted by Namibia's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform (MAFWLR), in partnership with the basin organizations of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Announcement of the host country for the 2028 edition by the Secretary General of INBO (Dr. Eric Tardieu) and H.E. Selma Nghinamundova, accompanied by Ms. Maria Amakali (MAFWLR), Mr. Comfort Molowiswa (Orange-Senqu Basin Commission—ORASECOM), Ms. Sindy Mthimkhulu (Incomati and Maputo River Commission—INMACOM), and Ms. Fenny Dimitrova (Embassy of Namibia in Brazil). Photo credit: Fabiano Veneza/SEAS.

See you in Windhoek in 2028!



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 administered by its President and the Liaison Bureau, which organise the permanent technical secretariat provided by the International Office for Water (OiEau). Its General Assembly takes place every two years. Brazil has held the Presidency of INBO since the 2026 General Assembly, held during the World Basin Summit, and will continue to do so until 2028.



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

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