UN Climate Change COP 28
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Taking Stock of Climate Action on Water
"Hydrating Climate Action"
Concept Note

Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

DATE: 10th of December 10:00 -11:00
TIME (60 minutes)
ROOM: GCA Action
Zone Amphitheatre 1

Organized by SIWI, AGWA, IWMI, INBO with support from the Climate Champions Team and partners

MP "Water": Hydrating Climate Action

Description	The event will showcase recent signals of progress in water for climate across the globe. It will demonstrate tangible water solutions across some of the impact areas of the Water Action Pathway to inspire more ambitious water action. The aim is to offer a cross-sectoral perspective that moves beyond thematic silos by including non-traditional water voices and non-party actors to broaden and deepen engagement globally. The event will include the launch of initiatives aiming to bolster resilience, boost nature-based solutions funding and calling for more actions from non-state actors.
Headline	Water plays an instrumental role in addressing climate challenges; neglecting the incorporation of freshwater strategies into mitigation and adaptation efforts could potentially hinder the achievement of the Paris Agreement's objectives.
Suggested outcomes aligned to narrative	*1. Creation or continuation of multi-stakeholder coalitions and collective action across divides* *2. A collection of various water solutions for climate resilience* *3. Linkages to the work of MPGCA, UN 2023 Water Conference and the Water Action Agenda*
What has been the collective progress to date in the thematic areas of water related to the MPGCA work streams?	
2030 Breakthrough *To help catalyze action, the "2030 Breakthroughs" pinpoint specific tipping points for every sector. Collectively, they articulate what key actors must do, and by when, to deliver the systems change we need to achieve a resilient, zero carbon world in time. This creates a shared vision for all the different players in a system, helping to spur action.*	***2030 Breakthrough*** *Goal: Water and wastewater services are fully decarbonised in 20 countries, by 2030.* The global water sector plays a significant role in contributing to approximately 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions, highlighting its crucial role in the transition to a net-zero emissions future, as reported by CDP. Decarbonizing the water industry, which entails lowering the carbon footprint of water-related processes, is a vital element in worldwide initiatives to address and mitigate the impacts of climate change.
Sharm El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda (SAA) *The SAA was co-created by the COP27 Presidency, High-Level Champions, and the Marrakech Partnership. It represents a new chapter in climate adaptation dedicated to bridging the adaptation gap and bolstering the world's most vulnerable communities.* *The SAA provides a set of outcomes that need to be met by 2030 to advance adaptation*	The targets below have been updated to align with the COP28 outcomes and reflect the impact areas of the Water Climate Action Pathway. ***OUTCOME 1:*** *Restore 300,000km of rivers and 350 million hectares of wetlands by 2030.* Globally, monitored freshwater availability has plummeted by an average of 83% since 1970. Approximately, 64% of the world's wetlands have been lost since 1900, and only 37% of the longest rivers remain free-flowing. Protecting and restoring rivers, lakes, and wetlands are not adequately integrated into national policy and legislation across sectors. These freshwater ecosystems are crucial for agriculture, energy, infrastructure, and more, but their biodiversity loss and the need for restoration are often overlooked. This gap can be attributed to: - Limited technical capacity for science-based planning, governance, and policy integration. - Insufficient funding for wetland, groundwater, and river/lake projects, requiring a shift in current investments and subsidies.

and resilience action across several thematic areas. *SAA is a platform that brings together party and non-party stakeholder elevating locally-led solutions, advancing scaling of actions, matchmaking and accessing opportunities for funding and partnerships*	- Inadequate data and information on freshwater biodiversity status, target prioritization, and effective restoration methods. Non-state actors can play a role in data collection, financing, and implementation support. Several initiatives are working to close these gaps. For instance, **The Freshwater Challenge,** supported by WWF, IUCN, TNC, CI, WII UNEP, and the Ramsar Secretariat is an initiative, championed by the governments of Colombia, DR Congo, Ecuador, Gabon, Mexico, Zambia, and which aims to support, integrate and accelerate the restoration of 300.000 kms of degraded rivers and 350M Ha of degraded wetlands by 2030, as well as conserve intact freshwater ecosystems, including through transboundary cooperation, where appropriate. The Challenge aims to integrate and accelerate targeted interventions for rivers and wetlands into national plans, increasing overall investment in restoration and protection. Additionally, it's developing a global water tracker to centralize data on river and wetland restoration and protection. ***OUTCOME 2: WASH (Sanitation and Water for All) -*** *Goal: By 2028 all communities living in the overlap of insufficient water, sanitation and hygiene access and high climate hazard exposure have been targeted with climate resilient water, sanitation and hygiene services.* People living in the overlap of insufficient access to safely managed WASH services, and high climate hazard exposure are extremely vulnerable to climate shocks and lack access to resilient WASH infrastructure as a resource to mitigate these negative climate effects. There is a need to prioritize people in WASH efforts, and a need to consider climate hazards when building new WASH infrastructure, ensuring its resilience to withstand shocks. The UNICEF-WHO Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) has been tracking WASH progress globally since 1990, monitoring SDG indicators for drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene. The latest JMP report (July 2023) reveals that in 2022, 2.2 billion people lacked access to drinking water, 3.4 billion to sanitation, and 2 billion to hygiene services. Combining this data with climate hazards exposure is essential, and the JMP is exploring enhanced monitoring for climate resilience. Building climate-resilient water and sanitation services requires broad expertise and collaboration beyond technical aspects. Governance structures, alignment with climate policies, and inter-sectoral coordination are often lacking. Integrating water policies with climate and other sectoral policies, ensuring collaboration, and monitoring progress are vital. Funding remains a challenge, especially for adaptation projects, which receive only 10% of climate water finance. Accelerating partnerships and collaborations across all levels is essential for effective and inclusive action. ***OUTCOME 3: Food-Water Nexus:*** *Goal: At least 20 countries supported to enhance coherent national policy frameworks that integrate water planning to build transformative climate outcomes in agriculture (Resilience).* Agriculture, the largest freshwater consumer, depends heavily on water. Currently, global hunger affects over 820 million people, and according to IPCC's latest estimates, climate-related water risks could expose 80 million more to hunger by 2050. Integrated management is crucial to balance trade-offs and improve synergies between water and food production, creating climate-resilient water and food systems. Historically, international and national discussions on water and food have been fragmented and siloed. For instance, water was largely absent from the 2021 Food Systems Summit, and the UN 2023 Water Conference poorly represented food security with only 13% of voluntary commitments to the Water Action Agenda addressing food security. At the national level, the water-food nexus is rarely considered in a coordinated way in NDCS, NAPs or other national climate plans. This lack of coordination undermines progress in

	ensuring water and food security amid climate change, especially concerning community, economic, and ecosystem resilience. While local stakeholders recognize these linkages, it's vital to improve connectivity between policy communities at the national and global levels to align priorities, finances, and prevent maladaptation. This is especially true in NDCs and NAPs, where competing sectoral priorities can undermine one another when developed in isolation. **OUTCOME 4: Water investment (TNC) -** Goal: *By 2030, 1% of annual water sector spending (a 10-fold increase to $7 billion) is invested in nature-based solutions via watershed investment programs - like water funds – resulting in improved management and/or protection of 148K kilometers of rivers, 128K hectares of lakes and wetlands, and 2.9M hectares of land.* Insufficient funding poses a pervasive challenge for all water-related projects, but especially for investments in nature-based solutions related to restoration and conservation of rivers, lakes, wetlands, aquifers, watersheds, and lands. One of the major gaps in funding for nature-based solutions is finance for initial pre-feasibility and feasibility studies that are critical prerequisites to developing equitable, investment-ready projects. Watershed Investment Programs can build the track record that regulators and lawmakers need to prove the cost-effectiveness of NbS to address water security, biodiversity, climate, and socio-economic challenges. Additionally, fragmented governance arrangements and narrow remits of funders don't match with investment in nature-based solutions, which are often high in initial investment, long in their pay-back and creating co-benefits going beyond the remits of specific funders. Watershed Investment Programs can provide a convening platform for siloed stakeholders to improve collaboration, develop cohesive NbS investment portfolios that draw on synergies between their separate mandates, pool disparate funding to increase economies of scale, and fill information gaps that can help them make better management decisions. Finally, lack of data and information on the effectiveness of NbS often limits attractiveness for investors. Watershed Investment programs have strong monitoring, evaluation, and learning programs that track implementation and impact.
Logistics	*Room layout: GCA Zone Amphitheatre 1* *Capacity: 175 pax* *Davos style seating*

Marrakech Partnership

Prospective Agenda

Timing	Session Description	Speaker suggestions *Stakeholder group/voice, Name, title, organisation, gender, geography*	Notes / Format tips
2 min	***Welcome & Introduction*** *Introduce the MPGCA developments and action post-COP27 (2030 Breakthroughs, SAA, Race to Zero, Race to Resilience)* linking it to the Water for Climate Action Pathway and highlighting the important role of non-state actors in achieving this.	*Moderator* - Karin Gardes, Acting Executive Director, SIWI	
5 min	***Setting the scene*** *Stress the importance of non-state actors and their actions, coalitions and working groups/ programs for the party process. Highlighting collective action in a polycentric water governance system.*	*Meike van Ginneken, Special Water Envoy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands*	
5 mins	***Opening remarks*** Link to the Follow up on the 2023 UN Water Conference which was convened for the first time in 46 years in March 2023 as a mid-term review of the International Decade for Action. ● *Assessment of climate related water commitments from Non-state Actors in the Water Action Agenda.*	Cameron Mcbroom-Fitterer, University of North Carolina (male, youth)	*Visualization/data of commitments from the WAA.*
15 mins	***Segment title: Produce and Restore*** *Format: Panel Discussion/Fireside chat style* *Maximum 3 panelists in total.* *Aim to feature examples and progress from the following impact areas in the Water Climate Action Pathway*: ● Water resources & Ecosystems ● Water, Food & Agriculture Nexuses *Also, to connect to the SAA Outcome 1 & 3.*	● Francesca Antonelli, Head of Rivers and Lakes, Wetlands International ● Dr. Anoulak Kittikhoun, Director General, Mekong River Commission Secretariat (MRC) *NBS planned and implemented at the level of this transboundary river basin under the framework of the basin-wide adaptation strategy.* *The Mekong river is a crucial source for agriculture in Southeast Asia for various needs i.e irrigation etc. How is this managed sustainably?* ● Cynthia Tewete, Young Farmers from Zimbabwe, member of the National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM) *NbS and its potential in addressing challenges and enhance resilience for agrifood systems.*	

15 mins	***Segment title: Protect & Include*** *Format: Panel Discussion/Fireside chat style* *Maximum 3 panelists in total.* *Aim to feature examples and progress from the following impact areas in the Water Climate Action Pathway*: • People - WASH & Urban water resilience *Also, to connect to the SAA Outcome 2 and do a* progress report on the 2030 Breakthrough.	• Sareen Malik, Executive Secretary ANEW, Vice Chair of Sanitation and Water for All *Speak on behalf of the SAA Working Group on Urban Water Resilience and connect to the SAA outcome on climate resilient WASH.* *Highlight indigenous communities as one of the most in need groups of WASH.* • Phil Duncan, Galambany Professorial Fellow at the University of Canberra *Indigenous communities need to be part of the decision-making process when it comes to securing water supply but also how climate impacts them. ➔ added importance of a low carbon/carbon footprint element* • Austin Alexander, Vice President, Sustainability and Social Impact, Xylem *Present the formal launch of the coalition of utilities and utility focused organizations to meet the 2030 Breakthrough.*	
12 mins	***Segment title: Enablers and means of implementation*** *Format: TED style* *Maximum 1-2 presentations/examples.*	*Finance:* • *Indalo* *Innovation* • *Mr. Mohamed Ould Abdel Vettah, High Commissioner, Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS)* *Feature examples of implementation of Google & NASA - SWOT (Surface water and ocean topography)*	
3 mins	***Closing Remarks*** Concluding remarks summarizing the outcomes of the session. Also linking back to the UN water conference this year, announcement of another one in a couple years and the upcoming 10th World Water Forum.	*H.E. Razan Al Mubarak, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28 (female, Asia)*	