

inside:

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into broader discussions on  
climate change adaptation

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the answer to food security and  
climate resilience?

a multi-stakeholder  
magazine on  
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**COP 17 | DAY 10**

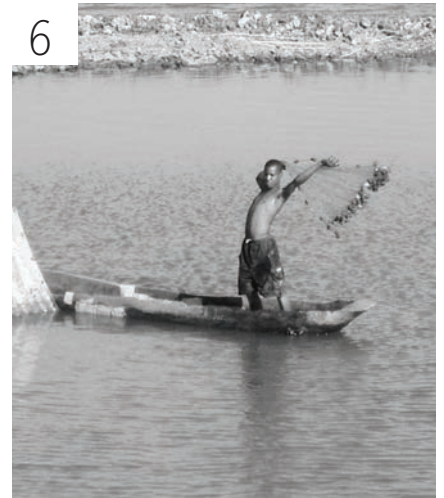
7 december 2011



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# Understanding the wider business implications of water

Chris Hedemann

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Too many businesses still view water as simply a cheap resource. This is an oversight that could cost them and the communities in which they operate dearly. This past year alone has seen national economies shaken by the force of water, and individual organisations have not escaped the often devastating impacts of these events.

Floods in Thailand struck thousands of local businesses, wiped more than 1.5% off the country's GDP and disrupted the supply chains of global businesses. Honda's Q3 profit forecast was slashed by over 50% when the floods forced the temporary closure of a car factory outside Bangkok and reduced the availability of components for its facilities across North America and Europe. Analysts at JPMorgan have now estimated that these floods could cost Japan's three largest carmakers more than US\$450 million this year.

Africa, on the other hand, is establishing how best to adapt to water scarcity. The Horn of Africa this year experienced the worst drought in 60 years, leading to a food crisis, high levels of malnutrition and pre-famine conditions. During a speech at COP17 the South African Minister of Environmental Affairs warned that many African countries will suffer the same fate as Kenya, where water scarcity, poor rainfall, mismanaged urban development, community displacement and deforestation have all conspired to create a national water crisis. This creates a gloomy forecast for growth in Kenya's economy, which is heavily dependent on livestock and agriculture.

These are not isolated examples of water shortage or excess: there are implications for business globally. Of the global organisations that reported to CDP Water Disclosure this year, part of the Carbon Disclosure Project, 59% report that water poses a substantial risk to their business. The majority of these risks are recognized as occurring between now and 2016 and over a third of the 190 companies reporting to CDP from the Global 500 have already experienced detrimental water-related business impacts such as disruption to operations from water shortages and severe weather events.

Speaking at the *Water, Climate and Development Day*, Nigel Topping CDP CIO emphasised that water is one of the biggest factors for consideration by companies and governments in any discussion around adaptation to climate change and stated that, 'It is important to create dialogue around environmental issues so that water is placed firmly on the discussion agenda



of how much and what to invest in'. But how do companies build resilience to water issues?

Water presents complex challenges that require local solutions. There is no single easy resolution to tackling water scarcity and other water-related pressures. However, smart companies, instead of simply cutting profit forecasts or raising product prices, are thinking longer-term and putting water stewardship at the heart of their business strategy. Molson Coors work with local stakeholders and has conducted watershed assessments for all their breweries to protect future water supplies. Puma has set water use reduction targets that go beyond its operations to include its suppliers' water use as well.

To rely on the action of leading companies is not enough, national and international policy support must guide a coordinated effort for better water management among the entire business community. CDP encourages mandatory corporate disclosure of water use and water management strategies introduced by all countries. Mandatory reporting of this nature is necessary to create comparable data sets, without which the global risks posed by water to business cannot be fully understood or comprehensively managed.

Businesses must engage with policy-makers to ensure successful action and international policy on water but those companies should be transparent and disclose their lobbying practices publicly as part of wider disclosure on sustainability issues. Those governments and corporations that are able to build transparency and awareness of water effectively in the short term will be the winners in a world where extremes of weather and urbanising populations are quickly changing the rules of the game. ■

# Will growth in energy demand compete for scarce water resources?

**Jakob Granit**

Director, SIWI Knowledge Services, Stockholm International Water Institute

With growing demand for energy and the need to decarbonise the energy supply chain with new power producing technologies, there is an urgent need to better understand the demand for water for energy production and include this into the existing mechanisms under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Evidence presented by the IPCC and UN Water demonstrate how poor management of freshwater resources can impact economic development and put countries and regions at risk to climate change due to more extreme events and longer term change in precipitation and evaporation. An area that has not received enough attention is the need to secure water for energy production. With the world's eyes closing in on sustainable development it is critical to discuss innovations related to the green economy that links water, energy and food security and creates added value and jobs. Such solutions will drive human development hand in hand with climate mitigation.

Estimates state that about 1.6 billion people lack access to modern electricity for cooking, lighting and heating. In the area of water, we are familiar with similar gaps related to access to water supply and sanitation. Over the past 20 years there has been substantial progress in many aspects of human development and more people today are healthier, live longer, are more educated and have more access to goods and services than ever before. In spite of this progress in human development there is a persistent "bottom billion" of poor people that are water, energy and also food insecure. To meet the current service gaps for the poorest billion and future demands from growing populations due to economic

transformation of societies, global energy consumption is projected to grow by close to 49% by 2035.

Much of this growth in energy demand will be in non-OECD countries, and would as such come with direct effects on climate. Most future energy demand scenarios have a high dependence on fossil fuels, especially coal, in spite of an increasing share of renewable energy in the energy mix. Today only about 13% of primary energy demand is met by renewable energy which in this context refers to hydro, bio, wind, solar and ocean power. Hydropower stands for 86% of the global renewable electric power production with significant potential, especially in developing and emerging economies. Future regional, national and global policy and market signals, in part as a response to climate change, will increase or decrease the share of renewable energy in the mix.

In determining the policies towards decarbonising the energy supply chain, where fossil fuels will still be a key component, a central question will be if this will have an impact on an already constrained water resource? To explore this issue we need to better understand the role of water in energy production.

Water is required to produce energy; for fuel production and power generation and energy is needed to move and clean water through distribution and treatment systems. This link is usually referred to as the "water and energy nexus". As fresh water resources become scarce at the local, national and regional levels, water will have to be transferred, pumped long distances, or be produced through alternative means, such as energy intensive desalination processes and recycling to meet different demands. In this nexus the information on water use in the energy production chain at the local and regional scale is incomplete. In most fuel extraction, the use of water in refinement processes and power production processes is not accounted for systematically and results vary depending on the methodology used.

The large number of technologies in the energy production chain provides a wide range of water withdrawal and consumption patterns. In general, the production of biofuels is substantially more water intensive than liquid fossil fuels. However, non-conventional fossil fuels such as tar sands, shale gas and hydraulic fracturing are more water intensive than conventional fossil fuels. In the thermal electric power production process most of the





pic: Adam Jakubiak

water is used for cooling purposes and the abstraction and consumption values vary, depending on cooling technique used.

Hydropower is the most efficient method of large scale electric power generation and has a key role to meet peak demand in power systems thereby allowing for the deployment of other renewable energy technologies. Depending on the location of reservoirs hydropower can consume very small or large amounts of water due to evaporation. Water consumption also varies for different types of solar power technology. Wind power consumes negligible amounts of water.

It should be noted that in the thermal power production process, the actual water consumption is less than the water withdrawn. In general about 5% of the water used in power production for cooling is lost through evaporation and the rest is returned to the recipient. However, water returned has normally higher temperature and altered quality which can have negative environmental consequences. Even if the actual consumption of water in power production is fairly low, water supply needs to be ensured to avoid disruptions to power production processes.

“In general, the production of biofuels is substantially more water intensive than liquid fossil fuels. However, non-conventional fossil fuels such as tar sands, shale gas and hydraulic fracturing are more water intensive than conventional fossil fuels.”

To further explore the question of whether or not water can be a constraint in energy production, we need to improve our understanding of the role of water in our economies. In the water business it is usually claimed that of annual freshwater withdrawals about 70% of the water is used for agriculture, 20% for industry and 10% for municipalities. Depending on the geography of a region and the structure of the economy there are large variations in water withdrawals and use for different sectors. In the European Union and the United States of America about 40% of the water withdrawn is used for energy production with growing demands from industry and for domestic use and decreasing numbers for agriculture. In the Middle East and Central Asia large amounts of water (80 – 90%) is used for agriculture with considerable local variations.

These regional examples demonstrate that water use patterns are different and they are changing because of socio-economic transformations and climate change. It therefore comes as no surprise that the political and economic context behind the allocation of scarce water resources for different purposes, including for vital ecosystem functions, is beginning to shape public policy in various settings. In a context of growing demand for water, the challenge of governing and managing the water resource across political, social, cultural and economic barriers raises several dilemmas of how to prioritise different users.

*This is a revision of an article that was first published on the Stockholm Water Front, Issue 4, 2011.*

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Mr Jakob Granit** is a Director at the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). He manages SIWI's applied research and advisory services work streams, and currently leads SIWI's Regional Water Intelligence Team.

# In Hot Water: An African Perspective on Fisheries and Climate Change

Alex Benkenstein

South African Institute of International Affairs

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Climate change will have significant impacts on the marine and freshwater systems that support the world's fisheries. Indeed, many of these impacts have already been observed in scientific studies, including coral bleaching, ocean acidification and changes to the range of fish stocks in response to warmer ocean temperatures. In addition to these direct ecosystem impacts, fishing fleets and communities will face an increased risk of extreme weather events, rising sea levels, coastal erosion and other climate-related effects.

Such effects will be felt throughout the world's marine and freshwater systems, however developing countries are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change on fisheries. Edward Allison, a leading researcher on climate change impacts on fisheries, observes that "from a strictly environmental perspective, countries in the higher latitudes will see the most pronounced impact from climate change on fishing. But economically, people in the tropics and subtropics will likely suffer most, because fish are so important in their diets and because they have limited capacity to develop other sources of income and food". A study lead by Allison identified 33 countries that were particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change on fisheries, 21 of which were in Africa.

Developing countries have for the most part recognised that there is a need to incorporate the issue of climate change into fisheries management plans. For example, the first Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture, convened in the Gambia in 2010, urged all member states, regional economic communities (RECs) and regional fisheries bodies (RFBs) to mainstream climate change in fisheries policies, as well as fisheries development and management programmes.

However, there has been less emphasis on ensuring that fisheries are given due recognition in the broader policy debate on climate change adaptation and food security. In global fora such as the UNFCCC, developing countries have generally sought to highlight climate change adaptation, particularly the need for financial and technical support for adaptation efforts, as well as the threat that climate change poses to food security in developing regions.

Yet discussions on climate adaptation, particularly regarding the need to address the threat that climate change poses to food security, has largely focused on the concept of climate-smart agriculture and water security, without recognising the critical role that fisheries play as a source of nutrition and income in many developing countries.



“It is important to recognise that climate change is not the only challenge facing fisheries in developing countries. Illegal fishing, habitat destruction and pollution have driven many fish stocks to a fraction of their historic levels, while governance efforts are hampered by a lack of technical and financial resources, corruption and competition between local and foreign vessels.”

The integration of fisheries into broader discussions on climate change adaptation should occur at various levels. Global and regional fora are of course important, but it is equally critical that national adaptation plans outline a strategy for dealing with climate change impacts on fisheries. The local level should also be emphasised, particularly as it is at this level where many communities are already developing strategies to deal with changes to fish density and diversity, coastal erosion and other climate-related impacts. Initiatives such as the UNFCCC Database on Local Coping Strategies can serve as valuable tools for knowledge-sharing at the local level.

It is important to recognise that climate change is not the only challenge facing fisheries in developing countries. Illegal fishing, habitat destruction and pollution have driven many fish stocks to a fraction of their historic levels, while governance efforts are hampered by a lack of technical and financial resources, corruption

and competition between local and foreign vessels. Addressing these challenges should be viewed as an integral part of the developing regions' response to climate change impacts on fisheries, as healthier, better governed fish stocks will be more resilient to climate-related impacts.

There has been significant progress in recent years in the establishment of various funding mechanisms to assist developing countries to adapt to climate change, such as the Adaptation Fund, the Global Climate Change Alliance and the Special Climate Change Fund. While there are interesting examples of climate change adaptation funds being employed in the fisheries sector, there is potential for far more to be achieved. Developing countries, RECs and RFBs should actively and strategically pursue funding opportunities to enhance governance and adaptation efforts in the fisheries sector, as well as learning from experiences in other developing regions.

Policy makers from developing regions should ensure that fisheries are highlighted in the broader debate on climate change adaptation and food security, especially as it is developing regions that are particularly vulnerable to climate change.

The message from the developing world should be clear: preserving the health and productivity of the world's oceans and freshwater systems in the face of climate change impacts is a priority in supporting food security and sustaining livelihoods, and will require significant technical and financial cooperation and support. ■

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Alex Benkenstein** is a senior researcher for the Governance of Africa's Resources Programme at the South African Institute of International Affairs.



## Water lessons

# An African water management perspective on climate change

Mike Muller

Global Water Partnership's Technical Advisory Committee

Since water is the medium through which many of the impacts of climate change will be felt, we might expect water to be at the forefront of climate discussions, particularly as they focus increasingly on adaptation to inevitable changes. Better water management - finding ways to store water and prepare for droughts; and understanding and planning to reduce flood damage and vulnerability are just two critical examples.

Yet it has been difficult simply to get water on the agenda despite the fact that it has systemic effects throughout societies, economies and ecologies.

In part that is because the focus has been on mitigation, reducing the size of the problem by curbing greenhouse gas emissions. Yet even in mitigation, the potential contribution that water and its management can make has been downplayed. Hydropower, generated by allowing rivers to drive turbines and generate electricity, is one of the oldest and most reliable forms of solar energy – it is the sun's energy that drives the cycle of evaporation, rainfall and river flow that makes hydropower such a reliable source.

But “big” hydropower was until recently not even considered to be a source of renewable energy because of its potential social and environmental impacts. I suggest that these have been exaggerated.

The rich countries that already use most of their own hydropower potential have systematically blocked Africa's efforts to do the same, even though currently less than

Below: Kariba Dam, separating Zimbabwe from Zambia. (pic: ChanMuk)







“The rich countries that already use most of their own hydropower potential have systematically blocked Africa’s efforts to do the same, even though currently less than 5% of Africa’s potential is being exploited.”

5% of Africa’s potential is being exploited. Through these spoiling actions, environmentalists scored a massive own goal, creating the conditions in which there was no alternative for South Africa but to build two new coal-fired power stations.

If countries like Mozambique, Zambia, Angola and the DRC had been helped to produce proposals for their hydropower resources earlier, they could have supplied clean power instead. And they would have greatly advanced equitable regional integration and development as well.

Trade interests are also important. Europe sees its expensive wind and solar technologies as an important export sector but China has emerged as the leading supporter of African power development, investing in basic hydropower in which it is a technology leader. Now European construction companies are demanding a share of Africa’s hydropower market that their governments had previously blocked.

This highlights how many dimensions of the climate debate are driven by larger agendas in which environmental protection and trade interests come first and Africa’s needs and interests come a distant second. As a result, we are already missing opportunities to address climate change mitigation as well as to strengthen our adaptation response.

There has been some progress to this end. Water has now been included as part of the Nairobi Work Programme on Adaptation. But as we negotiate the funding for a climate transition, it is important to ensure that the design of adaptation and mitigation finance mechanisms are determined by Africa and guided by Africa’s needs.

Dealing with water, what is needed is not expensive new technologies but support for basic management to measure water availability, monitor its use and administer allocations. Support is also needed for investments in infrastructure to store and transport water so that countries can reduce the uncertainty of supply, and cope with more intense floods and droughts.

The danger is that such activities will be labelled as “normal development” and thus not eligible for adaptation even though governments, faced with competition from many other sectors, currently seriously underinvest in water management. This is why organisations such as the Global Water Partnership have called for more investment in better water resource management to be recognised as a key adaptation intervention.

There are challenges: Africa’s interests are not homogenous. For many poor countries which are very small emitters of CO<sub>2</sub>, the opportunity to receive adaptation funding is a carrot that is dangled in front of them. The middle income carbon producers, both South Africa and the oil and gas producers of North Africa have to consider how they will adapt to a future in which their prized climate mineral resource endowments are penalised not rewarded.

While that makes it difficult to develop a coherent common strategy, it is important that Africans do so. Climate change is a threat but also an opportunity to do things differently in the future, in energy production, water management and regional integration, to build a better Africa in a better world. ■

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Mike Muller** is a Commissioner with the South African National Planning Commission and a member of the Global Water Partnership’s Technical Advisory Committee. He was Director General of Water Affairs and Forestry in South Africa from 1997 to 2005.



# profile. Anders Berntell

**Nationality:** Swedish

**Country of residence:**  
Sweden

**Current Position:**  
Executive Director,  
Stockholm  
International Water  
Institute (SIWI)

**What prompted your early interest in the environment?**

When I saw the effects of acidification (caused by long range transboundary air-pollution) on Swedish lakes. The ecosystems changed dramatically. They appeared to be “dead lakes”.

**Describe your first attempt to ‘save the planet’:**

I think all of us try to do our bits and pieces. One memory is when my own kids were trying to convince me to buy eco-labelled food products. When we have reached the next generation, we have hope.

**Favourite quote:**

“Water is the bloodstream of our planet”, a quote from the SIWI Professor Malin Falkenmark - a well known international “Lighthouse” on water and development issues.

**How did you get to the role you are in today and what advice would you give aspiring climate champions?**

We are all products of our own ambitions and of the environment that surrounds us. Have high ambitions and make sure that you are in the right environment!

**What do you believe should be achieved at COP17?**

Naturally, I want to see progress being made that could lead to a fair and binding agreement. But, coming from the water community, I would also like to see an increased awareness of the crucial links between climate and water. Climate change is realised first and foremost through a shift in water availability. That means we will get more water in some regions and less in others, and that coping with climate change to a large

extent is to manage water resources.

**What timeline is reasonable for an international agreement to be achieved? And what should this look like?**

We need to be able to lay our differences aside and agree on something, and we need to do it soon. Countries around the globe are already setting examples by implementing proactive plans on how to deal with the impacts of climate change. But there is a great need for leadership on a global level and for a common understanding around the pressing nature of this issue.

**What do you think the priorities for action should be emerging from COP 17?**

I have already called for an increased awareness of the links between climate change and water. More specifically, I would like to see that water related principles are established under the UNFCCC and that water issues are properly addressed through the Adaptation Committee and the SBSTA, and that it is considered as a priority area under the Green Climate Fund.

**What is your aim within your role for 2012?**

Working with such a cross cutting resource as water, you become very aware that no environmental, or social, issue can be solved by one sector only. For 2012 I hope to see an increased dialogue between sectors and communities to bridge perspectives and find common solutions to the challenges we are facing. Through a continued engagement in global platforms and processes I hope to be able to contribute to such an exchange. ■

## COP17 Side Events Calendar

Date	Title	Host
07/12/2011	Climate Finance in Arica from Pledge to Project: Can the Adaptation Fund be a Model?	Heinrich Böll Foundation and GermanWatch
07/12/2011	Food, Energy and Water for All: Lessons from WWF’s work in Africa	WWF
07/12/2011	Rural women, agriculture & natural resource rights: Real impact & right response to climate change	ActionAid International, OXFAM International
08/12/2011	Business leadership and a call to action on climate change.	University of Cambridge
09/12/2011	Building the Climate Change Regime	Government of Ireland, UNEP and WRI

# Water, Climate & Development Day

Alex Simalabwi, Senior Network Officer, GWP. Kirsty Schneeberger, Senior Policy Officer, Stakeholder Forum. Oseluka Zikora, Communications Officer, AMCOW

On Saturday December 3rd, the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) in conjunction with the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) South Africa, the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and Water and the Climate Coalition (WCC) arranged an all-day event on Water, Climate and Development. The day was filled with interesting and thought provoking presentations, followed by rich and dynamic discussions on how best to integrate water into the negotiations at COP, as well as address the nexus between water, climate and development.

The AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, Her Excellency Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, delivered the Welcome Statement at the Opening Session chaired by the AMCOW Executive Secretary, Mr. Bai Mass Taal. Others who addressed the opening were Dr. Ania Grobicki, GWP Executive Secretary, and Mr. Anders Berntell, the Executive Director, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). The sessions covered a diverse range of subject matter and included presentations on:

- *Global Policy Solutions for Adaptation and Mitigation*
- *Infrastructure, Technical and Ecosystem Solutions*
- *Climate Change Information for Water Resources*
- *Financial and Institutional Solutions*
- *High Level Panel: Reflections and Perspectives for Integrating Water into the Climate Regime*

Without exception, panelists were adamant that water must be integrated as a cross-cutting issue into these negotiations, as well as other multi-lateral fora.

On Tuesday 6 December, the key points from the Water, Climate and Development Day were presented to the High Level Ministerial Panel. The Panel, comprised of Ministers from Lesotho, South Africa, Uganda, the Gambia, Sweden, Switzerland; as well as high level dignitaries, and the discussions about the practicalities of prioritising water in decision-making as well as investing in water management to build climate resilience in Africa enriched the overall debate.

The key messages from the Water and Climate Day, to be taken into the high level segment of COP, emphasise the importance of water in all of these discussions (see page 10). African Union Commissioner, H.E. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace eloquently stated in her closing remarks:

“In Africa, water is life. This is an absolute matter of fact. Climate change in Africa means longer and more droughts; sharper floods; and less food. In Africa, every single country shares water with its neighbor. Climate change is about managing the water cycle... but limited adaptative capacity keeps us vulnerable in Africa.

“We present a call to action [to the high level segment of the COP]. We agree that water is not a sector, it is a resource as has been highlighted. We welcome the SBSTA draft decision to organise a technical workshop on water, and the Africa Union supports this recommendation. We have worked very closely with others to ensure that Africans can showcase their adaptive initiatives here at the COP. If you walk around you see how much has been done.” ■

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The Water, Climate and Development Day was organised and supported by the following: The African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) in conjunction with the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) South Africa, the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and Water and Climate Coalition (WCC).



# Key messages from Water, Climate & Development Day

The Water and Climate Coalition is a collaboration between a number of international organisations and research centres, that together seek to place water resources management at the heart of international policy responses to climate change. Over the last three years the Coalition has been working to ensure that water management is integrated in relevant UNFCCC programmes; that water expertise is linked to the UNFCCC Adaptation Committee; and that water related adaptation and mitigation will be addressed under the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund.

As a result of these efforts, and the excellent work by many other groups aiming for the same successes, water has been placed as an agenda item under SBSTA and has been included as part of the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP). In November 2011, at the request of parties, the UNFCCC Secretariat produced a technical paper on water and climate change impacts and adaptation strategies, to support the integration of water into adaptation action under the NWP.

Building on these successes, the Water and Climate Coalition (WCC) worked with collaborative partners (see page 9) to organise the Water, Climate and Development Day as well as the High Level session that presented the key findings of the day to ministers and dignitaries to take into the COP High-Level segment.

## Key messages from the event (as presented by Mr. Anders Berntell) are:

- The water issue has to be sufficiently addressed on the UNFCCC agenda since it is part of Article 4 e of the Climate Change Convention. Climate change is to a large extent water change and the water community is already dealing with the challenges. The existing experience and

knowledge needs to be shared. In partnership – Africa, developing countries and development partners need to work strategically to ensure water resources as a thematic focus in the UNFCCC.

- Water is not a sector, it is a resource. Climate change is making water resources management more complex due to the uncertainty and unpredictability in weather patterns. The complexity and cross-cutting nature of water must be fully acknowledged. Addressing water is not about bringing in sectorial interests, but a way of systematically addressing complexities that currently are addressed under headings such as hazards, floods, droughts and famine.

- Water is about both adaptation and mitigation. It needs to be distinctly pointed out that the success of most mitigation interventions, as determined by the UNFCCC, rest upon the availability and sustainability of water resources.

- Water knowledge expertise needs to inform the adaptation committee to ensure linkages between NWP and the Cancun Agreement, emphasising importance of water as a key medium for adaptation. Qualified water resource management knowledge should be represented amongst the members of the Adaptation Committee. In addition links should be established between the Adaptation Committee and water institutions and organisation.

- We welcome the SBSTA draft decision to organise a technical workshop on water. This can be further strengthened by establishing a thematic focus under the Nairobi Work Programme, ensuring that climate interventions involving water resources are properly addressed.

- Establish water as a priority under the Green Climate Fund with a sub thematic funding window for water resources management.

- The Africa Green fund should include a dedicated thematic funding window for water resources and to be utilised for projects related to water management and climate change adaptation and mitigation. ■

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