

The French Water Partnership's water & climate news digest



A quarterly update on water and climate by Solène Fabrèges, program officer and coordinator of the climate working group at the French Water Partnership

According to a new [study](#) published in August 2007, around two-thirds of Europeans could be affected by extreme climate incidents in 2100 (heat waves, flooding, etc.) based on the scenario of a 3°C temperature increase. The most vulnerable will be the old and sick, and those from the most unprivileged sectors of the population. Climate mitigation and adaptation policies are therefore more vital than ever, in every region on the globe. The hurricanes that hit the Caribbean and the Atlantic coast of America in recent weeks bring a cruel reminder of how unprepared we are when it comes to combating extreme weather conditions.

With this in mind, what are the recent developments in climate action concerning water both internationally and in France?

COP23: FOCUS ON ISLANDS AND THE ROLE OF NON-STATE ACTORS

Presided for the first time by a small island state, the COP23 due to take place in Bonn from 6 to 17 November 2017 will be rather unusual. No deliverables are expected at the end of the two weeks of negotiations. The objective for the Parties is mainly to prepare items and texts that countries will be able to agree on at COP24, which marks an important deadline for implementing the Paris Agreement.

Nevertheless, the Fiji Islands' contribution in mobilising non-state actors and raising island-specific issues is likely to lend an unusual atmosphere to this COP. This year once again, several thematic days will be organised as part of the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA) to illustrate how actors can work together to reach mitigation and adaptation targets on the field. In the water domain, three side events centring on knowledge of water resources and climate, sustainable cities, and food security will bring a reminder that water stakeholders can provide solutions to the various challenges raised by climate change. A session on financing should also identify tools to make it easier for project leaders to access climate funds.

In addition, the Fiji Islands should be coordinating a major international initiative on small islands. In July, an event organized in Suva, the Fiji capital, led to the recognition of the need for greater participation by small developing island states at the GCA. The [report](#) published following the conference highlights that water and sanitation are a crucial development issue for Pacific islands strongly impacted by climate change, with fundamental implications on public health, the environment, human rights, food security, and economic and social development.

FRANCE IN THE WAKE OF COP21

Following the success of COP21, France needs to set the example in the concrete implementation of the Paris Agreement. The French [climate plan](#) published in July follows this line, although it remains centred on mediation with a few key measures to move towards carbon neutrality. The adaptation aspect is little developed and mainly involves the measures of the future National Plan for Adapting to Climate Change (PNACC), which should be validated in early 2018. The Climate plan does however present positive commitments to the financial aspects of adaptation in France, stating that, "France will

increase funding for adapting its territories and economy during the five-year term to act in mainland and overseas territories on preventing the impacts of climate change, improving resilience, and mobilising nature-based adaptation solutions.”

In fact, the international water community, including French actors, is increasingly committed to promoting nature-based solutions to adaptation. It is also the topic chosen by UN Water for the 2018 World Water Day. A [symposium on the subject](#) was also organised in September by the Seine Normandy Water Agency and the French Development Agency; FWP was a partner.

The French President has also announced an international summit on climate to be held in Paris on 12 December, two years after the adoption of the Paris Agreement, with the aim of taking new measures on climate, in particular on the question of finance.

ABOUT FWP

The French Water Partnership, presided by former French deputy Jean Launay, is a public and private platform gathering 140 internationally active members into 6 groups: the state and public bodies, NGOs, associations and foundations, local and parliamentary authorities, economic actors, training research institutes and qualified personalities. For a decade, it has been lobbying at international level to make water a policy priority and promoting French expertise in the field.

<http://www.partenariat-francais-eau.fr>



THEY ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE FWP



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