



# WATER AND CLIMATE

## The French Water Partnership at COP25

- The keys to understanding the water and climate challenges
- Recommendations from members
- Publications
- The FWP's program

# EDITOR'S NOTE

**While water is a resource essential to life and to the development of our societies,** it is today subject to increasingly significant anthropogenic pressure.

The IPCC's publication of its three most recent special reports has sounded the alarm once again: **every tenth of a degree over and above 1.5°C will generate major impacts on water resources.** Water is the primary vehicle of climate change, responsible for droughts, floods, hurricanes, rising sea levels, all contributing in the long term to the degradation of lands and of aquatic biodiversity.

And yet, despite assertions from the scientific community, global commitments in terms of greenhouse gases are currently taking us on a trajectory of **average global warming of +3°C to +3.2°C, by the end of the century.** If nothing is done to halt this trend, the new climate regime will entail **significant challenges in terms of the management of water resources,** in many countries.

To avoid this, **concrete measures must be implemented in order to manage water in an integrated, sustainable way, and ensure that it is accessible to all.** These are also the aims of the Paris Climate Agreement and the 2030 Agenda with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This year, the FWP will once again continue its work **by warning about the impact of the climate challenges on water resources and aquatic biodiversity,** and by **sharing the initiatives and projects of the French stakeholders who are members of the French Water Partnership.** This year they are keen to emphasize that **water and Nature-based Solutions** represent **levers both for combating climate change and for meeting the targets of the 2030 Agenda!**

The FWP has **produced a range of tools that will enable anyone to obtain information, and to learn about these initiatives and projects.** You can find out about them in this document.

We will also be very happy to talk to you during the various events we are organizing. You will find our program of events in this document. **The emergency is here: it's up to all of us to take action!**

**Jean Launay**

President of the French Water Partnership



The French Water Partnership (FWP) is a platform for reflection and action that brings together 200 public and private members from six categories: the State and its public institutions, NGOs, charities and foundations, regional and parliamentary authorities, economic players, research and training institutions, and qualified well-known figures.

It engages in advocacy on a worldwide level to make water a priority within the global political agenda (in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Climate Agreement, and the global agenda on biodiversity), and collectively leverages French expertise.

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# THE COP25 CHALLENGES

The **25th Conference of the Parties (COP25)** of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) takes place in Madrid from **Monday 2 to Friday 13 December**. Originally due to be hosted by Santiago, Chile, this COP will still be held under **Chilean presidency**.

COP24 marked the end of a cycle in the negotiation process by setting the rules for the application of the Paris Agreement. However, it was more reserved when it came to moving the ambitions ahead. This explains why the upcoming COP has **action at its core**, as indicated by the theme chosen by its Chilean organizers: *Time for Action*.

COP25 represents a crucial stage in climate negotiations. It comes just a few months before the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are due to be submitted, and these have to be stepped up in comparison with the initial submissions of 2015. This COP will therefore be an opportunity **to assess whether the countries' climate ambitions are capable of meeting the challenges**, and whether their commitments are being translated into national and local policies and strategies (and/or through international cooperation).

As far as negotiations are concerned, some elements of the Paris Climate Agreement Rulebook are yet to be finalized, particularly the **international carbon markets**. Discussions should also be held on the issues of Loss and Damage.

In naming COP25 the Blue COP, Chile wished to place the oceans front and center. COP25 will therefore emphasize **the link between the oceans and climate action**, whether in terms of mitigation and adaptation strategies, or of **the role of Nature-based Solutions in the fight against climate change**. COP25 should be a decisive point in view of the important milestones for 2020 represented by the World Conservation Congress and COP15 on biodiversity, **an opportunity to coordinate climate ambitions with those relating to biodiversity**.



## DURING THE COP

You can find more water and climate projects on the Water Expertise France portal, accessible via the self-service tablet on the FWP stand 10 on 4 and 5 December in the COP25 exhibit area. The WeFrance portal is also available online: <https://www.partenariat-francais-eau.fr/en/water-expertise-france/>

# WATER AND CLIMATE: IN THE FACE OF EMERGENCY, TIME FOR ACTION!

## WATER, AN ESSENTIAL BUT UNDERMINED RESOURCE

The greatest risks of global warming, as described by the IPCC, relate first and foremost to water: droughts, floods, rising sea levels, cyclones, storms, etc. This essential resource is already subject to significant anthropogenic pressures, thus endangering populations (particularly the most vulnerable), ecosystems and human activities.

## WATER, A LEVER FOR ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT AND THE 2030 AGENDA

Water must be treated as a priority in the commitments of the Paris Climate Agreement, in harmony with the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. It is a crucial factor in our younger generations' future quality of life, and in health, agriculture and food, biodiversity, energy, education, and gender equality, and water security is a vehicle for peace. Water is central to the 2030 Agenda's 21 targets. Water that is protected, in terms of both quality and quantity, is a vital means of mitigating climate change, as it also supports the ecosystems that produce oxygen and absorb CO<sub>2</sub>.

## THE EMERGENCY: IMPLEMENT APPROPRIATE SOLUTIONS ON A FAR WIDER SCALE

To satisfy the basic needs of populations while taking into account demographic growth, the protection of ecosystems and the fight against climate change, **a number of institutional, technological, economic and social solutions have proved successful.** Initiated by all types of stakeholders (local authorities, decision-makers and managers, businesses, farmers, NGOs, researchers, etc.), these solutions are based on regionalized approaches. They deserve to be better promoted and shared, particularly in the least developed countries. At the same time, particular vigilance is required to avoid any maladaptation that might result in the increased vulnerability of populations and ecosystems. **The French Water Partnership (FWP) is therefore calling for a relaunch of the process initiated by the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action.**

## A FEW FACTS:

- ▷ **Limiting global warming to 1.5°C rather than 2°C** could reduce the proportion of the world population exposed to water stress by **50%** (IPCC, 2018)
- ▷ Water scarcity, exacerbated by climate change, could cost up to **6% of the GDP** of some regions (World Bank, 2016)
- ▷ Some **143 million people**, principally in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America, could be forced to move to the interior of their own country to escape the impacts of climate change (World Bank, 2018).

The 200 members of the FWP wish to issue a reminder of the urgency of **drastically reducing global greenhouse gas emissions in order to remain below the limit of 2°C average warming**, and of continuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C compared to the pre-industrial period, by the end of the century. They also draw the attention of the international community to the need to **take adaptation measures in response to current and future climate changes, that are capable of meeting the challenges:**

- **Action on the large water cycle is a major vehicle for resilience and adaptation** to climate change, bearing in mind that any additional warming will limit the effectiveness of the adaptation measures
- **Prioritize responses** that target the most vulnerable populations, and those immediately impacted by climate change
- **Deploy ambitious adaptation actions that take the socio-economic and environmental context of the regions into account.**

## A. MAKE WATER CENTRAL TO ADAPTATION

In response to the inevitability of climate change, adaptation measures must be factored in on the same scale as actions to mitigate emissions, in negotiations around the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). **Water is both a particularly vulnerable sector** (increasing scarcity of the resource) **and a vehicle for solutions** (for example, the use of aquatic ecosystems for their regulating role). However, several studies have shown that of the 162 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), 83% include an adaptation component and 93% of them cite water as a major issue in the context of climate change<sup>1</sup>. The impact of climate change on the water sector will affect many spheres: **agriculture and food, access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, rural areas and the development of towns and cities, industry, biodiversity, and more.** **Water must be a priority sector in local and national action plans while also being identified as a vehicle for adaptation solutions, and factored in as a priority in the objectives set by the Paris Climate Agreement, particularly in terms of adaptation.**

### A. STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF PUBLIC DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES IN MITIGATION

Greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase<sup>2</sup>. This reflects, among other causes, an increased demand for energy. Every sector that uses water is concerned. However, water and sanitation services, which according to the International Water Association (IWA) represent between 3% and 8% of towns' and cities' overall greenhouse gas emissions, can help to mitigate these emissions **by reducing their consumption of energy and water** (raising awareness among users, appropriate sizing of structures, optimizing the operation of pumps, reducing leaks in the networks, etc.) or by **putting in place sustainable solutions to produce and recover energy** (recovering sewage sludge to produce biogas, using pico-turbines in water networks, re-using the heat from networks, etc.). **Circular-economy approaches must be promoted in this sector, linked with the development of other essential public services such as the management of solid waste.**

### B. STRENGTHEN COMMITMENTS AND TRANSLATE THEM INTO NATIONAL POLICIES AND INTERVENTION STRATEGIES AT EVERY LEVEL

In overall terms, the NDCs that are part of the Paris Climate Agreement will lead to a 3.0 to 3.4°C rise in global temperatures<sup>3</sup> by the end of the century, and up to 7°C according to some scientists<sup>4</sup>, if current emissions trends continue. Evaluating progress made since COP21 and raising climate ambition are crucial objectives if we are to at least meet the objective set of +2°C. To have any real impact, **the commitments made by the countries, including those related to water, must also be translated into national and local policies and strategies. For this to happen, water must be integrated into other sectoral policies** such as energy, food security, health, education, and so on. Finally, negotiations on the damage and losses anticipated in the Paris Climate Agreement must be continued.

#### France is adapting to the consequences of climate change on its territory

Since COP21, France has adopted a **Climate Plan** with a clear and ambitious objective in terms of mitigation: achieving **carbon neutrality by 2050**. This objective has been written into law since 2019, in a concrete demonstration of France's implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement. This corresponds to at least a six-fold reduction in emissions. Furthermore, since the end of 2018 France has had a new **national climate change adaptation plan for the period 2018-2022**. One of its aims is to **counter risks related to droughts, floods and rising sea levels and to build resilience in major sectors of the economy such as agriculture, industry and tourism in response to the impacts of climate change. The water sector is identified as one of the areas for priority action**, by means of a number of levers for action around protection against risks, adaptation of regions, health, and protecting biodiversity. The Climate Plan also specifies an increase in funding dedicated to adaptation of the regions (both mainland France and the overseas territories) and of the economy.

1 <https://www.partenariat-francais-eau.fr/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Analyse-%C2%AB-Eau-%C2%BB-dans-les-INDC-juin-2016.pdf>

2 <https://www.iea.org/geco/>

3 <https://climateactiontracker.org/global/temperatures/>

4 [http://www.cnrs.fr/sites/default/files/press\\_info/2019-09/CP%20r%C3%A9sultats%20CMIP6\\_OK.pdf](http://www.cnrs.fr/sites/default/files/press_info/2019-09/CP%20r%C3%A9sultats%20CMIP6_OK.pdf)

## C. STRENGTHEN KNOWLEDGE TO MANAGE WATER RESOURCES BETTER

**Knowledge about climate and the large water cycle at the regional and local levels must be strengthened**, particularly in relation to freshwater on which a large proportion of observations are classified by the IPCC as “medium” due to a lack of references, regional expertise, and field data. We must also strengthen **mechanisms for information** (such as hydrology and weather stations) and for modeling and water information systems (databases, for example) which facilitate better decision making. **New data-acquisition tools such as satellite measurements must also be developed, to complement improvements in in-situ data-acquisition systems. The value of local knowledge and traditional expertise must also be recognized** when policies are being developed and implemented at all levels. The co-construction of projects with civil society, including women, young people and indigenous populations, is also a guarantee of sustainability and efficacy in implementing the Paris Climate Agreement and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

## D. MOBILIZE STATES TO MANDATE THE IPCC ON WATER RESOURCES, INCLUDING AS REGARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEGATIVE EMISSIONS MEASURES

The impacts of climate change on water resources and the developments in their use have never been the subject of a specific IPCC report, despite this being a crucial issue at the global level. In its special reports on +1.5°C of warming and on land surfaces, the IPCC indicates that in order to limit global warming to 1.5°C or even 2°C:

- ▷ “The various mitigation strategies require the use of negative emissions measures that aim to eliminate CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere assuming changes in land use: crops dedicated to energy uses with carbon capture (from 1 to 7 million km<sup>2</sup> by 2050) and expansion of forests (up to +12 million km<sup>2</sup> by 2050 compared to 2010)”.
- ▷ “These measures can deliver co-benefits in terms of adaptation, combating the desertification and degradation of land, and food security (high confidence) if they are deployed in a limited area and with sustainable landscape management (high confidence)”.
- ▷ “On a large scale, and if poorly managed, they can entail negative effects on water resources, biodiversity, land degradation, desertification, and food security (high confidence)”.
- ▷ “Their development therefore requires consideration of the needs of populations, of biodiversity, and of other sustainable development dimensions (very high degree of confidence)”.

**Against this background, the FWP is calling on the countries to mandate the IPCC to produce a specific report on water resources**, which includes the impact on them of the development of negative emissions measures, and which examines how water management must be changed in this context in the various parts of the world.

### Adaptation plans at hydrological-basin level and regional projects, to combat climate risks related to water

With its Water Agencies on the mainland and Water Offices in the overseas territories, the bodies which implement water policy in the basins, France is taking action to arrange for the sustainable management of water resources and aquatic environments. Every catchment area, and a large number of sub-catchments, has a planning document which aims to ensure the balanced, responsible management of water resources, with the close involvement of stakeholders. France therefore has vast experience in terms of water planning.

The impacts of climate change exacerbate the proliferation of conflicts of use, and the increased pressure on water resources. In response to this situation, a directive of 7 May 2019 from the French ministries in charge of the environment and agriculture encourages the implementation of “regional water management projects” (PTGE). Co-constructed with all water stakeholders in a needs/resource approach at the catchment-area level, these projects must help the regions to adapt and activities such as farming to become more resilient by using a variety of levers that aim to manage the demand for water, conserve water in soils and subsoils, mobilize new resources, where relevant and possible in a sustainable manner, and to reduce pollution.



## E. STRENGTHEN WATER GOVERNANCE

At a time when the demand for water is rising steadily, **a global approach to managing the resource is necessary**, to include surface waters and groundwater and take into account the source-to-sea continuum, while also ensuring even distribution between water uses, in order to determine at the appropriate regional level which levers for action are best suited to the challenges (see above). This is the role of **Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), which must be implemented at the level of national or transboundary hydrological basins** for successful adaptation to climate change to take place.

## F. MOBILIZE FUNDING THROUGH APPROPRIATE GOVERNANCE

The Climate Summit of September 2019 **noted that progress had been made** in countries' contributions towards meeting financial commitments (\$100bn/year for developing countries by 2020). The report published recently by the OECD shows progress in the mobilization of financial flows. This must be continued if the ambition set for 2020 is to be met. **Water must be a priority within the funding for adaptation, with the least developed and most threatened countries as key targets.** In particular, these countries must develop effective governance of their water resources, including national, local, or basin-level funding mechanisms, in order to improve their ability to secure international funding, both public and private. Part of this funding must be dedicated to **capacity-building** (for example, knowledge, governance, training, education, and performance monitoring), which is crucial to the efficacy of projects.

### A French policy of international cooperation contributing to the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement

On the issue of funding, this September in New York France announced its decision to **double its support for the Green Climate Fund**. The French Development Agency (AFD), the principal operator of France's bilateral Official Development Assistance, increased the volume of its climate finance by setting itself the target of reaching **€5bn/year internationally by 2020, with a specific increase in assistance for adaptation (target of €1.5bn/year) and a particular boost in funding for Africa**. The water sector represents the bulk of the Agency's investment in adaptation (47% in 2017, 51% in 2019) and its volume is growing. France has more than 60 years' experience in Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM). The International Office for Water currently provides the permanent technical secretariat for the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO). The INBO supports initiatives which help to implement IWRM at the level of national or transboundary catchment areas, rivers, lakes and aquifers. It also aims **to promote within cooperation programs the principles of and means to achieve rational water management for sustainable development, and to facilitate research and development of tools for institutional and financial management, for planning and for knowledge, and of models that are geared to needs**.

## G. PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

**Stronger international cooperation at all levels (North-South, local, regional, national and transnational) and between all stakeholders is needed to meet the climate challenge.** It is essential that international solidarity is promoted, in the knowledge that the effects of climate change impact the most vulnerable populations first and foremost. This is particularly true when it comes to guaranteeing the effective implementation of the right to drinking water and sanitation. The impacts of climate change increase the vulnerability of populations of developing countries with a low rate of access to water and sanitation, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. The economic, social, and public-health consequences are significant: reduced access to services in the event of a fault or damage to infrastructures (for example during a flood or a storm), increased waterborne diseases, increased difficulty in fetching water, migrations, etc. In these contexts, international cooperation can contribute to better adaptation by providing finance, sharing experience, and building capacity for local actors.

## DURING THE COP

All of these recommendations will be discussed during the events organized by the FWP (see program on p.9)

# 2019 PUBLICATIONS

## Better knowledge for better decision making: Complementarity between field data and satellite data

### *Towards a better understanding of field hydrology*



**Thorough knowledge of water resources is crucial if we are to act effectively.** The acquisition of hydrological data is therefore crucial to decision-making. Following the initial edition of the “FWP Expertise” collection, on the challenges related to knowledge, and the expertise developed to respond to these challenges in France and worldwide, this latest edition is dedicated to **the acquisition of spatial hydrological data** and presents **a number of initiatives and projects** by French stakeholders in water, highlighting **the ways in which satellite data can complement and help improve our knowledge of hydrological data from the field**. *Publication in English [here](#).*

### **stakeholders**

Climate change demands **unprecedented efforts** from all the countries of the world in terms of both mitigation and adaptation. **Water** is both a particularly vulnerable sector and a **vehicle for solutions**. With the aim of helping to get the Action Agenda back on track, the FWP is publishing a **booklet of solutions** that presents a **sample of concrete actions developed in France and overseas for managing water and aquatic environments**. This booklet is an opportunity for water stakeholders to issue a reminder that water is a **lever in the fight against climate change**, and **for achieving the 2030 targets** too! *Publication in English [here](#).*



## The French policy for the management of water resources and aquatic biodiversity

### *A source of inspiration for implementing the 2030 Agenda*



One thing that makes France’s management of water resources and aquatic biodiversity unique is that it **acts in a spirit of solidarity at every level by including both the small and large water cycles**. The benefits of such an approach to management, which is **able to adapt to a changing context, make a major contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda**. With the support of the Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition, and in partnership with the International Office for Water, the Water Agencies, the French Biodiversity Agency, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, and the Martinique Water Office, the FWP has produced a guide that aims to provide **information about French policy**, which could be of interest to other stakeholders for their own policies and projects. It provides the keys to understanding, the major principles governing this dynamic, progressive approach, in accordance with the challenges, growing awareness, and innovative projects. *Publication*

*in English [here](#).*

## Climate change and water

### *Text of UN-Water recommendations*

Climate risk and the increasing demand for water are putting pressure on water resources. To reduce these risks, national and regional climate policy and planning must take an **integrated approach in order to manage water resources and the impacts of climate change as effectively as possible**. Worsening water stress coupled with the growing demand for water will require increasingly difficult decisions, particularly about how the resource is allocated between its various users, and including decisions about adapting to climate change. **“Business as usual” is no longer an option**, and the management of water resources must always be part of an **approach that builds resilience to the effects of climate change**. **More investment is therefore needed**, to improve hydrological knowledge and the assessment of risks, and also to strengthen governance, education and capacity. **Policies need to ensure the representation, participation, behavioral change and accountability of all stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society**. *Publication in English [here](#).*





# PROGRAM OF FWP EVENTS AT COP25

DATE AND TIME	EVENT TITLE	LOCATION	ORGANIZERS	DESCRIPTION
Tuesday 3/12 10:00-11:30	<b>Water, an opportunity to respond to the impacts of climate change - solutions from French stakeholders in water</b>	Pavilion France	FWP	To mark the publication of “Water & Climate, Time for Action: Initiatives and projects by French stakeholders”, FWP members will share concrete actions developed in the regions for managing water and aquatic environments, which also contribute towards achieving the many objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement AND the 2030 Agenda.
Friday 6/12 10:00-13:00	<i>Half-day on Water</i> <b>Just Add Water: Solutions for the 2020 NDCs and beyond</b>	Global Climate Action event	FWP, AGWA, SIWI, GafWaC, IUCN, FAO, UNESCO-IHP, WWC	This session aims to bring together water stakeholders and specialists from other fields to help disseminate best practices in the areas of water and climate. It will be divided into two sub-sessions: (i) urban resilience via a balance of green and grey solutions, (ii) the “food and forestry” value chain: connecting projects from source to sea.
Friday 6/12 13:00-14:30	<b>It's Time for Climate Action! Initiatives and projects by French stakeholders in water</b>	Pavilion Francophonie	FWP	Through this event, the FWP wishes to present concrete actions developed in the regions and at various levels to manage water and aquatic environments: an opportunity for stakeholders in water to issue a reminder that water is a lever in the fight against climate change, and also in meeting the targets of the 2030 Agenda!
Friday 6/12 16:00-16:45	<b>Aquatic Nature-based Solutions: Adapting to climate change &amp; delivering multiple benefits across sectors</b>	Action Hub	INBO/GafWaC, FWP, IUCN, AGWA, SIWI, WWC	By presenting model projects carried out by signatories to the International Declaration on Nature-based Solutions, this event will show how aquatic solutions can respond to both the climate and the biodiversity challenges. This will also be an ideal opportunity to promote the Nature4Water platform, which documents these solutions with their many benefits for all sectors.
Saturday 7/12 11:00-12:30	<b>Objective 2023 revision: the “water” component of the Nationally Determined Contributions in the public policies and national strategies of French-speaking African countries</b>	Pavilion Francophonie	FWP, RC&D	Water is a core component of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), particularly in French-speaking African countries. However, their content varies from one country to the next. The event aims to share and discuss feedback from public and private stakeholders and civil society in France and French-speaking African countries on their experience of drawing up NDCs, national plans and water-related projects.
Saturday 7/12 13:15-14:45	<b>Ecosystem-based adaptation in the water sector: when green and grey make blue!</b>	Room 2	INBO, FWP, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation	Ecosystem-based Adaptation in the water sector mobilizes “no-regret” Nature-based Solutions, including management of resilient lands and forests that operates optimally at basin, river and aquifer-level. The session presents studies from all over the world, including Andean, East Asian, and African regions.
Tuesday 10/12 18:30-20:00	<b>Climate-resilient water management approaches</b>	Room 1	UNESCO, UNECE, WMO, UNDP, UNU-INWEH, UNCCD, ESCWA, SIWI, AGWA, WWC, GWP, FWP, ILO, WHO, IOM, OHCHR, UNICEF, CBD, IWMI	The aim of this event is to inform participants and UNFCCC negotiators about the main conclusions of the UN-Water brief, which are illustrated by the initiatives and projects presented by the Member States and experts on the various themes identified in this brief.

## ON-SITE CONTACTS

- **Marie-Laure Vercambre**, *Director General, FWP* – [marie-laure.vercambre@partenariat-francais-eau.fr](mailto:marie-laure.vercambre@partenariat-francais-eau.fr)
- **Jean - Luc Redaud**, *President of the Water and Climate Working Group, FWP* – [jeanluc.redaud@gmail.com](mailto:jeanluc.redaud@gmail.com)
- **Jennifer Fernando**, *Project Manager, FWP* – [jennifer.fernando@partenariat-francais-eau.fr](mailto:jennifer.fernando@partenariat-francais-eau.fr)
- **Isabelle Censi**, *press contact* – [isabelle.censi@samudraconseil.com](mailto:isabelle.censi@samudraconseil.com)

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- **Twitter:** PFE\_FWP
- **FWP website:** <https://www.partenariat-francais-eau.fr/en/calendar/evenement/cop-25-on-climate-madrid/>

## FIND OUT MORE ABOUT:

- **The FWP:** <https://www.partenariat-francais-eau.fr/en/>
- **publications:** <http://www.partenariat-francais-eau.fr/en/our-productions/>
- **The Nature4Water platform:** <http://www.nature4water.com/>
- **Video “Imagining a +4°C world : what about water?”:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubRlxfypO44&t=6s>
- **WeFrance:** <https://www.partenariat-francais-eau.fr/en/water-expertise-france/>