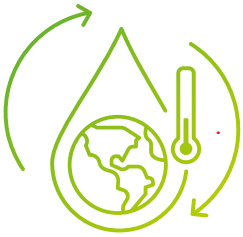
french water partnership

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COP31 TÜRKİYE ANTALYA



Water: the Primary Indicator of Climate Change and a Key Driver of Resilience

Climate change is no longer a future threat: it is already disrupting societies, economies, and regions. The UNEP warns that global warming will exceed 1.5 °C. At the same time, geopolitical tensions and soaring oil prices are revealing the vulnerability of our economies due to their dependence on fossil fuels. **Now more than ever, climate action is a necessity.**

In this context, water is the primary indicator of climate change. Water-related extreme events dominate the global disaster record and represent 70 percent of deaths associated with natural hazards (World Bank, 2022). The increasing frequency of floods, droughts, and heatwaves illustrates the effects of disruptions to the water cycle on regions and economies.

Water-related extreme events represent 70 percent of deaths associated with natural hazards

(World Bank, 2022)

But water is also an essential part of the solution: it is a key driver of adaptation and resilience. Investing in sustainable and integrated water resource management helps strengthen adaptation to climate change, reduce disaster risks, and make regions more resilient.

Water also remains underused as a mitigation lever, with aquatic and wetland ecosystems offering significant carbon storage potential.

As the next United Nations Water Conference approaches, COP31 must mark a significant shift: water must become a cornerstone of climate action.

Inclusive and Sustainable Water Resilience

FAIR AND INCLUSIVE — Guarantee the human rights to water and sanitation, prioritizing populations affected by poverty, fragility, conflict, and violence.

INTERGENERATIONAL — Preserve future generations' resources and adaptive capacities, starting today.

PARTICIPATORY — Engage relevant stakeholders and integrate scientific, local, and Indigenous knowledge within a multi-stakeholder governance framework.

GENDER-SENSITIVE — Address gender issues: women are responsible for collecting water in 7 out of 10 households without a water source on the premises, which affects their education, work, and safety (WHO/UNICEF).

1st PILLAR

Action Agenda: Water at the Heart of Systemic Transformations

Embed Sustainable Water Management at the Heart of Resilient, Resource-Conscious Food Systems : Expand the Water-Food-Climate Nexus to Include Soils and Agroecology

318 million people face acute food insecurity driven by climate shocks.

(World Food Programme (WFP), 2026)

Water availability, sustainable management, and efficient water use are essential to food security. **COP31 must expand the water-food-climate nexus to include soils and agroecological approaches by promoting agriculture that can protect and restore the water cycle.** NbS, agroecological practices, and changes in production and consumption patterns are key drivers for reconciling climate resilience, water security, and food security.

Systematically Integrate Water Security into Electrification and Energy Transition Strategies

The energy transition cannot be sustainable if it does not incorporate water security. Accelerating global electrification—a COP31 priority—must go hand in hand with systematic consideration of the water dependencies of the solutions being implemented. **COP31 must make the water-energy nexus a cornerstone of decarbonization strategies to align climate goals with water resilience.**

Make Water an Operational Source of Synergies Between the Rio Conventions

The climate, biodiversity, and desertification crises are deeply interconnected and require integrated responses. Because it links these three issues, water serves as a cross-cutting lever for strengthening synergies between the Rio Conventions and breaking down silos between environmental policies. **COP31 must make water a source of cooperation between these agendas.**

Fully Include Urban Water Resilience in the COP31 "Resilient Cities" Agenda

A city cannot be resilient to climate change without being resilient to water-related risks. **The COP31 "Resilient Cities" Agenda must address water security, the resilience of water and sanitation services, drought and flood management, and adaptation of the urban water cycle.**

Prevent Maladaptation to Ensure Sustainable Water Resilience

Adaptation to climate change must not exacerbate the vulnerabilities it seeks to reduce. The FWP warns of the risks of maladaptation in the water sector, where short-term responses, solutions focused on increasing supply, or inadequately assessed actions can shift risks, worsen inequalities, or compromise future adaptive capacity. **COP31 must promote adaptation strategies that are resource-efficient, sustainable, and based on a systemic assessment of their impacts.**

2nd PILLAR

Water in the Official Negotiations at COP31

Operationalize the Indicators for the Global Goal on Adaptation as Soon as Possible: Balancing Scientific Ambition and Pragmatism

Measuring adaptation is essential to accelerating climate action. **COP31 must make the operationalization of the GGA a priority by setting out a pragmatic and actionable framework for its indicators.** The FWP calls for scientifically sound and operational water indicators that will enable countries to measure progress and effectively guide their adaptation policies.

We call for efforts to:

- **ESTABLISH** a primarily technical task force responsible for developing the methodologies and procedures for operationalizing the GGA indicators at COP31;
- **BALANCE** scientific rigor and pragmatism by developing a monitoring framework tailored to States' varying capacities and supported by enhanced means of implementation;

Direct Adaptation Funding Toward Water Security

In 2026, the humanitarian WASH sector received only 38% of the funding required.
(United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA))

Water security must become a priority for adaptation funding. Faced with increasingly severe droughts, floods, and pressure on resources, the expected increase in adaptation funding must translate into greater mobilization of resources for projects that ensure water availability and quality, the resilience of water and sanitation services, the protection of aquatic ecosystems, and the reduction of water-related risks.

We call for efforts to:

- **PRIORITIZE**—within the increase in international funding for adaptation—investments that directly contribute to water security;
- **FACILITATE** access to financing for the most vulnerable countries and regions, in particular through funding for project preparation, direct access to climate funds, and increased mobilization of grants and concessional financing;

Sustain the Baku Dialogue on Water for Climate Action and Consolidate a Major Political Achievement

The Baku Dialogue on Water for Climate Action represents a major political breakthrough: as the first COP-to-COP dialogue dedicated to integrating water into the climate process, it offers a historic opportunity to make water a cornerstone of international climate action. **COP31 must transform this momentum into a lasting institutional framework capable of firmly embedding water in the implementation of the Paris Agreement.**

We call for efforts to:

- **INSTITUTIONALIZE** the Baku Dialogue on Water for Climate Action by quickly establishing a clear, stable, and operational mandate and governance structure;
- **ANCHOR** the Dialogue politically by ensuring that it directly contributes to water's integration into NDCs, NAPs, and national adaptation strategies.

Preserve Transboundary Cooperation as a Cornerstone of Climate Adaptation and Integrated Water Resource Management

Water knows no borders: faced with the growing impacts of climate change, transboundary cooperation is essential for water security and adaptation. **COP31 must ensure that issues related to shared basins remain a priority in international discussions.**

We call for efforts to:

- **REAFFIRM** transboundary cooperation as an essential cornerstone of climate change adaptation;
- **ENSURE** that issues related to transboundary waters are fully taken into account in UNFCCC discussions, particularly within the framework of the Baku Dialogue, the Global Goal for Adaptation, and future processes, to ensure coherent adaptation at the basin level that is consistent with the principles of IWRM.

Institutionalize the Dialogue on Mountains and Climate Change and Strengthen the Integration of Water Security into Climate Policies

Recognition of mountains under the UNFCCC presents a major opportunity to better integrate water-related issues into climate action. Described by UNESCO as the planet's "water towers", mountain regions are essential to water security and regional resilience. **COP31 must recognize not only their vulnerability but also their role as regions that offer solutions.**

We call for efforts to:

- **INCORPORATE** mountain regions' challenges, vulnerabilities, and solutions into NDCs, NAPs, BTRs, work on the GGA, and climate finance mechanisms;
- **ENHANCE** scientific knowledge, funding, and the participation of local communities, indigenous peoples, and young people to support adaptation and the sustainable management of water resources in mountain regions.

Read the full version of our advocacy messages

The French Water Partnership

The French Water Partnership (FWP) is a one-of-a-kind platform for French public, private and civil society stakeholders seeking to contribute to the French mobilisation on international water issues.

For nearly 20 years, the FWP has pursued collective advocacy to make water a priority in international policies and action. Its strength lies in a simple conviction: a united, structured and representative voice carries more weight in international negotiations than a series of isolated initiatives.

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