



Press release

World Water Day 2018: honoring nature in Brasilia

French stakeholder participation at the 8th World Water Forum in Brasilia

On March 22nd, the 200 members of the French Water Partnership taking part in the 8th World Water Forum in Brasilia will celebrate the World Water Day. This year's theme is biodiversity and nature-based solutions.

These « green » solutions aim at taking nature into account in water management in addition to more traditional « grey » solutions. International discourse has recently been giving increasing space to these types of solutions. Today, they are a must.

This theme is particularly important for French stakeholders who are real experts on the topic.

A point of interest at the World Water Forum

The 8th World Water Forum is taking place within the global context of the water-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), which the United Nations set in 2015 for the world states to reach by 2030. Other than the 14th “Life below water” and the 15th “Life on land” SDGs, the 6th SDG on water is the first to emphasize the need to “protect and restore water-related ecosystems”.

In the same vein, UN Water has chosen the World Water Forum to launch its 9th annual World Water Development report on nature-based solutions.

Find out more about the 2018 UN Water World Water Development Report [here](#)

The French Water Partnership's involvement

The French Water Partnership is internationally committed to nature-based solutions for water and is leading the way along with some of its members: the French Biodiversity Agency, the Seine Normandy Water Agency and the French Development Agency. With the International Office for Water, the FWP has initiated an international declaration which aims at encouraging the global water community and its various stakeholders to take nature-based solutions into account in their initiatives for water management and climate change adaptation.

Find the international declaration on nature-based solutions signed by over 80 people and organizations from the global water community: <http://www.partenariat-francais-eau.fr/nature-based-solutions-declaration/>

The French Water Partnership has organized several different events at the World Water Forum:

- **An evening on French-Brazilian cooperation**

This event at the French Embassy in Brasilia was a reflection on 30 years of cooperation for water between France and Brazil and demonstrated the benefits of nature-based solutions. The French Development Agency and the Curitiba Municipality (Brazil) presented a French-Brazilian project they co-led which aimed at supporting urban biodiversity through the creation of an ecological corridor along the Barigui River in Curitiba.

- **Several events on the French Pavilion at the Forum**

Coordinated by the French Water Partnership, the French Pavilion is two events on nature-based solutions organizing for the World Water Day. The first event, of which the participants are the National Museum of Natural History (MNHN), the Laboratory of Applied Hydrology of Abomey-Calavi in Benin (LHA), the National Research Institute of Science and Technology for Environment and Agriculture (IRSTEA), the International Office for Water (IOWater), will present several case studies, to name a couple: the role of microorganisms in the Parisian street gutters (MNHN) and flood risk and pollution reduction in the Zou basin in Benin (LHA). The second event, presented by the Association of water and waste professionals (ASTEE), Eau de Paris and IRSTEA, will serve as a launch for the second volume of [ASTEE](#)'s book on the benefits of ecological engineering.

***The FWP** is the French platform for public and private stakeholders, which aims at making water a priority on the international political agenda. With more than 170 members, it promotes French expertise both internationally and collectively. To learn more: www.partenariat-francais-eau.fr/en*

Discover the French water stakeholders engaged in nature-based solutions by visiting our new Water Expertise France platform: <https://www.partenariat-francais-eau.fr/portail-we-france/en>

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