french water partnership

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MESSAGES FROM MEMBERS OF THE FRENCH WATER PARTNERSHIP

STOCKHOLM WORLD WATER WEEK, 26-31 AUGUST 2018

« WATER, ECOSYSTEMS AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT »

AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY IS SEVERELY UNDER THREAT WORLDWIDE. Biodiversity is currently suffering from the impacts of the Anthropocene. It is undergoing its sixth mass extinction and it is scientifically established that it is the result of human activity: soil sealing, habitat fragmentation, introduction of invasive alien species, water pollution... In some regions, anthropogenic pressures are exacerbated by the impacts of climate change. Many signs worldwide have set alarm bells ringing about the major threats to biodiversity and are predicting a bleak future for both nature and mankind.

- Since 1900, 64 % to 71 % of wetlands worldwide have disappeared, resulting in the disappearance of 76 % of freshwater species (Nick C. Davidson[1], 2014).
- Since 1980, 44 % of waterbird populations are decreasing globally (UNESCO, 2017).
- Today, 75 % of the global reserves of wild fish are under threat (FAO, 2017).
- By 2050, up to 90 % of corals will suffer severe degradation (IPBES, 2018).

THE FRENCH WATER PARTNERSHIP'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The 170 members of the French Water Partnership wish to draw the international community's attention towards the necessity of aquatic biodiversity conservation to increase resilience, improve climate change adaptation and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

ENSURING COHERENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS AND THE SDGs

The various international deadlines for biodiversity-related targets are very close: in 2020, the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity and its Aichi Targets adopted in 2010 will come to an end. With regards to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 2020 is also the deadline for the achievement of both SDG 6.6 on the protection and restoration of freshwater ecosystems and SDG 15.1 on the conservation,

[1] Former Deputy Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention

restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems. 2025 is the deadline for the achievement of SDG 14.1 on the prevention and reduction of marine pollution.

In order to stem biodiversity loss, synergies between these international action frameworks are unavoidable. The achievement of SDG targets on aquatic biodiversity cannot happen without that of the Aichi targets.

IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE OF AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

The UN has put in place a global statistical indicator framework which contributes to the SDG international monitoring system. For example, the indicator for SDG 6.6 on the protection and restoration of freshwater ecosystems assesses the change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time. Designed to produce data that will enable States to make scientifically based decisions, these indicators must be complemented by the work of international bodies such as IPBES[2] as well as by relevant indicators available at national or regional level. Specific data standardization must also be carried out with biodiversity observatories and civil society organizations in order to produce reliable and comparable information.

FOSTERING CROSS-CUTTING FUNDING

Achieving the ambitions set by the international community requires much more funding than exists today. Existing funding for biodiversity (ecotourism in natural sites worldwide, conservation trust funds, biodiversity offsets etc.) must be complemented by a better consideration of biodiversity in environmental taxation. Since international funding from foreign governments and development banks is largely insufficient, it is essential to foster local and national economic funding.

When it comes to mobilizing the necessary funding for aquatic biodiversity, recognition of the multiple water ecosystem services is key: awareness-raising must be carried out among decision-makers and donors to demonstrate the multiple benefits of biodiversity conservation and restoration actions for water quality and availability, restoration of biodiversity in general, nutrient recycling, health, food security, human well-being, flood management... In this context, it's particularly important to increase funding allocated to biodiversity research, strengthen biodiversity observatories as well as build capacity and knowledge pooling linked to data acquisition and information systems.

Awareness-raising must also be carried out among private stakeholders: integrating biodiversity into agri-food and industrial global value chains, reducing companies' water and biodiversity footprint and recognizing that their economic activities are directly dependent on biodiversity is unavoidable.

UNITING THE GLOBAL WATER, BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE COMMUNITY

The global water community must better take into consideration aquatic biodiversity in order to create a multisectoral and multidisciplinary network. This network must communicate with those of the climate (such as the #ClimateIsWater initiative), biodiversity in general, agriculture and energy. Exchanges and cooperation within these networks will also enable common projects and perspectives to be shared and come to fruition. The International Declaration Nature-based Solutions for Water management under

[2] Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Climate change launched at the COP23 in Bonn by the FWP and the GAfWaC the type of tool that can allow such networking.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT LOCAL POPULATIONS BY STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Local populations are the first concerned by biodiversity conservation. The diversity and complexities of their knowledge and skills related to pastoralism, water uses, water ecosystems and species must inevitably be taken into consideration.

Local communities must be taken into account and involved in decision-making, planning and project implementation. This rests upon civil society organizations, whose role should be to represent local communities with regard to decision-makers in order to ensure that systems of participatory and decentralized governance can be put in place. This is essential to ensure local appropriation of projects and, *in fine*, their success.

PROMOTING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

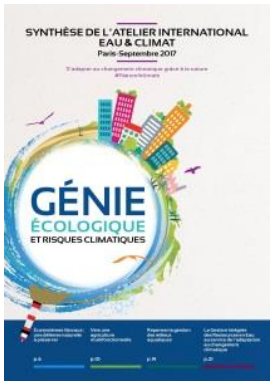
To achieve the international biodiversity targets set by the international community, a major effort must be made to implement Nature-based Solutions[3]. These enable wetland and water ecosystem recovery and restoration of their naturel function. They also help rivers reach good ecological status whilst guaranteeing better climate change adaptation and ecosystem creation. For example, restoration of floodplain and riparian buffer zones can help recover alluvial wetlands, with benefits for species they are home to and a reduction in the impacts of frequent floods downstream.

In 2020, the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) submitted at the COP21 will be reviewed. By then, particular attention should be drawn towards the links between climate and biodiversity. States must plan on integrating aquatic biodiversity conservation and Nature-based Solutions in particular as a tool for climate change adaptation.

[3] "Actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits." (IUCN, 2016)

THE FRENCH WATER PARTNERSHIP'S ACTIONS

- ## PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES OF EXPERTISE ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING, NATURAL INFRASTRUCTUE AND NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS



In anticipation of the COP23 in Bonn in November 2017 and the 8th World Water Forum in Brasilia in March 2018, the French Water Partnership was partner of an international workshop organized in Paris by the Seine Normandy Water Agency and the French Development Agency on the following theme: "Ecological engineering and climate risks". With case studies on coastal ecosystems, multifunctional agriculture, water habitat management and Integrated Water Resource Management, this workshop brought together stakeholders from around the world to discuss the role of ecosystems in the face of climate change.

Find out more by reading the summary of the workshop!

- ## ADVOCATING FOR WORLDWIDE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATURAL SOLUTIONS FOR WATER

On the COP23 Water Day in Bonn on Friday 10 November 2017, the French Water Partnership and the Global Alliance for Water and Climate launched the International Declaration Nature-based Solutions for Water management under Climate change. This Declaration calls for integration of Nature-based Solutions in global policies and strategies around climate change adaptation, land use planning and water resource management. Its signatories recognize the key role of Nature-based Solutions in addressing major societal challenges and providing multiple co-benefits for biodiversity and human well-being. Today, this Declaration has 101 signatories.

Join the global movement for Nature-based Solutions!

- ## PROMOTING FRENCH WATER EXPERTISE WORLDWIDE

Ever wondered what the French water stakeholders were doing in the world? Initiated by the French Water Partnership and the Scientific and Technical Association for Water and the Environment (ASTEE), the Water Expertise France platform is the first platform to reference French water know-how at international level, including expertise related to biodiversity. Thanks to this search tool, you will be able to see where French stakeholders' activities, their expertise, their projects, their contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals...

To find out more about the WeFrance range of tools, please visit: https://www.partenariat-francais-eau.fr/en/water-expertise-france/ and check out our video!

- **NATURE4WATER INITIATIVE: LAUNCHING AN AWARENESS RAISING VIDEO FOR AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY IN THE WORLD**

On the occasion of the 2018 edition of the World Water Week in Stockholm, the French Water Partnership is sounding the alarm on the rapid and severe decline in aquatic biodiversity worldwide. The FWP is alerting the global community on the very urgent need for conservation and restoration. It is launching its first video on issues linked to water biodiversity loss and erosion around the world. Through the eyes of aquatic species, discover the urgent challenges they face, the solutions that exist and the stakeholders involved. With a key message: Nature and humans: together for a common planet.

This video is also the first activity of the NATURE4WATER initiative, in line with the World Water Day 2018: 'the answer is in nature'. NATURE4WATER and its first video will officially be launched at the World Water Week in Stockholm on Monday 27 August at 1 pm at the French Water Partnership's booth. Come join us!

- **EVENT ON SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE AND LOCAL PERCEPTIONS OF NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS**

One of the biggest obstacles facing the implementation of Nature-based Solutions projects is the lack of recognition and awareness of the many benefits NbS can provide for health, food security, water quantity and quality, socio-economic development…

At World Water Week 2018, the French Water Partnership is co-organizing with IUCN International and Rare an interactive event on social acceptance and local perceptions of Nature-based Solutions.

Relying on case studies and bright spots, the event aims to develop a strategy to better take into account local stakeholders both in conceptualizing and implementing NBS projects, including how to shift local stakeholders' (donors, government authorities, local populations…) attitudes and behaviors associated with NBS towards acceptance.

Join us on Thursday 30 August, from 9 am to 10:30 am, in NL Music Hall. Check out the detailed program here.

ENGAGÉS POUR L'EAU DU MONDE

COMMITTED TO WATER FOR THE WORLD

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ILS SONT MEMBRES DU PARTENARIAT FRANCAIS POUR L'EAU
THEY ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE FRENCH WATER PARTNERSHIP

ET AUSSI AND ALSO

Shaddad ATTILI, Sophie AUCONIE, Patrice AURO, Bernard BARRAQUE, Marc BELENFANT, Jean-Paul CHANTEGUET, Adeline CLIFFORD, Diane D'ARRAS, Célia DE LAVERGNE, Michelle DEMESSINE, Bart DEVOS, Françoise DUMAS, Fabien DUPUIS, Teodolinda FABRIZI, Patrick FLICOTEAUX, Vincent FREY, Joël GIRAUD, Vincent GOUINAUD, Edouard GRIDEL, Patrice GUILLOUZIC, Bernard GUIRKINGER, Jean-Louis JANIN, Martin Luther KANNA VI, Ahmed KETTAB, Malika KHALILI, Brice LALONDE, François-Michel LAMBERT, Jean LAUNAY, Viviane LE DISSEZ, Arnould LEFEBURE, Nicolas LORNE, Thierry LUFULUABO KABAMBI, Emma LYNGEDAL, Daniel MARCOVITCH, Garance MARQUET, Brieux MICHOUD, Clara MINJOULAT-REY, Mbayi MUKENDI, Jeff NORVILLE, Benjamin NOURY, Jacques OUDIN, Gérard PAYEN, Ludovic PIRON, Christian RABENORO, Jean-Luc REDAUD, Jean-Claude REQUIER, Marcello SERRAO, Fanny SOUILLOT, Raya Marina STEPHAN, Claire TASSIN, Pierre-Frédéric TENIERE-BUCHOT, Jean-Marie TETARD, Saskia VAN PROOIJEN, Marie-Laure VERCAMBRE, Maggie WHITE, WaterClean.

NOS ACTIONS SONT POSSIBLES GRACE AU SOUTIEN DE
OUR ACTIONS WERE MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO

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The French Water Partnership is the go-to platform for all the public and private French water stakeholders,operating at international level. For more than 10 years, the FWP has been advocating for water so that it becomes a real priority in sustainable development policies worldwide. The FWP also stands as a facilitator for exchanges between the french and international water know-how.

Members of FWP develop projects that directly contribute to SDGs. For more information and details on these projects, visit the Water Expertise France website.

www.water-expertise-france.com