

Key messages | COP 24

Resilient water management plays a key role in tackling climate change and is crucial to achieving the objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement.

The demand for water is steadily growing with increased production of energy, food and manufacturing. Climate change intensifies these challenges by dramatically and rapidly changing the availability, reliability and quality of water resources.

To ensure sustainable development, food security and economic stability, water must be acknowledged and integrated into efforts to mitigate climate change and adapt to its adverse effects.

Parties and non-state parties to the convention need to systematically integrate and enforce resilient water management strategies; in the context of implementing their Nationally Determined Contributions, their National Adaptation Plans and within UNFCCC programs and mechanisms.

Since many aspects of climate impacts are uncertain, integrated freshwater-marine solutions should be robust (spanning a wide range of potential futures) and flexible (capable to responding to unexpected or alternative futures).

Climate finance should be designed in order to leverage and intensify the climate aspects of the SDG agenda. They should prioritise least developed countries (LDC) and their adaptation measures in order to mitigate future climate threats.

Water, landscapes and climate change

- Sustainable management of water in the landscape can contribute to both climate change mitigation and adaptation, as it can enhance carbon stocks and sinks as well as support adaptation of forest management and agriculture to more extreme climate conditions.
- The forest-water nexus needs to be considered and integrated into both policy and practice and effectively monitored.

Water for disaster risk reduction

- Improving community resilience and reducing chronic vulnerability to disasters – in the context of climate uncertainty – requires the mainstreaming of adaptive water management strategies within the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2030 Agenda and the UNFCCC's Paris agreement.
- Resilient water resource management can contribute to preventing and reducing the impacts of natural hazards; as well as recovering from them. Cross-sectoral coherence methods will ensure that preparation and recovery processes coordinate energy, water supply and sanitation, agriculture, and cities needs.

Freshwater and oceans - a source- to- sea approach

- Marine, riparian, and aquatic ecosystems provision critical adaptation and ecosystem services for communities and economies. Integrated basin-scale management from source waters to coastal, estuarine and marine systems is essential to ensure that the full range of fresh and saltwater resources are sustained.
- Agriculture, energy, fisheries, cities, infrastructure, and water abstraction and treatment must all be collectively engaged in planning, operations, and management from source-to-sea.

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