

TARGETING **CLIMATE CHANGE** MEANS TARGETING **WATER**

- **Water is not a sector – It is a “connector”** underpinning all parts of the society. Without wise management of water resources and hazards, socio-economic development in a warming climate will be at risk, and climate resilient communities will not be a reality.
- **Impact from climate change** on humans, society and the environment takes place through changes in the water cycle, increasing water hazards and affecting water availability.
- **Water is critical for successful climate change mitigation**, as many efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions depend on reliable access to water resources. It provides one of the best means for negotiating a coherent pathway between climate mitigation and adaptation on all levels.
- Given the pivotal importance of water in climate change, UNFCCC bodies need to systematically address the role of water in both adaptation and mitigation.
- SIWI and other partners of the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA) call for wise management of water resources to be thoroughly integrated in the future global 2015 Climate Agreement.

WATER DISASTERS, DRIVEN BY CLIMATE, ARE THE MOST FREQUENT DISASTERS AND CAUSE MOST DAMAGE

Since the Earth Summit in Rio 1992, floods, droughts and storms have affected 4.2 billion people (95% of all people affected by disasters) and caused USD 1.3 trillion of damage (63% of all damage).

WATER RELATED HAZARDS EXACERBATE INEQUALITIES AND ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY BORNE BY POOR AND VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES AND NATIONS

Water hazards challenges food and energy security, and threatens existing and planned infrastructure. Furthermore, water hazards strike women the hardest, making climate change an important gender issue.

WATER IS KEY FOR ADAPTATION AND OF GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR MITIGATION

Supporting adaptation for increased resilience means to minimize water hazards and maximize water resources. Simultaneously, access to water is crucial for energy production where future energy solutions and choices will have implications on water availability for other sectors.

ECOSYSTEM BASED ADAPTATION means working with the natural environment to prevent adverse impact from water hazards, improve access to water resources, and thereby increase resilience. Ecosystem based adaptation is cost-efficient adaptation.

ONGOING DEFORESTATION between 2000 and 2010 contributed 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Forest loss and degradation is estimated to cost the global economy – in loss of natural capital – between 1.3 trillion and 3.1 trillion USD per year.