



# AGWA's Annual Report

Part 1: Year in Review: September 2018 – August 2019

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## FOREWORD

“We need a map, and we need some water.”

Those were the words I said to my son last week when we decided to visit a remote part of high-elevation desert in our US state, a region with a population density closer to central Asia, the Sahara, or the Amazon than to California or western Europe. Given that we were headed far past mobile phone networks and any towns or farms, we needed camping supplies, a first aid kit, gear to change our car’s tires, and the equipment to do some fun stuff: binoculars, maybe a baseball and two gloves, some sturdy shoes. But above all we needed a map and water.

On the long drive to Abert Rim in eastern Oregon, it was hard for me not to think about how the climate impacts we face today demand a better map: not one for space, but one that guides decisions and provides options. How do we navigate through time, especially when so many of the impacts we face are confused, conflated, and unclear?

That “decision map” is the place where AGWA as a network has been focused. Our communities, infrastructure, livelihoods, and ecosystems are already experiencing profound changes, with more to come. Many of our systems for understanding choices and making decisions — as businesses, resource managers, farmers, investors, mayors, and even as parents — use an old map, one that is much better at showing where we have been rather than where we are going, much less where we could be going. Climate impacts are inherently disruptive. Climate resilience is inherently integrative, and resilient water management is the best way to realize that integration. What are your new choices? What are your new threats? Is adaptation about coping or thriving?

*Climate impacts are inherently disruptive. Climate resilience is inherently integrative, and resilient water management is the best way to realize that integration.*

For nine years now, AGWA as a network has been making maps: crowd-sourcing decision support systems for specific audiences, convening and linking partners together, giving voice to decision and policy makers at national and global levels, engaging with new “resilience” institutions and actors. Building tools and gathering insights in forms that can be implemented to foster permanent change.

Our past year was arguably our most successful, supporting representatives of more than 100 countries, seeing our decision making processes applied in dozens of countries, influencing billions USD in investment, articulating critical and innovative insights around climate change and water across reports and publications for development banks, scientists, resource managers, infrastructure operators, planners, and — yes — even our families.

Our annual report is intended both to celebrate these successes and to invite you to continue to extend the edges of our map together. As my son now knows, “We need a map, and we need some water.”

John Matthews  
August 2019  
Corvallis, Oregon, USA

## INTRODUCTION

After nearly a decade since its founding, AGWA maintains its original mission of catalyzing expert knowledge, practical action, and effective global policy for climate adaptation. As with any organization, our goals have expanded; we now work to emphasize the integral role of water in climate mitigation as well as other areas like disaster risk reduction (DRR), sustainable development, and more. Our 1500+ members provide us with unmatched expertise across the fields of engineering, policy, ecology, economics, finance, amongst other sectors. We continue to work primarily across two complementary and synergistic workstreams: developing technical approaches to resilient water management and driving the global water-climate policy agenda to support and enable more water-wise decisions, actions, and investments. And immeasurable progress has been made on all of these fronts. Throughout the following Annual Report, you will see how we as a member-driven network have become one of the global leaders for resilient water resources management and governance.

Highlights from the last year include:

- AGWA and Deltares trained national adaptation focal points from 100 countries on the latest developments in climate adaptation through regional UNFCCC workshops.
- Using certification criteria co-developed by AGWA, billions of dollars in certified climate bonds have gone to adaptation and mitigation projects in the water sector, including a nearly 6 billion € offering from the Dutch government this year alone.
- The CRIDA manual<sup>1</sup> for risk assessment and reduction published after years of development and involvement of over 100 AGWA members. The methodology has already been applied in over 20 countries and is making its way into policy directives in places like the U.S. state of California and the UNECE Protocol on Water and Health.
- IWMI and AGWA are co-leads on a water background paper for the Global Commission on Adaptation (publishing imminently), which will feed into the long-term action track on water guiding future work of the Global Center on Adaptation.
- AGWA was a vital voice for water at COP24, including but not limited to: official side event on Climate Change, Water and DRR; Marrakech Partnership Water Action Events; participating in German Pavilion, UN-Water and IPCC events; and a Facebook Live conversation about water and climate.
- Our Policy Director was a co-author of the UN-Water Climate Change & Water Policy Brief.
- Among other publications, a large group of AGWA members co-authored an article in *Global Water Forum*: Mastering Disaster in a Changing Climate: Reducing disaster risk through resilient water management
- AGWA's *ClimateReady* Podcast produced a second season covering a wide range of climate-water topics, reaching thousands of listeners worldwide engaged in the "story" of climate and water.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://agwaguide.org/CRIDA>

## History & Evolution

Founded in September 2010 during World Water Week by about 30 individuals, the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA) began as a network to catalyze expert knowledge, practical action, and effective global policy for climate adaptation. That mission continues now with more than 1500 members located worldwide and initiatives divided broadly into technical and policy areas. AGWA has expanded to serve as a platform for new perspectives on a wide variety of water and climate change issues, spanning both climate mitigation and climate adaptation. We strive to disseminate knowledge and advocate on critical technical and policy aspects of water and climate. To date, our technical programs have emphasized connecting thought leaders to develop a coherent set of guiding elements, processes, and methodologies for implementing robust and flexible long-term water management. Our policy work has defined a core set of issues, targeted relevant processes and policy frameworks, identified motivated and supportive policy and decision making actors, and developed approaches for communicating these issues to make changes in behavior.

In January 2019 AGWA took the next step in its organizational evolution and became a formally registered not-for-profit organization. AGWA is registered as a member-based charitable organization in the U.S. state of Oregon. Application is pending for official 501(c)(3) status in the U.S., with expected approval in late 2019. More details on the formalization process will be included in subsequent sections.

## Mission

The mission of AGWA is to provision tools, partnerships, guidance, and technical assistance to improve effective decision making, action, governance, and analytical processes in water resources management, focusing on climate adaptation and mitigation.

## Purpose

To serve the needs of our Members. These needs are conceived as falling into two broad categories:

1. Core network support, which includes sharing knowledge, connecting individuals and institutions to enable collaboration on water and climate projects and issues, identifying potential partners and growing the network; and promoting and advocating on the basis of existing tools, insights, and approaches.
2. Extended network support and outreach beyond the network, which includes technical assistance for project development and implementation; direct policy support; tool and methodological development; creating capacity building, educational, and training materials, programs, and workshops; and identifying and provisioning new programs and needs to reflect shifting conditions.

In addition, AGWA also values two cross-cutting purposes:

- To contribute to water and climate policies and practices to ensure they connect with, reach, and enable resilient communities and institutions.

- To foster and encourage dialogues between individuals and entities working on adaptation and mitigation of climate change, recognizing that water resources bridge these bodies of work.

### Membership

AGWA enables adaptation to climate change by closing the gap between existing knowledge and policies and practical application. The members of AGWA are dedicated to supporting efforts within governmental, civil society, development banks, research, and private sector institutions to develop knowledge and skills that can address issues of water-based climate change adaptation by promoting collaboration between emerging areas of expertise and translating the next generation of best practices into operational reality. Members are willing to join efforts and capacities, within their own fields of action, to attain AGWA's objectives.

### Governance

AGWA is a registered not-for-profit member's based organization guided by a community of practice charter.<sup>2</sup> AGWA is governed by two co-chairs, who also have seats on the Board of Directors. AGWA is led by its Executive Director, John Matthews, who reports to the Board of Directors. The current co-chairs are Maggie White (Stockholm International Water Institute [SIWI]) and Diego Rodriguez (World Bank). The work of the Executive Director and Board is supported by a small Secretariat currently comprised of an Executive Director, Network Director, Policy Director, and Program Officer. Major decisions and programs are ratified during an annual meeting, held in conjunction with World Water Week.

### The Virtuous Circle: Convergence between Practice and Policy

The past year has seen dramatic integration between AGWA's technical and policy work — operational knowledge of resilient water resources management and national and global policies and plans need one another in fundamentally novel ways. Frameworks such as the SDGs and the UNFCCC's Paris Agreement represent new models of development, and policymakers need to ensure they implement, while implementers need to policies to support and fund best practices. Contributors to the AGWA Policy Group are largely technical practitioners and water management professionals whose professional and personal interest has drawn them into engagement in the climate-water policy sphere; their expertise provides scientific merit to the policies and recommendations we develop and support. Conversely, many of AGWA's technical programs are led by individuals and institutions whose main emphasis or directive includes creating scientifically-robust and justifiable policies. Such has been the goal of AGWA's and SIWI's policy work for the past nine years — to systematically integrate resilient water management into global policy agendas to improve outcomes for both mitigation and adaptation and to reduce the increased risks to water resources brought on by climate change. These efforts have emerged from our broad network, clear sense of need, and our technical grounding to gather, synthesize, and advocate for how to define and implement resilience across a wide range of audiences

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<sup>2</sup> Details of AGWA's governance and charter are provided at <https://alliance4water.org/governance/governance-documents/>.

and contexts. Our technical credibility and interaction across the full water and climate communities have led us to serve as the interface between practitioners and national / global policymakers, translating needs, trends, language, and actions between both groups. As you will see from our ongoing and emerging engagements over the past year, this credibility has led to some exciting new partnerships and opportunities with a wider range of actors in the climate and water space.

### From Challenges to Opportunities: The Coming Year

Several areas are natural areas of focus for 2019–2020:

- Continued synthesis of our technical and policy programs will be integral in the coming year as countries and parties look to translate ambitions and commitments into concrete actions around climate and water (e.g., implementing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), etc.). The coming year will be institutionally significant in terms of its formal relationship with the UNFCCC as this is the first year we have been eligible to apply for Observer Organization status, meaning that, if accepted, we will have an official “voice” within the Convention, sending our own delegations to UNFCCC meetings instead of going through our accredited partners as we have done in the past. In addition, we are applying to join the NDC Partnership in order to be able to work more directly with countries on the preparation of their NDCs, leveraging our ongoing “Watering the NDCs” campaign.
- Fundraising remains an ongoing priority for AGWA, especially as our responsibilities (and corresponding overhead) increase. AGWA has been the recipient of generous support in the past, but we should always be looking for new opportunities for funds to support priority areas of engagement in line with our mission and purpose. Now that AGWA is a registered NGO, more opportunities should be available than in the past due to our prior informal network status.
- The small size of AGWA’s Secretariat can lead to missed opportunities periodically, especially as it relates to travel and representation at the expansive list of relevant climate-water events. AGWA’s Board has been discussing the creation of an advisory committee — a small group of active AGWA members helping to solidify funding relationships and open doors to new institutional and policy connections.
- UN Water has declared 2020 to have the theme of “Water and Climate,” which is also echoed for World Water Day 2020. We are developing messaging to connect our work to events across the year while leveraging our positions within groups such as the Marrakech Partnership on Global Climate Action (MPGCA), the #ClimateIsWater Campaign, and others to promote key messages around resilient water management and its role in mitigating and adapting to climate change.
- We will continue to develop our work around improving the coherence between climate change, water, and disaster risk reduction (DRR) policy. This past year has seen some evolution in our focus, working with our partners at Deltares and GWP among others to draft a new background paper on drought and advance recommendations for policymakers around the need for proactive drought risk planning across a range of timescales, geographies and governance levels.

# Part 1

## Year in Review: September 2018 – August 2019

### Activities Since the Last Annual Meeting

In the last year AGWA has undergone significant institutional changes while maintaining or expanding our level of activity. Perhaps most important was AGWA's transition from an informal network into an officially registered NGO (see more below).

### **AGWA's Transition to NGO Status**

AGWA has functioned largely as an NGO even though it was not registered as a legally independent entity when it was formed. As of late January 2019, AGWA has become organized as a US-based charitable members-based NGO. Since 2014, SIWI has acted as a “host” for the Secretariat in addition to its role as co-chair of the Steering Committee. Our close connections with SIWI will continue in the new state.

Our governance structure has shifted somewhat; our Steering Committee is now a Board of Directors, while the World Bank (Diego Rodriguez) and SIWI (Maggie White) now become co-chairs of AGWA's Board. AGWA is still governed by the same Community of Practice Charter, in addition to a new and legally binding set of bylaws.

While AGWA is an officially registered NGO in the U.S. state of Oregon, our tax status at federal level is pending approval as of this writing. Following approval (expected late 2019), AGWA will be certified as a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

### **Highlighting AGWA's Media Presence**

AGWA's influence within and outside of the climate adaptation community has continued to grow over the past year. In addition to internal press from AGWA, SIWI, and the World Bank, AGWA's work and expertise regularly appears in various media sources and publications.



Nature Podcast



History of Science Podcast



United Nations  
Climate Change



GLOBAL WATER FORUM



UN CC:Learn  
The One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership



### Policy Group Activities

First and foremost, we owe a giant thank you to our partner organizations and members who advance AGWA's work far beyond what our small Secretariat is able to accomplish on our own. We are so grateful for your support of our work, and we are humbled each year to see what has been accomplished by the AGWA network over the past twelve months. This is particularly true for the Policy Group. Given the sheer number of events, conferences and meetings held throughout the year, we simply cannot cover everything (no matter how hard we try!).

Nevertheless, the past 12 months have seen a steady expansion of AGWA's policy activities, so much so that we hired a part-time consultant in May 2019 to support our growing policy portfolio. Kathryn Pharr has been a D.C.- and now London-based AGWA member for several years and joined the Policy Group this spring to help coordinate our major events at World Water Week, COP25, and to assist with the preparation of key policy publications. Thanks in no small part to this additional support, we were able to expand our engagement with a number of new UNFCCC partners, the global DRR community, and national parties, while maintaining our status as a leader on water and climate change within the UNFCCC.

This augmentation of AGWA's policy portfolio can be seen as a natural outgrowth of our efforts over the past several years, steadily increasing our influence within the global climate and water communities, working to foster greater coherence between the global agendas and ensure water's place within national climate plans and programs. This intensified engagement also mirrors the calls for accelerated action within the global climate community itself as countries work to prepare the first round of national commitments, or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for 2020.

These national commitments, often referred to as the vehicle of the Paris Agreement, will guide national action and investment on climate change for the next ten years. The first round of revised NDCs are due in 2020, and AGWA has been working with its partners in the international water community to demonstrate how climate-resilient water management can be a key asset in achieving national climate mitigation and adaptation goals.

For the second year in a row we are serving as the focal point for the water community within the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action where we work to enshrine water within UNFCCC discussions, as well as the NDCs. In this capacity we continue to attend all Marrakech Partnership workshops and coordinate water action events at the annual UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP). This work is continuing in preparation for the next COP (COP25), to be held 2-13 December in Santiago, Chile. In this capacity, we work closely with partners including SIWI, the World Water Council, IUCN, the Global Alliances for Water and Climate (GAfWAC), the French Water Partnership, UNECE, and the broader #ClimatelsWater network.

Starting last year, we began publishing a monthly policy newsletter. The newsletter now has over 450 subscribers and, with more regular conference calls (which have included more than 50 people at once),

has become one of the primary tools for increasing the intensity, clarity, and collaboration for our policy work.

### Highlights from the Policy Group in 2018-2019:

#### Stockholm World Water Week Sessions

- **Status:** Complete
- **Brief Description:** At 2018's Stockholm World Water Week, AGWA co-organized two sessions and participated in over a dozen other sessions, side meetings and other events, and organized an AGWA Policy Group breakfast for network members working on or interested in our policy work.<sup>3</sup> The first session we organized was entitled "Mastering Disaster in the Anthropocene: Reconciling DRR and climate frameworks" focused on how water can serve as an effective bridge linking the global climate (Paris Agreement and the NDCs) and DRR (Sendai Framework and the national DRR plans) policy agendas.

The second session was a practitioner discussion following SIWI's High-level Dialogue on Building a Resilient Future Through Water. Using the Pacific tradition of Talanoa, the official format of the UNFCCC's 2018 facilitative dialogue on achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, this session featured stories and conversation among practitioners working to demonstrate that resilient water management can be a powerful organizing principle reconciling these bodies of policy.

#### UNFCCC (COP24, Adaptation Committee, SB 50)

- **Status:** Ongoing
- **Brief Description:** COP24, held from 3-14 December 2018 in Katowice, Poland, was driven primarily by the need for Parties to adopt the Paris Rulebook, i.e., the implementation guidelines for the Paris Agreement. With the Rulebook now adopted, it is up to countries to finalize and implement their climate plans, which is why AGWA —along with partners at Deltares, SIWI, SEI, Wetlands International, the World Water Council, GIZ, and the UN High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP) —co-organized an official COP24 side event on water, climate and DRR designed to demonstrate water's essential role in implementing the NDCs, NAPs and DRR strategies.<sup>4</sup> The discussion, building on our event at World Water Week 2018, featured experts working in cities and regions across the globe to reduce disaster risk and improve climate resilience within their communities, providing positive examples and inspiration for countries looking to improve their NDCs, NAPs, and national disaster risk reduction strategies, reduce competition for investment, and lessen the risk of project failure or maladaptation. This session also coincided with a paper co-authored in Global Water Forum: "Mastering disaster in a changing climate: Reducing disaster risk through resilient water

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<sup>3</sup> <https://alliance4water.org/events/worldwaterweek2018/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://alliance4water.org/events/cop24/>

management.”<sup>5</sup> We also had the opportunity to record a Facebook Live session on climate change and water, which was featured on the official UNFCCC Facebook page,<sup>6</sup> and participate in a number of other events put on by UN-Water, FAO, the IPCC, and the German and Nordic Pavilions.

For 2018, Ingrid served as the focal point for water within the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, meaning AGWA led the coordination of the MPGCA COP24 water events and cross-cutting roundtable on energy, land use, and water. The Water Action Event was divided into two parts: the first focused on resilient NDCs and the second on innovation for climate- and water-resilient production and consumption (linked to SDG 12), engaging a broad spectrum of sectors. The cross-cutting roundtable discussed the interlinkages between land use, water, and energy systems, demonstrating the complexity of the issues and the need for integrated approaches to managing land, water, and energy.

Leading the execution of these events has cemented AGWA’s role as an integral player within the Marrakech Partnership. However, the Marrakech Partnership mandate under the UNFCCC is set to expire in 2020, meaning that it will be up to the member countries of the UNFCCC to renew this mandate for an additional five year term. While it is unlikely that the countries will decide to discontinue their engagement with civil society organizations (the primary purpose of the Marrakech Partnership), it is less clear what form this engagement will take post-2020. It is entirely possible that the Marrakech Partnership will be re-branded or even re-configured with a new platform and new modes of engagement. This uncertainty over the future of the Partnership is just one of the reasons why AGWA has been expanding its engagement with other UNFCCC sub-committees, including the Adaptation Committee (AC), the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP), and the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE).

Why engage with these groups? These so-called “constituted bodies” of the UNFCCC support and build the capacity of UNFCCC member countries to implement their national climate change mitigation and adaptation plans via multiple modalities knowledge sharing platforms, workshops, financial support and expert reports. Given AGWA’s capacity building and training expertise, we believe that working more closely with these bodies makes a lot of sense. For this reason, Ingrid attended the 15th meeting of the AC in March, as well as meetings of the NWP, CGE and the recently-formed Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB) at the UNFCCC Intersessional Climate Conference (SB 50) in June. In these meetings we identified a number of areas where AGWA can contribute to their particular mandates over the coming years. While not all of these initiatives will likely become flagship AGWA projects, we are committed to working with the UNFCCC to ensure that water is part of the climate conversation during the

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.globalwaterforum.org/2018/12/02/mastering-disaster-in-a-changing-climate-reducing-disaster-risk-through-resilient-water-management/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/Alliance4Water/videos/265486594141164/>

implementation phase of the Paris Agreement. Strengthening our strategic engagement with these groups over the coming year is one of our biggest policy priorities.

### **Watering the NDCs Guidance and Initiative**

- Status: Preparing to launch outreach
- Brief Description: NDCs are national statements about how countries plan to contribute to UNFCCC mitigation and adaptation goals in five-year increments. Water of course is central to meeting these goals in every country, but very little guidance for national focal points exists to guide the development and implementation of the NDCs in any way, much less water's role. In a convening role, AGWA has been crowd-sourcing with hundreds of potential users (e.g., national adaptation focal points) to draft a targeted guidance document for countries on how to integrate resilient water management into their NDCs to ensure coherent plans. We are also working with national partners, such as El Salvador and Germany, in order to craft and advance the messages of this work with the intended audience. In consultation with these partners, we have circulated this 6-page guidance to ensure that the information provided is actually useful and could be applied at the national level. We plan to officially launch the document this year and to use it at our Water Action events at COP25 and beyond.

### **DRR and Climate Change (Global Platform 2019; HELP paper on drought)**

- Status: Ongoing
- Brief Description: In addition to our World Water Week and COP24 events on the topic of climate change and DRR, in May 2019 AGWA's Policy Director attended the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction's bi-annual conference (GP2019) for the first time. Held every two years, this conference is the largest gathering of the global DRR community with dozens of events covering a wide range of disaster risk management topics. One of the key takeaways from GP2019 was the similar language used by the DRR community in both framing and responding to the complex and interrelated threats that we collectively face. The emphasis on uncertainty, risk-based management, and preventative action was everywhere in the sessions, and closely mirrors the messages AGWA has been promoting for years. This revelation was quite useful and has begun to inform our continued engagement with the DRR community, particularly on the issue of drought, a topic suggested by the Dutch government and Deltares.

Late last year, in response to a request from our institutional partners at Deltares, the AGWA Secretariat began putting together a short briefing paper on drought, highlighting how interventions needed for drought alleviation, management and recovery often differ from managing floods and storms, which have historically received the bulk of the attention from the DRR community. Given the potential for drought to have a sustained impact on communities, entire regions, economies and ecosystems, we feel this is an area of water management deserving greater attention from the DRR and climate communities. This paper was initially prepared for the High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP); we are now working with partners including the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and Deltares to

develop it into a more comprehensive policy document and programme of work to link DRR and climate policy and practice.

### UN High Level Political Forum / SDGs

- Status: Ongoing
- Brief Description: This year AGWA engaged with the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), held 9-18 July at the UN Headquarters in New York City, mostly through our SIWI partners, who attended both weeks and covered the presentations of the SDGs being reviewed, especially SDG 13 (climate change), and the voluntary national reviews (VNRs), during which selected countries review progress on achieving their SDG targets. SIWI attended the relevant water and climate side events and delivered a closing remark on behalf of the MGOS stakeholder group at the closing of the HLPF on resilient water management as a means to implementing the 2030 Agenda. A dedicated communications campaign page<sup>7</sup> was created for HLPF 2019 and specific policy briefs<sup>8,9</sup> were produced. In addition, AGWA's Policy Director, Ingrid Timboe, was invited to speak on behalf of UN-Water at an official HLPF side event launching UN-Water's new policy brief on climate change and water. Ingrid, along with independent water and climate change expert José Gestí Canuto, were the primary authors of this new paper, an update of UN-Water's 2009 brief on the same topic. This document will be used by UN-Water at the upcoming UN Secretary General's Conference on Global Climate Action, as well as COP25 and throughout the 2020 water and climate events.

### Global Commission on Adaptation Water Strategy

- Status: Mid stages
- Brief Description: In 2018 the Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA) was formed to help communities, cities, and countries proactively prepare for the disruptive effects of climate change. As part of this initiative, IWMI and AGWA were asked to prepare a background document on water and adaptation to inform both the Commission as well as the resulting "Action Tracks" that are now being developed to guide future adaptation action (and finance) across a range of sectors. Publication is imminent. Writing on AGWA's side is led by our ED with contributions from other members of our Secretariat. Various AGWA members have been involved in the external review process, providing valuable insight.

## Technical & Capacity Building Programs

### Graduate and Professional Development Courses

- Status: Ongoing
- Brief Description: One ongoing method for effective training around water and climate issues has been engagement with universities and similar institutions. AGWA's ED led the climate module of an SDG Academy / SIWI MOOC on water that ran from January through March 2019,

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.siwi.org/siwi-high-level-political-forum/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.siwi.org/publications/connecting-the-sdgs-through-resilient-water-management/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.siwi.org/publications/water-diplomacy-facilitating-dialogues/>

which enrolled more than 6000 participants worldwide.<sup>10,11</sup> The course will be repeated in October 2019.

### **UNFCCC Training for Adaptation Focal Points**

- Status: Completed
- Brief Description: AGWA asked by the UNFCCC Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) to contribute to three regional multi-day workshops for roughly a total of 100 national governments on how to help countries and communities adjust to climate impacts expressed through freshwater. Regional workshops were held for Africa, Latin America and Caribbean (LAC), and Eastern Europe & Asia-Pacific. AGWA's ED and colleagues from Deltares led portions of each workshop around water, climate adaptation, and implementation. They primarily focused on the numerous bottom-up adaptation approaches promoted within the AGWA network. CGE works directly with national governments to provide them with access and training on the state of the art in climate relevant knowledge. The LAC workshop was held in Paraguay in September 2018 followed by the Eastern Europe & Asia-Pacific in Nepal in October 2018.

### **EU Technical Expert Group on Sustainable Finance**

- Status: Ongoing
- Brief Description: AGWA's ED was named an adaptation advisor for a small Technical Expert Group advising the EU on its sustainable finance initiative for adaptation, agriculture and forestry, water, and energy. The TEG was tasked with developing criteria for a wide variety of financial instruments in the EU, with final criteria possibly leading to EU finance regulatory standards.

### **Global UNFCCC CGE Adaptation Course**

- Status: Early stages
- Brief Description: Following the three regional CGE workshops in 2018, the AGWA Secretariat has worked with CGE to develop a longer-term partnership around climate risk and capacity building – potentially taking the form of a climate risk assessment month-long academy hosted at three universities each year. The project is still in the planning phase, with potential for launch as soon as mid-2020.

### **City Water Resilience Approach**

- Status: Early stages
- Brief Description: AGWA remains part of a multi-year project to develop and implement a water resilience methodology, consisting of an overarching City Water Resilience Approach (CWRA)<sup>12</sup> and a more specific application called the City Water Resilience Framework. Leadership for the project is comprised of numerous AGWA members, including individuals from Arup, SIWI, the

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<sup>10</sup> <https://sdgacademy.org/course/water-addressing-global-crisis/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://vimeo.com/showcase/5589073>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.arup.com/perspectives/city-water-resilience-approach>

Resilience Shift, and others. AGWA's Secretariat is predominantly focused on the engagement strategy. We have contributed to and participated in events at COP24 promoting the CWRP as well as the project's annual meeting in London (January 2019).

### **Mainstreaming Nature-Based Solutions with Asian Development Bank**

- Status: Early stages
- Brief Description: ADB has asked AGWA to take on an advising role in helping them to develop a mechanism for mainstreaming nature-based solutions (NBS) within their project development cycle through a Working Paper. The goal is to align NBS with DRR and climate change, and the project will initially target water, urban, and transport sectors.

### **Resilient Water Infrastructure through Climate Bonds**

- Status: Mid stages
- Brief Description: AGWA began supporting work on developing resilience criteria for water-related green and climate bonds in September 2014. Dozens of AGWA members have contributed to the crowd-sourced effort over the years, with AGWA's ED taking on a leading role in the technical development of the criteria. The project is part of their broader Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI) Climate Bonds Standard Certification Scheme. The first set of criteria targeted traditional gray infrastructure with the exception of hydropower and formally launched in October 2016. The criteria were expanded in May 2018 to include nature-based and hybrid water infrastructure. World Resources Institute started a new phase of work with the AGWA Secretariat in December 2018 to promote and support applications of the NBS criteria. The project will last 18 months. The new NBS criteria were part of a nearly 6 billion euro issuance from the government of the Netherlands in May 2019.<sup>13</sup> AGWA members have also been part of a team developing climate bonds criteria for hydropower projects, which is still under review with expected launch later in 2019.

### **Knowledge Platform on Bottom-Up Approaches**

- Status: Mid stages, seeking funding
- Brief Description: AGWA launched a technical knowledge platform in late 2017 as part of a World Bank funded project to highlight bottom-up approaches, increase understanding and capacity around the topic, and support individuals and institutions who wish to reorient towards these methods. No additional funding was received in the past year for major Knowledge Platform (KP) development. Still, the KP hosts the *ClimateReady* Podcast, which had a successful second season. The Secretariat continued to publish a quarterly *AGWA Guide* newsletter on technical approaches to adaptation as supplemental material to the KP. The newsletter audience grew throughout the past year (see more in Appendix 1). The Knowledge Platform was curated throughout the year by the addition of further publications, case studies, and other materials. More funding is being sought in order to make larger revisions and upgrades to the KP in late 2019 or early 2020.

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.wri.org/blog/2019/06/conservation-finance-takes-netherlands-issues-one-largest-green-bonds-ever>

### **Climate Risk Informed Decision Analysis (CRIDA) Launch and Implementation**

- Status: Mid stages
- Brief Description: After years of development, the CRIDA manual was published in October 2019 as a joint publication of UNESCO IHP and ICIWaRM.<sup>14</sup> CRIDA marks a major rethink in how we assess and reduce climate-related risks. The methodology and resulting publication were the results of a crowd-sourced initiative including over a hundred members of the AGWA network and many core partners including the World Bank, USACE, the Rijkswaterstaat (Dutch Infrastructure and Environment Ministry), Deltares, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and the Pegasys Foundation among others. UNESCO held an official launch event at its Paris Headquarters in October, with participation from AGWA and the writing team. The CRIDA publication had other launches as well. A launch / promotional event was held at COP24 at the IPCC booth in December. Immediately afterwards, AGWA organized a launch in the U.S. with Millennium Challenge Corporation for the American Geophysical Union Annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Core Dutch partners also held an event for the CRIDA publication in Den Haag in December. Efforts have shifted more towards training and implementation of the methodology. CRIDA is now being or has been implemented in over 20 countries including for single investments worth up to 20 million euros, with many instances being independently led by groups other than AGWA. In the U.S. state of California, the governor's office has created a new executive order about water-centric climate adaptation, including a strong emphasis on the types of bottom-up risk-based approaches promoted by AGWA and our partners such as the World Bank. Members of AGWA's Board are helping to guide implementation of the approaches in California, while AGWA is involved in a three-day summit covering these topics in Sept. 2019. Emphasis is also being placed on training and capacity building. In April 2019, the University of Idaho invited AGWA's ED to run a two-day CRIDA training workshop for faculty as well as graduate students in engineering, law, and ecology. Then, in May 2019 UNESCO organized a week-long CRIDA workshop in South Africa focused on developing regional applications and projects. Sessions were led by CRIDA partners from the USACE, Deltares, UNESCO, and AGWA's ED.

### **SNAPP: Assessing the Water Quantity Benefits from Source Water Protection**

- Status: Mid stages
- Brief Description: AGWA is on the core team for SNAPP, along with TNC, Conservation International, and Forest Trends. SNAPP intends to develop a knowledge synthesis to improve water quantity and resilience by focusing on source water protection activities. The design is twofold: assess the opportunity for source water protection to reduce flooding risks associated with land use and climate change and 2) integrate principles and guidance into decision support. The AGWA Secretariat is serving as part of the principal investigators team leading the effort. Methods used include CRIDA and WB's DTF. The group held events at SWWW 2018 and in California in November 2018 with the core team and potential adopters. A final workshop is in preparation for fall 2019.

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<sup>14</sup> [https://agwaguide.org/docs/CRIDA\\_June\\_2019.pdf](https://agwaguide.org/docs/CRIDA_June_2019.pdf)

### **Nature Insurance value: Assessment and Demo (NAIAD)**

- Status: Final stages
- Brief Description: The goal of the EU Horizon2020 project is to operationalize the insurance value of ecosystems to reduce the human and economic cost of risks associated with water (floods and droughts) by developing and testing — with key insurers and municipalities — the concepts, tools, applications and instruments (business models) necessary for its mainstreaming.<sup>15</sup> As part of SIWI's NAIAD delegation, the AGWA Secretariat has contributed to a number of work packages, including a survey of key audiences and the insurance industry as well as participation in the NAIAD Annual Meeting in Slovenia (January 2019). AGWA is also advising on the application of NBS green bonds criteria and bottom-up methodologies to demo utility/flood control sites.

### **Outreach**

#### **Climate Risk Informed Decision Analysis (CRIDA): Collaborative Water Resources Planning for an Uncertain Future**

- Status: Completed
- Brief Description: As discussed above, the CRIDA publication was officially launched in October 2018. The book was the culmination of work by AGWA and partners dating back at least eight years. Printed copies were distributed at major launch events while a full open-source copy is available through the Knowledge Platform<sup>16</sup> or the UNESCO website.

#### **UN-Water Policy Brief on Climate Change and Water**

- Status: Completed
- Brief Description: AGWA's Policy Director was brought on to co-author an updated policy brief on climate change and water for UN-Water.<sup>17</sup> Key messages from the 20-page document were presented at the UN-Water High-Level Political Forum Side Event on climate and water on 12 July 2019 at the UN Headquarters in New York.

#### **Wellspring: Source Water Resilience and Climate Adaptation**

- Status: Completed
- Brief Description: The AGWA Secretariat partnered with The Nature Conservancy and the Global Resilience Partnership to create a white paper on how source water protection needs to be secured for adaptation and the role that it can play in adaptation. Writing for the book-length publication began in January 2019 with its release in August 2019.

#### **World Water Development Report (WWDR) 2020**

- Status: Early stages
- Brief Description: Both of the co-chairs of AGWA's Board were asked to lead chapters for the

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<sup>15</sup> [www.naiad2020.eu](http://www.naiad2020.eu)

<sup>16</sup> <https://agwaguide.org/CRIDA>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.unwater.org/publications/un-water-policy-brief-on-climate-change-and-water/>

2020 World Water Development Report (WWDR) under the theme of “water and climate change.” SIWI was the lead for chapters on international policy frameworks and governance. The World Bank led a chapter on climate finance. As a good example of multi-level engagement, the writing and review process involved members of the Board, the Secretariat, and general membership. The publication will be launched in 2020.

### **The *ClimateReady* Podcast**

- Status: Middle stages
- Brief Description: AGWA has successfully completed two seasons of the *ClimateReady* Podcast.<sup>18</sup> The show is led by the Secretariat, with involvement and interviews from numerous AGWA members. A third season is in preparation with a planned launch for September 2019. The podcast originally launched in November 2017 as a tool to increase capacity around climate adaptation and water through diverse stories and expert interviews. Similar to Season 1, the second season was comprised of ten episodes covering a wide range of topics from the science-policy interface to coastal adaptation to traditional ecological knowledge. Episodes average around 1,000 listens each, with the final episode receiving over 2,300 listens. The free podcast is available on all major podcast services and hosted on AGWA’s Knowledge Platform.

### **UNESCO IHP Policy Brief on Bottom-Up Approaches**

- Status: Mid stages
- Brief Description: The objective of this policy brief is to present hydrological application in the context of uncertainty, but also to prescribe solution-oriented tools towards the implementation of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, and to communicate the relevance and applicability of bottom-up approaches for risk assessment and reduction to senior water managers in order to scale up implementation and adoption. UNESCO IHP organized the project, with support from ICIWaRM and writing contributions from AGWA. The paper will be launched at the UN Climate Summit in September 2019 with more promotion at COP25 and elsewhere.

### **Global Commission on Adaptation: Water Background Paper**

- Status: Final stages
- Brief Description: IWMI and AGWA partnered to prepare a 20-30 page briefing document on the role of water in climate adaptation. The primary audience is intended to be practitioners and decision makers working to prioritize programs and activities. The briefing document should also serve to guide GCA priorities and report critical needs on adaptation to global and national policy audiences, such as the UNFCCC. The project began in early January 2019 with expected publication in September 2019.

### **“Watering the NDCs” Paper for Climate Policymakers**

- Status: Final stages
- Brief Description: With key partners in early to mid-2019, AGWA prepared a short guidance

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<sup>18</sup> [www.climateready.org](http://www.climateready.org)

paper designed to help countries improve the effectiveness of their national commitments (NDCs and NAPs) by ensuring that water is accounted for in a robust and resilient way throughout their climate plans and activities. The paper lays out several guiding principles for managing water and climate, along with high-level recommendations for policy makers and resources and examples from several existing NDCs.

#### **#ClimateIsWater Initiative**

- Status: Ongoing
- Brief Description: We continue to sit on the steering committee for the World Water Council-hosted #ClimateIsWater initiative.<sup>19</sup> #CIW is a communications campaign designed to amplify shared messages around climate change and water. The long-term aim of #ClimateIsWater is to strengthen the position of water within the climate negotiations and the UNFCCC processes. Over the past year we developed messages for COP24 and are working on additional messages for COP25 - and beyond.

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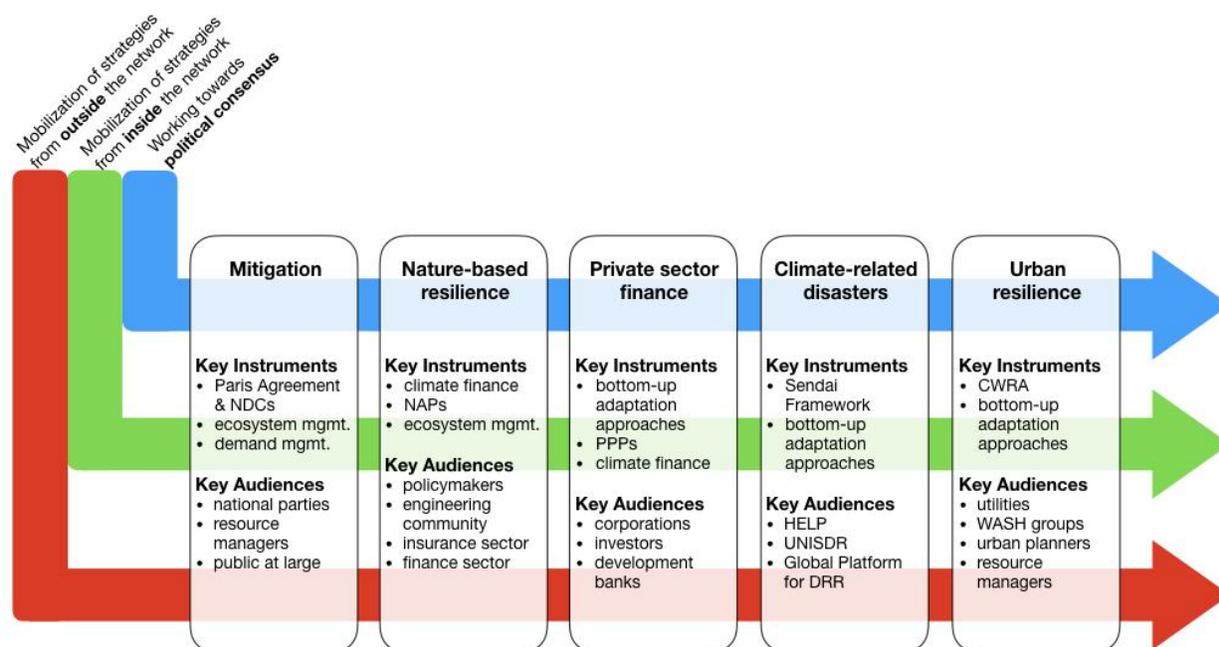
<sup>19</sup> <http://www.climateiswater.org/>

## Part 2

# The Year Ahead: September 2019 – August 2020

### Objectives for AGWA’s 2019 – 2020 work

In the past several years, AGWA has become one of the most prominent voices on water and climate change. Our strategies and actions have placed us in a well respected position of authority, especially within the water community. As we look forward, AGWA will prioritize a different approach in the coming year. We will pivot from more of an emphasis on *influence* and *adoption* of key messaging towards an emphasis on *attribution* and *visibility*. AGWA and its partners are deeply involved in a myriad of topics relating to resilient water management. Now we would like to raise our visibility to capitalize on the groundbreaking efforts underway or in preparation. Below are the proposed priority areas to communicate and work around in the coming year.



**Figure 1:** Attribution and Visibility Strategy. The proposed areas of emphasis will each be carried out by layers of cross-cutting actions.

Each of the clusters above touches on different aspects of resilient water management. Our work around global policy as well as technical approaches to adaptation will manifest differently in each of these areas. In the following sections, we go into slightly more detail for each cluster of the strategy listed above, while highlighting a number of proposed and upcoming initiatives.

### Proposed 2019–2020 Themes

The body of work relating to water and climate has exploded in the past two years, and a key challenge for AGWA now may be balancing coherence with focus. How do we continue to advance a useful agenda? In the past, progress often came by adding activities and increasing our scope of work. Today,

we are choosing to narrow or discard some activities. For the coming year, we've proposed five areas to organize our actions, all of which may span policy, technical, and capacity-building categories.

### **Climate Mitigation / Greenhouse Gas Emissions Targets**

Most discussions of water and climate change have focused on climate adaptation, but resilient water management is also key to securing and ensuring our climate mitigation gains. AGWA would like to establish a more clear connection between policy and technical decision making processes related to ecosystem management and climate change mitigation.

### **Nature-based Resilience**

Nature-based solutions can be effective tools in achieving climate mitigation or adaptation goals. AGWA has been actively engaged in numerous projects around nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation over the years. We propose a continuation of this line of work through multiple initiatives aimed at nature-based resilience.

### **Private Sector Adaptation: The Corporate Role**

To date, AGWA's work around assessing and reducing water-climate risks through CRIDA and other bottom-up approaches has focused largely on the public sector. Engaging with businesses on their internal risks and more general community responsibilities and "fair share" remain a large opportunity.

### **Climate-related Disasters**

In the past year we have made progress to close gaps between the policy realms of DRR, climate change, and water risk management. We aim to continue this pursuit in the coming year with an emphasis on water-related disasters including droughts.

### **Urban Resilience**

As more people flock to cities around the globe, increasing demands are being placed on urban water systems. Climate change and other unprecedented stressors will exacerbate the challenges related to cities' water security in the decades to come. AGWA will work with partner organizations to address the issues facing cities in terms of infrastructure, water supply / delivery, WASH, and other areas.

## **Proposed Capacity Building & Technical Activities**

### **UNFCCC-AGWA Partnership Global Adaptation Courses**

Following AGWA's collaboration with the UNFCCC Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) in 2018, we have been exploring the development of a global university consortium that can deliver a series of month-long UNFCCC-branded program for implementing effective water-centric adaptation training for national adaptation focal points. AGWA is serving a coordinating role while the regional training programs would be led by universities, but we will be defined as a core partner with the UNFCCC for the courses. As of this time, AGWA has identified all three universities, a concept note has been prepared, and MoUs are being agreed upon between CGE and Oregon State University, the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), and IHE Delft Institute for Water Education. Proposed courses would begin in mid-2020.

### **Urban Resilience: City Water Resilience Approach & IWA Working Group on Urban Resilience**

AGWA will continue to work on the Arup-led CWRA project. Among other tasks, AGWA's role will emphasize the CWRA engagement strategy as the program moves beyond the initial set of cities into a more general programmatic approach. In addition, building on IWA's "Water Wise Cities" efforts, AGWA has been exploring the creation of a new working group for its members that would focus on bottom-up risk assessment and risk reduction processes — specifically in the context of cities with an emphasis on their relevance to water utilities and CWRA more generally. A joint work plan will be developed with potential for webinars or other outputs to support urban water utilities.

### **Mobilizing Finance through Climate Bonds**

With the expansion of the Water Infrastructure Criteria of the Climate Bonds Standard, AGWA has begun working with WRI to scale up efforts and utilization of bonds as finance for green and hybrid water infrastructure.<sup>20</sup> In addition to the Water Infrastructure Criteria, AGWA members have been part of the Technical Working Group behind the development of a forthcoming Hydropower Sector Criteria for Climate Bonds.<sup>21</sup> Pending approval and release of the new hydropower criteria, the AGWA Secretariat will work to promote the standard and its uptake for relevant projects.

### **NAIAD**

The EU Horizon2002 NAIAD project is entering its final stages. AGWA, together with partners at SIWI, contributes to a number of work packages, including work around policy frameworks, insurance and influencing climate adaptation choices, and the finance mechanisms for natural assurance schemes.

### **SDG Tradeoffs Around Water, Climate, and the Environment**

AGWA's Secretariat will work with FAO to develop a framework and pathway for making national and subnational recommendations about the role of water for SDGs 2, 6, and 13 — potentially with input from various AGWA network members. Outputs will likely include workshops and a final report in late 2019 or early 2020. The project will likely commence in Sept. 2019 and is intended to explore how we operationalize the SDG agriculture production targets while also staying mindful of the two parts of the "utility" that supply agricultural water: ecosystems and the climate.

### **UNECE / WHO Working Group on Water and Health**

The UNECE and WHO chair a WASH group called the Working Group on Water and Health. The group has adopted CRIDA in their next three-year work plan as part of their efforts to build capacity to increase resilience to climate change. AGWA and others who work on CRIDA, including colleagues at Deltares, will likely be called upon for input and guidance as the work plan enters into the implementation phase.

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<sup>20</sup> <https://www.climatebonds.net/standard/water>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.climatebonds.net/hydropower>

### **UNESCO CRIDA Workshop**

Following the launch of the CRIDA publication, the CRIDA program is now led by UNESCO IHP. They have proposed hosting a CRIDA meeting in late 2019 or early 2020.

### **Water, Adaptation, and the Private Sector**

On consultation with some key AGWA partners including Microsoft, CDP, the Climate Bonds Initiative, and others, we propose the development of a brief but focused guidance on private sector water resilience developed like CRIDA, with a core set of partners and crowd-sourced for clarity and relevance, to help businesses integrate resilient water awareness and management within their core business practices. We will include two workshops (one in the US, one in Europe) to refine these efforts.

### **Water and Climate Change Mitigation**

We propose creating a set of sound recommendations about the water-influenced choices we are making around climate mitigation and water, ultimately producing a report to guide policy and technical decision making processes, especially at the NDC level. To help refine the science and policy recommendations around wetlands and mitigation, AGWA proposes holding a workshop bringing together relevant parties engaged in this work.

### **Website Revisions**

AGWA's main website ([alliance4water.org](http://alliance4water.org)) has not undergone a significant revision since 2012. We plan to completely redo the site, keeping the main features that work and figuring out new pages or sections most useful to our audience. AGWA's companion site for technical approaches to adaptation (a.k.a., AGWA's Knowledge Platform; [AGWAguide.org](http://AGWAguide.org)) will also undergo major work in the coming year. The Knowledge Platform's structure will remain largely unchanged, and the emphasis will be on content expansion and development.

## **Ongoing Policy Group Activities**

The coming year includes a number of "core" AGWA policy events and activities such as World Water Week and the annual COP and Bonn Intersessional Climate Conferences. As we did this year, we will continue to engage with a number of additional UNFCCC groups in order to deepen our relationship with these key climate actors. In addition, water and climate change is the 2020 theme for the global water community: World Water Day, the World Water Development Report and Stockholm World Water Week 2020 are all centered around this topic. Given this convergence, along with the fact that countries will be submitting their first official NDCs under the Paris Agreement, we will take an active role in promoting climate-resilient water management tools and approaches throughout the year and also work to bring our climate change partners into the discussion. For example, SIWI has invited the UNFCCC to take an active role in organizing World Water Week 2020 and will work closely with our SIWI colleagues on developing the program.

## Policy Group Activities: New Frontiers

While the past 12 months have seen positive growth in our policy portfolio, over the next year we will be looking to further leverage our work on resilient water management at scale beyond the water community. Some progress has been made in this area, but our messages have yet to find a true “home” within the climate policy spheres. Improving our visibility takes time and attention, which is why we are placing more of an emphasis on several multi-year projects - blending our technical and policy expertise - in order to help cement resilient water management practices more centrally within climate plans and activities.

As was mentioned in the “looking back” section above, we are in the beginning stages of developing curriculum for a new **four-week adaptation training program** sponsored by the UNFCCC’s Consultative Group of Experts (CGE). This training course is intended for adaptation professionals working to design and implement the NDCs at both the national and local levels and will be run each year at three different universities in Asia, Europe/Africa and North/South/Latin America respectively. The participants will be sponsored by the CGE to attend and learn about a range of adaptation tools and practices, including climate-resilient water management. Through this certification course, we will be able to reach dozens of new climate practitioners from around the globe directly each year and will indirectly reach hundreds more as the graduates work to implement their new knowledge with others in their home countries.

In July 2019, we received the official country support needed to join **the NDC Partnership** (NDCP), an international coalition of countries and institutions working to coordinate and mobilize action on climate change and sustainable development. The NDCP pairs countries who request assistance on specific elements of their NDCs with other countries and institutions that can provide peer-to-peer knowledge sharing, technical guidance, and access to financial resources in order to enhance and improve national climate change solutions. By joining the NDCP, we have a new opportunity to work directly with countries on integrating climate-resilient water management into their climate change plans and activities.

We will also have the opportunity to contribute to the NDC Knowledge Portal, an online compendium of tools, data, guidance and case studies aimed at helping countries reach their climate and sustainable development goals. This Knowledge Portal is precisely the type of outlet we are trying to reach with our initiatives such as “watering the NDCs” or CRIDA that provide practical guidance for countries on how to integrate climate-resilient water management within their climate plans and institutions. Membership in the NDCP represents a major step forward for AGWA in terms of enhancing the visibility of our work, and we are excited to see how we can best contribute to the countries of the NDCP over the coming years.

This September, the **Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA)** will release its flagship report on climate change adaptation, identifying why accelerated climate adaptation is necessary, what actions need to be taken and how these strategies and actions can be implemented now. Thanks in large part to our partners at WRI and in the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, there will be a water chapter in this flagship report (in addition to the GCA background paper on water prepared jointly

by AGWA and IWMI), as well as a dedicated water “Action Track.” The Action Tracks are one of the key outputs from the Commission, designed to guide the work of the Global Center on Adaptation going forward. Each track includes tangible, actionable targets which will address blockages and enable accelerated learning to take place across similarly themed programs and geographic regions. In addition to authoring the background report, we will be working over the coming year(s) to support the work of the GCA on climate change adaptation and water issues, including in preparation for the global Climate Adaptation Summit, to be held in October 2020 in the Netherlands.

While the medium-to-long term strategy of the Global Center is not yet well defined, these are issues near and dear to AGWA and we are working with groups like the GCA to develop tools and approaches that can help build a resilient future. Given the urgent importance of implementing climate adaptation now to avoid and alleviate the worst impacts of climate change, it is encouraging to see the considerable political buy-in and support for the GCA’s work coming from countries, the business community and key financial institutions. Our hope is that this momentum is maintained and that the Action Tracks can develop truly cross-cutting and transformational adaptation programs from the bottom up. For this reason, we will continue to work with our partners at WRI and in the Dutch government to support the work of the GCA over the coming years.

Earlier this year we attended UNDRR’s biennial global conference on disaster risk reduction, known as the Global Platform. While we have been working for a few years now on **connecting the global climate change and DRR policy agendas**, it was enlightening to engage with the DRR community directly for the first time. In the opening session, the keynote speakers emphasized the need for policy makers and practitioners to embrace uncertainty, noting that the one certainty about the future we face is that it will feature increasing variability. Thus, there is a need for increased adaptability now in order to manage greater uncertainty and non-linear change. Such statements are very much in line with arguments AGWA has been making since its founding nearly ten years ago.

While this was an encouraging introduction, we know that gaps remain in terms of implementing proactive DRR strategies that incorporate greater flexibility and the ability to withstand new climate-induced hazards. In particular, there remains a gap in attention paid to longer-onset natural hazards such as drought, which can be exacerbated by climate change and last for anywhere from a few weeks to multiple decades. This past year, AGWA was approached to prepare a briefing document on the current state of drought understanding and management for the High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP). While our engagement in this area is still in early days, based on positive feedback from this initial project, we will be working with key partners to develop a more sustained body of work on climate change and DRR, including drought, in order to address knowledge gaps and promote proactive drought planning and mitigation both within the DRR and climate communities. In addition to our upcoming World Water Week session on this topic, we will look to promote this work through additional avenues such as the NDCP.

## Part 3

# Financial Reports and Budget

### Budget Overview

- The main costs to keep AGWA running refer to the following budget posts: remuneration of the AGWA Secretariat and consultants; other Secretariat costs and policy coordination (including SIWI staff time and a part-time policy consultant); travel expenses to participate in conferences and events; logistical costs related to organizing seminars and network activities, technical costs related to web sites and the podcast, printing of communications materials, etc. In addition, a great amount of support comes to AGWA from the in-kind contribution of Board members' and AGWA members' time.
- AGWA's financial flows are complex, perhaps even more so in light of recent organizational changes. During the period since the last Annual Report, AGWA became a formally established NGO. In the past, John, Ingrid, and Alex have been employed by a US corporation owned by John rather than by SIWI or a formal AGWA NGO. Since AGWA's NGO status became official in January, the setup has changed somewhat. Ingrid and Nureen Anisha are full-time employees of the AGWA NGO. John and Alex have their salaries split between the budgets of the original corporation and the AGWA NGO.
- The overhead for AGWA has expanded to parallel the growing scope of engagement and activities. John, Alex, and Ingrid remain full-time staff members in the Secretariat — with Ingrid having joined initially as part-time in October 2017 before moving to full-time in spring 2018 to assist more broadly with AGWA's policy-related workstreams and to help John with AGWA's financial administration. In addition to those three team members, two part-time hires were made in mid-2019. Nureen Anisha, based in Oregon, is a PhD student in a graduate water resources department with strong background in engineering, water, and climate adaptation. She provides some admin services as well as technical and communications support. She is a part-time employee. Kathryn Pharr, based in London, previously worked on water resources with the U.S. State Department and currently serves as the Oxford Water Network Coordinator. She directly supports our policy engagement, particularly for European meetings. With already strong connections to the AGWA network, she is serving as a consultant on contract.
- AGWA will undergo an independent audit of its financials for 2019. As a newly established NGO, we believe it is important to have a clear grasp of our financial flows and demonstrate sound fiscal responsibility to our donors. AGWA will hire an external auditor at the end of the financial year in order to set a precedent for the years to come. Audited financial statements will be useful in pursuing additional sources of funding in addition to general reporting requirements.

Secretariat expenses (Sept 2018 - Aug 2019)	Cost monthly (USD)	Cost annually (USD)
Staff costs (internal SIWI staff)	\$6,500	\$78,000
Staff costs including: salary, taxes, retirement and healthcare contribution (John, Alex, Ingrid)	\$18,336	\$220,032
New staff member Nureen Anisha (May-Aug 2019 only)	\$1,152	\$4,608
Consultants (KP: May-Aug 2019 only)	\$1,000	\$4,000
Travel for conferences, workshops (AGWA paid)	\$417	\$5,000
Travel for conferences, workshops, other events (in kind funding)	\$3,750	\$45,000
Office operational costs	\$625	\$7,500
Capital Expenses (computers, recording equipment, office furniture, etc)	\$417	\$5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$32,197</b>	<b>\$369,140</b>

### Sources of Funding (2018-2019)

AGWA has operated for the past nine years and continues to thrive thanks in large part to a few key strategic partners who share our vision and commitment to addressing climate change and water for this century and beyond. We could not do our work without their sustained financial support. On the technical side, we are particularly grateful for multi-year support from the World Bank, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, UNESCO International Hydrological Programme, and, more recently, the Asian Development Bank. Our policy partners, including SIWI, the German government (BMZ / GIZ), the Dutch Ministry for Infrastructure and Water Resources and Deltares, provide equally critical programmatic support for our policy work.

Source	Work Covered	Amount (USD)
SIWI	SIWI staff support; travel support	\$55,000
Rijkswaterstaat ( <i>via</i> Deltares)	COP24; drought & DRR policy work	\$91,685
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	support for climate policy activities	\$117,700
World Resources Institute (WRI)	Unlocking Green Bonds for Natural Infrastructure in the US Water Sector	\$24,900
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	CRIDA workshop in S. Africa; travel to Oct. CRIDA launch in Paris	\$6,662
NAIAD ( <i>via</i> SIWI)		\$18,350
Arup	City Water Resilience Framework (CWRF) engagement strategy work	\$3,000
Asian Development Bank	ADB workshop in Oct., first portion of resilient NBS reporting	\$11,200
BMZ ( <i>via</i> SIWI)	AGWA coordinator support (4 months)	\$44,800
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) ( <i>via</i> SIWI)	Water and Climate: Water Action Day at COP24; IT travel to Marrakech Partnership Oct. workshop and COP24	\$10,000
The Nature Conservancy	source water climate adaptation white paper	\$5,000
ICIMOD	honorarium for program review	\$1,000
World Bank Group ( <i>via</i> SIWI)	World Water Week seminar fee, annual meeting support	\$4,620
International Water Management Institute (IWMI)	GCA background paper	\$6,000
University of Idaho	CRIDA workshop	\$1,978
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$396,895</b>

### In-kind Support 2018–2019

Non-financial support risks being invisible and unacknowledged — and perhaps more than for many organizations, AGWA’s in-kind funding may be our most important asset as a network. One epiphany of the past year has been that AGWA is a *crowd-sourcing organization* that mobilizes networks of motivated individuals and institutions, which means that the Secretariat’s most important roles are to coordinate, guide, and coalesce that in-kind work. Individual groups such as the USACE, SIWI and World Bank estimated their in-kind support for the past year at over 50,000 USD each; if anything, such estimates seem low. Leadership in all of our core partners have allocated significant staff time. From the perspective of the Secretariat, the motivation we see across the network often demonstrates joy and dedication. Indeed, this is what motivates us to serve.

We also see very tangible indirect financial support, and we have tried to estimate in-kind support in our budget more formally this year though the exact value of the staff time, travel support, and logistical assistance from AGWA members is impossible to fully account for. Categories of contributions are as follows:

- Board of Directors: Board members agree to provide a minimum of 40 hours per year towards AGWA. With nine current members, that equals at least 360 hours of in-kind contributions.
- Staff time and materials from members
- Members representing AGWA at events
- Members co-producing publications
- Direct funding for Secretariat travel

### Fundraising Efforts

With no specific staff member dedicated to foundational outreach, many in AGWA have been actively engaged in fundraising for AGWA components. These have spanned a number of categories: institutional core support from partner organizations, project-specific grants, travel funding for events, and in-kind contributions. Fundraising often requires investments of time in developing relationships with other organizations. We have been lucky enough to have a number of strong institutional partners and supporters over the past several years. This past year in particular saw major financial support from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Dutch Ministry for Infrastructure and Water Resources (Rijkswaterstaat), and other key partners. Fundraising is a never-ending pursuit for an NGO, however. AGWA’s Board of Directors and Executive Director are always exploring new opportunities for funds through projects, grants, and institutional agreements. Time constraints always prove a hindrance, as the day-to-day work required of AGWA’s programs and activities can limit the time dedicated to fundraising. Until a dedicated staff member can more consistently prioritize fundraising, we must continue to be diligent, opportunistic, and engaged to demonstrate our unique (and incalculable) value.

### Projected Sources of Funding (2019-2020)

We have an ambitious and far-reaching set of activities planned for the coming year, deepening our engagement with a number of new partners including the UNFCCC and NDC Partnership, as well as launching the global adaptation training programme in collaboration with the UNFCCC’s CGE team,

convening workshops on private sector finance for climate and water as well as NbS for climate change mitigation, supporting UN-Water’s year of climate change and water, and producing a new season of the *ClimateReady* Podcast. This is in addition to our “core” activities promoting bottom-up approaches including CRIDA at a number of technical workshops and academic conferences and coordinating the work of the network on climate and DRR policy. We are fortunate to have already secured some funding for these activities; however, only about half of it is currently assured, with the rest being anticipated but not guaranteed. Therefore, we will likely need to fundraise both from new sources as well as our existing partners to meet our budget for 2019-2020 — a process that is already underway. The AGWA Secretariat is always open to suggestions from members for potential funding.

Source	Work Covered	Projected Amount (USD)
SIWI	travel support; staff time	\$55,000
NAIAD (via SIWI)		\$17,000
Rijkswaterstaat (via Deltares)	policy support, COP26	\$68,000
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	technical and policy work, travel, hosting workshops	\$206,000
Arup	City Water Resilience Framework (CWRF) engagement strategy work	\$6,000
Asian Development Bank	resilient NBS work	\$18,000
World Bank Group	Knowledge Platform support	\$48,000
FAO	"Negotiating SDG tradeoffs" report and workshop	\$35,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$453,000</b>

Secretariat proposed budget (Sept 2019 - Aug 2020)	Cost monthly (USD)	Cost annually (USD)
Staff costs (internal SIWI staff)	\$6,667	\$80,000
Staff costs including salary, taxes, retirement contribution, healthcare (John, Alex, Ingrid, Nureen)	\$23,333	\$280,000
Consultants	\$833	\$10,000
Travel for conferences, workshops, etc. (AGWA-funded)	\$750	\$9,000
Travel for conferences, workshops, etc. (donor-funded)	\$4,500	\$54,000
Office operational costs	\$750	\$9,000
Capital Expenses	\$167	\$2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$37,000</b>	<b>\$444,000</b>

## Appendix 1

# The AGWA Secretariat

### Secretariat Roles and Responsibilities

**John Matthews, AGWA Executive Director.** John's role within AGWA has not changed in practice much over the past year. He is the co-founder and has served as the Coordinator since AGWA's beginning. As part of AGWA's shift towards official NGO status, John has since taken on the new title of Executive Director. In consultation with the Board of Directors, John is responsible for the overall content and direction of AGWA's technical work (CRIDA, Climate Bonds Initiative, etc.) and he advises our policy work along with Ingrid and SIWI's Maggie White. He is routinely asked to organize, advise, and participate in water and climate adaptation conferences and events worldwide and he engages regularly with the media on AGWA's behalf, be it through his column on climate adaptation at *OoskaNews*, our newsletters, or through our co-authored white papers.

**Alex Mauroner, Network Director.** Alex's title changed during the past year to match expanding responsibilities, including management of AGWA's Program Officer. He is now AGWA's Network Director, having previously served as a Research Associate. Alex helps John coordinate the Knowledge Platform and supports our technical work and capacity building efforts, such as assisting with CRIDA initiatives and our work around finance and ecosystem-based adaptation, while working to coordinate the wide-ranging network activities. He also maintains our websites and serves as a co-host and editor of the *ClimateReady* Podcast. In addition he produces two newsletters for AGWA and manages our social media presence.

**Ingrid Timboe, Policy Director.** Over the past year, Ingrid has taken on an even larger role in AGWA's policy engagement. She now serves as AGWA's Policy Director, having previously worked as a Policy Associate. Working closely with Maggie and John, Ingrid is involved in all things policy at AGWA, coordinating AGWA Policy Group communications, producing the AGWA Policy Newsletter, helping prepare policy briefs and white papers, participating in the Water and Climate Working Group and on the #CIW steering committee. Ingrid manages AGWA's part-time policy consultant in addition to serving as the water focal point for the Marrakech Partnership, coordinating our work with the UNFCCC. Since early 2018 she has co-hosted the *ClimateReady* Podcast with Alex. She also assists John with AGWA's financial management.

**Nureen Anisha, Program Officer.** Nureen joined AGWA in May 2019 to provide administrative support in addition to a number of other responsibilities. She assists with grant administration for AGWA's contract with GIZ for 2019-2020 in addition to task management and reporting. Nureen serves in a research and writing role as well, contributing to a number of publications and research topics. Having had prior experience in journalism as well, Nureen works on AGWA's external outreach and some social media engagement.

## Appendix 2

# Secretariat Core Functions

Secretariat functions have remained a vital part of AGWA over the past year. They cover a diverse number of activities:

### **Newsletters**

The AGWA Updates newsletter has remained a consistent monthly publication. Following the passing of GDPR regulations in 2018, the number of newsletter subscribers shrank substantially. At the time of the last Annual Report, the main mailing list was down to 360 individuals. The number has nearly doubled, having grown to over 675 subscribers. We were encouraged by the growth rate but still have a long way to go to return to numbers similar to those prior to the GDPR downturn. In early 2018 AGWA added two topical newsletters to supplement the main *AGWA Updates* edition: one for policy around climate and water and one for technical approaches to adaptation. The policy newsletter has gone out approximately every one to two months. In the past year, subscriptions to the policy newsletter have grown from 320 to 470 individuals — nearly 50% growth. The technical approaches *AGWA Guide* newsletter goes out quarterly. Similarly, there were 320 subscribers a year ago and just over 500 today. We expect closer to 25 percent growth for all newsletters over the next year. According to our mailing list service, around 25-35 percent of each issue gets opened by our members.

### **AGWA websites**

The main AGWA website (<https://alliance4water.org>) has remained a critical way to reach our membership as well as a broader international audience. Site traffic has dipped 15% from last year to just over 167,000 visitors, equating to an average site traffic of over 3,100 visits/week. The decrease in traffic likely coincides with a slight decrease in updates to various pages, the need for a major overhaul (the site was originally designed in 2012), or both. AGWA's companion site for more technical methods and capacity building for climate adaptation, <https://agwaguide.org>, was less often visited than the main website over the same period of time. The so-called "Knowledge Platform" has a more niche target audience and receives less widespread promotion than AGWA's main site. The site does get new content periodically, but it doesn't have the same regularly updated Blog or Events pages as the main website. AGWAguide.org received just under 60,000 visitors last year, experiencing an 11% growth from the previous year. Major overhauls are planned for both of AGWA's websites in the coming year.

### **Communication and outreach**

AGWA functions as a network of far-reaching members. Communication and outreach are necessary and vital aspects of our day-to-day activities. The AGWA website serves as one means of communication. We use the AGWA Blog and Events pages to promote stories, publications, and events to our members and the general public as well as subscribers to our RSS feed. Our site is also connected with Apple News (an iOS app) to publish AGWA news to an incredibly large audience of iPhone and iPad users.

AGWA has also grown its social media presence this year. AGWA's LinkedIn group<sup>22</sup> has grown from 430 to 490 members (a modest 14 percent increase). Those members regularly receive updates and posts from the Secretariat and each other. We also maintain a separate LinkedIn group for young professionals with a slightly different purpose and a different audience. The page is used to promote scholarship or speaking opportunities as well as events and news specifically relevant to early career individuals and/or students. Our Facebook page<sup>23</sup> was started two years ago in an effort to reach even more demographics. Anyone can follow or mention AGWA's page using @Alliance4Water — the same handle as our Twitter feed and based on our website address. The Facebook page has grown organically as more people view, share, and follow our posts. While last year we only had 250 followers (one year in), we now have over 480. Facebook is a good tool to communicate with both individuals and organizations through its tagging feature and ease of sharing posts. Facebook is not, however, the right platform for communicating complex or lengthy pieces of information; rather, it is a tool in the communications arsenal. Similarly, Twitter is a useful tool for AGWA to share short pieces of news, especially from events being attended. AGWA has 830 followers on its main account (@Alliance4Water). In the past year, we also launched a separate account for the *ClimateReady* Podcast (@ClimateReadyPod) to help promote episodes and link up with guests and listeners. We use this account mainly around episode releases. Less than one year in, we currently have 70 followers — a clear discrepancy from our show “listens” wherein each episode averages around 1,000 plays.

### AGWA events

Event coordination has always been an important part of the Secretariat. This continued over the past year as AGWA was represented at even more meetings, workshops, and conferences than the year prior. Perhaps the largest meeting of all was COP24 in Katowice, though some of the widest impact came from the UNFCCC CGE regional training workshops for adaptation focal points. The Secretariat also helped prepare for a number of international events:

- UNFCCC CGE Adaptation Workshop for LAC in Paraguay (Sept. 2018)
- IMTA Urban Resilience Conference in Mexico (Sept. 2018)
- UNFCCC CGE Adaptation Workshop for Eastern Europe & Asia-Pacific in Nepal (Oct. 2018)
- MPGCA Meetings in Bonn (Oct. 2018)
- Asia-Pacific Climate Adaptation Forum in Manila (Oct. 2018)
- UNESCO CRIDA Launch Event in Paris (Oct. 2018)
- The Resilience Shift Workshop in New Orleans (Nov. 2018)
- Water Day at the Wilson Center in Washington, DC (Nov. 2018)
- UNFCCC COP24 in Katowice (Dec. 2018)
- AGU Annual Meeting in Washington, DC (Dec. 2018)
- NAIAD Annual Meeting in Slovenia (Jan. 2019)
- UNFCCC Adaptation Committee Meeting in Bonn (March 2019)
- MPGCA Strategy Meeting in Bonn (March 2019)

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<sup>22</sup> <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4077253/>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/Alliance4Water/>

- Univ. of Idaho CRIDA Workshop in Idaho (April 2019)
- UNECE EbA Workshop in Geneva (April 2019)
- Meetings of UNECE Task Force on Water and Climate in Geneva (May 2019)
- MPGCA Workshop in Bonn (May 2019)
- GPDRR Meetings in Geneva (May 2019)
- International Insurance-Reinsurance Forum in Romania (May 2019)
- Insurance Europe Conference in Romania (May 2019)
- UNECE CRIDA Workshop in Cape Town (May 2019)
- AGWA Internal Retreat in Oregon (June 2019)
- International Conference on Climate and Water (June 2019)
- UNFCCC SB50 Intersessional in Bonn (June 2019)
- UNGA Special Session on Water and Disasters in New York City (June 2019)
- HELP14 Conference in New York City (June 2019)
- SNAPP Project Meeting in Seattle (July 2019)
- UN High Level Political Forum in New York City (July 2019)

The Secretariat also led much of the preparation for AGWA's network-specific events around World Water Week, such as the Annual Members Meeting and an AGWA dinner.