



Key Messages #ClimateIsWater Water Day Collaborating Actors at COP21

Headline: WHAT?

Climate is water

Message 1.) WHY?

The impacts of climate change are most often felt through changes in water

- a) The human, social, economic and environmental impacts of climate change occur primarily through changes in water, dramatically impacting its quality, quantity and through disasters.
- b) Systematically addressing water issues is key to adaptation.
- c) Water is critical for successful climate change mitigation, as many efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions depend on reliable access to water resources.
- d) Decisions made today will set the trajectory for the next generation. Strategies to respond to a range of possible futures are needed.

Message 2.) HOW?

Water is a connector, not a sector, and it offers solutions

- a) To meet the climate challenge we must strengthen multi-stakeholder collaboration across all sectors. Water connects policy areas, economic sectors, and societies and is therefore a tool for cooperation and for building trust.
- b) Water flows within basins regardless of borders and needs to be managed in an integrated manner
- c) Resilience to climate change requires adaptive water management and robust water infrastructure. People most at risk need strengthened resilience to help withstand the impacts of climate change.
- d) Investment in water and restoring water-related ecosystems provides significant economic, social and environmental opportunities

Message 3.) CALL TO ACTION!

Failure to address the relationship between water and climate puts our future in jeopardy

- a) Actors across sectors must systematically integrate water resources management into their climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, ensuring efforts are aligned with SDG implementation strategies
- b) The Paris agreement must provide entry points for integrating water in the future climate architecture, including in the design of the UNFCCC programmes and mechanisms
- c) Integration of the water and climate agendas would improve cost effectiveness and therefore support financial commitments to create resilient societies and secure ecosystems
- d) The water community offers holistic expertise that can support strategies to tackle climate change