

SIWI Insight Brief

Part of SIWI's 2026 Engagement Series

Event Name	London Climate Action Week 2026
Location	London, UK
Date	22-28 June 2026



The event

During the week, SIWI contributed to four engagements on financing, infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and partnerships. Together, they highlighted the growing importance of integrating water into climate, finance, and infrastructure decisions.

At a glance

Across four engagements at London Climate Action Week, SIWI observed a clear shift in the conversation. The full water cycle is becoming more central to climate resilience, while the focus is moving from new commitments towards implementation, financing, and cross-sector collaboration.

What stood out

Discussions focused less on whether water matters for climate and more on how to deliver resilient water systems at scale. Across finance, infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and partnerships, participants emphasised the need to include cost of in-action, stronger governance, investment, and collaboration to move from ambition to implementation.

Another recurring theme was the changing role of nature. Healthy watersheds, wetlands, and ecosystems are increasingly recognised not simply as environmental assets, but as infrastructure that delivers resilience, water security, and long-term economic value.

A third theme was the influence of AI and that we are now seeing local regional, and even national digital twins being developed to support agile decision-making for governments, municipalities and private sector actors.

Key signals

- Water is increasingly recognised as central to climate resilience.
- The focus is shifting from commitments to implementation, financing, and delivery.
- Nature-based solutions are becoming part of mainstream infrastructure planning.
- Financing and infrastructure discussions are expanding to include governance, ecosystem restoration, and the full hydrological cycle.
- The emerging influence on AI and digital twins for analysis, scenario predictions, and resilience infrastructure planning and investments.
- Cross-sector collaboration is becoming essential for implementation.

Implications

Political recognition of water has grown, but investment and implementation have not kept pace. The next phase of climate action will depend less on developing new commitments and more on creating the governance, financing mechanisms, institutional capacity, and partnerships needed to deliver resilient water systems at scale.

SIWI perspective

Across all four engagements, SIWI brought a systems perspective, connecting science, policy, finance, and practice. The discussions reinforced that strengthening water resilience requires coordinated action across sectors—not water solutions in isolation.

Looking ahead

The themes emerging from London Climate Action Week will shape discussions throughout 2026. World Water Week, COP31, and the UN Water Conference provide opportunities to turn growing momentum into practical action through stronger governance, investment, and collaboration.