

How was Water Addressed in COP 28?



The climate conference COP 28 concluded after two weeks of intense negotiations. What was the significance of water and climate relationship in this conference? Experts observing the conference from water communities believe that water discussions were more prevalent throughout COP compared to the past.

During the conference's intense negotiation process, it was observed that water appeared in both the Global Stocktake (GST) and the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) results.

The COP 28 Presidency prioritized water as one of the conference's key areas. The UAE had announced a comprehensive water agenda during the 2023 World Water Week. Throughout COP28, water was negotiated in three thematic priority areas: the protection and restoration of freshwater ecosystems, urban water resilience, and drought-resistant food systems

Key outcomes to remember regarding the climate crisis and water relationship from COP28 are listed below

- **The climate crisis is primarily a water crisis, and climate action cannot succeed unless we prioritize a "water-secure" world.**
- Water is at the center of adaptation but is also the key to reducing carbon emissions. The water sector is responsible for about 2% of global carbon emissions, similar to the maritime industry.
- Water is a significant facilitator of the circular economy.

A safe, sustainable, and resilient water system is not just an option but also a priority path for progress.

Dursun Yıldız

Hydropolitics Academy

Is the cost recovery principle fit for the future?

28 May 2023

Fergal MacErlean

One of the key features of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) is the references to economics, specifically the cost recovery principle. Under the Directive, EU member states are mandated to recover the financial, environmental and resource costs of using water. But an emerging question is whether cost recovery remains a viable option in the future.

This critical topic was discussed as part of a joint project by the European Commission DG Environment and the OECD Environment Directorate in workshops on various dimensions of the economic pillar of the WFD as detailed in the 2023 OECD Studies on Water: Implementing Water Economics in the EU Water Framework Directive.

Cost recovery is a foundational feature of the WFD. It relates to issues of fairness, the effectiveness of public expenditures and the creditworthiness of water service providers. The workshop participants (government representatives, associations of water utilities and regulators, research institutions, and NGOs) stressed that affordability needs to be thoroughly assessed and that this aspect is best addressed through targeted social measures than through complex – often regressive – tariff structures. Cost recovery is also **necessary to include investments in infrastructure.**

Water-pricing mechanisms

While pricing can sometimes be an effective incentive to save water, reducing consumption can cause significant problems for operators. Crucially this means that water utilities have no incentive to encourage water saving. There was a consensus that affordability problems are better addressed through targeted social measures, rather than social tariffs. It was noted however that targeted social measures only apply if a robust social system is in place, though this is usually the case in Europe. **Participants mentioned the lack of willingness to pay and political considerations related to tariff setting.** The benefit of an independent economic regulator for water supply and sanitation could solve many of these problems.



Efficient (innovative) cost-recovery mechanisms

Apart from abstraction and pollution, charges on other pressures represent a very small percentage of the total funding for water management in the EU. These instruments have an untapped potential for raising additional funds for water management. **Land Value Capture (LVC)** is a policy approach that enables communities to recover and reinvest land value increases that result from public investment and government actions. LVC is attractive from a public finance point of view but is under-used in the water sector. LVC has a lot of potential for climate action, and could be applied in the water sector as **water infrastructures can have a positive impact on land value.** Participants mentioned examples of applications in Australia, South Korea and Morocco.

How fit is cost recovery for the future?

With the Zero Pollution Action Plan, driven by several environmental Directives, the course of direction is clearly towards more stringency, with increased costs for society as a whole. The implications for customers of funding environmental improvements through water charges is stark in sparsely populated areas, such as Estonia and Lithuania, as there is a steep cost-curve associated with such areas. It was discussed that consolidation of payments for environmental improvements may be important to allow for a better alignment between the costs and benefits of meeting requirements. And it was found that flexibility in the delivery of environmental improvements can be particularly important where the efficient plant size is likely to be small.

Source : <https://www.waternewseurope.com/wfd-cost-recovery-principle-fit-for-the-future/>

Lessons on Transboundary Water Cooperation

Jakob Schabus

Aug 24, 2023

Cooperation over shared waters is complex, challenging, and oftentimes not fully understood. The public interest is often focused on the question of if there will be wars around water. Yet, transboundary water cooperation has a range of vital aspects. Its success depends on many factors and requires cooperation across sectors and actors.

Here are some key lessons from SIWI corner at World Water Week.

It is unlikely that countries will go to war over water.

Oftentimes, the first question around transboundary water cooperation is: will there be wars between countries over water? Contrary to public perceptions, there is much more evidence for cooperation between governments over shared water courses than for conflicts. Yet, water-related challenges such as water scarcity can fuel and further escalate already ongoing conflicts in fragile regions and have a wide range of other consequences such as loss of biodiversity.

Transboundary cooperation goes far beyond cooperation between governments.

Transboundary cooperation can refer to any border that a river or an aquifer must cross. Yet, boundaries can equally exist between different sectors that need to, for example, find cooperation on sharing water resources in a sustainable way. To enable cooperation in transboundary processes, it is vital to know the key decision-makers and bring them to the table. This does not necessarily need to be the minister but can be different groups or religious leaders.

The process matters.

Often a facilitator has a key role to play by setting up a cooperation process that works. Getting consultations with people who are affected or considering aspects such as gender and youth in negotiations, can be a huge challenge. The voices of local actors must be heard in cooperation projects as peace agreements without the support of those affected are bound to fail.



Drawing lessons on success cases is challenging.

Cases of transboundary water cooperation are extremely different and strongly influenced by climatic, economic, and regional factors.

Further, while we often see the results of cooperation processes it is difficult to investigate the preceding negotiations, which are sensitive and therefore subject of non-disclosure. In some basins successful transboundary cooperation can be the signing of a treaty. Yet, having basic collaboration on a technical level can be a huge success in other cases and the result of year-long work. While it is difficult to generalize, we can learn from successful cases despite the strong influence of individual case factors.



Source : <https://siwi.org/latest/lessons-on-transboundary-water-cooperation/>

Climate Change and Transboundary Water Allocation



To respond to changing conditions, including but not limited to climate variability and change, transboundary water allocation agreements and other arrangements should be adaptable.

New transboundary water allocation agreements and other arrangements need to be designed to be adaptable in the medium and long-terms to changing hydrological, climatic and other related factors (socioeconomic, geographical, cultural, etc.).

Existing water allocation agreements and other arrangements, or adopted subsidiary instruments, may need to be revised to be able to respond to changing conditions.

Adaptive capacity can be integrated into transboundary allocation systems and institutions to respond to changing conditions, impacts and opportunities. Examples of this include applying allocations in percentages instead of absolute amounts, periodic reviews and using objective thresholds (e.g. persistent low precipitation) as a basis if exceptional deviations from agreed allocations are needed.

Climate change must be approached as a cross-cutting challenge to effective allocation. It is a potential risk multiplier that may necessitate adjustment of existing—and careful drafting of any new—transboundary water allocation agreements and arrangements.

Impacts of climate change on future demands and flows should also be anticipated and used to inform the negotiation of allocation arrangements.

Transboundary allocation arrangements need to factor in the increased uncertainty and inter- and intraannual variability of precipitation and run-off to cope with increasing frequency and extremity of drought and flood events.

Making transboundary allocation arrangements climate resilient requires strong coordination mechanisms between and among different levels of governance, sector policies and stakeholder groups.

Source : “HANDBOOK ON WATER ALLOCATION IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT” UN Geneva 2021



UNECE

HANDBOOK ON WATER ALLOCATION IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT



COP28: Water rises up in the climate agenda

The COP28 recently concluded in Dubai, spanning over 13 days, during which representatives of more than 195 nations and international engaged in crucial climate negotiations. Climate change manifests itself primarily through water,



From early on the auspices for water and climate at COP28 had been positive as the Presidency once again elevated water’s critical role for climate action .

What is key to remember from COP28?

- The climate crisis is primarily a water crisis.
- Water is at the core of adaptation but also key for mitigation. The water sector is responsible for 2% of the global carbon emissions, similar to the shipping industry.
- Water is a key enabler for circular economy.
- A secure, sustainable and resilient water system is not just an option. It's the only way forward.

Water Europe

The climate crisis is a water crisis, and climate action will ultimately be in vain unless we prioritize a water secure world. United, the water community has gathered momentum and needs to continue to act to help climate and water action succeed.



The climate crisis is a water crisis

Climate change is exacerbating both water scarcity and water-related hazards (such as floods and droughts), as rising temperatures disrupt precipitation patterns and the entire water cycle. Water and climate change are inextricably linked.

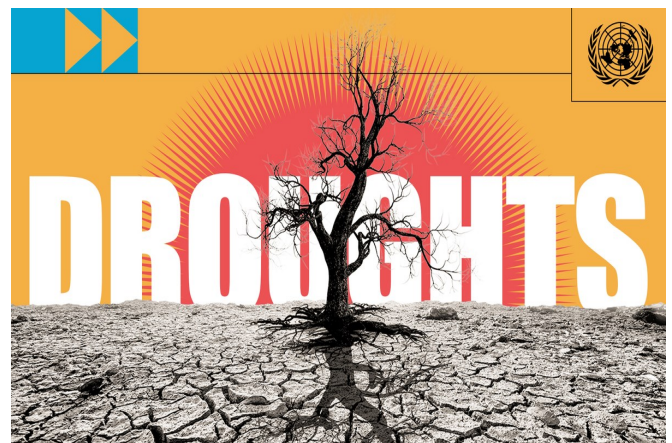


Water and climate change are inextricably linked. Climate change affects the world’s water in complex ways. From unpredictable rainfall patterns to shrinking ice sheets, rising sea levels, floods and droughts – most impacts of climate change come down to water water (UN Water).

Climate change is exacerbating both water scarcity and water-related hazards (such as floods and droughts), as rising temperatures disrupt precipitation patterns and the entire water cycle (UNICEF).

Sea-level rise is projected to extend salinization of groundwater, decreasing freshwater availability for humans and ecosystems in coastal areas (IPCC).

Limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2° C would approximately halve the proportion of the world population expected to suffer water scarcity, although there is considerable variability between regions (IPCC).



ANTALYA INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FORUM | ANISF



CLIMATE CHANGE Environmental Crisis
Migration



29 Nov.-1 Dec 2023 ANTALYA-Türkiye



Antalya International Science Forum (ANISF 2023) was completed. "Climate Change, Environmental Crisis, and Migration".

2 December 2023

The Antalya International Science Forum (ANISF 2023), hosted by Akdeniz University, was held in cooperation with Antalya Metropolitan Municipality and various institutions and organizations. The Hydropolitics Association was among the organizers of the forum.

60 expert speakers from 8 countries participated in the forum titled "Climate Change, Environmental Crisis, and Migration".



The opening speeches of the forum, which lasted three days between 30 November and 1 December, Antalya Deputy Governor Erol Tanrıku, Vice Rector of Akdeniz University, Dr. Şükrü Özen and Akdeniz University Social Policy and Migration Studies Application and Research Center Director and Chairman of the Forum. Dr. Erol Esen and ABB President Advisor Lokman Atasoy.



In

these speeches, the climate crisis is a global problem, the necessity of creating a livable environment under the effects of the climate crisis, and the importance of making urban planning correctly was emphasized.

In the speeches, as universities, public institutions, and non-governmental organizations, we are faced with data that requires us to take action very quickly.

Chairman of the Forum Regulation Board Prof. Dr. Dr. Erol Esen expressed that the forum is an interdisciplinary meeting and said that the names of experts in the field of social science will come together. Prof. Dr. Esen "We aim to understand climate change. We will evaluate climate change in the context of migration and environmental crises.

Scientific studies, good practices, legal regulations, adaptation efforts, migration movements caused by climate change, strategic and possible solutions for environmental changes, and good practices in various countries were discussed in the forum.

60 domestic and foreign speakers participating in the forum presented their papers in three separate halls. At the end of the forum a panel discussion on "Climate Change, Environmental Crisis, and Migration, Being Aware -Making a Difference was organized. Prof. Dr. Gökhan Orhan, Prof. Dr. Birgit Leyendecker, Antalya Metropolitan Municipality Consultant Lokman Atasoy, and TMMOB Chamber of Surveying Engineers Antalya Branch President Okan Hançer took part as a speaker. The Panel Discussion was chaired by Dr Erol Esen Chairman of the Organization's Board.

In this panel discussion, many issues discussed in the forum were evaluated as a summary and the importance of being aware of the climate crisis and migration relationship was emphasized

Hydropolitics Association President Dursun Yıldız also presented papers in the forum. Why should cities prepare for climate migration?

President Dursun Yıldız, Dr.Fulya Kandemir, and Merve Kıran Hergün from the Hydropolitics Association contributed to the arrangement and paper presentation at the forum



Dursun Yıldız presented his paper titled "Effect of Climate Change and Migration on Municipalities, Why Cities Must Prepare for Climate Migration" on the second day of the forum. Dr. Fulya Kandemir served as a moderator on the first day of the forum and presented a paper prepared with Emine Yiğit titled Eco-Friendly Farmer Card: Environmental Protection and Rural Development in Harmony with Climate Change Mitigation.

Dursun Yıldız konuşmasının başında İklim değişikliği etkili göçlerin önemine ve oluşturacağı tehditlere yönelik olarak uluslararası kuruluşlar tarafından yapılan açıklamalara vurgu yaptı. İklim değişikliğine karşı Afrika'nın çok kırılgan olduğunu belirten Yıldız birçok uzmanın 2050 yılına kadar Afrika'da en az 50-60 milyon kişinin iç göçlerle yer değiştireceğini belirttiğini söyledi.

Dursun Yıldız, at the beginning of his speech, emphasized the statements made by international organizations for the importance of climate-induced migrations and threats stating that Africa is very fragile against climate change. Yıldız said that at least 50-60 million people in Africa will be displaced by internal migration until 2050.

Dursun Yıldız: Millions of climate immigrants can come from Africa

Dursun Yıldız stated that the expected climate change effects in Africa will adversely affect rainfall-based agriculture, and this will increase unemployment in Africa. He said that about 2.5 billion people will be on a continent to live in the year 2050. This continent will also be a continent with the youngest population in the world, Yıldız said.

He also emphasized that 60 % of the African population is under 25 years of age.

In Africa until 2030, 30 million young workforces will be created every year, but Only 3 million people will be employed annually.

Yıldız continued his speech saying that "The EU is making some preparations in this regard. Major cities of neighboring countries should also consider this situation. Many of the world's major metropolises, including Turkey, still experience water shortages. They transfer most of the water from outside of the basin. This can cause conflict between provinces or states in the future. Climate immigrants will increase these tensions.



Growing City administrations will have difficulty

Dursun Yıldız continued his speech "Growing City administrations will experience both the direct effects of climate change and be affected by its indirect effects such as additional migration burden, and this should be seen now and precautions should be taken. He said that the administrations of these cities should prepare an integrated urban development plan, considering these risks, strengthen their legal and institutional deficiencies, and not delay implementation.

One-third of the world's cities experience water stress

Dursun Yıldız said that 32.5% of the world's urban population lives under water pressure, and climate change and climate migration will increase this pressure. If preparations are not made for this, the security risks of the city in many issues will increase.

Dursun Yıldız stated that Turkey's official climate change projections reveal that there will be water budget deficits in many river basins in the next 20 years. In this regard, we must first review our water management and water use habits. In addition, he said, we need a radical revolution of thought and a paradigm shift in these areas.

At the end of his speech, we are a country at risk regarding climate change and climate migration. For this reason, we need these measures in inter-institutional coordination, starting from a change of thought. We do not have the luxury and tolerance to waste time, he emphasized.

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We need to build a future,
Where people live in harmony with nature

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Think Forward .Lead Forward