



# Water for Climate Pavilion



# Water for Climate Pavilion at COP 29

Through the collective action of **72 Core Partners**, the Water for Climate Pavilion hosted over **50 events** through the **10 thematic working groups**, highlighting water's contribution to climate resilience and encouraging greater cooperation across sectors and levels. The Water for Climate Pavilion housed over **850 physical participants** throughout COP29 and featured more than **277 speakers**, with a gender ratio of **49.1% female speakers**.

In the working groups, a total of **47 organizations** supported each day's activities, building new collaborations towards a community of practice within the climate space. The programme was watched by over **2,500 individuals** online over the course of two weeks. For the duration of COP, the Pavilion's WhatsApp Channel gained over 260 subscribers and the dedicated website received over 8,950 clicks, representing a deeper and increased media engagement compared to COP28.



# Why is the Water for Climate Pavilion important?

Much progress has been made by the international water community since COP26, attributed, in part, to the success of the Water for Climate Pavilion collective. As the UNFCCC COPs and Intersessional meetings are annual events, and other international meetings, such as World Water Week, also punctuate the yearly timeline on a regular basis, it is important that efforts to make water more relevant to climate dialogues be reinforced as an ongoing, stepwise process, that aims towards a common, long-term goal.

Collective action and activities should, therefore, continually build on each other towards this goal in complementary ways, such as through shared knowledge and continuity of messaging among all partners. Regionalization is also becoming an increasingly important element to this process, since many water and climate discussions need to be rooted in local realities for action to be effective and financing flows to be better targeted.

# Who are the Water for Climate Pavilion Core Partners?

The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) is one of the initiators and has served as Chair of the Steering Committee for the organization of the Water for Climate Pavilion since its inception at COP26. For COP29, and reconfirmed as of April 2025, the Steering Committee (SC) includes the following institutions: the Governments of Egypt, Germany, the Netherlands, Tajikistan, and the United Kingdom, as well as the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA), Arup, Australian Water Partnership (AWP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation (FAO), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Sanitation and Water for All (SWA), and Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).

The Steering Committee also accommodates observers, which in 2024 consisted of the Azerbaijan State Water Resources Agency, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Brazil, MPGCA Champions Team, the UAE and the World Youth Parliament for Water.

The Core Partners represent countries, international organizations, development banks, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, think tanks, and regional governments. By COP29, the collective consisted of 72 different Core Partners, an increase of nine new Core Partners compared to COP28.

# Water for Climate Pavilion

The Water for Climate Pavilion is made possible by:



# Objectives of the Water for Climate Pavilion

The following objectives for the Water for Climate Pavilion were established and accomplished at COP29:

## Objective 1: Unify the voice of the international water community before, during, and after COP29

### How was this achieved?

- Co-creation of aligned key messages for relevant processes and for use by all Core Partners
- Collaborative efforts in the Pavilion and at preparatory milestone events (World Water Week, CBD and CCD COPs...)
- Groups of co-creators through thematic working groups, allowing for novel cooperation and unified day programming
- Measuring of engagements, collaboration and outreach in the Learning Framework
- Continuation and improvement of a permanent website and communications assets
- Communications strategist/consultant providing analysis, videos, and real-time updates from COP29

## Objective 2: Make the Water for Climate Pavilion inviting for collaboration with non-water stakeholders and actively seek out collaboration with other pavilions

### How was this achieved?

- Over 90 events logged that evoke water issues held outside the Pavilion
- 49 speakers from over 15 sectors outside of water participated
- Aligning thematic days with relevant climate tracks
- Several cross-pavilion events organized by Core Partners at, e.g., the Ocean Pavilion, the Food Pavilion, the Spanish Pavilion, the Resilience Hub
- Opening up the scope of the thematic days for easier access for outside voices and alignment with climate and other SDG relevant track

**Objective 3: Further promote water security, sound water management, and water risk reduction as climate solutions within UNFCCC dialogues and reflect advances for water within the broad scope of formal COP29 outcomes under the Paris Agreement instruments**

**How was this achieved?**

- Thematic working groups to create a pathway and direction towards the official UNFCCC processes, including collaboration to formally and informally submit expertise, aligned with UNFCCC processes and dialogues
- Strong relationship with successive COP Presidencies resulted in the launch of the Baku Declaration on Water for Climate Action, highlighting the importance of integrating water into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and climate finance mechanisms. Also to create an ongoing dialogue for water within the COP process, specifically mentioning the collective action from the Water for Climate Pavilion
- Expert knowledge on security, management, DRR as well as adaptation and mitigation
- Organization of formal UNFCCC side events by Water for Climate Pavilion Partners
- Coordination of Water for Climate Pavilion Partner contributions within UNFCCC Presidency events, Marrakech Partnership, and Sharm El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda mechanisms

**Objective 4: Contribute to advancing the operationalization of COP Presidency initiatives and cooperative ventures**

**How was this achieved?**

- Hosting closed-door Water-Resilient Food System Partnership meeting and Urban Water Resilience Roundtable
- The working group for the day on Nature, Biodiversity and Ecosystems included the Freshwater Challenge throughout the programme
- Established synergies and continuity between the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (MPGCA) and the WfCP objectives to follow up on previous COP Presidency agendas. Especially focusing on the involvement of non-party stakeholder in other thematic areas and their contribution to formal UNFCCC processes

### Objective 5: Further advance climate commitments registered in the Water Action Agenda

#### How was this achieved?

- UAE hosted the open consultation 'On the road to the UN 2026 Water Conference: Consultation on the themes of the interactive dialogues'
- The Dutch promoted their Water Action Agenda Magazine Providing an open space for follow-up on their commitments

### Objective 6: Reinforce relationships with party negotiators and party groupings who can be vocal champions for water within the formal negotiation spaces and towards the negotiating teams

#### How was this achieved?

- Inclusion of national governments and providing evidence to support their efforts
- High-level inaugural event with the President of Tajikistan, the UN Special Envoy on Water and Sanitation, and several climate ambassadors and ministerial representatives
- Actively inviting, hosting speakers and events from parties
- Preparation of key messages for negotiation spaces and programmes
- 38 Water for Climate envoys carrying water messaging and establishing positive working relationships



# Water for Climate Pavilion at COP29

The Water for Climate Pavilion looks different each year and depends on the allocation by the organizers, UNFCCC, and COP Presidency. At COP29, the Pavilion benefited from 100 square meters, which was able to accommodate a maximum of 50 people and offered a small secretariat office space. In addition to the programming, it gave opportunities for spontaneous meetings and networking.

The Water for Climate Pavilion also offered a separate meeting room of 27 square meters, which partners could book when available. This room had 20 seats and provided opportunities for bilateral and other closed-door meetings. The logos of the Core Partners were visible in multiple places in the Pavilion and meeting room spaces. In addition, the partner logos were also listed on the permanent [Water for Climate Pavilion website](#).

There was also a small reception desk that was frequented extensively and led to various organizations expressing interest in joining the collective. Following COP29, dialogues with over 30 new organisations with concrete requests to join the collective are in progress.





# Water for Climate Pavilion Program

At the center of the Pavilion are its sessions, ranging from high level panels, interactive dialogues, to roundtables and more. For COP29, the Water for Climate Pavilion made deliberate choices to limit the number of sessions as well as the process for applying for contributions to the program. Instead of allowing for the application of a fully developed session, the Water for Climate Pavilion gave the freedom to its thematic working groups to determine the most valuable use of the Pavilion to achieve its established objectives at the COP. This resulted in different types of events being offered and heterogenous day layouts. The programme offered a diverse set of activities that combined scientific knowledge with case studies and best-practice examples from across the world. The sessions demonstrated the numerous ways that water is enabling transformative climate action at all levels.

All formal events were livestreamed but due to cost, budget priorities, and easy of use, interpretation was not integrated for the COP29 programme. The full program and events can be accessed on the [website](#) and all daily event recordings are available at the [SIWI YouTube channel](#).



# Thematic Working Groups at COP29

Watering the NDCs and NAPs	<p>Focal points: UN-ESCWA and WaterAid</p> <p>Other members: UNICEF, UNECE/Water Convention Secretariat, UN-Habitat/GWOPA, FWP, FAO, Arup, TNC, AfDB, Ramsar, UNESCO-IHP, GWP, AquaFed, WMO, Resilient 40, IWMI, RDI, CCBD, Wetlands International</p>
Achieving the GGA	<p>Focal point: SWA</p> <p>Other members: UNICEF, UNECE/Water Convention Secretariat, UN-Habitat/GWOPA, WaterAid, We are Water, FWP, GWP, UNDRR, INBO, TNC, Ramsar, UN-ESCWA, UNESCO-IHP, Water for Women Fund, IWMI</p>
New Collective Quantified Goal on Finance	<p>Focal point: Resilient 40</p> <p>Other members: UN-Habitat/GWOPA, WaterAid, GWP, INBO, FAO, UNICEF, IWMI, CCBD, GCF, PACJA</p>
Resilient Mitigation	<p>Focal point: AGWA-WINZ</p> <p>Other members: UNICEF, CEO Water Mandate, UNECE/Water Convention Secretariat, Grundfos, We are Water, FWP, GWP, Arup, TNC, AfDB, IWRA, EcoPeace MiddleEast, AWP, IAEA, WMO, RDI</p>
Collective Action Agenda	<p>Focal point: ICLEI</p> <p>Other members: UNICEF, CEO Water Mandate, UN-Habitat/GWOPA, Arup, IWRA, AWP, AWS, SIWI, Resilient40, Monash University, PACJA</p>
Water-Resilient Food Systems	<p>Focal point: UN-Habitat/GWOPA</p> <p>Other members: CEO Water Mandate, We are Water, DHI Group, TNC, AfDB, UN-ESCWA, AWS, IWMI, ADB, Wetlands International</p>
Urban Water Resilience	<p>Focal point: UN-Habitat/GWOPA</p> <p>Other members: UNICEF, Grundfos, FWP, DHI Group, Arup, TNC, AfDB, IWRA, AquaFed, ICLEI, ADB, Monash University, Clean Rivers, WRI</p>
Nature, Biodiversity, and Ecosystems	<p>Focal point: SIWI</p> <p>Other members: We are Water, INBO, TNC, Ramsar, IAEA, FAO, DHI Group, GIZ, WWF, ADB, Lake Baikal Foundation, Van Oord, Wetlands International, Clean Rivers</p>
Peace, Security, and Health	<p>Focal point: SIWI</p> <p>Other members: Slovenia, IWMI, PACJA, (UNECE, EcoPeace MiddleEast)</p>
Systems Approaches	<p>Focal point: UNESCO</p> <p>Other members: UNICEF, UNECE/Water Convention Secretariat, Grundfos, We are Water, DHI GROUP, GWP, UNDRR, FAO, Arup, AfDB, EcoPeace MiddleEast, AWP, AWS, UNESCO-IHP, Aquafed, Water for Women Fund, WMO, IAEA, RDI, Monash University</p>

# Water for Climate Pavilion Envoys

Similar to last year the Pavilion organized together with its Core Partners in a coordinated way, the opportunity to serve as thematic experts which could be called on to speak or engage in other spaces outside of the Water for Climate Pavilion.

The 'Water for Climate Pavilion Envoys' spent a significant amount of time at COP outside the Water for Climate Pavilion, making sure that water moved beyond the walls of the Pavilion. The Envoys volunteered to engage in specific areas based on their individual/institutional expertise. Examples of this were the Pavilions engagement in the UAE Global Climate Resilience Framework, where the Pavilion Envoys engaged participants from across the water, biodiversity, climate, and sanitation communities, in a collaborative exercise, to take stock and provide feedback to the ongoing indicator development process for water-related targets. This included a look at freshwater indicators for the two Global Goal on Adatation targets where water is mentioned explicitly, and also a focus on how water connects the other GGA and associated sustainability framework targets, including the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sedai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The envoys also engaged actors in discussions to explore how the climate and water communities can work together to turn the water target of the UAE Global Climate Resilience Framework into on-the-ground action. In total the Water for Climate Pavilion counted 38 envoys that operated to different degrees in various spaces.



# Water for Climate Pavilion Communication

The task group for communications, supported by a strategic communications consultant, was in charge of the overall communications strategy and its implementation. The communications efforts of the Pavilion included:

**A shared messaging document** for Water for Climate Pavilion partners and allies, as a reference and resource for each organization's communications around COP29. It supported the work of our Envoys and speakers as they engaged with specific process especially when engaging with parties and negotiations. The messaging was also used by Partners as hooks for media engagement.:

- Water for Adaptation
- Water for Mitigation
- Water as a Means of Implementation
- Water for a Just Transition
- Each of the thematic working group messages

**A digital toolkit** containing templates, logos, and other materials in the form of a Trello board to support the communication objectives of the Core Partners. A mailing list of all communications contacts for Core Partners was constituted to relay these tools and messages, and a list of spokespersons was also created for media interviews.

**A permanent website** which served not only to provide the schedule and live stream links, but also as a resource hub with content from the different partner organizations and a section for daily updates and stories about activities in the Pavilion. This website allows the Core Partners and the water community to build upon information and knowledge provided on an ongoing basis and encourage engagement for continued momentum in between each COP conference.

**A WhatsApp channel** which was used to build up a target audience of media professionals, policymakers, key stakeholders, donors, and partners, the pavilion provided quick access to daily updates and in-depth analyses from the water sector. The channel built up an audience of over 260 followers.

**To ensure that the content and key messages emanating from the Water for Climate Pavilion could be accessed freely and widely, especially by climate action implementors and governments, as well as by stakeholders who were not able to attend the COP conference in person, all livestreams were accessible without prior registration and free of charge.**

The Water for Climate Pavilion website, [waterforclimate.net](https://waterforclimate.net), welcomed over 8,500 visitors, while the livestreams and recordings were watched over 2,500 times across the two weeks of COP29.

# Why join the Water for Climate Pavilion?

The Water for Climate Pavilion strives to be an ongoing effort, from one COP to the next, as a community of practice aiming to influence official UNFCCC processes.

## As a partner you can:

- Connect with other Core Partners and build relationships, including with parties, private sector, NGOs and UN-organizations.
- Learn about how to influence formal climate processes, and how to encourage recognition for water-related solutions within them.
- Engage with other sectors and pavilions at UNFCCC COPs or serve as a Water for Climate Pavilion Envoy.
- Display your organization's logo in the Physical Pavilion at COP and on the permanent website.
- Contribute with your perspectives to the joint messaging around water for climate.
- Influence the thematic framing of the Water for Climate Pavilion programming and nominate speakers,
- Access materials and session recordings, and broadcast your own thematic contributions to a global audience through the permanent website.
- Benefit from media and communications outreach, tools, and information sharing among members.
- Join an influential and structured group in order to elevate and influence on-going negotiations and UNFCCC workstreams, like the Global Goal on Adaptation, with climate water wise content.

## For more information

- visit [waterforclimate.net](http://waterforclimate.net)
- or send us an email at [waterforclimate@siwi.org](mailto:waterforclimate@siwi.org)