



Réseau International des Organismes de Bassin
International Network of Basin Organizations
Red Internacional de Organismos de Cuenca
الشبكة الدولية لهيئات الأحواض

www.riob.org

"Le site Internet de la Gestion par Bassin dans le Monde"

Adaptation to the effects of climate change:
**"Integrated Basin Management is crucial
to guarantee water resources sustainability"**

The Ministers present at the 7th World Water Forum, through this official statement acknowledged the paramount importance of a basin approach to address the pressures on freshwater resources that will be increased by population growth and the effects of climate change.

In national or transboundary river basins, climate change will quickly lead, if not already the case, to a significant alteration of hydrographical cycles and intensification of extreme flood and drought events. **We must act quickly before it is too late and urgently take adaptation measures to ensure sustainable water resources management around the world.**

In the context of COP21 on Climate, that will take place in Paris at the end of this year, INBO, with its experience and expertise acquired over several years, wants to contribute through the practical actions already undertaken by its member organizations.

In January 2010, the final declaration of our World General Assembly in Dakar gave the alert to the risk that **freshwater would be "one of the first victims of climate change"** and proposed emergency measures to be taken.

Being co-organizer of the **conferences in Megève on Water Management in Mountains in 2010 and 2014**, INBO and its partners have stressed the essential role of upper river basins as the "water towers of the planet" and the need to increase upstream-downstream common cause in the basins of all the great rivers of the world.

UNECE and INBO are developing **a platform for pilot basins to test and promote effective measures to adapt to the climate change impacts on water resources**, including the **"Natural Water Retention Measures"**, inventoried with the support of the European Commission; which seem immediately applicable.

This work has just led to the joint publication, by the United Nations and INBO, of **a collection of good practices and recommendations for adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins (basins-management-publications.org)**.

At the World Water Forum in Korea, INBO Secretariat especially coordinated with its partners from Africa, America, Asia, Europe and the Mediterranean, **"The interregional day on adaptation to climate change in basins"**, which allowed a fruitful exchange of experiences and the identification of new field initiatives.

INBO and LANBO are developing with IOWater the **"ECO-CUENCAS"** project, funded by the European Union under the "WaterClima" program for Latin America and the Caribbean, and in which Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, as well as Germany, Spain and France are partners.

The African Network of Basin Organizations, ANBO, as part of the "SITWA" program, has just published its **"Action Plan for Climate Change"**.

INBO also supports the creation of **Water Information Systems (WIS)**, which are essential to assess the situation in basins and follow up their evolution, especially in the Mediterranean (EMWIS) and in Africa (AWIS).

Adaptation to the effects of climate change will also be the core of the discussions at the international **"Europe INBO 2015"** conference, to be held from 21 to 24 October in Thessaloniki, Greece, that will mainly deal with the contents of the new Basin Management Plans, planned for the 2016-2021 period by the European Water Framework Directive and the Flood Directive.

But we must go much further, and launch a general mobilization on freshwater: which is why INBO proposes to its Members to sign, as part of COP 21, **"a Basin Organizations Pact for adaptation to climate change"**, which will underline their commitment to quickly introduce achievable measures in their **"Basin Management Plans"**, similar to what the European Union has started for the joint implementation of the Water Framework and Flood Directives in the new 2016-2021 implementation cycle.

Everybody's mobilization is essential!!

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