

Renewing the Social Compact in a Climate-Disrupted World



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Dr. Arvind Kumar
President
India Water Foundation

Dear Readers,

We publish this issue at a time when the world's contradictions are on plain display: high-level diplomacy, ambitious-sounding pledges, and yet the scientific and social indicators that tell a grimmer story. The phrase the "triple planetary crisis" the interlinked emergencies of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution is no longer rhetorical: it is the organising reality of our age and the frame within which policy, finance and justice must operate.

Added to that planetary emergency is a growing trend of unilateralism and fragmented approaches to global problems. Multilateral forums that once sustained cooperative progress now face headwinds geopolitical tensions, protectionist instincts, and competing national priorities have weakened the capacity for shared solutions. This drift matters because the crises we face do not respect borders; they demand collective action, shared finance and common standards if we are to avoid compounding social hardship, displacement and ecological collapse. (See the synthesis reporting and global commentary preceding COP30.)

It is precisely against that backdrop that the **Second World Summit for Social Development (Doha, 2025)** assumed outsized importance. Convened to renew the social compact and to recommit the world to the Copenhagen commitments, the Summit underlined a simple but often side-lined truth: social development equity, inclusion, jobs, social protection and dignity is not a separate track from climate action, it is its foundation. The Summit sought to refocus negotiations and policy toward people-centred approaches that protect the most vulnerable, foster just transitions and strengthen social resilience.

What Doha reminds us is that climate negotiations (and climate finance) that ignore social dimensions will inevitably fail on implementation? Policies that aim to decarbonize must be coupled with measures that protect livelihoods, upskill workforces, ensure energy and water access, and address inequities in who pays for transition. In short, social justice is climate resilience: without it, mitigation and adaptation remain brittle political projects rather than durable public goods. Reports released this year show improved quality and coverage of national climate plans, but they also underline persistent gaps in ambition, finance and adaptation capacity particularly for developing countries. Turning improved plans into tangible outcomes requires the social framing Doha emphasised.

Only a week after the Doha Summit, world leaders and negotiators will gather in **Belém for COP30** a sequence that creates an essential continuity between social commitments and climate bargaining. COP30 must therefore be more than a technical negotiation of targets and markets; it must operationalise equity. The NDC and transparency syntheses show momentum: more Parties have brought economy-wide or more credible plans forward, and countries are reporting progress in implementing the Paris Agreement. But this progress, while real, is dwarfed by what science says is needed: emissions pathways consistent with 1.5°C require deep, immediate cuts on the order indicated in UNEP and IPCC analyses and far more scaled up finance for mitigation and adaptation than currently pledged. The gap between commitments and what science demands remains wide.

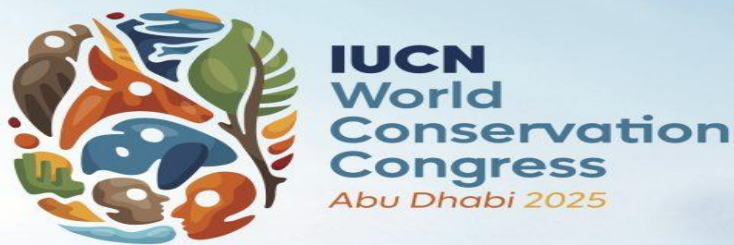
What must Belem deliver? First, a credible scaling of international public and private climate finance that is predictable, concessional where needed, and targeted to adaptation and loss & damage as much as mitigation. Second, operational mechanisms for technology transfer, capacity building and embedding water-resilience into both NDCs and National Adaptation Plans a water lens is essential because water systems sit at the nexus of climate impacts, livelihoods and ecosystems. Third, concrete pathways to reconcile carbon-market mechanisms with development fairness, including safeguards against carbon measures that exacerbate inequality or undermine community rights. These are not incremental asks; they are practical requirements if COP30's outcomes are to survive political scrutiny and be effective on the ground.

The road from Doha to Belém also offers an opportunity for India's approach to be influential. India's diplomacy emphasising just transitions, technology partnerships (including solar and renewables initiatives), and shaping finance architecture that recognises differentiated capacities can help bridge the North-South divide. But influence will be measured in tangible offers: credible conditionalities, implementation partnerships for adaptation and water resilience, and coalition-building that advances a development-first climate agenda. The moral case is also clear: prosperity that ignores planetary limits and social equity will not endure.

Finally, the hard truth is this: the science demands transformational change (large emissions reductions this decade and nature-positive pathways), the finance community must step up at scale, and political leaders must resist the temptation of narrow, national fixes. Multilateralism not unilateralism; remains the only viable pathway to safeguard both people and the planet. The twin reminders of Doha and Belém should be that social development and environmental stewardship are mutually reinforcing: pursue one without the other and both will falter. Pursue them together, and we stand a chance of converting crisis into coherent, inclusive action.

As we close this month's bulletin, our appeal is simple: let the world's leaders use the proximity of these summits to bind social justice to climate ambition. Let finance be reimagined as delivery, not rhetoric. Let the triple planetary crisis be met with shared responsibility rather than retreating unilateralism. If the Doha commitments travel honestly to Belém, and if COP30 can translate those commitments into funded, accountable actions, then a safer, fairer future remains within reach.





IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025: Charting a Unified Future for Nature

The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, held in Abu Dhabi, brought together over 10,000 participants from 189 countries to shape the global conservation agenda under the theme “Nature 2030: One Nature, One Future.” The Congress adopted the Abu Dhabi Call to Action, setting ambitious goals for biodiversity protection, climate resilience, and inclusive governance.

A major highlight was the launch of India’s first National Red List of Endangered Species, marking a milestone in biodiversity assessment and monitoring. India also inaugurated the Dugong Conservation Reserve in Tamil Nadu and gained greater representation in the IUCN Species Survival Commission, showcasing its growing leadership in environmental stewardship.

Dr. Arvind Kumar, President, India Water Foundation, played a key role, sharing India’s innovations in water governance, wetland conservation, and ecosystem-based adaptation. His interventions emphasized the vital interlinkages between water security, climate action, and biodiversity conservation.

The Congress also hosted the first World Summit of Indigenous Peoples and Nature, embedding traditional knowledge into global conservation strategies. The event, certified for sustainability under ISO 20121:2024, reaffirmed the power of collaborative, multi-stakeholder action in building a sustainable future for the planet.

Overall, the IUCN World Congress in Abu Dhabi stood out not only for its forward-looking policy outcomes and technical innovations, but also for reaffirming the essential role of multi-stakeholder action in securing the future of the planet.



UN Climate Change Conference – Belém, November 2025

📅 10 Nov – 21 Nov 2025 · 📍 Belém

Three key mandated reports produced by UN Climate Change ahead of COP30 show the Paris Agreement is working but faster, wider action

Ahead of COP30, UN Climate Change has produced three key mandated reports that shed light on where progress is happening and where more acceleration is still needed.

The Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) Synthesis Report, released, is the first of its kind, and shows countries starting to implement the Paris Agreement in the reporting period, in a systematic way, driving real-world progress. It also highlights a clear need for broader and faster progress, as well as various key enablers and barriers.

The NDC Synthesis Report, released on Tuesday 28 October, shows clear progress in reducing emissions, along with whole-of-economy, whole-of-economy approaches in countries' national climate plans (formally called Nationally Determined Contributions, or NDCs). Additional calculations highlighted in the accompanying statement from the Executive Secretary show global emissions clearly falling for the first time, by 10% by 2035. However, this is not nearly enough, and the Executive Secretary has urged urgent acceleration to keep the goals of the Paris Agreement within reach.

The NAP Synthesis Report, released on Tuesday 21 October, shows the directions, foundations and frameworks for building climate resilience are now increasingly in place and evident in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). However the report and accompanying statement from the Executive Secretary also highlights the urgent need for acceleration, and well as major scale of support still required, particularly for vulnerable and developing countries.

UN Climate Change Conference – Belém, November 2025

📅 10 Nov – 21 Nov 2025 · 📍 Belém

GENERAL DEBATE UNDER AGENDA ITEM 5 ON HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES AND MECHANISMS

Biennial transparency reports and national inventory reports. Synthesis report by the secretariat

Open [English PDF 2.34 MB](#)

Symbol: FCCC/PA/CMA/2025/16

Publication date: 31 Oct 2025

Document type: Synthesis reports

Conference: UN Climate Change Conference – Belém, November 2025

Session: CMA 7

Author: UNFCCC. Secretariat

Topic: Biennial Transparency reports (BTR)



Nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement. Synthesis report by the secretariat

Open [English PDF 1.82 MB](#)

Symbol: FCCC/PA/CMA/2025/8

Publication date: 28 Oct 2025

Document type: Synthesis reports

Conference: UN Climate Change Conference – Belém, November 2025

Session: CMA 7

Author: UNFCCC. Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA)

Topic: Nationally determined contributions (NDCs)



Progress in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans. Report by the secretariat

Open [English PDF 1.34 MB](#)

Symbol: FCCC/SBI/2025/17

Publication date: 21 Oct 2025

Document type: Pre-session documents

Conference: UN Climate Change Conference – Belém, November 2025

Session: SBI 63

Author: UNFCCC. Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)

Topic: Adaptation



AN EXCLUSIVE

INTERVIEW WITH

An exclusive interview of Ms. Helena Thybell, Executive Director, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) by Dr. Arvind Kumar, Editor, Focus Global Reporter

In an exclusive interview with **Ms. Helena Thybell, Executive Director of the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)**, shared insights on advancing global water governance and climate resilience. Highlighting SIWI's mission to act as a bridge between science, policy, and implementation, she emphasized the role of flagship platforms like World Water Week and the Water for Climate Pavilion at COP30 in driving water-centered climate action. Ms. Thybell underscored SIWI's commitment to embedding water within Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), fostering inclusive governance, and empowering communities through equitable participation. She also spotlighted the Shared Waters Partnership and the newly launched Routledge Handbook of Water Diplomacy as key tools for transforming water-related challenges into opportunities for peace and cooperation. Reaffirming SIWI's people-centered approach, she stressed that inclusion of Indigenous Peoples, youth, and marginalized groups is not symbolic but transformative an essential pillar for achieving sustainable and just water futures.



READ HERE



Interview with Ms. Helena Thybell

Date: October 28, 2025 | in: Climate Change, Environment, Feature, Interview, Water and Environment | Leave a comment | 92 Views

Excerpts from an interview of Ms. Helena Thybell, Executive Director, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) by Dr. Arvind Kumar, Editor, Focus Global Reporter

She holds a bachelor's degree in social science from Lund University and has pursued studies in leadership, sustainability, and strategic development. From 2019 to 2023, she served as CEO of Save the Children Sweden, leading major organizational transformation and global strategy initiatives. Previously, she was Head of HR and People and Culture at H&M Group and CEO of both the H&M Foundation and the Swedish Postcode Foundation. With experience in the Swedish Red Cross and Save the Children International, she has championed social innovation, gender equality, and sustainable development worldwide.



INTERVIEW

EDITOR: Can you tell us a little about yourself, and how does it feel in your new role as Executive Director at SIWI?

Jal Jeevan Mission Progress Update



As of October 22, 2025, the Jal Jeevan Mission achieved a significant milestone by providing safe tap water to over 15.72 crore rural households, covering more than 81% of rural homes across India. This represents an addition of 12.48 crore households since the mission's launch in August 2019. The mission has a central outlay of ₹2.08 lakh crore, which has been largely utilized to build rural water infrastructure. Quality assurance remains a cornerstone, with 2,843 laboratories testing 38.78 lakh water samples in 2025-26 across 4,49,961 villages.

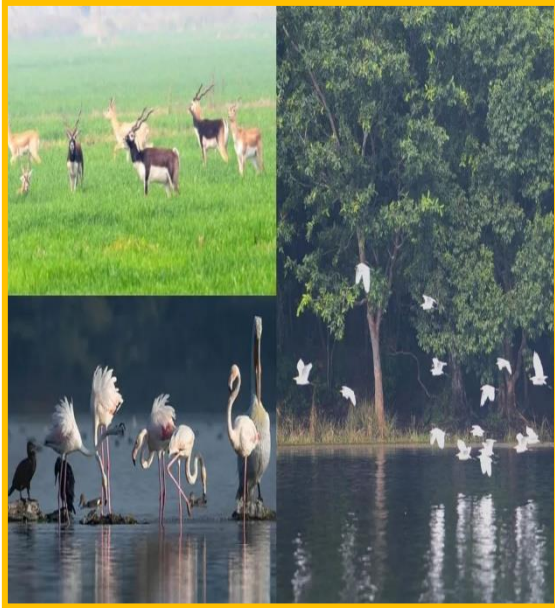


National Water Mission 6th Thematic Workshop



The National Water Mission organized its 6th Thematic Workshop in October 2025, focusing on integrating MGNREGA and water conservation to strengthen rural water security. This workshop emphasized the alignment of rural employment schemes with ecological sustainability and water conservation goals. Anchored in the vision laid down by the Hon'ble Prime Minister during the 4th Conference of Chief Secretaries, which called for six Departmental Summits in 2025 to bring together officers from the Centre and States for intensive deliberations, the workshop provided a national platform to translate policy into action, promote innovation, and showcase exemplary grassroots initiatives.





Wetland Conservation Achievements

India expanded its network of Ramsar sites significantly in 2025. Gogabeel Lake in Bihar was declared India's 94th Ramsar site in November 2025. In September 2025, four new Ramsar Sites were added—Menar Wetland Complex, Khichan Wetland, Gokul Jalashay, and Udaipur Jheel—bringing India's total to 93 at that time. These additions demonstrate India's commitment to global wetland conservation and biodiversity preservation.



European Investment Bank (EIB) Loan for Uttarakhand Water Infrastructure

EIB Global, the European Investment Bank's development arm, announced a \$191 million loan to the Indian government on October 20, 2025, to upgrade and expand water infrastructure in the northern state of Uttarakhand. This represents the first EIB operation fully dedicated to India's water sector. The project will improve water and sewerage systems benefiting around 900,000 people, including poor households, with works due to be completed over the next five years. The project includes continuous monitoring to reduce water leaks, automatic meter reading, greater plant automation, real-time remote data collection, and new connections for underserved communities.

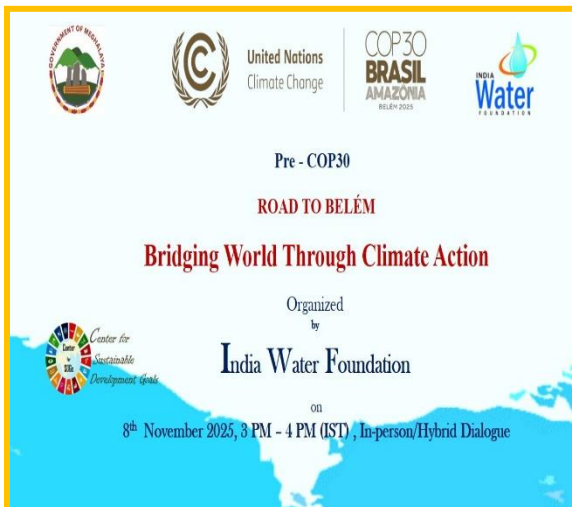


EVENT ALERT!



Join us for the **2nd Water Transversality Global Awards & Conclave 2026**, a two-day conference on “*ESG Transversality for Sustainable Water, Energy, Health and Environment Nexus.*” This landmark event will explore ESG integration, the Water-Energy-Health & Environment Nexus, global collaboration, and innovations driving carbon neutrality. Don’t miss this convergence of policy, industry, and sustainability leadership.

[Please click here for more information.](#)



ROAD TO BELÉM: BRIDGING WORLD THROUGH CLIMATE ACTION

The **Pre-COP30** Dialogue: “Road to Belém – Bridging Worlds through Climate Action”, aims to foster multi-stakeholder engagement and shape actionable pathways ahead of COP30. The Dialogue seeks to convene policymakers, experts, industry leaders, and civil society to deliberate on the key priorities of finance, mitigation, adaptation, nature, and governance. Its objective is to strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration, promote equitable climate finance, and advance integrated solutions that align national and global ambitions with the Paris Agreement’s 1.5°C goal. By facilitating knowledge exchange and partnerships, the Dialogue endeavours to contribute meaningfully to the “Road to Belém” process and to accelerate inclusive, sustainable, and nature-positive climate action.

SUCCESS STORIES



Once Drinking Toxic Water, 3000 Villagers in Bengal Now Fill Their Bottles From a Safe Community Tap

For decades, families in Bengal's tribal belt drank water laced with iron and arsenic. That changed when Meghdutam Foundation installed an ultrafiltration plant, bringing clean, safe water to over 3,000 villagers and restoring health, dignity, and hope.

**READ
MORE**

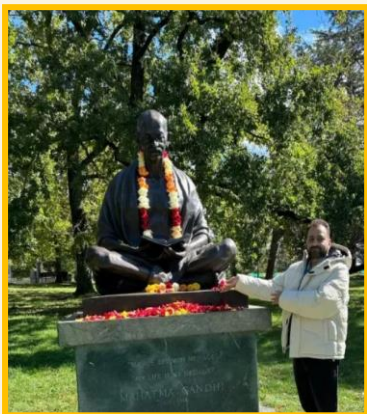


This Polio Survivor From Dahiwadi Is Bringing Water to 64 Drought-Prone Villages

Abhay Todkar, a 44-year-old from drought-prone Dahiwadi village defied the odds of living with polio to lead a remarkable water conservation movement. His efforts have brought sustainable change to 64 villages, turning struggles into triumphs through determination and community-driven initiatives.

**READ
MORE**

FRIDAY BLOGS



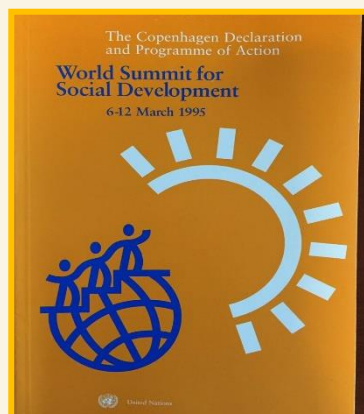
Redefining Sustainability for a Greater Good: A Wakeup Call?

Redefining Intent with Impact for inclusive social development



From Abu Dhabi to Belem: Redefining the Rules of Conservation

From Copenhagen to Doha: Reimagining Social Development in an Age of Disruption



INVITATION TO JOIN DIRECT MEMBERSHIP

At the India Water Foundation (IWF), we're more than just a network—we're a movement. By becoming a member, you join hands with individuals, organizations, and institutions passionate about sustainability, environmental conservation, and driving meaningful change.

Why Join Us?

We're committed to creating opportunities for every member to make a real impact. Here's what we offer:

- **Shape Policies with Us:** Be part of advocacy efforts that influence sustainable development strategies.
- **Learn and Grow Together:** Attend our exclusive workshops and training programs, designed to keep you at the forefront of innovation.
- **Connect with Change-makers:** Collaborate with a global network of experts, innovators, and leaders.
- **Make a Grassroots Impact:** Help us drive community-led projects that promote resource efficiency and environmental resilience.
- **Be Recognized for Your Efforts:** Let us celebrate your contributions through awards, features, and event opportunities.

Who Can Join?

We welcome everyone who shares our vision, including: Companies, institutions, and organizations of all sizes, NGOs, government bodies, and Intergovernmental organizations
Individuals—from young professionals to retirees, who want to create positive change

Whether you're a policymaker, innovator, or community advocate, there's a place for you here!

JOIN NOW



**IWF Direct
Membership!**
We are stronger together



Learn more about joining
India Water Foundation
Membership by scanning
QR code below



INVITATION TO JOIN SOCIAL OUTREACH MEMBERSHIP

Our Special JalMitra Social Outreach Membership

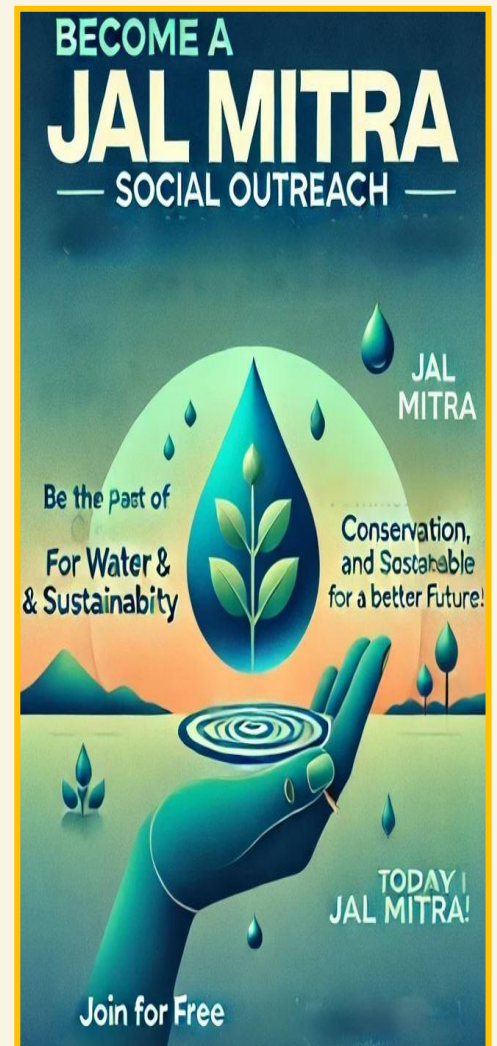
The JalMitra outreach program encourages sustainable living practices by promoting sustainable conservation and restoration projects. The campaign fosters awareness and behavioural change at the grassroots level, enabling communities to adopt environmentally responsible lifestyles that reduce ecological footprints and contribute to national and global sustainability goals.

Anyone can join this collective effort and become a Jal Mitra free of cost.

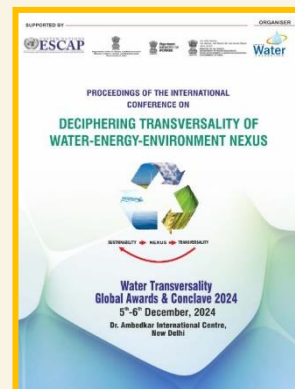
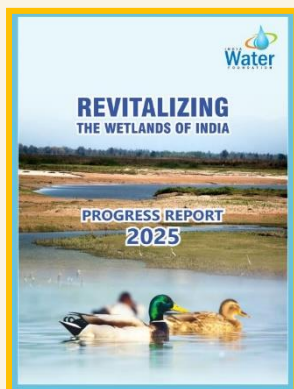
How to Join?

Take the first step today! Visit [Become an IWF Member](https://indiawaterfoundation.org/jal-mitra/) to apply and join this transformative movement. Together, let's shape a sustainable future!

<https://indiawaterfoundation.org/jal-mitra/>



KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS



LEARNCASTS

OECD › Events › 6th Policy Dialogue on Social Protection and Development

6th Policy Dialogue on Social Protection and Development

Investing in social protection in times of uncertainty

Forum

Date

12 November 2025

Time

13:45-17:30 CET

Location

OECD Conference Centre
(Room D) and online



[Learn more and register](#)

MICROLEARNING UN SDG:Learn Podcast

SDGs and Beyond: Rethinking Multilateralism for the Post-2030 Era

 **Professor Jeffrey Sachs, President**
UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network

▶ 0:00 / 24:00



MICROLEARNING UN SDG:Learn Podcast

SDGs and Beyond: Rethinking Multilateralism for the Post-2030 Era

 **Professor Jeffrey Sachs, President**
UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network

▶ 0:00 / 24:00





WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE FUTURE?

THE ROLE OF FUTURISTS IN ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sohail Inayatullah
UNESCO Inaugural Chair for Future Studies


unsdglearn.org

UN SDG:Learn





UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Belém Climate Summit (November 6-7, 2025).** A landmark high-level climate summit will be held in Belém, Brazil, convening heads of state, government ministers, and leaders of international organizations to address the primary challenges and commitments for combating climate change.
<https://cop30.br/en/news-about-cop30/the-climate-summit-will-take-place-in-belem-on-6-and-7-november>
- **COP30 - UN Climate Change Conference (November 10-21, 2025).** Immediately following the Belém Climate Summit, the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) will take place in Belém from November 10 to 21, 2025. The conference will address crucial issues including updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the scaling of international climate finance from the \$300 billion agreed at COP29 to the ambitious \$1.3 trillion Baku to Belém Roadmap target by 2035, climate governance frameworks, and the integration of carbon markets with border carbon adjustments.
<https://unfccc.int/cop30>
- **GLF Climate 2025: A New Vision for Earth (November 17, 2025).** The Global Landscapes Forum Climate 2025 event will be held live at COP30 on November 17, 2025, while streaming globally in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French. The event moves beyond traditional policy rhetoric to unite a broad coalition for climate action, blending scientific evidence with indigenous and local knowledge while prioritizing youth and women's voices.
<https://events.globallandscapesforum.org/climate-2025/>
- **Departmental Summit on the Vision for Sujalam Bharat (November 28-29, 2025).** The Ministry of Jal Shakti will host the Departmental Summit on the Vision for Sujalam Bharat on November 28-29, 2025. Under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Jal Shakti C. R. Patil and coordinated by NITI Aayog, this summit will bring together officers from the Centre and States for intensive deliberations on water security.
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2175999>
- **1st Mediterranean Forum on Wetland Contracts (November 5-6, 2025).** Marseille, France will host the WE GO COOP Final Conference and the inaugural 1st Mediterranean Forum on Wetland Contracts on November 5-6, 2025, at La Coque venue. This landmark event launches the Community of Practice on Wetland Contracts in the Mediterranean, bringing together stakeholders, policymakers, researchers, and practitioners to exchange knowledge and best practices on sustainable wetland management and governance.
<https://wecoop.interreg-euro-med.eu/events/we-go-coop-final-conference-1st-mediterranean-forum-on-wetland-contracts/>

IWF e- newsletter is a monthly compilation of news items on IWF-related issues in the domain of Water, Agriculture, Climate Change, SDGs, inclusive development and Water Resources Management that might be of interest to the IWF fraternity. The information contained in the NEWSLETTER does not purport to be exhaustive and is taken "as it is" from external sources and is freely available on the internet. No evaluation on the part of the IWF Office is being made in terms of the authenticity of the information that it may contain. IWF Office makes no guarantee, either express or implied, as to the accuracy of the information published. Your valuable feedback on the usefulness of the bulletin is solicited at contact@indiawaterfoundation.org.

Compiled and Edited by: Ms. Shweta Tyagi, and Mr. Ashish Sharma

INDIA WATER FOUNDATION

Spaces, 17th Floor Max Towers, Sector 16B, DND Flyway Noida-201301, India
Phone: 91-0120-7185304, 91-0120-7185305

