



## MESSAGES OF THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT FOR COP23

Record temperatures, rising water levels, floods, drought... Although the threats posed by climate change grow increasingly more severe, political will is on the wane.

The extreme weather events of 2017 have highlighted the urgent need to speed up the efforts being made!

Water is at the heart of climate change and it is through water that climate change will most notably impact on our societies and ecosystems. It is essential that the ambitious goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement are achieved in order to mitigate climate change. However, to ensure more is done globally to protect our resources, there needs to be greater recognition of water as a key element of climate change.

### MAIN MESSAGES

In the run-up to COP23, the Butterfly Effect is concerned about the slow progress being made in implementing the Paris Agreement and is calling on the international community to:

- **Take a proactive stance on implementing the Paris Agreement:** immediately start to translate the commitments made under the Paris Agreement into inclusive national action plans and policies to tackle global warming; and expand the ambition of the Nationally Determined Contributions from 2018 onwards (with transparent monitoring and revision mechanisms).
- **Make water a central feature of local and national policy and action plans:** focus should be placed on: ensuring sustainable, universal and fair access to water, sanitation and agricultural water; stepping up the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management; restoring and preserving the local water cycle; preventing, preparing for and responding to water-related humanitarian disasters and preparing for post-disaster rehabilitation work in such a way that it does not repeat the “errors” of the past but is ready for the future.
- **Manage our natural environments, including aquatic environments in a more equitable way:** if we are to successfully address climate change, population growth and development-related pressures, we need to find more intelligent and respectful ways of managing our limited water

resources, which are so essential for our needs and human rights and the survival of our societies and ecosystems.

- **Facilitate the integration of adaption policies into water-related sector policy** by building local stakeholders' capacities and improving local knowledge about impacts of climate change on water resources and possible solutions.
- **Identify the regions most vulnerable to a rise in temperatures of over 2 degrees and make these priority targets for international assistance**, particularly those at risk of rising waters (flooding, typhoons resulting in rising sea and river levels) or increased droughts.
- **Involve civil society, including water sector stakeholders**, in decision-making on both climate change and water management issues. Civil society should be included at all stages of the decision-making process, from development through to implementation and monitoring & evaluation.
- **Enable grassroots movements** including women, youth and indigenous peoples to take action to ensure the Paris Agreement is implemented and the Sustainable Development Goals achieved.

#### **About the Butterfly Effect**

The Butterfly Effect is a network of international and local civil society organisations, which advocates for effective local solutions that have a sustainable impact on improving access to water and sanitation and water resources management. The Butterfly Effect is made up of over 90 civil society organisations, NGOs, networks, youth and women's organisations representing 4 different regions in the world (Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe).

Website: [www.butterflyeffectcoalition.com](http://www.butterflyeffectcoalition.com)

Email: [butterflyeffectcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:butterflyeffectcoalition@gmail.com)

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

### Detailed messages

#### **Mobilise civil society:**

Given the slow progress being made in implementing the Paris Agreement, and because governments and countries cannot engage efforts alone, it is important that initiatives undertaken by non-state stakeholders are encouraged and supported.

To this end, it is necessary to:

- Support and share the many initiatives being conducted by civil society stakeholders.
- Improve the Global Climate Action Agenda, and enhance its credibility and effectiveness, by clearly defining the initiative selection process and monitoring and evaluation rules, ensuring transparency and improving the participation and governance system.
- Enable grassroots movements to take action to ensure the Paris Agreement is implemented and the Sustainable Development Goals achieved.

#### **Water, agriculture, nutrition:**

Smallholders feed 70% of the world's population using more environmentally-friendly practices than other more production-driven agricultural models. However, these smallholders are among the first victims of global warming and are often exposed to violent conflicts, which arise due to increased competition over water resources caused by rising anthropic and climate pressures. A compromise needs to be found between climate change resilience and productivity, which hampers adaptation.

The Butterfly Effect urges that action be taken to ensure that:

- agricultural models are revised in order to end support for (the still dominant) types of intensive agriculture that require large amounts of water and chemical inputs; and steps are taken to switch instead to more water efficient methods, such as agro-ecology.
- States, development banks and institutions, and economic stakeholders recognise that smallholders have more resilient know-how and support these smallholders to continue their local subsistence farming. Access to water for family farms, which provide essential livelihoods and means of production, needs to be secured and their rights and means to access and use water for farming need to be protected and enhanced.
- Agricultural water for family farms is provided with:
  - Support to disseminate simple water collection, storage and distribution techniques that are suitable for climate change adaptation and make full use of rainfed methods;
  - Investment to construct and rehabilitate irrigation infrastructure, the design of which is tailored to local management capacities, know-how and current practices and diminishes over-use and loss of water;

- Capacity-building for water management bodies (water users' associations, etc.) and support services (technical agencies, extension workers, vocational training, etc.).
- The future impacts of climate change are taken into account, at the appropriate level, in food and nutrition security-related national policy, international commitments and development strategies, and that these include all nutrition security components and related sectors: water, agriculture, rural development, public health and education. This will require the systematic integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures.
- Public policies are carried out in favour of hygiene, sanitation and clean and safe water in order to guarantee the good nutrition of the populations by the assimilation of the nutrients coming from food.
- Policies to tackle surface runoff and soil erosion are put in place and expanded to improve water infiltration into the soil (reintroducing hedgerows and trees on farmland, reducing the demand for irrigation water and improving irrigation efficiency, creating water retention structures for rainwater harvesting and using this water to irrigate crops).
- Water storage infrastructure (particularly dams) and irrigation projects adhere to the following principles: prior assessment of alternative solutions (including improving existing facilities), the recognition of human rights and benefit-sharing, conservation of aquatic environments and ecosystems, compliance with standards, making use of existing tools like the Hydropower sustainable assessment protocol and global water stewardship standard, non-state actors participation in decision-making.
- Guidance is given for reuse of water and composting; legislation is adapted to allow that.

### **Water and cities:**

According to the UN, by 2030, 60% of the world's population will be living in cities and one in three people will be living in a town with more than 500,000 inhabitants. This phenomenon will be particularly noticeable in the countries 'of the South'. By 2030, 12 of the world's 15 largest cities are expected to be in the global South. As the majority of large cities are located on the coast or on islands, in the future, cities will be increasingly vulnerable to natural disasters or rising water levels. 80% of cities face at least one major risk.

The Butterfly Effect urges that action be taken to ensure that:

- Conditions for accessing water and sanitation are improved for vulnerable communities living in sub-urban areas of cities, particularly those people living in slums and informal settlements and who will be the first to be affected by climate change (water supply disruptions, natural disasters, etc.).
- Support is provided to local authorities to help them tackle climate change through the appropriate legislation, national policy (clear mandates), devolution of responsibilities, funding and technical assistance.

- Improvements are made to governance and to facilitate credible alternatives, circular networks or connected networks to ensure everyone has access to water and sanitation services.
- Climate change adaptation-focused urban planning policies are put in place that include restoring urban natural spaces and ‘unsealing’ cities and reincorporating aquatic areas into urban watersheds.
- The processes used to develop national policy and international programmes to tackle climate change include consultation with local authorities.

### **Water and knowledge:**

The impacts of climate change have a dramatic effect on the population. As each state is accountable to its citizens, and responsible for guaranteeing their rights, it is therefore vital that these citizens, along with civil society, are involved in decision-making on climate-related issues and in the monitoring and evaluation of their state’s commitments. Having the ability to organise and coordinate their efforts will enable people to increase their resilience to the impacts of climate change.

The Butterfly Effect urges that action be taken to ensure that:

- The value of local knowledge and traditional know-how is recognised when developing and implementing policies at all levels.
- Capacity-building is provided to local stakeholders (citizens, policy-makers, communities, etc.) and local knowledge is improved to facilitate the ownership of climate change-related issues and projects and foster stakeholder involvement in climate change policy development.
- Civil society, including water sector stakeholders, is involved in decision-making on both climate change and water management issues. NGOs/CSOs should be included at all stages of the decision-making process, from development through to implementation and monitoring & evaluation.
- The sharing and dissemination of up-to-date, timely, accessible and understandable information on the impacts of climate change on water resources is facilitated and accompanied by behaviour change to enhance informed choices
- Local authorities recognize the role, financially support and empower women's groups as contributors to climate change adaptation by improving their water supply systems.

### **Water and climate finance:**

Our societies need to undergo a profound transformation in order to address and adapt to climate change. While these economic and societal transitions are necessary, they also have an associated cost. This cost is unfair and extremely difficult for developing countries which are already struggling to deal with urgent development challenges and realise fundamental human rights for their people, such as access to safe water and sanitation and sound management of freshwater ecosystems. The poorest

and most vulnerable countries – which have contributed the least to climate change, and yet are already suffering the worst effects – must be prioritised in climate financing decisions.

The Butterfly Effect urges that action be taken to ensure that:

- The funding pledged eight years ago by industrialised countries to support climate action in developing nations (a joint mobilisation goal of US\$100 billion a year by 2020) is fulfilled and directed as a priority to activities that help the world's most vulnerable communities to adapt.
- Funding for climate change adaptation in the water sector is increased, with priority given to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) through grant instruments.
- Access to funding is facilitated for the most disadvantaged countries, regions and communities, and for as long as is required to build in-country capacity, test innovative funding models (between 10 and 15 years), and sustain solutions over the long term. This demands funding windows and procedures that are adapted to local stakeholders and regions. This funding must be additional to development assistance.