


Water and biodiversity post COVID-19 crisis

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We are part of nature, but our choices and behaviours have pushed the rest of the natural world to the brink of disaster. Hunger, disease, loss of livelihoods and rising levels of risk and insecurity are the direct result of our own actions. To shift to a more sustainable future, the best-available expert evidence tells us that we need transformative change to reset our fundamental relationship with our environment.

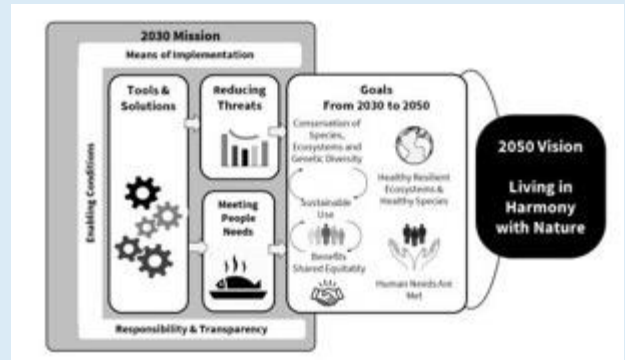
Ana María Hernández Salgar, Chair of IPBES



No water security without ecological security No ecological security without water security

- Strong interlinkages between
 - Water resources management
 - and biodiversity preservation
- The more water, the richer the biodiversity (!)
 - Need to (re)establish virtuous circles ?
- Necessity for water practitioners to :
 - Better balance water for humans and water for Nature
 - Better integrate environmental considerations into their projects
 - Be aware of their particular responsibility

From Aichi Biodiversity 2020 targets... ...to post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework



Convention on
Biological Diversity

- Closer participation ?
- The message ? « *Ecological security is Water security* »
- The right time to do it ?
 - New York Sept. 2020 UN Summit on Biodiversity : “Urgent Action on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development.”
 - CBD15, China 2021
- More reference to post-2020 Biodiversity Framework (in parallel with SDGs...)
- Specific initiative « Water is Life » ?



More « integration » ?

- Subtlety/fragility of ecosystems
 - To be meditated again for water ?
 - We knew it already...with the impacts of climate change

When we harm nature, we directly hurt ourselves as well. When we fail to act as responsible stewards of the environment, it is our future that we jeopardise. **Ana María Hernández Salgar, Chair of IPBES**
- Further develop integrated approaches :
 - **A specificity of water practionners ?**
 - IWRM : to be updated including biodiversity stakes
 - « Water in pipes/water in Nature » (grand cycle/petit cycle)
 - Freshwater/oceans
 - Climate change adaptation strategies

More « integration » ?

- Expand the scope of integration
 - Better dialogue between city planning and water management
 - NBS in cities
 - City/basin dialogue
 - Resilience of cities/utilities (vulnerability of WR)
 - Water infrastructures : 360° feasibility studies for better environmental integration ?
- « We need to leave space for Nature », *Africa Sustainability*
 - *Preservation/restoration of aquatic ecosystems*
- *Linkages between biodiversity and human health*



More « integration » ?

- ❖ New « green deals » for water, biodiversity and development ?
 - COVID-19 pandemic : « wake-up call » for our models and values of development ?
 - « Sustainable » recovery plans/development strategies
 - Nature Based Solutions
 - Long term approaches
 - Non conventional resources
 - Etc...
 - The « business case » for water and biodiversity



Prevent/anticipate

- Resilience
 - The current crisis...and more to come in the future ?
- Not one crisis, but many
 - Health
 - Environment
 - Economy
- Invest in Knowledge
 - Extended « water information systems »
 - We can not manage what we don't know
 - We can not anticipate what we don't understand
 - « *The study of ecosystems is the neglected domain of science and biology* », Ph. Grandcolas, CNRS, Le Monde 04/04/20
 - Reinforce the message on the necessity to better know and understand ecosystems
 - Awareness raising for the public at large



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Our solutions are in nature



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Ecological security

=

Water security

Nature Based Solutions

More integration

**New Deals for water,
biodiversity and
development**

Invest in knowledge