

*Global demand for freshwater is projected to grow by 55% between 2000 and 2050. This poses a huge risk for increased competition over water from different users.*

*A Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on water is a unique opportunity to holistically address our world's water related challenges, avoiding potentially fragmented and unsustainable solutions which can increase competition between different water users.*

HEALTH

SUSTAINABLE  
GROWTH

AGRICULTURE

ENERGY

**CLIMATE**

**WATER** is the primary medium through which climate change impacts humans, society and the environment. Wise water management that builds on ecosystem-based approaches, is essential for securing resilience and combating adverse impact from climate change. In addition, water is also critical for successful climate change mitigation, as many efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions depend on reliable access to water resources.

## WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW?

Water-related disasters such as floods and droughts are by far the most frequent calamities worldwide. They are also the most economically and socially destructive. Climate driven water hazards increasing in frequency and severity, and escalating water scarcity and variability, pose great risks to energy production and to the sustainability of healthy forests.

## WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN NEXT?

Providing sufficient energy for all while radically reducing greenhouse gas emissions will require sophisticated planning. Since water is necessary for both effective climate mitigation and adaptation, it provides one of the best means for negotiating a coherent pathway between the two on all levels. A balanced approach to water management must be part of, and integrated into, any strategies to reduce risks for disasters and to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

### ▶ Watch SIWI's five thematic films

and corresponding Stockholm Statements on Water to learn more about the centrality of water in building resilient future societies.

[www.siwi.org/stockholmstatement2014](http://www.siwi.org/stockholmstatement2014)



## A Sustainable Development Goal

(SDG) on Water is essential for our shared future

## What would an SDG mean for Climate?

**The adoption of a dedicated SDG on water will facilitate long term and resilient climate change action – enabling adaptation and sustaining mitigation.**

## FACTS

- **FLOODS, DROUGHTS AND WINDSTORMS** are the most frequently occurring natural disaster events and account for almost 90% of the most disastrous events since 1990.
- **CLIMATE CHANGE OVER THE 21ST CENTURY** is projected to reduce renewable surface water and groundwater resources significantly in most dry subtropical regions.
- **CLIMATE CHANGE IS PROJECTED TO REDUCE RAW WATER QUALITY** and pose risks to drinking water quality, even with conventional treatment.
- **ONGOING DEFORESTATION** between 2000 and 2010 contributed 20 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Forest loss and degradation were estimated to have cost the global economy – in terms of loss in natural capital – between 1.3 trillion and 3.1 trillion a year.
- **IN 2010 DUE TO REPEATED SEVERE DROUGHTS**, the Amazon has begun to periodically reverse long-standing trends and begin emitting more carbon into the atmosphere than it absorbed.
- **IN 2013 ABOUT A THIRD OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST CITIES** obtained a significant portion of their drinking water directly from forested watersheds and protected areas.