



Expertise France and **water resources management**



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9

ongoing projects
with a water and
sanitation component

13

projects under
development

17

countries
covered

Water is a common asset around the world, and access to water and proper sanitation is a human right. It is an essential resource for all life forms, but it is also at the heart of issues relating to the environment, food security and stability, exacerbated by the impact of climate change and the fact that this resource often transcends borders.

Sustainable and concerted management of water is a challenge for everyone, running through 13 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Through its activity, Expertise France is committed to supporting shared governance of water resources, a framework conducive to inclusive and sustainable water and sanitation services, and the management of water-related risks.

Protecting and managing water resources

In the face of climate change, the question of access to water has become more uncertain than ever. Aware of the importance of this resource, which forms the basis of development and of viable and sustainable lifestyles, Expertise France calls upon specific expertise within its projects to guarantee its controlled management in all sectors concerned.

WATER: A VITAL RESOURCE, UNDER PRESSURE

Many countries are facing challenges in terms of the availability of a quality water supply: more and more areas are suffering from water stress, with resources being overexploited¹.

Against a backdrop of population growth and climate change affecting temperatures and rainfall, the sustainable management of water resources is a growing challenge.

Many countries evaluated these challenges at the United Nations freshwater conference in March 2023, during which 300 billion dollars in financial commitments were announced to curb these inequalities.

WATER AT THE HEART OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

These growing pressures on water resources have consequences for the pillars of sustainable development, particularly in countries exposed to climate change:



Agriculture and food safety

On average, agriculture accounts for 69% of water abstraction², not including rain-fed agriculture, which is dependent on changing rainfall patterns. The availability of water is therefore inextricably linked to global food security.



Energy

Climate change is likely to increase the interdependence of water and energy. The water and sanitation sector accounts for 4% of the world's electricity consumption³, and by 2040, the amount of energy used is expected to more than double, for example to power desalination plants, which are particularly energy-intensive. On the other hand, however, water also represents an opportunity for the sector, with hydroelectric potential yet to be developed.

1. World Resources Institute, 2019, <https://www.wri.org/blog/2019/08/17-countries-home-one-quarter-world-population-face-extremely-high-water-stress>

2. Source WRI <https://www.wri.org/our-work/topics/water>

3. Water Energy Nexus, Excerpt from the World Energy Outlook 2016, International Energy Agency.



Industries

Water is necessary for economic activities, particularly industry, which accounts for 19% of abstraction⁴. Pollution and industrial abstraction have an impact on water quality, but opportunities are emerging with the reuse of wastewater for industrial purposes, for example.



Aquatic environments and biodiversity

Water is an essential support for biodiversity. Deterioration in water quality and the decreased availability have a considerable impact: since 1970, freshwater animal populations (particularly amphibians, reptiles and fish) have fallen by an average of 84% (or 4% per year)⁵ and low-oxygen sites near the coast (including estuaries) have increased tenfold since 1950.



Public water and sanitation services

The availability of drinking water is one of the priority challenges: domestic water consumption has increased by 600% over the last fifty years⁶. A significant proportion of the world's population still does not have access to a sustainable and affordable drinking water service or to acceptable toilet facilities. With the growth of cities, the supply of drinking water and wastewater treatment is an issue, while rural areas continue to face major challenges in obtaining drinking water, with significant impacts on women and girls, who are generally responsible for fetching water.



Water-related risks

Water is also a risk factor for urban areas exposed to flooding, a climatic phenomenon that is on the increase, particularly with climate change. Expertise France is heavily involved in reducing the risk of water-related disasters, for example by setting up warning systems⁷.

AFD GROUP STRATEGY

On the back of these challenges, European and international donors are making a major commitment to this sector. The AFD Group is focusing in particular on improving governance in order to provide efficient services and action at regional level, along with basins for greater resilience.

OUR PROCEDURES

Expertise France supports public policies through mobilisation, and promotes links between the various stakeholders and representatives of water users at local, national and regional levels, integrating local populations and native knowledge. It helps to increase the capacity of the authorities and local players by:

- providing specific technical expertise;
- the sharing of experiences between peers;
- improving and sharing knowledge;
- networking of the players involved;
- implementing collective experiments;
- supporting initiatives by civil society organisations (CSOs).

EXPERTISE FRANCE, UNITING PLAYERS IN THE SECTOR

France has more than 60 years' experience in integrated water resource management using catchment basins. As a result, high-quality French expertise - both public and private - has developed in this sector and is internationally recognised.

Expertise France is able to call upon and bring together all this expertise in a single project, including international expertise: Water agencies, civil society players, specialist consultancies, scientific and research players, economic players and water operators, local authorities, etc.

4. Source WRI <https://www.wri.org/our-work/topics/water>

5. Living Planet Index Freshwater 2020, Living Planet Report 2020 WWF

6. Source WRI <https://www.wri.org/our-work/topics/water>

7. See "Expertise France et la réduction des risques de catastrophes" (Expertise France and mitigating the risk of disasters), December 2023..

Expertise France's service offer for the sector's specific needs

AREA 1

STRENGTHEN GOVERNANCE FOR IMPROVED RESOURCE AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

STRUCTURE NATIONAL PUBLIC POLICIES

- Advice and sharing of know-how in support of public Policy Loans
- Diagnosis and assessment of public policies, developing public policies on integrated water resources management (IWRM)
- Support for the development of programmes to improve knowledge of the resource

SUPPORT LOCAL MANAGEMENT AT CATCHMENT BASIN LEVEL

- Development of strategic planning tools: resource mobilisation and protection development planning, creation of master plans, etc.
- Support for water risk management, including by promoting nature-based solutions
- Encourage dialogue between users and facilitate the joint-construction of action plans by basin and sub-basin in order to produce a consensus and make the most of local knowledge and experience
- Facilitate the legal emergence and budgetary structuring of basin management bodies, including study trips



AREA 2

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE SERVICES TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION

BY SUPPORTING OPERATORS

- Technical and economic analysis of operators in the sector, and proposal of action and management plans
- Translate sector objectives into investment plans and support the preparation of multi-year financial models and pricing studies
- Capacity building: support for academic and vocational training for players in the sector, in particular through peer-to-peer dialogue (WOPs)
- Support for digitisation
- Creation of regulatory frameworks
- Pricing studies, economic models

THROUGH INVESTMENT

- Rehabilitation of networks and construction of community water points as part of urban and rural projects
- Construction of water access points in health and care access projects



Structural institutional partnerships

Expertise France marks a turning point with structural institutional partnerships with the **Bureau des Recherches Géologiques et Minières (Geological and mining research office, BRGM)**, a public body responsible for facilitating the monitoring and management of groundwater, as well as with the **International Office for Water (OiEau)**, a recognised public utility association involved in particular in international projects concerning water resources.

Meetings with the **Water agencies**, the pillars of France's water policy, have made it possible to envisage the mobilisation of their experts on projects, while Expertise France and the **Association des Ingénieurs Territoriaux de France (Association of Territorial Engineers of France)** will sign a partnership allowing the involvement of these engineers, some of whom specialise in water and sanitation, in projects managed by Expertise France.

**MULTI-COUNTRY
WEST AFRICA**

PCAO PROJECT

This regional harmonisation project for civil protection in West Africa combines day-to-day relief work with disaster response, particularly in the event of flooding.

Risk of water-related natural disasters

HAITI

URBAYITI

The project is helping to rehabilitate drinking water supply systems in Jérémie and Les Cayes in Haiti.

Drinking water

GUINEA

PASA2

With the PASA2 programme, Expertise France is promoting access to water and sanitation by drilling boreholes, distributing hand-washing kits and connecting maternity units and clinics to existing boreholes.

Drinking water; Water and health

LATIN AMERICA

**EUROCLIMA+
PROGRAMME**

Its aim is to increase the resilience of the most vulnerable populations to climate change. In particular, it introduces a catchment approach to the Goascorán basin in Honduras in order to design and implement pilot projects for the protection and management of natural resources.

Water resource management, governance, basin management

PERU

APU PERU PROJECT

Expertise France will support public institutions in dealing with extreme weather events and the impacts of climate change. To this end, it will support the reinforcement of the national early warning system, the purchase of hydro-meteorological equipment, the development of community risk maps, civil protection training, and the strengthening of social links for the most vulnerable sections of the population.

Risk of water-related natural disasters

SYRIA**NORTH-EAST SYRIA - SABIR**

Through the SABIR project, Expertise France is rehabilitating drinking water treatment plants and irrigation canals. Boreholes have also been equipped with solar energy, and support for farmers is helping to develop more sustainable irrigation (training, equipment, setting up local management committees).

Drinking water; Irrigation; Stability in countries in crisis

GEORGIA**WATER AND HEALTH**

This project aims to improve water quality and management in order to improve public health. Expertise France is working alongside the International Office for Water and the Austrian Environment Agency on this project.

Water and Health; Governance; Knowledge of the resource; Public policies

JORDAN**WATER AUTHORITY OF JORDAN (WAJ)**

Capacity building for WAJ managers to equip it with the tools to help solve financial problems, as part of a loan granted by the AFD.

Capacity building for water operators, Governance

GHANA**SUSTAINABLE CITIES**

The project has a component dedicated to improving access to drinking water by setting up community access points and building the capacity of those involved in supplying drinking water.

Drinking water; Capacity-building for water operators

Expertise France is France's public agency and interministerial actor in charge of international technical cooperation, the second-largest in Europe. As a subsidiary of Agence Française de Développement Group (AFD Group), it designs and implements projects that sustainably strengthen public policies in developing and emerging countries. Expertise France works in key areas of development: governance, security, climate change, health, education, and more. Alongside its partners, it contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Know-how in common.



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