



European
Commission

WATER FOR CLIMATE

EU GCCA+ The Alliance for a changing world

#GCCAPlus #EUClimateAction #EUGreenDeal

2021

KEY ISSUES

Freshwater is an essential element of life on earth. Yet, freshwater represents only **3% of the world's water**, and only **one third** is available for human use (UN-Water).

Water use has been **increasing worldwide by about 1%** per year since the 1980s, says the UN World Water report. About **3.6 billion people** worldwide live in water-scarce areas (5.7 billion people by 2050). There are several **causes of global water scarcity**, including degradation of water quality, drought, uncontrolled use of water, with consequences on health, impact on ecosystems, vulnerability to natural disasters and conflicts. Some progress has been made in the proportion of the global population using at least a **basic drinking water service** (from 81% in 2000 to 90% in 2017). However, **climate change is altering patterns** of weather and water around the world, contributing to unpredictability of our most precious resource.

EU GCCA+ ACTIONS

Water is a very broad theme, which is approached in many ways by Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (EU GCCA+) programmes. It is in the first place about **water scarcity** (and supply), but also about **sanitation, irrigation**, water resources management and **efficient water use** (techniques and awareness-raising in agriculture, forestry and community water supplies).

About half of all EU GCCA+ projects include activities related to Water, to varying degrees, across **55 countries** and at a value of 267 million euros.

Action varies from technical support through the establishment of small irrigation systems, drainage systems to control erosion, rainwater-harvesting systems, to **water supply for humans and livestock**, or awareness on water efficiency.

See also [Oceans and Coasts](#)



Growing onions in the sand of Mauritius

Belle Mare is a small village situated on the eastern coastal side of the island of Mauritius. Residents are mainly small planters highly vulnerable to a high incidence of pests and disease due to climatic conditions such as high temperature and humidity. They also face the challenge of climate extremes, such as drought and high-intensity rainfall.

This is where the Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (EU GCCA+) combines scientific knowledge from the University of Mauritius with nature-based solutions. Techniques include mulching, melliferous plants, compost instead of fertilisers, biopesticides and drip irrigation. This is how onions and other vegetables can grow in the sand.

See the full story on gcca.eu/stories

Climate smart cultivations at Belle Mare, Mauritius © EU GCCA+ 2020.
Photos by Diksh Potter

THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

EU commitment to water resources

The **EU Consensus on Development** acknowledges that water resources are particularly **exposed to environmental** degradation (i.e. climate change, threatening agriculture and food security). The EU applies a human-based approach to water and sanitation incorporating the principles of Availability, Accessibility, Affordability, Acceptance and Quality.

The **Council Conclusions on Water Diplomacy (2018)** enhanced EU diplomatic engagement about water as a tool for peace, security and stability, reaffirming the EU's commitment to **SDG6** and promoting the Convention on Protection and Use of Trans-boundary Water Courses and International Lakes (**Water Convention**). In parallel, the Council has adopted the conclusions on **EU Human Rights Guidelines on Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation** (2019).

All elements of the European Green Deal have potential for development of sound water related action: Circular Economy (water reuse and recycling), Biodiversity (watershed management), Green cities (water efficiency, pollution), Food systems (water footprint).

International Developments

The UN sustainable development goal **SDG 6** focuses on availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. The **Global Climate Action Pathway for Water** of the the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) proposes solutions relating to sustainable **consumption of groundwater** and aquifers and preserving their ecosystem; **improving water storage** and conservation, regulating the administration of quality water resources.

Climate adaptation and resilience efforts will be underway in at least **100 river and groundwater basins** worldwide.

Other global conventions and treaties of interest include the **UN Convention on non-navigational uses** of international watercourses (proposed in 1997 but entered into force in 2014), as well as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (1971) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992).

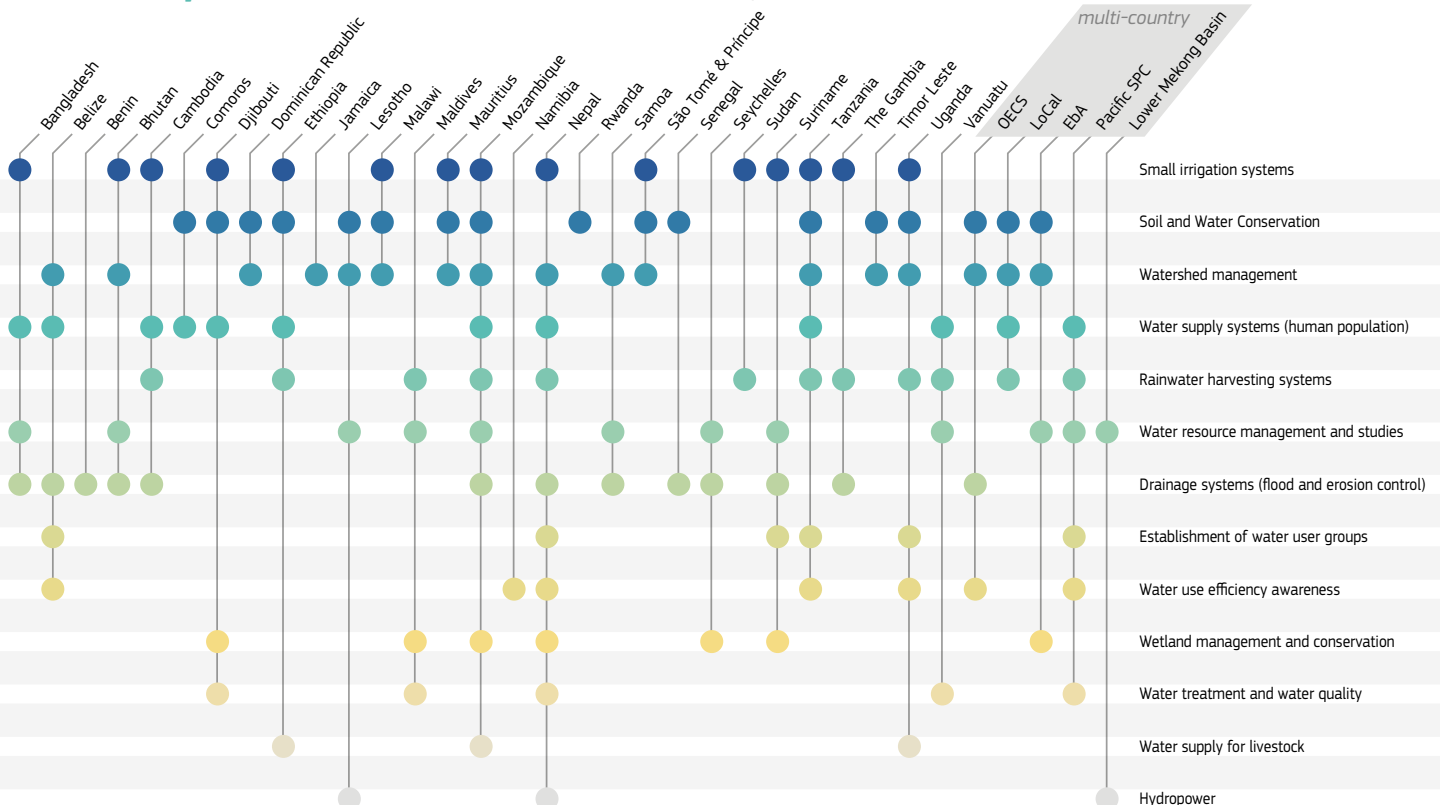


EU GCCA/GCCA+ AND WATER

45 projects

55 countries

267 million euros



www.gcca.eu

EU GCCA+ Support Facility info@gcca.eu

EU GCCA+ community capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/gcca-community

EU GCCA+ on You Tube www.youtube.com/user/GCCACommunity

GCCA+
THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PLUS INITIATIVE



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