



SUMMARY REPORT

Stockholm 27 August 2025
10:00 – 16:30

Convenors: WWF

Organisers: Alexis Morgan (WWF), Rylan Dobson (WWF)

Facilitator: Ken Caplan

Report compiled by: Alexis Morgan (WWF), Rylan Dobson (WWF)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On August 27th, roughly 95 people from over 45 organisations came together on the side of Stockholm Water Week across 2 discussion sessions. Below is a list of the organisations that were represented at the event:

52impact	FluxGen	SCS Global Services
Agrow	Frank Water	Suntory
Agua Segura	Gap Inc.	The Nature Conservancy
Amazon	Global Water Challenge	The Rivers Trust
Antea france	Global Water Partnership	TNC
Anthesis Group	Independent	UNGC-USA
Aqualateral	Kilimo	Water Connect Consulting
Arup	LeafTurtle	Water Witness International
Asahi Group	LimnoTech	Water.org
AstraZeneca	Microsoft	WaterAid
CDP	Natural Mineral Waters Europe	Waterplan
CEO Water Mandate	NESTLE	World Resources Institute (WRI)
Connecting for Change LLC	P&G	WWF
Diageo Plc	Reckitt	
Finnish Environment Institute	Salesforce	

This multistakeholder group spent time discussing two topics around tables, specifically the topics were:

1. Towards open and accessible catchment data and monitoring
2. Collective policy & regulatory engagement ahead of UN Water 2026

The group met in 10 tables for two discussions per topic. Attendees completed surveys, then facilitators guided reflections and captured input in a Google Doc, which was synthesized with ChatGPT into WaterLogue outputs.

Key conclusions:

Discussion 1 – Catchment Data & Monitoring:

Six water areas are supported, but gaps exist in governance, equity, resilience, and cross-sector integration. Indicators should be clear, feasible, and basin-focused, covering water quantity, quality, ecosystems, WASH, and extreme weather. Emphasize stakeholder participation, partnerships, pro-poor financing, sustainability, and SDG-aligned, outcome-focused metrics to enable actionable water management and co-benefits for health, livelihoods, and the environment.

Proposed next steps:

1. **Convene a working group to re-work the draft indicators.** Building on WaterLogues input, the working group will seek to strengthen the draft set of indicators by consolidating overlapping indicators, standardize terminology, and review dimensions like financing, affordability, biodiversity, and resilience. The group will seek to differentiate between surface and groundwater and adopt a tiered model that balances core global indicators with context-specific ones. The group will also seek to clarify the purpose and audience for the indicators, as well as outline roles of actors by indicator.
2. **Collaborate on a policy engagement toolkit.** WWF will be leading the development of an advocacy and policy engagement playbook and will outreach to others. This playbook will build on the draft indicators and consider outcome metrics related to governance, financing flows, and equity considerations. Ensure the framework supports national reporting and integrates water into adaptation and development plans to strengthen institutional effectiveness and resilience outcomes.
3. **Formalize and review an updated draft framework.** Building on efforts from the working group to steward the framework, the updated framework will be reviewed and indicators validated with a broader array of stakeholders before being published and “adopted”.

Discussion 2 – Policy & Regulatory Engagement for UN Water 2026

UN Water 2023 raised visibility but lacked tangible outcomes, accountability, and coordination. For 2026, focus on shared goals, binding stewardship standards, integrated water-climate-biodiversity approaches, and measurable indicators. Leverage existing COPs, embed action from global to local, and use co-financing and monitoring to turn commitments into impact. Rally around bold, simple outcomes like “zero pollution,” drinkable rivers, and 1% GDP for water security. Ensure inclusive participation of youth, Indigenous communities, and the Global South, and strengthen public-private collaboration with clear, co-creative frameworks to translate commitments into measurable results.

Proposed next steps:

Review and further discuss the initial draft “outcome pushes for UN Water 2026”. Building on additional WaterLogues and other forums (e.g., WEF), discuss and refine the following five recommendations stemming from the WaterLogue in Stockholm (noted below). These will be refined via various input via Working Group and popularized with a broader array of stakeholders in the months ahead, as well as through key preparatory events and the UN Water Secretariat.

1. **Anchor Water in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs):** Recognizing that NAPs are legally mandated under the UNFCCC and already recognized by governments, the intended aim to require water be explicitly included a required aspect of climate adaptation plans, ensuring alignment with existing global processes instead of creating a new silo.
2. **Transform the Freshwater Challenge into “FWC 2.0” with Accountability:** The FWC already has visibility and political traction, and the lead up to UN Water 2026 offers an opportunity to bolster it and embed stronger monitoring, reporting, and review mechanisms. The aim would be enhancing uptake, commitments, and demonstrate delivery against the aims of the FWC outlined at the first UN Water Conference in 2023.
3. **Establish National Water Action Plans (linked to the FWC & NAPs):** NDCs have proven effective under the UNFCCC and accordingly, this recommendation mirrors the climate NDCs. National Water Action Plans would give countries a practical tool to translate global goals, including SDG 6, into national policies. The aim would be to secure an agreement amongst national governments to mandate National Water Action Plans.
4. **Embed Water Across All COP Processes (Climate, Biodiversity, Desertification):** Water cuts across climate, ecosystems, and land degradation. This approach avoids political fights over a “Water COP” and instead positions water as indispensable to all COP outcomes. The aim for this push at UN Water 2026 would be to ensure there are dedicated water efforts embedded in each of the three conventions: UNFCCC, UN CBD, and UNCCD. If successful, this would ensure water issues are consistently mainstreamed in global negotiations, raising its profile without fragmenting agendas.
5. **Create a Financing & Investment Mechanism for Water Resilience:** Governments and businesses want clear pathways for investment. A co-financing model (government + private sector) is politically appealing and practical. The aim for this push would be to create a water-oriented taskforce to unlock the stalled adaptation and resilience funds and build mechanisms to accelerate distribution of funds.

** This WaterLogues event was made possible by the generous support from
Fair Water Footprint and Global Water Challenge **

SUMMARIES OF SESSIONS

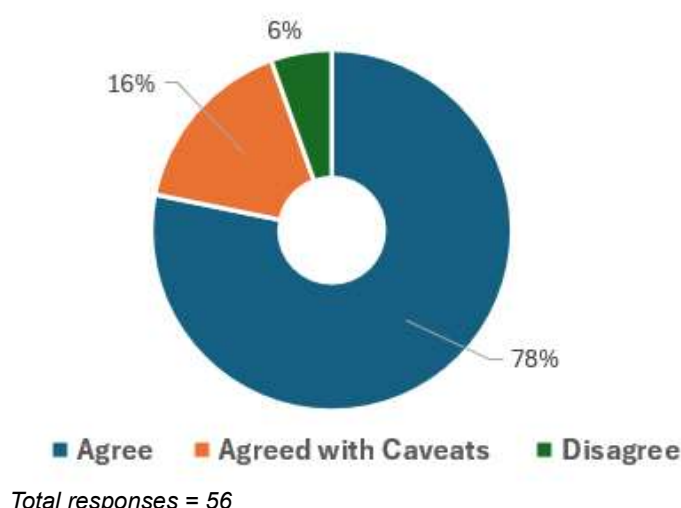
SESSION 1: Towards open and accessible catchment data and monitoring

This synthesis¹ captures key insights and recommendations from discussions during the event. WaterLogues is an evolving, unfunded initiative, so while feedback will shape future events, some recommendations may exceed current resource capacity.

Attendees received an Excel sheet of indicators sourced from various frameworks, refined through prior 2024 Edinburgh events. This process identified a set of “recommended” indicators as a potential common menu for collective support. These are shown in the Appendix and formed the basis of the session discussions.

DISCUSSION 1

Are we comfortable with the 6 “water areas” proposed or are there others that ought to be added?



Attendees were first asked to provide individual insights around the above, from the survey data, the following key insights were distilled.

Key insights

Agree with caveats	- Indicators broadly cover global water issues, but key gaps remain risk reduction, policy and investment, and co-benefits (health, prosperity, gender equity). - Affordability is critical, both for data collection and for water solutions. - Greater focus is needed on water security and sustainability for all, avoiding siloed categories. - Community participation is insufficiently defined and should be strengthened.
Disagree	- Missing water-food nexus and water-energy nexus- important to capture cross-sectoral role of water - Make it cohesive: Water governance, Water quantity, Water quality, Water access sanitation and health, Water risk?

¹ Synthesis was developed via ChatGPT using the following prompt using data gathered from the event in a Google Doc: “Synthesize the key insights from these raw notes. Make the synthesis as concise as possible and use the frequency in which key words or phrases that were used to generate and prioritise the synthesis. Present the information in a bullet point format. [copy text from GoogleDoc]”

Other areas for consideration	• Sustainability & Security: Strong emphasis on <i>sustainable water systems, livelihoods, and water security for all</i>. • Policy & Investment: Need for clearer <i>policy integration</i> and stronger focus on <i>water investments</i>. • Equity & Inclusion: Importance of <i>economic resilience, equity, and elevating Indigenous and community voices</i>. • Integration: Desire to <i>connect the six areas</i> cohesively, avoiding over-complication and silos. • Data & Communication: Call for <i>accessible, digestible data sharing</i> across stakeholders, including <i>scientific research, public awareness, and co-benefits</i>. • Broader Connections: Recognition of links to <i>oceans and non-water solutions</i> (e.g., nature).
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Following the provision of individual insights, attendees had a general discussion in their tables and the following insights were distilled from those discussions:

- **Broad alignment, but need clarity:** General support for categories, but definitions, scope (basin vs. global), and purpose (monitoring vs. action) need sharpening.
- **Data: costly and complex:** Data is expensive, inconsistent, and hard to access. Clear ownership, governance, and simple, practical indicators are essential (80:20 rule).
- **Governance & policy gaps:** Governance underplayed; needs stronger emphasis and alignment with SDGs, CDP, CSRD, SBTN. Avoid duplicating reporting.
- **Social inclusion missing:** Community voices, equity, affordability, and livelihoods are thinly covered; stronger stakeholder participation is needed.
- **Integration & resilience:** Water's role as an enabler (food, energy, climate) is underrepresented. Indicators must capture resilience, risk reduction, and sustainability.
- **Practical application unclear:** Output format (dashboard/menu), end-users (corporates, NGOs, governments), and whether indicators are mandatory remain undefined. Must drive collective action, not reporting silos.

In short: Broad support, but big asks for **clarity, simplicity, governance integration, stronger social focus, and alignment with existing frameworks**. The balance between **practicality and impact** is the central challenge.

DISCUSSION 2

For each category of indicators, are these the most material indicators and how feasible are these indicators?

Attendees rated the “recommended” indicators (1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree) for materiality, feasibility, and gaps. The survey results yielded the following key insights.

Category	Materiality*	Feasibility**	Missing indicators from recommended list
<i>Water Governance (SGD 6.5)</i>	3.45	2.82	- Partnership effectiveness – Measure real impact. - Community role & engagement – Quantifiable participation and influence. - Integration of formal + informal water practices. - Pro-poor financing outcomes – Track impact, not just funding. - Water investment effectiveness – Are funds producing results? - Leadership/stewardship impact – Dedicated personnel contributions. - Broader ecosystem indicators – Include KBAs, biodiversity hotspots, and active stewardship lands. - Implementation readiness – Plans exist, objectives clear, enabling environment in place.
<i>Water Quantity (SDG 6.4 & 11)</i>	3.34	3.24	- Supply-demand gap & seasonal variability - Water competition / conflicts - Demand-side abstraction - Catchment monitoring readiness - Runoff, precipitation, flood risk
<i>Water Quality (SDG 6.3)</i>	3.65	3.78	- Temperature - Sedimentation / Turbidity / TSS - Basin-specific pollutants (adaptive, qualitative) - Fluoride & arsenic - Heavy metals & nutrients (broader than current three) - Number of monitoring locations
<i>Freshwater Ecosystems (SDG 6.6)</i>	3.58	3.35	- Soil quality - Biodiversity - Tree cover - Area of wetlands
<i>Safe WASH for All (SDG 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.7, 6.8)</i>	3.66	3.33	- Affordability - Education - Health and well-being indicator towards community improvement.
<i>Resilience and Extreme Weather (SDG 11, 13 & 8)</i>	2.96	2.63	- Existence and implementation of resilience plans at the basin level - Need more indicators and stronger definition of resilience. Also need more on extreme weather and climate change.

Notes

Total Responses = 41

* The recommended indicators represent the most material indicators for this category

** Generally, these indicators are feasible (cost, time, effort) to collect

Following the provision of individual insights, attendees had a general discussion in their tables and the following insights and themes were distilled from those discussions:

Governance

- Basin authorities/statutory bodies present.
- Water management plans exist; inclusive and socially + environmentally relevant.
- Measurable stakeholder participation and partnerships.
- Policy, enforcement, financing, and sustainability accounted for.
- Water conflict and local context considered.

Water Quantity

- Supply-demand balance and water stress measured.
- Seasonal/interannual variability tracked.
- Source sustainability ensured.
- Flood/drought risk and adaptive capacity included.
- Basin/catchment-level metrics standardized.

Water Quality

- Core parameters: pH, temperature, DO, turbidity/TSS, salinity.
- Contaminants: PFAS, heavy metals, fluoride, nutrients, emerging pollutants.
- Pathogens/human health proxies (E. coli, wastewater).
- Context-specific (agriculture, mining, urban runoff).
- Tiered monitoring approach for data gaps.

Freshwater Ecosystems

- Broader ecosystem health (wetlands, forests, mangroves, biodiversity).
- Connectivity and riparian/floodplain functions.
- Adaptive/tiered indicators per basin.

WASH

- Access/service levels (household, schools, hospitals; safely managed).
- Sustainability and financial capacity.
- Impact on human health (disease incidence).
- Gender and inclusion prioritized.

Resilience

- Climate/infrastructure adaptive capacity.
- System and household-level metrics (% time needs met, response to extremes).
- Interdependence with quantity, quality, WASH, ecosystems.

General / Cross-cutting

- Align with SDGs, WHO, OECD standards.
- Tiered/adaptive indicators for context and data gaps.
- Outcome-focused and impact-based metrics.
- Monitoring feasibility (remote sensing, public data).
- Standardization and baseline comparability.

NEXT STEPS

Attendees were asked to think about next steps that collectively could be pursued with respect to indicators and catchment monitoring.

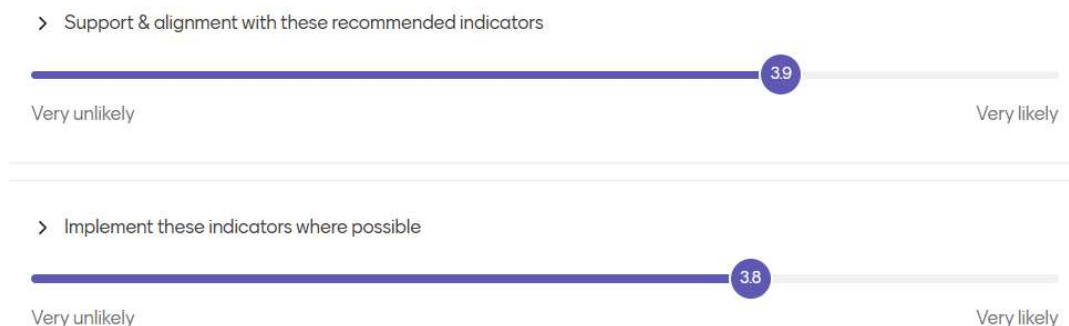
Attendees suggested the following topics for future WaterLogues:

- Governance & accountability: roles, funding, basin alignment
- Indicator design: thresholds, co-benefits, high-value metrics
- Data & implementation: collection, users, integration
- Community engagement: watershed groups, best practices
- Water systems & resilience: key catchments, impacts, investments

Considering the discussions that were held during the session, attendees proposed the following set of tangible next steps (not yet prioritised):

1. **Convene a working group to re-work the draft indicators.** Building on WaterLogues input, the working group will seek to strengthen the draft set of indicators by consolidating overlapping indicators, standardize terminology, and review dimensions like financing, affordability, biodiversity, and resilience. The group will seek to differentiate between surface and groundwater, and adopt a tiered model that balances core global indicators with context-specific ones. The group will also seek to clarify the purpose and audience for the indicators, as well as outline roles of actors by indicator.
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3. **Formalize and review an updated draft framework.** Building on efforts from the working group to steward the framework, the updated framework will be reviewed and indicators validated with a broader array of stakeholders before being published and “adopted”.

For the organisations that attendees represented, they rated their notional general support for the discussed indicators (1 = Very unlikely 5 = Very likely):



Total responses = 51 Responses

Attendees, representing the following organisations, indicated that they were interested in participating in a smaller working group to further advance these indicators.

Agrow
Agua Segura
Antea France
AstraZeneca

ARUP
FluxGen
Kilimo
LimnoTech

Suntory
WaterAid
WaterPlan
World Resources Institute

SESSION 2: Collective policy & regulatory engagement

This synthesis² captures key insights and recommendations from discussions at 10 tables during the event. WaterLogues is an evolving, unfunded initiative, so while feedback will shape future events, some recommendations may exceed current resource capacity.

DISCUSSION 1

What have we learned from past engagements (e.g., 2023)? What foundations are we building on?

Attendees were first asked to provide individual insights across a series of sub-questions, from the survey data, the following key insights were distilled.

Question	Key insights
<i>What types of collective policy and regulatory engagement for UN Water 2023 were most effective or visible? What impact did they have?</i>	• High-profile events raised visibility but had little real impact. • Many corporate pledges lack follow-through, metrics, or verification. • Water initiatives remain disconnected from broader SDG and climate policies. • Targeted programs (Freshwater Challenge, advocacy letters) can drive results. • Clear, measurable targets and accountability are essential for progress.
<i>Where did our policy/regulatory influence fall short in 2023, and why? Were there missed opportunities for alignment?</i>	• Limited action & accountability: Few tangible outcomes, next steps, or time-bound activities; corporate ambition and commitments were low. • Narrow framing: Water was primarily framed environmentally, with the human dimension and policy-practice links underrepresented. • Fragmented collaboration: Stakeholders spoke in echo chambers; cross-sector engagement and public sector participation were limited. • Voluntary & low clout: Efforts relied on voluntary participation; insufficient representation from governments, civil society, and UN bodies. • Lack of clear asks: No discrete calls to action, collective priorities, or measurable joint targets; guidance was vague and uninspiring. • Resource gaps: Funding, environmental flow reforms, and allocation priorities were unclear or unaddressed. • Representation & convening: Stronger facilitation through UN bodies or coalitions and broader geographic/civil society inclusion needed.
<i>How did different actors (corporates, NGOs, platforms) coordinate or complement each other on policy and regulatory advocacy—and what frictions arose?</i>	• Limited inclusivity: UN processes favor state actors, restricting broader engagement. • Fragmented goals: Companies and organizations pursue individual targets; no unified “North Star.” • Collaboration gaps: Many organizations work in silos; coordination is often superficial or unclear. • Momentum lost: Efforts like statements or papers rarely translate into sustained action or follow-up. • Resource constraints: Funding sources and financial commitments are unclear, limiting implementation.

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	Timing challenges: Initiatives often prepared too late to drive meaningful engagement.
<i>Which stakeholders or narratives were missing or underrepresented in policy and regulatory advocacy, and how can we elevate them early for 2026?</i>	Stakeholders - Local, Indigenous, and impacted communities (including farmers and agricultural groups) - Young people and Global South representation - Civil society, NGOs, and UN bodies - Banks, philanthropic funders, and private sector actors - Corporates and suppliers across the value chain - Startups in water tech for monitoring and data Narratives - Integrate environmental and social outcomes, link water initiatives to human and community impacts - Connect water security to national security, economic stability, and the water-food-energy-climate nexus - Promote private sector accountability with concrete, measurable targets - Transform business models across the full value chain where needed - Address wastewater treatment and infrastructure gaps
<i>Is your organization convening something for UN Water 2026? If so - what is it called and what stakeholders (e.g., Investors etc.) are covered?</i>	- Companies - Investors - UNGC members - Development finance institutions - Countries

Following the provision of individual insights, attendees had a general discussion in their tables and the following insights were distilled from those discussions:

- Lack of unified targets: Transboundary and UN water initiatives often lack joint statements, tracking, or accountability, making coordinated action difficult.
- Visibility vs. impact: High-profile events (UN Water 2023, COP, Special Envoy) create visibility, but concrete outcomes and attribution are limited.
- Commitment without follow-through: Ambitious pledges often lack mechanisms to translate ambition into action, especially for financing or co-financing.
- Need for focused agendas: Past events were too broad or last-minute; focusing on 1–2 key priorities with broad support is critical.
- Public-private engagement gaps: Corporates need structured frameworks or co-creative principles to effectively engage with policy and governments.
- Youth and stakeholder engagement: Platforms like youth networks and multi-stakeholder involvement are promising but under-leveraged.
- Financing & business case: Lack of mechanisms like a UN water fund or clear valuation of water limits practical impact.
- Lessons from success: Targeted interventions, joint letters, and convening financial actors show that focused, coordinated actions can generate momentum.
- Process improvements: Clear questions, early planning, interactive dialogues, and defined “asks” improve potential for meaningful outcomes.

DISCUSSION 2

How do we collectively shape and influence policy action in 2026 and beyond?

Attendees were first asked to provide individual insights across a series of sub-questions, from the survey data, the following key insights were distilled.

Which of the six UN Water 2026 themes feel most ripe for coordinated policy or regulatory engagement? (Please rank from highest to lowest)

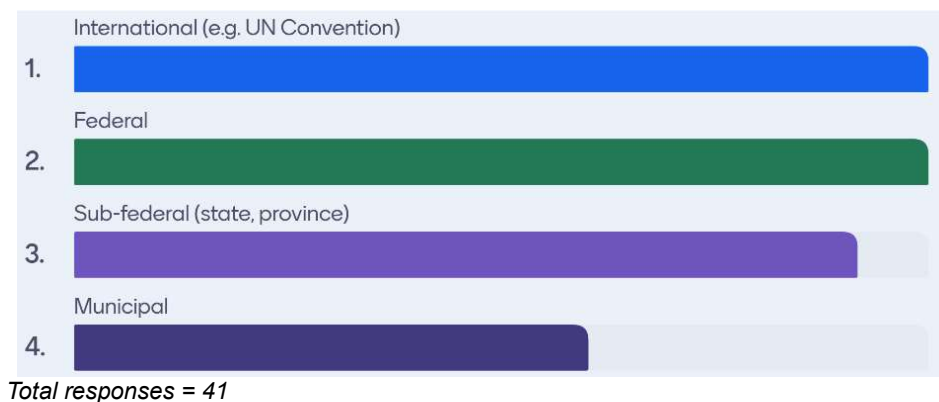


Total responses = 41

Question	Key insights
<i>What is the bold, system-level policy and regulatory shift we believe is necessary to meaningfully advance water stewardship at scale?</i>	• Accountability & Compliance: Mechanisms to hold companies accountable; monitor enforceable commitments; embed legally binding water stewardship standards (national & international). • Integrated Approaches: Combine water, climate, and biodiversity discussions; inter-COP mechanisms; holistic x-topical conferences. • Finance & Investment: Flexible finance pathways, co-financing vehicles, global/national water funds, and funding for green/grey infrastructure; link finance to measurable milestones. • Global Guidance & Standards: Concrete guidance on roles, responsibilities, timelines; strict and coherent standards; recognize water footprint across value chains; uphold human rights to water & sanitation. • Community & Multi-Stakeholder Engagement: Include all actors, not just large companies; local catchment convenors; ensure communities have a say in water use and preparedness. • Outcomes-Focused: Shift focus from process to outcomes; track progress toward ambitious, measurable targets; prioritize water security at scale as the goal. • Innovation & Policy Linkages: Promote water pricing, NAPs for resilient futures, wastewater treatment, and interconnection with trade, policy, and regulation.
<i>Where do we already see pathways for joint policy and regulatory action (e.g., Dakar Jan 2026, UNGA)</i>	• High-Level Engagement Challenges: Senior leadership participation is limited, especially in Middle East and Global South events.

<i>2025, COP events, corporate platforms, etc.)?</i>	• Event Coordination Needed: Current UNGA, COP, Water Week, G20, and regional initiatives are fragmented; outcomes are not consistently built upon. • Integrate Rather Than Create New Forums: Focus on leveraging existing COPs and summits; use water as a mechanism connecting climate, biodiversity, and sustainable development agendas. • Corporate Contribution: Corporates can finance sustainable transitions and compensate for water impacts; platforms like CEO Water Mandate, AWS, WBCSD have potential but need coordination. • Regulatory & Policy Linkages: Emphasize regional regulatory processes, member state plans, and alignment with global ESG frameworks (EFRAG, IFRS). • Maintain Momentum: Prioritize continuity with existing initiatives (Freshwater Challenge, Fair Water Footprints) rather than creating entirely new mechanisms.
<i>What is needed to build trust and alignment on policy and regulatory advocacy across NGOs, corporate partners, and Member State allies?</i>	• Aligned Goals & Indicators: Establish a North Star and common set of water goals and indicators across sectors. • Cross-Sector Platforms & Dialogue: Use structured, global-scale convenings to foster collaboration, including NGOs, corporates, and public sector actors. • Accountability & Transparency: Implement mechanisms for monitoring, reporting, and ensuring compliance with commitments; maintain open communication. • Financing & Investment: Identify clear sources of funding and co-financing to support joint targets and basin-level initiatives. • Inclusive & Pragmatic Approach: Ensure broad participation, regional/basin focus, evidence-based proposals, and facilitation for ambitious yet achievable outcomes.
<i>What types of policy and regulatory advocacy mechanisms (e.g., joint statements, convenings, political championing) could amplify our influence?</i>	• Joint Statements & Commitments: Useful for setting intentions; need concrete targets and legitimacy from UN and corporate leaders. • Political Championing: Member states, COP hosts, and national/global political actors are essential to drive adoption and accountability. • Advocacy & Convenings: Coordinated campaigns, trade associations, and pre-conference advocacy amplify impact. • Inclusion of Diverse Voices: Youth, Indigenous communities, and industry leaders should be engaged to strengthen legitimacy and bold action. • Funding & Implementation: Joint statements must be paired with actionable financing and mechanisms for tangible outcomes.

Rank what is the most effective policy and regulatory advocacy level to collectively target?



Following the provision of individual insights, attendees had a general discussion in their tables and the following insights were distilled from those discussions:

- **Rallying Goal:** Unite around clear, simple ambitions—e.g., “zero pollution,” “drinkable, swimmable rivers,” or 1% GDP on water security.
- **From Global to Local:** Embed water in climate, biodiversity, and energy agendas; balance global frameworks with regional and basin-level action.
- **Corporate Action & Accountability:** Use co-creation frameworks, co-financing, and monitoring platforms to turn commitments into measurable impact.
- **Inclusive & Visible:** Engage youth, civil society, and diverse regions; showcase success stories to drive momentum.

Five potential advocacy pathways towards UN Water 2025 with specific outcomes

Building on the discussions, we are suggesting five potential joint pushes in the leadup to the 2026 UN Water Conference. These include:

1. Anchor Water in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs): Recognizing that NAPs are legally mandated under the UNFCCC and already recognized by governments, the intended aim to require water be explicitly included a required aspect of climate adaptation plans, ensuring alignment with existing global processes instead of creating a new silo.

- **Primary target:**
 - National governments (ministries of environment, water, climate, planning) → responsible for drafting NAPs.
- **Secondary target:**
 - UNFCCC Secretariat → to issue guidance that strengthens water integration.
 - Development banks & donors → to fund water components in NAPs.

Advocacy hook: Position water as **essential to climate resilience**, with political and financial incentives for inclusion.

2. Transform the Freshwater Challenge into “FWC 2.0” with Accountability: The FWC already has visibility and political traction, and the lead up to UN Water 2026 offers an opportunity to bolster it and embed stronger monitoring, reporting, and review mechanisms. The aim would be enhance uptake, commitments, and demonstrate delivery against the aims of the FWC outlined at the first UN Water Conference in 2023.

- **Primary target:**
 - UN-Water & participating member states → to formalize monitoring & reporting.
- **Secondary target:**
 - Civil society & watchdog NGOs → to build external accountability pressure.
 - Private sector → to sign on as co-delivery partners.

Advocacy hook: The Freshwater Challenge becomes the **global scoreboard for freshwater action**.

3. Establish National Water Action Plans (linked to the FWC & NAPs): NDCs have proven effective under the UNFCCC and accordingly, this recommendation mirrors the climate NDCs. National Water Action Plans would give countries a practical tool to translate global goals, including SDG 6, into national policies. The aim would be to secure an agreement amongst national governments to mandate National Water Action Plans.

- **Primary target:**
 - National governments → especially water ministries and planning bodies.
- **Secondary target:**
 - UN-Water & UNDP → to provide technical guidance & convening.
 - Regional bodies (AMCOW, EU, ASEAN, etc.) → to scale regionally before going global.

Advocacy hook: National water action plans make countries **attractive for investment** while aligning with global frameworks.

4. Embed Water Across All COP Processes (Climate, Biodiversity, Desertification): Water cuts across climate, ecosystems, and land degradation. This approach avoids political fights over a “Water COP” and instead positions water as indispensable to all COP outcomes. The aim for this push at UN Water 2026 would be to ensure there are dedicated water efforts embedded in each of the three aforementioned conventions: UNFCCC, UN CBD, and UNCCD. If successful, this would ensure water issues are consistently mainstreamed in global negotiations, raising its profile without fragmenting agendas.

- **Primary target:**
 - UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD secretariats → to institutionalize water tracks.
- **Secondary target:**
 - Host countries of upcoming COPs → to champion water inclusion.
 - Advocacy coalitions (climate + biodiversity + food + water NGOs) → to push for unified language.

Advocacy hook: “No COP outcome without water” → water as a cross-cutting enabler for all treaties.

5. Create a Financing & Investment Mechanism for Water Resilience: Governments and businesses want clear pathways for investment. A co-financing model (government + private sector) is politically appealing and practical. The aim for this push would be to create a water-oriented taskforce to unlock the stalled adaptation and resilience funds and build mechanisms to accelerate distribution of funds.

- **Primary target:**
 - Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) & climate funds (e.g., GCF, GEF).
 - National finance ministries → to commit co-financing.
- **Secondary target:**
 - Corporates & investors → to pledge matched financing through blended finance models.
 - Philanthropy → as catalytic capital for early pilots.
 - NGOs → system enablers and can support accountability

Advocacy hook: “Water resilience pays” → *financing water security is an economic growth strategy, not just an environmental cost.*

NEXT STEPS

Attendees suggested the following topics for future WaterLogues linked to this theme:

- **Financing & Commitment Tracking** – Platforms to channel funds, track progress, and support on-the-ground impact.
- **National Policy & Toolkits** – Developing clean water policies and practical guidance for governments.
- **Scaling & Formalizing Initiatives** – Upscaling programs like the Freshwater Challenge for broader adoption.
- **Leadership & Accountability** – Defining champions, clarifying mandates, and securing executive-level commitment.
- **Funds & Public-Private Partnerships** – Establishing national funds managed by independent third parties.
- **Knowledge Sharing & Advocacy** – Showcasing water stewardship success stories to influence policy and practice.

Considering the discussions that were held during the session, attendees proposed the following set of tangible next steps (not yet prioritised):

Review and further discuss the initial draft “outcome pushes for UN Water 2026”. Building on additional WaterLogues and other forums (e.g., WEF), discuss and refine the following five recommendations stemming from the WaterLogue in Stockholm (noted below). These will be refined via various input via Working Group and popularized with a broader array of stakeholders in the months ahead, as well as through key preparatory events and the UN Water Secretariat.

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2. **Transform the Freshwater Challenge into “FWC 2.0” with Accountability:** The FWC already has visibility and political traction, and the lead up to UN Water 2026 offers an opportunity to bolster it and embed stronger monitoring, reporting, and review mechanisms. The aim would be enhance uptake, commitments, and demonstrate delivery against the aims of the FWC outlined at the first UN Water Conference in 2023.
3. **Establish National Water Action Plans (linked to the FWC & NAPs):** NDCs have proven effective under the UNFCCC and accordingly, this recommendation mirrors the climate NDCs. National Water Action Plans would give countries a practical tool to translate global goals, including SDG 6, into national policies. The aim would be to secure an agreement amongst national governments to mandate National Water Action Plans.
4. **Embed Water Across All COP Processes (Climate, Biodiversity, Desertification):** Water cuts across climate, ecosystems, and land degradation. This approach avoids political fights over a “Water COP” and instead positions water as indispensable to all COP outcomes. The aim for this push at UN Water 2026 would be to ensure there are dedicated water efforts embedded in each of the three aforementioned conventions: UNFCCC, UN CBD, and UNCCD. If successful, this would ensure water issues are consistently mainstreamed in global negotiations, raising its profile without fragmenting agendas.

5. **Create a Financing & Investment Mechanism for Water Resilience:** Governments and businesses want clear pathways for investment. A co-financing model (government + private sector) is politically appealing and practical. The aim for this push would be to create a water-oriented taskforce to unlock the stalled adaptation and resilience funds and build mechanisms to accelerate distribution of funds.

Attendees, representing the following organisations, indicated that they were interested in participating in a smaller working group to further advance these indicators.

TNC
Connecting for Change LLC
WaterAid
Water Witness International
Diageo Plc
Water Connect Consulting
Nestle

SUMMARY OF PARTICIPANT SATISFACTION

Feedback on the structuring of the WaterLogues session was gathered from attendees after each session. This information will be used to help improve future Waterlogues. Attendees were asked to rate (1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree) the following aspects of the WaterLogues session:

Question	Rating
<i>The flow and structure of the session encouraged engagement...</i>	4.00
<i>Enough time was allowed to have engaged and constructive discussions...</i>	3.90
<i>The facilitation kept the session engaging, inclusive and focused...</i>	4.25
<i>I felt I had meaningful opportunities to participate and contribute...</i>	4.30

Total responses = 56 (Morning), 41 (Afternoon)

The following distilled insights were gathered when attendees were asked if there was anything you would change or improve about the structure, facilitation, or sessions design for future WaterLogues:

- Clarity & Focus: Clearly frame topics, objectives and questions upfront
- Time & Depth: Allow more time for table work, plenary, and detailed dialogue.
- Stakeholder Mix: Include diverse organizations and sector experts for actionable discussions.
- Iterative & Localized: Use basin-level, decentralized sessions with practical proxies.
- Action-Oriented: Focus on concrete asks, roles, and live action points.
- Engagement Tools: Balance interactive tools with reflection time.
- Context & Continuity: Recap prior sessions and clarify WaterLogues' role.
- Collaboration: Boost cross-sector engagement and clarify organizational contributions.

APPENDIX – INDICATORS

Categories	Workshop Ranking (Edinburgh 2024 & 2024 AWS Forum)	Potential Indicators	Units	Scale			Indicator Mapping							Methodological information	
				Site	River/water body	Catchment	SDGs	The Nature Conservancy	Volumetric Water Benefit Accounting	Freshwater Challenge	Freshwater Health Index	Watershed Assessment & Health	Science-Based Targets for Water		Net Positive Water Impact
Water Governance (SDG 6.5)															
RECOMMENDED	1	Implementation Status of Water Management Plans	0-100 Index	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1			SDG 6.5.1
RECOMMENDED	2	Stakeholder Participation	Proportion of local	1	1	1	1		1		1				SDG
RECOMMENDED	3	Partnerships	Number of	1	1										
RECOMMENDED	4	Policy changes (? How to measure)	?			1									
RECOMMENDED	5	Area of wetlands designated as protected or community conserved	Ha		1	1			1		1				Ramsar
	6	Number of rivers with environmental flow allocations implemented	#			1		1							
	7	Illegal Water Use	number of	1	1	1		1							
	8	Perception of fair water allocation	Survey based	1				1							
	9	Indigenous Areas (project dependent)	?	1					1						
	10	Conditions of water infrastructure	?	1				1							
	11	Area under effective management using and reporting on RMETT or	Ha		1	1					1				
	12	Number of high value rivers designated as protected	#			1									WSR
	13	Inland fisheries catch	?	1	1	1									
	14	Community led Fisheries Monitoring	?	1	1										
	15	Number of AWS certifications	Sites	1		1									
	16	Distributed GDP	Total			1									
	17	Sand budgets established	# of deltas		1	1									
	18	Freedom in the World Index	0-100 index	1											
	19	Illegal Harvesting of Aquatic Species	?		1	1									
		Benefit Sharing agreements													
		Trust index													
		Adaptive water permits													
		Equity distribution													
		OECD Water governance indicators													
		Multistakeholder forums													
		Diversity of stakeholders													
		Financing of water governance													
		Corruption Index													

Categories	Workshop Ranking (Edinburgh 2024 & 2024 AWS Forum)	Potential Indicators	Units	Scale			Indicator Mapping						Methodological information	
				Site	River/water body	Catchment	SDGs	The Nature Conservancy	Volumetric Water Benefit Accounting	Freshwater Challenge	Freshwater Health Index	Watershed Assessment & Health		Science-Based Targets for Water
Water Quantity (SDG 6.4 and 11)														
RECOMMENDED	1	Groundwater recharge rate	vol or depth/time?	1	1		1	1			1	1	1	The Groundwater Project
RECOMMENDED	2	Groundwater storage depletion	0-100 index	1	1	1		1			1		1	FHI WQT
RECOMMENDED	3	Stream discharge	m^3/s		1	1		1					1	USGS
RECOMMENDED	4	Soil moisture (root zone)	VWC (cm^3/cm^3)	1	1	1								ESA Soil Moisture
RECOMMENDED	5	Change in water-use efficiency over time	USD/m^3/time	1			1	1			1			SDG 6.4.1
	6	Deviation from natural environmental flow regime	Percent deviation		1		1	1			1	1	1	FHI WQT
	7	Flood extent	Ha		1	1		1						TNC / Dartmouth Flood Observatory
	8	Permanent Water Surface Area	Ha		1	1	1							SDG 6.6.1
	9	Reservoir status	% of mean surface	1	1	1								Global Water Watch
	10	Conversion of Seasonal Water Into Permanent Water	Ha		1	1	1							SDG 6.6.1
	11	Ephemeral Permanent Water	Ha		1	1	1							SDG 6.6.1
	12	New Permanent Water Surface Area	Ha		1	1	1							SDG 6.6.1
	13	Conversion of Permanent Water Into Seasonal Water	Ha		1	1	1							SDG 6.6.1
	14	SPEI (Drought indicator)	Index (roughly -3-3)			1		1						SPEI
	15	New Seasonal Water Surfaces	Ha		1	1	1							SDG 6.6.1
	16	Lost Permanent Water Surfaces	Ha		1	1	1							SDG 6.6.1
	17	Unchanging Permanent Water Surfaces	Ha		1	1	1							SDG 6.6.1
	18	Lost Seasonal Water Surfaces	Ha		1	1	1							SDG 6.6.1
	19	Unchanging Seasonal Water Surfaces	Ha		1	1	1							SDG 6.6.1
	20	Ephemerrral Seasonal Water	Ha		1	1	1							SDG 6.6.1
	21	Reduction in total volume of water withdrawn from basin per unit of time	?									1	1	
		Irrigation efficiency												
		Consumptive water use												
		Evapotranspiration												
		Water reuse												
		Drought index												
		Percentatge of unmonitored consumption												
		Supply and demand												
		Seasonal variability												
		Water allocations												
		Projected catchment demand												

Categories	Workshop Ranking (Edinburgh 2024 & 2024 AWS Forum)	Potential Indicators	Units	Scale			Indicator Mapping							Methodological information	
				Site	River/ water body	Catchment	SDG6	The Nature Conservancy	Volumetric Water Benefit Accounting	Freshwater Challenge	Freshwater Health Index	Watershed Assessment & Health	Science-Based Targets for Water		Net Positive Water impact
Water Quality (SDG 6.3)															
RECOMMENDED	1	Nitrogen	ppm	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1	1	SDG 6.3.2
RECOMMENDED	2	Eutrophication	ug/l				1						1	1	
RECOMMENDED	3	Phosphorus	ppm	1	1		1						1	1	SDG 6.3.2
RECOMMENDED	4	Chemical Oxygen Demand	COD	1										1	EPA
RECOMMENDED	5	Biological Oxygen Demand	BOD	1										1	EPA
	6	Untreated Connected Wastewater	?											1	
	7	Turbidity	NTU											1	
	8	Concentration of metals (project dependent)	ppm	1	1									1	Project related
	9	Total Suspended solids	Secchi depth	1	1			1			1			1	FHI (WQL)
	10	pH	pH	1			1							1	SDG 6.3.2
	11	Electrical conductivity	S/m (siemens per	1			1	1						1	SDG 6.3.2
	12	Temperature	*C	1	1		1	1						1	
	13	Toxicants (project dependent)	ppm	1				1			1	1		1	Project related
	14	Nutrients/Chlorophyll-a	mg/L	1	1									1	UCL
	15	Concentration of E. coli	cells/mL	1	1			1			1			1	EPA
	16	Bedload Discharge	g/s/m	1	1										World Meteorological Organization
	17	Dissolved oxygen	DO	1	1		1	1						1	SDG 6.3.2
		Total dissolved solids													
		PFAS													
		E-DNA Monitoring													
		Microfibers													
		Microplastics													
		Genotoxicity indicators													
		Fluoride													

Categories	Workshop Ranking (Edinburgh 2024 & 2024 AWS Forum)	Potential Indicators	Units	Scale			Indicator Mapping							Methodological information	
				Site	River/ water body	Catchment	SDGs	The Nature Conservancy	Volumetric Water Benefit Accounting	Freshwater Challenge	Freshwater Health Index	Watershed Assessment & Health	Science-Based Targets for Water		Net Positive Water Impact
Freshwater Ecosystems (SDG 6.6)															
RECOMMENDED	1	Landcover Change	Ha (by type)		1	1	1	1		1		1			SDG
RECOMMENDED	2	Soil Erosion Rate	mm/year	1	1	1	1	1							Eurosat
RECOMMENDED	3	Length (km) of river connectivity maintained or restored (i.e., with a Connectivity	km		1	1	1			1					Mekong River Connectivity Assessment and Toolbox
RECOMMENDED	4	Wetland Area	Ha (by type)		1	1	1			1		1			SDG
RECOMMENDED	5	Habitat Fragmentation	?												
	6	Species Richness	# Species/area	1	1	1		1							eDNA
	7	Soil moisture (root zone)	VWC (cm^3/cm^3)	1	1	1									ESA Soil Moisture
	8	Flow Connectivity/Dams	Combined Dendritic	1	1	1			1		1	1			FHI - Drainage Basin Condition (DBC)
	9	Presence and Distribution of Threatened and Target Species (eDNA)	?	1	1	1		1							eDNA
	10	Abundance of Threatened and Target Species (including LPI)	?	1	1	1		1			1				FWLI
	11	IUCN Red List status of priority species / sub-species	Status	1	1	1									IUCN Red List
	12	Bank modification	% channel affcted	1	1				1						FHI
	13	Soil Organic Biomass	?	1											Climexhandbook
	14	Biodiversity of benthic macroinvertebrates	Simpson Index	1	1	1									Biodiversity and Abundance of Benthic Macro
	15	Fire frequency (project dependent)	# fires per		1	1									DISAME
	16	Living Planet Index	Index (0-1)		1	1									LPI Data portal
	17	Status and change in Invasive and Non-native Species (project specific)	Freshwater Health	1	1	1					1				FHI
		Habitat availability													
		Natural habitat creation													
		Designated conservation areas													
		Species distribution													
		Source water zone													
		Cultural Importance													
		NDVI Vegetation Index													
		Indigenous use													
		Riparian buffer zones													

Categories	Workshop Ranking (Edinburgh 2024 & 2024 AWS Forum)	Potential Indicators	Units	Scale			Indicator Mapping							Methodological information		
				Site	River/ water body	Catchment	SDGs	The Nature Conservancy	Volumetric Water Benefit Accounting	Freshwater Challenge	Freshwater Health Index	Watershed Assessment & Health	Science-Based Targets for Water		Net Positive Water Impact	
Safe Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene for All / WASH (SDG 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.7 and 6.8)																
RECOMMENDED	1	Access/WASH (2) Unimproved/No Drinking water (UDW)	# of people	1	1	1	1	1		1			1		1	JMP data
RECOMMENDED	2	Unimproved/No Sanitation (USA)	# of people	1	1	1	1			1			1		1	JMP data
RECOMMENDED	3	SDG1 - Poverty, Poverty headcount ratio at \$3.65 a day (2017 PPP) , World Bank	% of population		1	1										
RECOMMENDED	4	Access to improved Hygiene	% of people in basin		1	1									1	
		WASH Finance Gap														
		WASH Management Plans														
		Water safety plans														
		Open defecation rate														
		Waterborne disease prevalence														
		SDG Common WASH indicator														
		Productivity loss														
		Partnerships on WASH														
		Gender equity														

Categories	Workshop Ranking (Edinburgh 2024 & 2024 AWS Forum)	Potential Indicators	Units	Scale			Indicator Mapping							Methodological information	
				Site	River/water body	Catchment	SDGs	The Nature Conservancy	Volumetric Water Benefit Accounting	Freshwater Challenge	Freshwater Health Index	Watershed Assessment & Health	Science-Based Targets for Water		Net Positive Water Impact
Resilience & Extreme weather (SDG 11, 13 and 8)															
RECOMMENDED		Percentage of time that the basin provides the required volume of water to meet	Percentage %		1	1								1	
RECOMMENDED		Percentage of time the backup, supplementary, and/or alternative replacement	Percentage %		1	1								1	
		Percentage of time that the basin maintains required water quality levels to	Low - high		1	1								1	
		Capacity of the backup, supplementary and/or alternative components to	Low - high		1	1								1	
		Ability of the system sub-components to be adapted or shifted to meet	Low - high		1	1								1	
		Degree that sub-components within the system are linked and coordinated	Low - high		1	1								1	
		Level of inclusion of diverse stakeholders in decision making of the system	Low - high		1	1								1	
		Degree of provision of fair and equitable water-related services for all users	Low - high		1	1								1	