

# THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD WATER DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2018



## NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR WATER

*Working with nature to improve the management of water resources, achieve water security for all, and contribute to core aspects of sustainable development*



# LEARNING FROM NATURE TO ACHIEVE WATER SECURITY

*Solutions inspired and supported by nature (“nature-based solutions”) use, or mimic, natural processes to address contemporary water management challenges, improve water security and deliver co-benefits vital to all aspects of sustainable development.*

- ◆ Nature-based solutions (NBS) are central to achieving the water-related Goal and Targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- ◆ NBS generates social, economic and environmental co-benefits, including human health and livelihoods, food and energy security, sustainable economic growth, ecosystem rehabilitation and biodiversity.
- ◆ Water management is still largely dominated by human-built (i.e. ‘grey’) infrastructure, whereas the enormous potential for NBS remains under-utilized. The goal is to find a better balance between green and grey solutions that improve efficiency while minimizing costs.
- ◆ Eradication of poverty and the fulfilment of all human rights depend on our ability to meet development needs while protecting and preserving the environment upon which all life depends.
- ◆ Sustainable water security will not be achieved through business-as-usual, and NBS provide an essential means of moving beyond conventional approaches.

## THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD WATER DEVELOPMENT REPORT (WWDR)

*The World Water Development Report (WWDR) is the reference publication of the UN System on the status of freshwater resources worldwide. Its production is coordinated by the United Nations World Water Assessment Programme of UNESCO which brings together the work of 31 Members and 38 Partners comprising UN-Water.*

2018

The 2018 edition of the World Water Development Report seeks to inform policy and decision-makers, inside and outside the water community, about the potential of nature-based solutions (NBS) to address contemporary water management challenges across all sectors, and particularly regarding water for agriculture, sustainable cities, disaster risk reduction and improving water quality.