



ABInBev



WHY VALUING RIVERS & DELTAS IS CRITICAL TO CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

As the world meets at the High Level Political Forum in New York in July to review SDG13 on climate, we should all remember that water is at the heart of the climate adaptation debate. Water, particularly in the form of healthy freshwater ecosystems, is fundamental to the functioning of our societies and economies globally – as well as all life on land. Rural communities and mega cities as well as local and multinational corporations are all dependent on access to adequate quantity and quality of water, delivered through ecosystem services across the globe.

However, rivers, lakes and wetlands are facing unprecedented threats, including over abstraction, pollution and habitat destruction and degradation – from damming rivers to draining peatlands. Climate change is a compounding risk factor in an already-bleak landscape – especially as healthy freshwater systems will be central to global efforts to adapt to climate change.

The risks and opportunities are most apparent in deltas, particularly in Asia. Home to over 400 million people and a wealth of biodiversity, Asia's great deltas are critical to the economies, food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable development of the entire continent, as well as to global industrial and financial systems.

AB InBev and WWF partner on watershed resilience in a number of high risk locations across the world and would like to invite you to join us in New York on July 15th for a high level event on:

Building Resilient Asian Deltas: Constructing a coalition to secure a sustainable future for people and nature in the continent's great deltas

Only by taking urgent action to conserve our freshwater resources and ecosystems can we successfully adapt to climate change (and strengthen mitigation efforts as well). Delivering SDG6 and SDG13 will require strong partnerships making SDG17 a crucial piece of the puzzle.

In particular, partnering on innovative financial solutions will be critical – such as the pioneering consortium (FMO, WWF, SNV & Climate Fund Managers) that will manage the new €160 million Dutch Fund for Climate and Development. The Fund will leverage substantial private finance into bankable projects based on a landscape approach, including climate-resilient deltas. AB InBev was a key partner in the development of WWF's thinking and work on bankable water projects.

WWF's major new initiative – Resilient Asian Deltas (RAD) – will create an alliance of public, private and civil society partners to address the challenges at the required at scale by building political will, promoting nature-based solutions, and mobilizing new financing.

This high level event will begin the process of building a strong global coalition to deliver the SDGs and build resilience in Asia's deltas.

Venue

Anheuser-Busch

125 W 24th St, New York, NY 10011

Date

15 July 2019, 18:00-19:30

Programme

Welcome | Stuart Orr – Global Freshwater Practice Leader, WWF

Opening remarks | Global Centre on Adaptation

Deltas on the frontline | Introductory remarks on the Delta Coalition (Tomoyuki Okada)

A panel discussion with members of Delta Coalition (Vietnam, Bangladesh, Myanmar) moderated by Henk Ovink – Special Envoy for International Water Affairs, Netherlands

Partnering to deliver change | Andre Fourie – Global Director Water, AB Inbev

What next? | Henk Ovink

RSVP to Katie Luoma at kluoma@wwfint.org by 1 July 2019