

Under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI



XIX WORLD WATER CONGRESS
International Water Resources Association (IWRA)
Marrakech, Morocco | 1-5 December 2025

Kingdom of Morocco



Ministry of
Equipment and Water

Urban–Water Interfaces: Strengthening collaboration for a resilient Marrakech and Tangier

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Projet “**Économie circulaire de l’Eau en milieu urbain**”

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Why ?



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A Transforming Water Context

Morocco is facing a structural water crisis exacerbated by climate change:

- +1 to +1.5°C increase in mean temperatures since the 1960s
- 15–25% decrease in precipitation, depending on the region
- Increasing frequency of extreme rainfall events
- Rapid urban growth intensifying pressure on water resources.

Why Integrate Water into Urban Planning?

Historically, urban planning and water management have evolved in parallel but not together.

This fragmentation has created:

- Land-use decisions incompatible with hydrological realities
- Growing vulnerability to climate extremes
- Absence of regulatory or methodological tools for circular urban water management

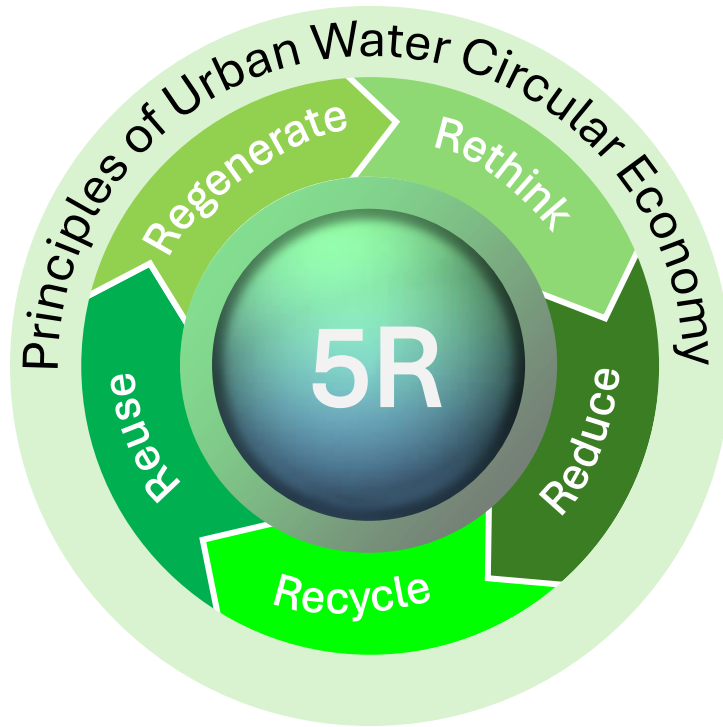
The “**Circular water Economy in urban areas**” project is funded by BMZ and implemented by GIZ in partnership with MATNUHPV. It aims to bridge the gap. On local level two pilot cities are supported: Marrakech and Tangier.



Circular Water Economy



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Rethink. Integrate the ‘water’ dimension into urban planning and development and eco-design urban water systems.

Reduce water waste and consume water responsibly (minimise water demand by adapting it to resource capacity)

Recycle and recover by-products such as nutrients or organic matter, using them in a systemic approach

Reuse various water resources (wastewater and rainwater) by adapting their treatment to each use and complying with IWRM principles

Regenerate aquatic environments and their ecosystems within the city and source water sustainably



A Participatory and Governance-Driven Methodology



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Governance as a strong backbone of the project.

- Multi-actor workshops in both cities (Wilaya, Commune, urban agencies, ABH, SRM, NGO, association, private sector)
- Co-construction of **two urban water visions and concrete action plans**
- Urban Water Committees as emerging governance platforms
- Early alignment between urban planning and water authorities



Some Outputs

Urban Water Vision

More than documents, the visions became **shared strategic compasses**.

Marrakech Vision: demand reduction, efficiency, non-conventional resources, water-smart irrigation and tourism

Tangier Vision: flood risk reduction, green-blue infrastructures, river restoration, infiltration

Modelling Approaches

Two cities, two modelling systems, one purpose: **inform decisions with evidence**

Tangier

- Hydrological & hydraulic modelling of peak flows, water depths, flood extents
- Climate change and urban growth are integrated
- Identification of critical hotspots and river basin dynamics

Marrakech

- Quantitative modelling of water balances, demand evolution,
- Climate impacts and population growth are taken into account



Some Outputs (2)

Shared Database A Catalyst for Multi-Actor Collaboration

A single, interoperable database was created to consolidate urban planning with climate, hydrology and infrastructure data from all institutions (Agences Urbaines, ABH, SRM, Wilaya, Municipality, private operators)

Bankable projects – *in preparation*

The **concrete implementation** of the project, tailored to the needs and vision

- Tangier: river restoration
- Marrakech: water efficiency



Targeted Capacity building

The project offers a structured training programme to equip local institutions with the skills needed for circular and climate-resilient urban water management. It combined technical modules, governance tools, and hands-on exercises directly linked to the urban visions and modelling work.



Lessons learned

Enabling factors

- Strong political leadership, both on national, regional and local level
- Excellent technical capacity among institutions
- Cross-sector collaboration
- Willingness to experiment with new tools

Barriers still present

- Data-sharing challenges
- No regulatory framework yet for circular urban water management
- Need for long-term institutional anchoring (e.g. Urban Water Committees)



Closing remarks

Nils Christoffer HUHN, GIZ Project Manager

“Economie Circulaire de l’Eau en milieu urbain”



LAUNCHING SOON

Circular and resilient urban water management

A compendium of solutions for local and regional governments

as part of the Morocco Urban Circular Water Resilience Initiative

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The *Circular and Resilient Urban Water Management | A Compendium of Solutions for Local and Regional Governments* features 12 practices that demonstrate how even the most water-scarce and flood-prone cities can build resilience to address urban water challenges amid escalating climate pressures. Discover the 12 cities and case studies showcased in the compendium, each illustrating practical pathways toward resilient and circular urban water management:



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Thank you!

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