



Permanent Mission of the
International Union for Conservation of Nature
to the United Nations

High-Level Political Forum 2026

IUCN Statement — SDG6 Thematic Review

Statement delivered by the Permanent Observer of IUCN to the UN, Dr Sofie Jaffe

New York, 7 July 2026

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

As we have heard today SDG6 is off track. This is not only a financing or technical problem — it is at its core a governance problem. The lack of a comprehensive governance architecture for water leads to fragmentation, low accountability and poor continuity.

This is why IUCN is calling on Member States to launch an intergovernmental process toward a Global Framework for Water Governance and Action— a voluntary, non-legally binding framework that would provide three things currently missing:

1. regular intergovernmental meetings to maintain political direction on water;
2. a shared implementation and review architecture with accountability mechanisms; and,
3. a financing pillar to provide systems-oriented financing

The December 2026 UN Water Conference is the moment to launch this process.

SDG 6 needs not only acceleration, but transformation into a durable architecture for how we govern the global water cycle.

Thank you.
