
UNOFFICIAL GUIDE TO WATER
COOPERATION AT:

World Water Week 2021

23 - 27 August • Online

Produced by SIWI's Transboundary Water
Cooperation Department, in support of the
planning of your water cooperation focused
engagement at the online 2021 World Water Week.¹

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Images from World Water Week 2021.

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¹ This SIWI Transboundary Water Cooperation Department Unofficial Guide to Water Cooperation at the World Water Week 2021 was authored by Elizabeth A. Yaari with inputs from Kerry Schneider, Julienne Ndjiki, Katie Goldie-Ryder, Dr Mats Eriksson, Dr Martina Klimes and Xanani Baloyi. Many thanks to the many session co-conveners for their inputs and reflections!

Introduction to the Unofficial Guide to Water Cooperation at the 2021 World Water Week

The [2021 Online World Water Week 'Building Resilience Faster'](#) will host over [300 sessions](#) and hundreds of networking opportunities. As always, it is our aim at SIWI to make this year's World Water Week the best World Water Week yet.

This **Unofficial Guide to Water Cooperation at the 2021 Online World Water Week** is an informal resource designed to support stakeholders and supporters engaged and interested in water cooperation processes to plan their effective engagement at this year's 2021 online World Water Week. This Guide was produced by [SIWI's Transboundary Water Cooperation Department](#) in collaboration with key experts across [SIWI's thematic departments and programme areas](#).

This Unofficial Guide is specifically designed for the stakeholders of [SIWI's Shared Waters Partnership \(SWP\)](#) programme and the [SIWI hosted UNESCO Category II International Centre for Water Cooperation](#) including decision-makers and other actors engaged in water cooperation processes. Broadly, however, this Guide will also be of interest to professionals and practitioners engaged at any scale of water cooperation process or other closely related field such as multi-track water diplomacy, climate diplomacy, science diplomacy, environmental peacebuilding, water and climate security, negotiation, facilitation and mediation, water conflict and cooperation, international water law, inclusive governance, science journalism and communications, and cooperative resource management.

At SIWI we approach water diplomacy as an opportunity to engage many different types of formal and informal actors in transboundary water decision making processes – each of whom has ['the ability to create solution spaces'](#) and ['windows of opportunity'](#) to support water cooperation. Further, considering the importance of inclusive governance and ['building a bigger \(negotiation\) table'](#) to achieving sustainable water cooperation, and the [urgent](#) need for an 'all hands on deck' approach by ['breaking silos'](#) as it relates to water cooperation, this Unofficial Guide also includes session recommendations that have direct linkages to critical aspects of water cooperation with particular focus on sessions elevating linkages to innovative multi-stakeholder [process design](#), [gender equality](#), [women's leadership](#), [peace and security](#), [communications](#) and sessions of interest to [journalists with a focus on water](#), [indigenous knowledge](#) and [faith based perspectives](#), youth or [young professional perspectives in water cooperation](#), as well as [water and sanitation linkages to water cooperation](#).

[SIWI High Level Panel on Water Diplomacy: Navigating a Resilient Future](#) takes place on August 24, 2021 at 14:00 UTC+2 and is the focal annual water cooperation event for SIWI's Transboundary Water Cooperation Department at the World Water Week. We can't wait to see you all there! We have an outstanding Panel this year – we are particularly excited to learn from [Ms. Karabo Mokgonyana](#), the Africa Union's Youth Ambassador for Peace and an outspoken champion for human rights and climate action who is joining us this year.

In addition to the annual High-Level Panel on Water Cooperation, there are **dozens of sessions organized by SIWI and other convening organizations and partners** that shed light, share experience and lessons learned on many different entry points to water cooperation from around the world. This Unofficial Guide aims to spotlight these events of interest throughout the 2021 World Water Week to elevate knowledge and experience sharing across the global water cooperation community and help you plan your water cooperation focused World Water Week 2021.

Please note that this Unofficial Guide focuses on World Water Week online sessions that are free and open to public and meet SIWI's Gold Standard for inclusive convened events. Registration is still required for free and public sessions so take a moment to [register now](#). A wide range of [additional engagement activities and opportunities](#) are available as part of the 2021 Online World Water Week, some of which require the purchase of different day and all week Networking Passes. You can also build your own schedule using the tags and engagement planning resources available in the online [World Water Week 2021 Schedule](#). Please note that all times in the World Water Week schedule and this Unofficial Guide are in CET (Stockholm time). To double check your time zone you can use this [online free app](#).

While we miss having a chance to deepen our water cooperation knowledge together at the annual World Water Week in Stockholm – adaption and flexibility is the name of the game in the water cooperation world. While we know there are challenges to [digital water diplomacy](#) – most critically the huge portion of our community left out of online dialogues by the digital divide – in our team at SIWI we have found if we can creatively overcome digital access barriers, online dialogues can work well with a bit of extra focus from all sides on preparation, communications, and process design.

Finally, this Unofficial Guide will be supported by an online social media campaign hosted by the International Centre for Water Cooperation (ICWC) social media pages on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#). Updates related to water cooperation at the 2021 World Water Week will be shared on those pages regularly. Please join those communities for regular updates as the World Water Week 2021 is ever evolving with new information being shared on [World Water Week official channels](#).

Many thanks to all the co-conveners, partners and participants for elevating water cooperation at this year's World Water Week.

We look forward to welcoming you all online on the opening day of the 2021 World Water Week!

In water cooperation,

Elizabeth A. Yaari on behalf of The Transboundary Water Cooperation Department and other contributing SIWI experts and partners.

Monday, August 23, 2021

MONDAY, AUGUST 23; 8:00-9:00 CET

Session Title: Climate Smart Transboundary River Basin Development

CONVENING PARTNERS: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), NBI - Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Wetlands International

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: Climate change will continue to exacerbate the complexities of water resources management at the national and transboundary levels. Preparedness from riparian countries to attract investment for harnessing shared benefits of water while taking into consideration the impacts of climate change in the sector is key. River Basin Organizations have a strong role to play by tapping into innovative climate financing instruments.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/3veACWBSwa9dCTM6m>

VOICE FROM A CO-CONVENOR: *'Key to the future success of transboundary water management is the ability to adapt to climate change impacts combined with the demands put on the freshwater system from economic development. This session will share lessons on how climate change is affecting transboundary water management and how building institutional resilience and access to financing will be key in the development of climate smart basin organisations.'* **James Dalton, Director, IUCN Global Water Programme**

MONDAY, AUGUST 23; 10:00-11:00 CET

Session Title: Facilitating Remote Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues in the Digital Era

CONVENING PARTNERS: Government of Brazil, United Nations Children's Fund, World Bank Group, World Health Organization

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: Remote facilitation brings new challenges as well as opportunities. This session will share lessons learned from a year of online multi-stakeholder dialogue process facilitation with examples of Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador as well as several transboundary basins.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/Fa8MoTnw6CQjhokiB>

VOICE FROM A CO-CONVENOR: *'We are keen to share some of our lessons learned – as well as ongoing challenges in this session, specifically with regards to facilitation and design of digital water diplomacy processes including impacts on process design, trust-building, assessments of shared risks, and ultimately decision-making.'* **Elizabeth A. Yaari, Operations Lead, Transboundary Water Cooperation, SIWI**

MONDAY, AUGUST 23; 10:30-11:55 CET

Session Title: Climate Migration: Water Services and Water Security in Displacement Settings

CONVENING PARTNERS: Austria Red Cross, Deltares, Eawag, International Organization for Migration, Ministry of Water and Environment of Uganda, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, The German WASH Network, The Netherlands Red Cross, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, WASTE, Water Youth Network

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: Water scarcity, sea-level rise, droughts and other weather extremes present social challenges and may fuel climate-induced migration. How can national and international actors involved in displacement matters reduce climate-induced migration triggers, and honor the right to clean water and sanitation while bringing water security in, and around, displacement settlements?

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/kpSzccckuDGjMXooNA>

VOICE FROM A CO-CONVENOR: *'The climate-migration-water security nexus is very much real and extreme events like droughts, sea-level rise will only exacerbate the challenges faced by settlements. Hence, it is important that we unpack the factors that push migration and address them in a way that we are able to honour the right to water and sanitation for these displaced settlements. Convened by 12 parties who represent various international actors and young professionals, this session will explore technologies, innovations and tools around drought management, WASH and environmental protection that are critical to attain SDG 6 and most importantly to foster regional and international water cooperation.'* **Maitreyi Koduganti, Governance Group Coordinator, Water Youth Network**

MONDAY, AUGUST 23; 11:00-12:00 CET

Session Title: SIWI Seminar: Still Breaking Silos: across sectors and boundaries (1/3 – Breaking Silos)

CONVENING PARTNERS: Cooperation on International Waters in Africa (CIWA)/World Bank Group, International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: Building a resilient future requires us to break silos and work effectively together. This storytelling session will set the scene to the topic – how can we increase our resilience by working together more efficiently. This seminar, which is a part of the seminars prepared by members of the World Water Week Scientific Programme Committee (SPC), has three sessions that aim to walk the talk regarding cooperation across borders and sectors. The voice of youth will start the discussion, catalysing our thinking through an overview of the implications for next generations of climate change and the current poor cooperation across silos.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/iy2sEsAKfy5L8mrDY>

WHY WE'RE EXCITED ABOUT THIS EVENT? *'Different sectors have different understandings of water and climate-related challenges and diverse ways of communicating about these crises and possible solutions. When designing this event, we focused on embracing multiple water values across sectors and boundaries when identifying shared risks and shared solutions. This seminar will help us better understand what is hindering effective cooperation on shared risks in a transboundary context and across sectors. If you are curious about community-based initiatives, youth-led behavioral change, nexus approaches and voices from basins around the globe, tune in to continue breaking silos! There are nine seminars in total organised by the SPC members, I will certainly not miss the SIWI Seminars on Information, governance and justice for climate resilience and on Navigating uncertain waters, shifting powers, sharing values.'* **Dr Martina Klimes, member of the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) and Advisor for Water and Peace at SIWI.**

Plan, as well as policy making and advocacy efforts for water related issues". **Katie Goldie-Ryder, Programme Officer & Youth Empowerment Champion, Transboundary Water Cooperation, SIWI**

MONDAY, AUGUST 23; 13:00-14:00 CET

Session Title: Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area – Creating Value Chains for All

MONDAY, AUGUST 23; 11:00-12:00 CET

Session Title: Youth Engagement: Why it matters and how to do it

CONVENING PARTNERS: Danone, Government of the Netherlands, KWR Watercycle Research Institute, The International Federation of Private Water Operators, UN-Water, Water Youth Network, Watershare, World Waternet
SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: We can only build fairer, more resilient societies if we empower young people. This session sets out the benefits and opportunities of youth engagement and will formally launch the Youth Engagement Action Plan – a multi-stakeholder initiative for engaging more young people in the water-related issues that affect them.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/JEnRcicxevy38yxwZ>

WHY WE'RE EXCITED ABOUT THIS EVENT? *"Youth are the drivers of change. Decisions that affect young people cannot be made without the inclusion of their voices and ideas. Young people have a right to participate in transboundary water decision making and water cooperation processes that affect them today and in the future. This session looks like a great opportunity to enhance youth participation in the design, monitoring, implementation on the Youth Engagement Action*

CONVENING PARTNERS: International Water Management Institute, Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area, Peace Parks Foundation, The Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission, USAID Resilient Waters Program, Zambezi Watercourse Commission
SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: The Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA), the largest transfrontier conservation area in the world, spanning immense nature reserves and resources in southern Africa, is supporting the sustenance of critical value chains related to natural resources as well as governance structures across two major river basins and five states.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/cp4KbS6EkwvcvDtBY>

VOICE FROM A CO-CONVENOR: *'KAZA is the largest terrestrial Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) in the world (520,000 km² – the size of Germany and Austria combined), shared by five southern African countries (Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe). It is immensely rich in natural resources, biodiversity, and vast landscapes. With more than 70% of the landscape under conservation, KAZA is an eminent example of concerted transboundary cooperation on natural resource management and socio-economic development. As KAZA's biodiversity, livelihoods, and economic development are intricately tied to water resources, partnerships and strategic directions are being explored to enhance water security around the landscape's two major river basins – the Okavango and Zambezi. The session will showcase innovative partnerships for advancing transboundary cooperation around water resources for conservation and economic development at multiple scales through leveraging research and outreach.'* **Kule Chitepo, Chief Partnership Advisor and Contractor for the USAID Resilient Waters Program.**

Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA) and Victoria Falls (from Zambia looking into Zimbabwe). Image by Matt Elliot.



MONDAY, AUGUST 23; 13:00-14:00 CET

Session Title: Indigenous Values and Stewardship: Lessons to Rebuild our Watery Relationships

CONVENING PARTNERS: Carcross/Tagish First Nations, Dharriwaa Elders Group, International Labour Organization, Northern Maasai, UNDP-SIWI Water Governance Facility

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: In the global water crisis, societies need to rethink and revisit the values that underpin current water management, using learnings from indigenous peoples and their relationships with water as a foundation. Indigenous values are built between communities and their respective environments over time, and these values frame water governance and stewardship. Representatives from different indigenous peoples will outline important values and what these mean in terms of their relationships with waterways in their territories. While many local values are specific from place to place, there values such as respect, reciprocity, and relatedness are held in parallel by different indigenous peoples, and these values help frame the relationships and resultants. These values will be articulated through a variety of medium including storytelling, recorded presentations and live presentations, and indigenous representatives will show how these values are honored and provide lessons for the water sector on their application and use. This is important for re-imagining current approaches to water.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/8y9fEsChWMuR8G9Kw>

VOICE FROM A CO-CONVENOR: *'Water Cooperation is based on identifying and building around shared values as a starting point, but often there are voices and values that are missing or not well-recognised, especially those associated with relationships. In many parts of the world, such "relational values" are increasingly finding their way into agreements, whether over international river basins like the Columbia River Basin or across federal states or through legal rights. This event sets out to better articulate indigenous values as a type of relational value that may provide a foundation to cooperation.'*

David Hebart-Coleman, Programme Manager, Water Resources Department, SIWI

MONDAY, AUGUST 23; 14:00-15:00 CET

Session Title: Accelerating Gender Equality in the Water Domain

CONVENING PARTNERS: African Ministers' Council On Water, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Ministry of Infrastructure, Argentina, National Water Institute of Argentina, UNESCO International Centre for Water Security and Sustainable Management, UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: Unlocking gender equality progress in water needs solid knowledge, practical solutions, and collaborative and immediate action. The Convenors will present a multi-stakeholder Call for Action for accelerating progress towards gender equality in the water

domain and building just and resilient societies. Climate, social and health crises make this call urgent.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/s4J2ewcbzK54GZcYL>

WHY WE'RE EXCITED ABOUT THIS EVENT? *'Gender considerations are at the center of societal growth and well-being. Women represent one-half of the world's population and deserve equal access to health, education, economic participation and earning potential, and political decision-making power. Recognising that water is at the core of sustainable development and is critical for socio-development as well as the multi-dimensional relevance of gender equality, this session has the potential to promote the gender-sustainability nexus, which is key to regional and global economic growth' and trigger recommendations for reforms in transboundary policies pertaining to areas such as trade, investment, migration.'* **Julienne Ndjiki, Programme Officer & Gender Equality Champion, Transboundary Water Cooperation, SIWI**

MONDAY, AUGUST 23; 19:00-20:00 CET

Session Title: Transboundary Waters Cooperation for Resilience: Global lessons and experiences

CONVENING PARTNERS: Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK, Government of the Netherlands, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, World Bank Group

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: Transboundary water cooperation offers much more than just water management: it is a platform for multi-sector planning and coordination of resilience interventions. This session sheds lights on the role of transboundary water cooperation as a master variable to unlock resilience across sectors, social groups and countries, under a changing climate.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/bQcGNGbiEpdirBRh>

VOICES FROM CO-CONVENORS: *'As countries rely more and more on shared waters to fuel their economies, opportunities and risks arising from transboundary water might increase. Against this backdrop, this session examines opportunities for international partners to contribute to transboundary water cooperation, with an emphasis on data solutions. This is important to identify a framework for international partners to facilitate the design and update of a data transformation that promotes cooperation.'* **Edoardo Borgomeo, Water Resources Management Specialist at World Bank Group.**

'Several transboundary basin organizations around the world have been able to survive conflicts, promote peacebuilding, support recovery after health and other crises etc. Thus, transboundary cooperation and related organizations can be agents of resilience. Sharing of data often represents an important building block. This session will demonstrate examples from different contexts and perspectives.' **Sonja Köppel, Secretary of the Water Convention, UNECE**

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24; 7:00-8:00 CET

Session Title: Central Asia Water Security & Prosperity: Elements for Informed Cooperation

CONVENING PARTNERS: Blue Peace Central Asia, Regional Environment Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: Water is at the heart of socio-economic development and stability in Central Asia. Insufficient basin cooperation has a huge cost and increases risks. Climate change will amplify it. Recent studies highlight critical points that need to be addressed beyond the water sector for mitigating the looming crisis and ensure prosperity.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/Lu7PuzPLcizjdJEkQ>

WHY WE ARE EXCITED FOR THIS EVENT? *'For World Water Week participants interested in learning about water and climate challenges in Central Asia including Afghanistan as well as opportunities to harness regional benefits for a sustainable regional future - this event is not to be missed.'* **Kerry Schneider, Senior Programme Manager, Transboundary Water Cooperation, SIWI**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24; 8:00-9:00 CET

Session Title: Inclusion of Voices of Riparian Communities in Trans-boundary Rivers

CONVENING PARTNERS: CUTS International

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: This session is part of project "Trans-boundary Rivers of South Asia", implemented by CUTS International with the support of Oxfam Novib. The goal is to contribute to reducing poverty and marginalization of vulnerable river basin communities and women through increased access to, and control over, riverine water resources.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/Pww9m7RPdYfvkW2fg>

VOICE FROM A CO-CONVENOR: *"We are excited about this event as we will share some of our learnings on promoting more inclusive transboundary river governance by collectively working with the local communities, particularly women and youth groups, governments, civil society and private sector. This interactive session will be important to advance discussion around water cooperation by highlighting the needs for, as well as opportunities around, more inclusive governance practices and ways these could be institutionalized at the local, national and transboundary levels for equitable outcomes. Such inclusive practices are also critical to the achievement of SDG target 6.5."* **Jyotiraj Patra, Project Manager, Transboundary Rivers of South Asia (TROSA), Oxfam. TROSA is supported by the Government of Sweden and managed by Oxfam.**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24; 8:00-9:00 CET

Session Title: Post Covid-19 River Basin Disaster Resilience, Sustainability and Sound Water-Cycle

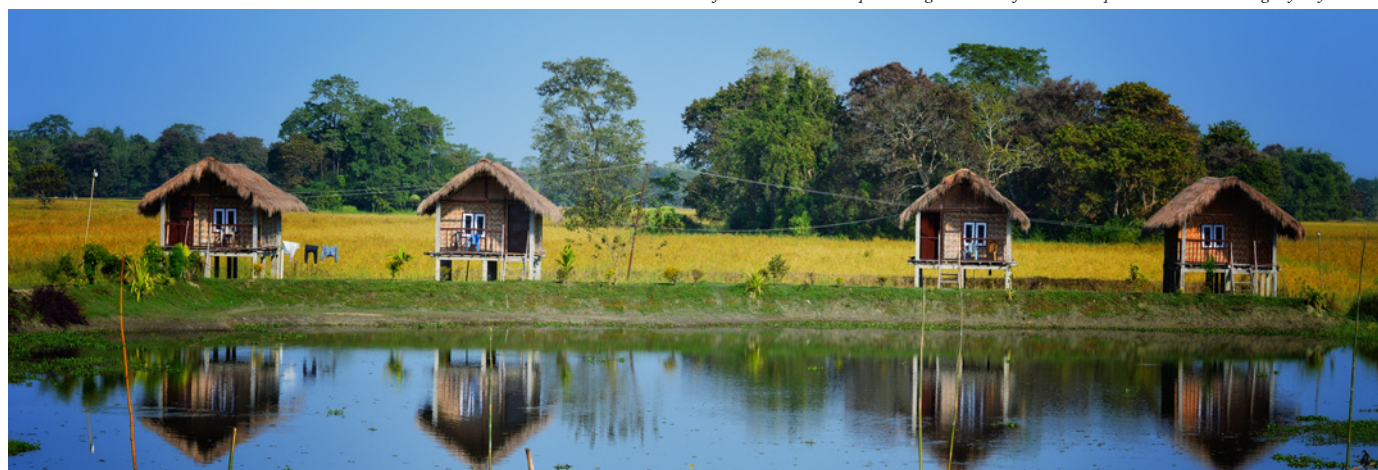
CONVENING PARTNERS: Global Water Partnership, High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters, International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, United Nations Centre for Regional Development.

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: Responding to tragic water disasters intensified by climate change under shocks and stresses by COVID-19, all stakeholders in river basins should take concerted and multilayered actions by sharing the lessons learned from the water-related disasters under COVID-19 as follows: flood prevention, exposure reduction, disaster resilience and sound water cycle, and realize the quality growth through development of quality infrastructure.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/kzzvcXv6LKiew7s3d>

VOICE FROM A CO-CONVENOR: *'COVID-19 reminded the world that people must unite and cooperate across boundaries to combat global threats such as pandemics, disasters, and climate change. This session will focus on concrete ways to build more resilient and adaptive "post-corona society" in which water cooperation plays a pivotal role.'* **Prof. Kenzo Hiroki, Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) and Coordinator of High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP)**

Bamboo huts of a small tourist enterprise along the banks of the Brahmaputra river, India. Image by Niyor Nath.



TUESDAY, AUGUST 24; 11:00-12:00 CET

Session Title: SIWI Seminar: Still Breaking Silos: across sectors and boundaries (2/3 – ‘Across Sectors’)

CONVENING PARTNERS: Cooperation on International Waters in Africa (CIWA)/World Bank Group, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: Cross-sectoral approaches are vital to build back better after crises such as pandemics and climate change. This session (part 2 of 3) will showcase four pitches to introduce examples and lessons from (in)effective cross-sectoral cooperation around building resilience. Interactive elements (voting, discussions etc.) will ensure an insightful and entertaining session.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/xXkSCKs3XjxFs32kT>

VOICES FROM CO-CONVENORS: *‘Management of water in coordination other sectors such as food, energy, environment, climate etc. is happening too much in silos. This leads to non-optimal outcomes, degradation of resources and erosion of sustainability objectives. To turn this around, we will share in this session some lessons learned from several cases around the world and discuss challenges and effective ways to overcome the silo mentality and to implement truly integrated, cross-sectoral approaches.’* **Stefan Uhlenbrook, Program Director, CGIAR Research Program on Water, land and Ecosystems (WLE), Strategic Program Director (IWMI) - Water, Food and Ecosystems.**

‘Understanding the interlinkages between food and energy production, water and the preservation of ecosystems improves capacity to anticipate and minimise negative trade-offs and

opens cross-sectoral cooperation opportunities at national level and in transboundary basins. Join us to hear examples from around the world how effective intersectoral cooperation improves efficiency, promotes sustainable development and helps to build back better!’ **Sonja Köppel, Secretary of the Water Convention, UNECE**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24; 11:00-12:00 CET

Session Title: Inclusive Practices in Water Climate Adaptation

CONVENING PARTNERS: Deltares, Government of the Netherlands, World Bank Group

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: Social inclusion is increasingly important in water climate adaptation. It stimulates creativity, enables sustainable solutions and mitigates social and environmental risks. In practice social inclusion is a complex matter and often fails to meet expectations. Technical approaches are still very dominant in projects. Knowledge and in-depth understanding of local dynamics are often limited as are resources to create this understanding. Technical knowledge and expertise are vital in tackling climate issues but can only deliver true value when connected with local knowledge, governance and communities. This practical side of social inclusion receives little attention and is extremely challenging. Collaboration is needed between donors, experts, national and local authorities and communities. Cultural differences need to be bridged. Therefore, investment in understanding local cultural and social context is key as well as investment in processes to enhance inclusion and co-created solutions.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/ebZLT3NzNDg7N7LtL>

****ANNUAL HIGH LEVEL PANEL ON WATER COOPERATION****

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24; 14.00-15:00 CET

Session Title: SIWI High Level Panel on Water Diplomacy: Navigating a Resilient Future

CONVENING PARTNERS: SIWI

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: Coordinated and cooperative efforts across different sectors are more important than ever, yet coordination is often challenged by a lack of political will and priority of urgent action. The 2021 High Level Panel on Water Diplomacy builds on lessons learnt from previous [High-Level Panels organized by SIWI](#) with a specific focus on how to cooperatively navigate the current crisis and HOW to put words into action. This High-Level Panel on Water Diplomacy is a part of SIWI and the International Centre for Water Cooperation (ICWC)’s efforts to contribute to the discussion on values of water for peace and stability. The Panel will explore how different foreign policy actors perceive the values of water for peace and stability and what type of tangible actions being taken by regional organizations, youth peace advocate, and foreign policy

and development partners . Diverse actors are needed to strengthen cooperation, increase ownership, and ensure the sustainability of water diplomacy processes - leading towards resilient future.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/dN2i934EZW66AyERR>

VOICE FROM A CO-CONVENOR: *‘Witnessing how important access to water is, and how far we are ready to go to secure that access, we need new approaches to security that integrate climate action, good governance of natural resources, conflict prevention, and peacebuilding. Water diplomacy is crucial and this High-Level Panel will deep-dive into how water diplomacy can serve all stakeholders to create win-win solutions.’* **Karin Gardes, COO and Acting Director of the Transboundary Water Cooperation Department, SIWI**

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25; 10:00-11:00 CET

Session Title: Water as a Driver of Sustainable Economic Recovery in Central Asia

CONVENING PARTNERS: Corvinus University of Budapest, Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC), Stockholm International Water Institute, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: Keynote speakers and participants in a panel discussion will reflect on the key outcomes of a series of meetings held in 2020-2021 amongst the Central Asian countries including Afghanistan facilitated through the Water as a Driver of Sustainable Economic Recovery Programme. The Programme developed a community of practice amongst numerous government ministries or institutions from all six countries, seeking for solutions beyond the water sector, with a socio-economic development perspective.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/CAG922FdztFGbqxSY>

REPEATED THURSDAY AUGUST 26; 13:00 - 14:00 CET: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/qGSbMvwfQZsQ54f6J>

VOICES FROM CONVENORS: *'Sometimes, we have the feeling, that we exhausted all possible way to find a common ground for sustainable transboundary water management... but solutions lay also outside the water sector! This session will have a look at the hidden traded water, I.e. the water foot print, and other ways, to contribute to the design of sustainable water sharing agreements in Central Asia. Delegations of the region will bring their own view.'* **Ambassador Guy Bonvin, Swiss Special Envoy for Water in Central Asia at Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.**

'Resolute steps to improve the efficiency of water resources management and to increase the contribution of water use to the economy are essential for rapid and sustainable economic recovery in Central Asia after the Covid-19 crisis. Strengthened regional cooperation on water would offer much needed economic benefits and allow Central Asian countries, including Afghanistan, to develop coordinated responses to the challenges of a profoundly changed world economy.' **Kerry Schneider, Senior Programme Manager, Transboundary Water Cooperation Department, SIWI**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25; 10:00-11:00 CET

Session Title: Building Climate Resilience through Rainfed Agriculture in the African context

CONVENING PARTNERS: Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Facility, Stockholm International Water Institute, World Agroforestry Centre, Zambezi Watercourse Commission

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: Climate change increases rainfall variability, droughts, floods & increases in average temperature, making rainfed agriculture – the vast majority of African agriculture – more vulnerable. There is significant opportunity to unlock the potential of enhanced rainfed agriculture, thus building climate resilience and moving farmers beyond subsistence farming towards sustainable livelihoods. An interactive session with case-studies from River Basin Organisations (RBOs) / Shared Watercourses Institutions on their approach to rolling out climate-resilient livelihood support programmes.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/hFMEEaEyD7vARNvpox>

VOICES FROM CONVENORS: *'The World Agroforestry Centre – ICRAF invites participants to join its Transformative Partnership Platform – TPP for optimizing rainwater use in rainfed agriculture in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The creation of a platform where key stakeholders engage to address the complex issue of optimizing water use in rainfed agriculture in a holistic manner is a priority action for bettering livelihoods of poor farming communities in the advent of climate change.'*

Maimbo Malesu, Programme Coordinator, ICRAF, Kenya. *'The reality is that 85% of staple food in Africa comes from rainfed agriculture production and yet this sector receives little attention from policymakers and investors. Plot sizes may be small, but the cumulative impact of millions of farmers makes them frontline water managers who through their practices can reduce soil erosion and increase infiltration of rainfall, in turn recharging groundwater and reducing sedimentation of surface water bodies. In this session we learn of an innovative approach being taken by the Zambezi watercourse Commission where rainfed agriculture is included as a focus area in their recently approved Strategic Plan for the watercourse.'* **Anton Earle, Director, Africa Regional Centre, SIWI**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25; 13:00-14:00 CET

Session Title: SIWI Seminar: Still Breaking Silos: across sectors and boundaries (3/3)

CONVENING PARTNERS: Cooperation on International Waters in Africa (CIWA)/World Bank Group, International Water Management Institute, Stockholm International Water Institute, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: While breaking silos between sectors is necessary, transboundary cooperation in adaptation is crucial: 60% of freshwater flows are in transboundary basins. This session (part 3 of 3) will showcase the implementation of transboundary adaptation strategies by basins across the world, leading to improved knowledge and trust.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/bBzodm6ANsMeyaSmr>

VOICE FROM A CO-CONVENOR: *'Transboundary cooperation is crucial to make adaptation more effective and avoid negative impacts of unilateral adaptation measures. There are several examples around the world of where basin organizations have developed adaptation strategies and even implemented measures, thereby increasing adaptive capacity of riparian countries and preventing conflicts. Some of these examples will be shown in the session- join us!'* **Sonja Köppel, Secretary of the Water Convention, UNECE**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25; 13:00-15:30 CET

Session Title: Capacity for governing water security risk and uncertainty

CONVENING PARTNERS: IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, Stockholm International Water Institute

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: The world is moving towards increased water insecurity. If current trends persist it will come at huge social and economic costs. Consequently, countries are at cross-roads to develop and implement appropriate policy responses. Capacity development plays key role for effective institutional responses to transition from crisis management to managing risk.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/ZLPp7FiJzZNYAPAg2>

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25; 14.00-15:00 CET

Session Title: AMCOW-Groundwater Program: Spearheading a vision on Groundwater Resilience in Africa

CONVENING PARTNERS: African Development Bank, African Ministers' Council On Water, British Geological Survey, Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources, Germany, German Water Partnership, Global Environment Facility, Global Water Partnership, International Water Management Institute, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, World Bank Group

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: AMCOW's Pan-African Groundwater Program – APAGroP – was successfully launched in October 2019 to provide continental leadership and support to groundwater management and governance. This multi-stakeholder session will showcase progress made to date, regarding process and outcomes, and take a forward look to building resilience through groundwater cooperation at multiple scales.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/g76zkhaGQJXq4FhGA>

VOICE FROM A CO-CONVENOR: 'Even though Groundwater storage in sub-Sahara Africa region amounts approximately 660,000 square kilometres, there is a wide variation in groundwater resources available across the African

continent, while the invisible nature of this vital resource makes groundwater characterization difficult. Nonetheless, if groundwater is managed sustainably, it has the potential to boost the Agricultural production – raising 15 million out of poverty considering that over 100 million depend on it for domestic use and livestock rearing. The session will contribute to enlightening the water community about the various available options to develop legal instruments aiming at fostering groundwater resources management. Join us!' **Prof Moshood Tijani, Groundwater and Climate Change Lead, AMCOW**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25; 17:00-18:00 CET

Session Title: Bankable water projects in Africa & lessons from other sectors

CONVENING PARTNERS: Norfund, Stockholm International Water Institute, Veolia

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: Why is the need for investments in water and wastewater infrastructure in Africa massive, financing is increasingly available, but bankable projects are not to be found? Innovative approaches to attract investments to the renewable energy sector could bring learnings and inspiration for overcoming barriers in the water sector. The session will bring together a development finance institution, a water institute and an industry leader in water to explore what the opportunities are of partnering with the private sector, identify the current challenges and barriers, and bring learnings from the renewable energy sector.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/by6bkcbDDycXmXp78>

VOICE FROM A CO-CONVENOR: 'Why has it proved so difficult to attract finance into water projects in Africa? As we get to know more about what is needed for water projects to be bankable, we move into the uncanny valley of aesthetics where higher rates of resistance to change emerge as we get closer to a workable model. But such resistance can be overcome by looking at successful examples from other sectors such as energy. Two decades back, the energy sector faced similar problems as are currently faced in water and through concerted efforts by policy makers, the private sector and financiers these were overcome, leading to innovation in the way projects in this sector are financed. I look forward to learning more about what these innovations are and how they can be of relevance to the water sector.' **Anton Earle, Director, Africa Regional Centre, SIWI**

Newly installed groundwater pump in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. Image by Oni Abimbola.



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25; 19:00-20:00 CET

Session Title: Water and Faith Virtual 'Walk':
Valuing water

CONVENING PARTNERS: Sensus, Stockholm International Water Institute, Swedish Water House

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: Different cultures, societies and communities around the world, including faith-based communities, understand and define the value of water through unique lens; vital to understand to ensure inclusive participation and engagement in the 2030 Agenda and the fulfilment of the human right to water. In this inter religious city walk the participants get to visit different religious places in Stockholm where faith leaders will present and demonstrate water rituals and the cultural and spiritual value of water. The event will discuss issues such as the need to address other values of water than those in economic terms, the different values of water in different faiths, and the importance to understand the role of cultural and spiritual capital in addressing our global environmental challenges.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/BrZvSAX6Lo3RfcSGe>

VOICE FROM A CO-CONVENOR: *'This year's Water and Faith World Water Week event will take participants on a virtual walk around Stockholm and the world exploring the diverse faith and spiritual values and practices that tie so many of the world's communities to water including across transboundary basins.'* **Elizabeth A. Yaari, Water and Faith Lead and Senior Programme Manager, SIWI**

Bathing the Buddha water ritual. Image by T Photo.



Thursday, August 26, 2021

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26; 8:00-9:00 CET

Session Title: Water Co-operation for
Strengthening Peace, Security and Sustainability

CONVENING PARTNERS: Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: Governing water resources requires mechanisms, norms and agreements that are equitable, adapted to the specific context and sensitive to local traditions. Developing a culture of trust and facilitating the political will to move forward together are essential conditions that need to be ensured by making use of water co-operation as a tool for conflict prevention. Supporting co-operation in transboundary basins provides opportunities for strengthening bilateral and regional co-operation to promote stability, security, sustainable development and peace. Water diplomacy can lead to improved relations among countries and communities, enhance security and prosperity and protect the environment.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/GGYn24PpvTWpN3CP4>

VOICES FROM CO-CONVENORS: *"Water management challenges can potentially trigger disputes and conflicts; equally, water management can also create valuable opportunities for transboundary co-operation and dialogue"* **Dr Saule Ospanova, Head, Environmental Cooperation Unit, OSCE.**

'SIWI is a proud partner supporting the development and implementation of the OSCE's water diplomacy related programming. This session will focus on the critical linkages between peace, security and sustainability in the water sector with a specific geographical focus on Central Asia and Afghanistan. For those following developments of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network – this event will include some updates on roll out of a new Central Asia Network drawing on the Nile Network experience.' **Elizabeth A. Yaari, Operations Lead and Senior Programme Manager, SIWI**

SPECIAL FEATURE: Russian simultaneous translation provided

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26; 10:00 - 11:00 CET

Session Title: Pathways for Protection: Blended
Solutions to Protect and Manage Freshwater

CONVENING PARTNERS: Conservation International, Northern Arizona University, The Nature Conservancy, University of Mpumalanga, University of Nevada Reno, World Wide Fund for Nature

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: This session focuses on solutions that blend adaptive management with durable and resilient protections of rivers. These approaches combine the needs of protecting riverine ecosystems and natural

infrastructure, hence supporting human social, cultural, and economic needs. This session argues for the critical role protected rivers provide in supporting resilient systems.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/9cz76H7JdPtZ3wk8k>

REPEATED FRIDAY, AUGUST 27; 17:00 - 18:00 CET:
<https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/KRmCubCfswtSPgLTc>

VOICE FROM A CO-CONVENOR: *'Our sessions aim to raise awareness about the benefits durable protections can have for freshwater resources, biodiversity, and ecosystem services provided by rivers. We look forward to sharing case studies of such protections from around the globe and hearing from our expert panelists about blended solutions for addressing pressing conservation needs.'* **Denielle Perry, Northern Arizona University**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26; 11:00- 12:00 CET

Session Title: From Forecast to Prevention: Acting on resource related conflict risks

CONVENING PARTNERS: Deltares, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH, Government of the Netherlands, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, The Hague Center for Strategic Studies, World Resources Institute

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: This event asks how national and international policy makers can take effective actions to prevent conflicts relating to water, food and energy insecurity. It focuses on how to prioritize water conflict prevention on the basis of conflict forecasting approaches, especially in times where governments are strained by multiple challenges.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/RCLPSbA4XrYjooJ3y>

VOICE FROM A CO-CONVENOR: *'We will explore how our Global Risk Assessment Tool makes conflict predictions and helps shed light on potential drivers of conflict. We will also discuss to what extent such information can help global, national and local actors take preventative action, and why – despite its availability – we are still lagging behind.'* **Charles Iceland, Global Director, Water (Interim), WRI**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26; 11:00- 12:00 CET

Session Title: Transformative Water Governance for resilient and fair societies

CONVENING PARTNERS: International Water Management Institute, Stockholm Environment Institute

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: This session will introduce both the conceptualization and application of transformative water governance principles and building blocks, while deriving on ongoing water governance research across scales (transboundary to local) in Asia and Africa. It looks at drivers and processes of systemic transformation in water governance and how unpacking such transformation is crucial to better understand processes of institutional emergence and the shaping of political spaces and engagement towards resilient, just and inclusive development. It illustrates how water

governance structures (e.g., policy and institutions), processes (e.g., consultation processes, decision-making processes), and outcomes are (re)shaped by power struggles and power relations.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/26TRdATD4Kkgc4x7r>

VOICE FROM A CO-CONVENOR: *'This session highlights the importance of understanding scalar politics and power dynamics shaping key stakeholders' interests, access to resources, strategies, and actions in water governance. It urges the need to better understand the (re)production of political spaces of engagement towards transformative changes and beyond the prescriptive notion of good water governance.'*

Dr. Diana Suhardiman, Senior Researcher, Policy and institutions Governance and Inclusion research Group Lead, International Water Management Institute.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26; 13:00- 14:00 CET

Session Title: Water as a Driver of sustainable recovery in Central Asia

CONVENING PARTNERS: Corvinus University of Budapest, Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC), Stockholm International Water Institute, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: Keynote speakers and participants in a panel discussion will reflect on the key outcomes of a series of meetings held in 2020-2021 amongst the Central Asian countries including Afghanistan facilitated through the Water as a Driver of Sustainable Economic Recovery Programme. The Programme developed a community of practice amongst numerous government ministries or institutions from all six countries, seeking for solutions beyond the water sector, with a socio-economic development perspective.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/qGSbMvwfQZsQ54f6J>

REPEAT FROM WEDS AUGUST 25; 10:00-11:00 CET:
<https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/CAG922FdztFGbqxSY>

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26; 13:00- 14:25 CET

Session Title: Transboundary Cooperation for Resilient Basin Development

CONVENING PARTNERS: Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, US State Department, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH, Global Environment Facility, International Union for Conservation of Nature, International Water Management Institute, Oregon State University, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: Disasters, such as the recent Uttarakhand flooding in India highlight the risk to people, infrastructure, and security due to climate change. Recent examples highlight the impacts of climate change and changing hydrology, and how responding to it represents a collective action opportunity across borders and sectors for resilient development.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/pJo4QERCw4tCGasPX>

VOICE FROM A CO-CONVENOR: *'This event will be a great opportunity to get insight into how addressing climate driven water hazards may be the main catalyst for deepening cooperation on shared waters. Reducing risk may be the ultimate cause for countries and sectors to take joint action.'*

Mats Erikson, Senior Programme Manager, Transboundary Water Cooperation, SIWI

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26; 17:00- 18:00 CET

Session Title: Water Under Fire: Voices from the Field – Volume 4

CONVENING PARTNERS: Finnish Water Forum, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, United Nations Children's Fund, World Bank Group

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: UNICEF's "Water Under Fire" report series was launched in 2019. It reflects the collective efforts to improve WASH services in fragile and conflict-affected settings. This session will introduce the latest volume of the WUF, demonstrating good examples of strengthening resilience including cross border examples.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/zB5oejkQcNx4Zjzsy>

VOICE FROM A CO-CONVENOR: *"A water Infrastructure was in discussion at UN Security Council early July 2021. This means that the paradigm shift has already happened and water is de facto a foreign and security policy resource and measure. It is high time to define and agree to Water Security as a concept and build global water governance structure, appropriately linking with security structures."* **Antti Rautavaara, Director of International Water Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26; 19:00- 20:00 CET

Session Title: Reimagine WASH: Water Security for All

CONVENING PARTNERS: United Nations Children's Fund

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: Though water scarcity

is a problem in many parts of the world, water insecurity is overwhelmingly an issue among the most vulnerable populations. UNICEF has undertaken an analysis of where areas of physical water scarcity overlap with areas where people have a poor water service or even complete lack of it, meaning that they depend on unsafe surface water, unimproved sources, it takes them more than 30 minutes to collect water or the water is not safe or available when needed. This analysis revealed that 1.42 billion people – including 450 million children – live in such areas of high or extremely high-water vulnerability. UNICEF and key partners will discuss with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, how achieving water security for the most vulnerable populations requires effort from all of society, and sectors.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/JeKTvD7tKs8oyDzye>

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26; 19:00- 20:00 CET

Session Title: Putting People First: Citizen Centric Climate Adaptation and Mitigation in Water

CONVENING PARTNERS: Government of the Netherlands, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, WaterAid, World Bank Group

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: The scale of the climate crisis demands collaborative solutions and new tools to fully engage and empower the most affected citizens who are often excluded from decision making. The session will unpack how to accelerate different levels of citizen participation and voice in climate-affected watershed and river basin management.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/2fq4LoPdnv4y5M4GK>

VOICE FROM A CO-CONVENOR: *'The challenges of climate change at a local level need to be tackled by people who understand the context - what are the barriers and levers for change. This session shows how local people armed with knowledge, resources and decision-making power are key to making wise and relevant and practicable decisions on adaptation for water resource.'* **Louisa Gosling, Senior WASH Manager, WaterAid**

Collaboration with local communities, in the city of Bissau, Guinea Bissau. Image by TLF Images.



THURSDAY, AUGUST 26; 21:00- 22:00 CET

Session Title: Integrating Against Drought: The Southern African Drought Resilience Initiative

CONVENING PARTNERS: International Water Management Institute, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, World Bank Group

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: To help tackle increasing drought challenges in Southern Africa, the World Bank & the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA) recently launched the multi-sector Southern Africa Drought Resilience Initiative (SADRI). This session will detail SADRI's approach and include discussion on how to target regional investments for increasing drought resilience.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/fdkkzaSfqBJaQBq6H>

VOICE FROM A CO-CONVENOR: *'Droughts are the most deadly and costly of hazards in the Southern Africa region. Building the resilience of communities, cities, and ecosystems requires truly integrated solutions that cross borders and sectors. This event will highlight recent efforts amongst development partners to help foster collaboration around these much-needed solutions.'* **Nate Engle, Senior Climate Change Specialist, The World Bank**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26; 22:00- 23:00 CET

Session Title: Water Beyond Boundaries: Stories from Colombia and Southeast Asia

CONVENING PARTNERS: Stockholm Environment Institute

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: The water narratives from the Campoalegre watershed (located in the Magdalena-Cauca macro-basin, Colombia) and the Nong Han Lake (located in the Mekong River basin, Southeast Asia) illustrate that successful water management will depend on the participation and sense of ownership of multiple stakeholders, starting from the early stages of water resource planning to implementation. We will explore through narrative how resilience is built in the Campoalegre watershed, Colombia and the Nong Han Lake, northeast Thailand through the transfer of water and water-mediated resources in and out of the watershed boundary.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/pF9g7J3t8v38nCDak>

VOICE FROM A CO-CONVENOR: *'Access to water is the greatest risk to global prosperity and addressing the SDGs. Policymakers face multiple challenges regarding water management and must grapple with both an uncertain future and competing interests, while also ensuring there is enough water for people, cities, agriculture and ecosystems. Water Beyond Boundaries is introducing and piloting new ways of thinking about sustainable water planning to respond to these challenges. Through three new pillars (teleconnections, early ecosystem consideration, multi-interest - multi participatory approaches) applied in the Magdalena (Colombia) and Mekong (Asia) watersheds, we are testing groundbreaking combinations of co-production and data analytics. Our five-year vision is to respond to the central role of water in the global sustainability agendas by addressing key existing gaps in water management to set it on a more equitable and sustainable trajectory.'* **Marisa Escobar, Stockholm Environment Institute (US Centre)**

Friday, August 27, 2021

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27; 8:00- 9:00 CET

Session Title: Building Resilient Communities: It's time to take groundwater quality seriously

CONVENING PARTNERS: British Geological Survey, Friends of Groundwater, International Association of Hydrogeologists, International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre, UN Environment Programme, UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme, World Water Quality Alliance

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: Groundwater is central to building community resilience to buffer impacts of climate and land use change. This session focuses on groundwater quality, often overlooked and over simplified, and explores how this interacts with groundwater development potential, solutions and pathways to improve water security and human health.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/3nhEKHoJg6mySRXTe>

VOICES FROM A CO-CONVENOR: *'In an ever-changing climate, tactical international support and the sharing of knowledge must be continuous and adaptive in its nature. Connecting the water cooperation community is the first and most pivotal step in developing, securing and protecting global freshwater resources, especially groundwater which is often unseen and unregulated.'* **Jared van Rooyen, Postdoctoral Researcher at Stellenbosch University & Chair of the Early Career Hydrogeologist Network (ECHN)**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27; 8:00- 9:00 CET

Session Title: Restoring Zambia's Rivers to Build Climate Resilience

CONVENING PARTNERS: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH, European Union, Ministry of Agriculture of Zambia, Ministry of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection of Zambia, Water User Association

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: Environmental degradation is a challenge for Zambia's Water Resources. Restoring catchments through Integrated Watershed Management addresses the problem and can enhance resilience. Join us on the journey of making once perennial rivers flow again. Experience the work of AWARE in a short-film, panel discussion and virtual field-trip to Zambia.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/jScbC7ZzQphw23hj8>

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27; 10:00- 11:25 CET

Session Title: Leading the World: Indigenous Led Partnerships and Governance

CONVENING PARTNERS: Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group, International Labour Organization, Karen Environmental and Social Action Network, UNDP-SIWI Water Governance Facility

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: This session brings forward the effectiveness of a tangible and intangible indigenous driven solutions for addressing the water crises, along with examples of platforms that foster partnership between indigenous peoples and other communities. Globally, there are approximately 480 million people found across approximately 5000 different indigenous groups managing territories close to 38 million sq km of land. Many of these territories contain important watersheds, water towers, and locations of incredible biodiversity that will often contribute disproportionately to the building of resilience. But despite this significance, indigenous peoples are not always heard or understood. Indigenous customary law and relationships provides strong examples of relationship-based resource management, where activities are judged against parameters built on expected relationships rather than ends to themselves and provide strong guidance for revisiting our relationships with water. The session includes presentations from groups in Australia, Myanmar, New Zealand and Argentina. Participants will engage in a deeper discussion on what water governance means in the context of relationships and strategies of indigenous peoples and their waterbodies. Promoting the use of Indigenous values and knowledge to lead watershed management is a core aim of the session.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/d9kk4LQXxiW7MWDSk>

VOICE FROM A CO-CONVENOR: *'Indigenous perspectives, water governance knowledge, and practices have largely remained outside the decision-making space around transboundary water management. There is much we can learn from the values and knowledge of indigenous water governance practices to enrich transboundary water dialogues and management. This session is a great opportunity to learn directly from these important perspectives – including representatives from Australia, Myanmar, New Zealand and Argentina.'* **Elizabeth A. Yaari, Operations Lead and Senior Programme Manager, Transboundary Water Cooperation Department at SIWI**



Maori rock carvings at Lake Taupo, New Zealand. Image by TravelFoodFriends.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27; 11:00- 12:00 CET

Session Title: Using New Data in African Decision Making on Water

CONVENING PARTNERS: African Ministers' Council on Water, Centre de Suivi Ecologique, International Water Management Institute, Ministry of Water and Sanitation of Senegal, USAID Water for Africa through Leadership and Institutional Support

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: Countries in Africa must increasingly make important water management decisions in the face of mounting water stress. Monitoring water sources for sustainability and quality over time is crucial to supporting decisions about water use for agriculture, industry, the environment, and people. This interactive session brings together teams working in sub-Saharan Africa and globally to improve monitoring of aquatic ecosystems, water use efficiency, and water stress for the purpose of reducing communities suffering from water scarcity.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/iaTdug8h7rqJCh56v>

VOICE FROM A CO-CONVENOR: *'Having solid scientific evidence is critical in establishing a business case for an equitable and sustainable transboundary water management regime and informing responses to emerging challenges such as climate change.'* **Paul Orengoh, Programmes Director, African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27; 17:00- 18:00 CET

Session Title: Pathways for Protection: Blended Solutions to Protect and Manage Freshwater

CONVENING PARTNERS: Conservation International, Northern Arizona University, The Nature Conservancy, University of Mpumalanga, University of Nevada Reno, World Wide Fund for Nature

SHORT SESSION DESCRIPTION: This session focuses on solutions that blend adaptive management with durable and resilient protections of rivers. These approaches combine the needs of protecting riverine ecosystems and natural infrastructure, hence supporting human social, cultural, and economic needs. This session argues for the critical role protected rivers provide in supporting resilient systems.

SESSION LINK: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/KRmCubCfswtSPgLTc>

REPEAT FROM THURSDAY AUGUST 26, 10:00 - 11:00 CET: <https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/9cz76H7JdPtZ3wk8k>

VOICE FROM A CO-CONVENOR: *'Our sessions aim to raise awareness about the benefits durable protections can have for freshwater resources, biodiversity, and ecosystem services provided by rivers. We look forward to sharing case studies of such protections from around the globe and hearing from our expert panelists about blended solutions for addressing pressing conservation needs.'* **Denielle Perry, Northern Arizona University**

STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL WATER INSTITUTE (SIWI)

Transboundary Water Cooperation Department

The Transboundary Water Cooperation Department consists of experts in environmental peacebuilding, conflict resolution, water diplomacy and cooperative resource management.

Working together with governments and regional stakeholders, SIWI's Transboundary Water Cooperation team facilitates inclusive dialogues and collective capacity building.

The aim is to help establish cooperative relationships and governance structures for transboundary water management that are inclusive, transparent, and equitable.

For information please visit:

<https://www.sivi.org/priority-area/transboundary-water-management>

Reflections of Stockholm city at dusk. Image by Alexandra Lande.



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