

First Call for Abstracts

Theme - IWRM for harnessing socio economic development in Eastern and Southern Africa

Bingu International Conference Centre
Lilongwe, Malawi

29th - 31st October 2014

Background

The WaterNet/WARFSA/GWP-SA Symposia have been held annually in the Eastern and Southern African region for the past 15 years. The 15th symposium will be held in Lilongwe, Malawi from 29th – 31st October 2014 under the theme: 'IWRM: An effective response to water-energy-food security challenges under changing climate'. The Symposium promotes interaction among policymakers, academics, practitioners from water and related sectors, and cooperating partners. Together, they identify regional issues, gaps and priorities that require further research and support.

Great emphasis will be placed on integration of knowledge, particularly involving scholars from the natural, medical and social sciences. The University of Malawi is the lead host of the 15th Symposium.

15th WaterNet/ WARFSA/ GWP-SA Symposium



Image from Robin Pope Safaris

Sub-Themes

Interested participants should submit abstracts that are relevant to the main theme but specifically targeting the sub-themes below.

Hydrology

For effective planning, design, management and utilisation of water resources, it is important to improve our understanding of different components of the hydrological cycle and the spatial and temporal distribution of water now and in the future. However water balance dynamics are highly complex and require integration of information from multiple domains at different scales. Furthermore, in Eastern and Southern Africa, there is limited reliable data available for application of conventional prediction tools so as to manage water resources in a sustainable way. Hydrology is important in integration as major rivers cross national and sub-national boundaries. This sub-theme therefore focuses on papers addressing studies and models that enhance not only our understanding of the water cycle's response to natural and man-made changes at different scales, but also how these changes can be managed in a sustainable manner.

Water and Environment

The natural environment is now well acknowledged as a legitimate and important user of water. It is increasingly realised that greater investment is needed to protect aquatic ecosystems from the negative impact of human developments. The challenge remains to strike the right balance between allocating water for direct human use (agriculture, power generation, domestic purposes and industry) and indirect use (sustenance of ecosystem goods and services) in view of global challenges like climate change. Downstream uses depend on sufficient releases and of acceptable quality from upstream. These interactions frequently cross national boundaries.



The papers in this sub-theme illustrate recent advances and best practices in environmental impact assessment, determining environmental water requirements, the inclusion of the environment in water resources development and river basin management, wise water use for sustenance of ecosystems and people's livelihoods as well as studies of water quality in the IWRM framework.



Water and Land

Agriculture is the major land use and livelihood strategy in Eastern and Southern Africa. It is also the greatest user of water. Owing to a growing population, persistent droughts, erratic rainfall and extreme weather events, food production and the exploitation of forest products and biodiversity have been on the increase, thus risking the resilience and stability of the interaction between surface and ground water resources including wetland ecosystems. This sub-theme puts together papers that illustrate the impact of water management practices and policies on water, crop, livestock and land productivity, livelihood security, wetlands ecology and downstream water requirements.

Water and Society

When available water is limited in quantity or quality or its distribution is uneven. This can be a source of cooperation or of contestation among users. The situation is complicated by changes caused by climate change, droughts, floods and water borne diseases. Water access and benefit sharing, are a source of power.



Any governance system should therefore tackle the issue of resource access and benefit sharing. The SADC protocol on shared water resources is a major step in the recognition of this principle and its integration into regional development. This sub-theme addresses human development and socio-political aspects of water and its management.

Water Supply and Sanitation

Globally water-borne and related diseases kill an estimated 5 million people- mostly children. Recently, the situation has been worsened by climate change related impacts like floods especially in areas with poor sanitation. At the start of the water supply and sanitation decade an estimated 1 billion people lacked access to safe water while 2.2 billion lacked access to adequate sanitation. Lack of a sustainable approach to the provision of water and sanitation has resulted in decreased coverage in the population with access to safe water and adequate sanitation, thus necessitating the need for appropriate



and sustainable water and sanitation systems. This sub-theme contains papers addressing sustainable water supply and sanitation development, water utility management and linkages to public health livelihoods and climate change.

Water Resources Management

Progress in developing and implementing Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Efficiency plans have so far been varied across countries in Eastern and Southern Africa. The theme will demonstrate practical experiences in the implementation of IWRM planning and application of modeling tools for effective water management in countries at different stages in the process. Planning is carried out at sub-national, national and transboundary level. Papers in this sub-theme include innovations and experiences in water resources planning and management and river basin management at different institutional and spatial scales and in view of global changes.



Mount Mulanje

Abstracts

Abstracts should be a maximum of 350 words. The format for all text should be font size 12, Times New Roman and single-spaced. The title should be no more than 16 words in title case. Author's names should be written in such a way that the initials appear first followed by the last name. The authors names should indicate one corresponding author* (with an asterisk) and the email of the corresponding author. The affiliations of authors should be shown through letter superscripts (such as a, b, c). Five keywords should be included in alphabetical order. Abstracts should include a clear statement of the theoretical issue to be addressed, the research methodology to be presented, and a concise summary of the findings/conclusion. Work must be unpublished at time of presentation. Maximum of 3 submissions per author, either as single author or joint co-author.



Submission of Abstracts and Papers

All abstracts will be handled and reviewed electronically via the conference's EasyChair submission <https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=15wnsymp>. Note that you will need to set up an Easy Chair account (if you do not already have one) before you login for your submission. Several roles have been set on the platform for the 15th WaterNet symposium, kindly register as an author, all other roles will be done through invitation.

When completing the submission form on Easy Chair, you will see a space which asks for an abstract to be typed in. This is not the place for your full abstract! In this field, please enter a short statement (no more than 50 words) summarizing your paper. Further down the page you will upload your full abstract as an attachment (as a .pdf, .doc or .docx). Make sure your attachment is fully anonymised, i.e. no names or affiliations or other identifying information about authors should be included in the document itself, in the filename, or in the document properties (properties are accessible via the File menu in MS Word). Before uploading, please ensure that all special characters display properly. You should receive confirmation of submission of your paper from Easy Chair immediately after submission by email; if you have not, please bear in mind that any emails received might be found in your spam folder.

The submission form in Easy Chair also asks you:

- Your theme, your preferred presentation type/paper or a poster (note that the final decision will be taken by the programme committee)
- Whether you are under 35 year old
- Any keywords that do not appear in the topics list that may facilitate the review process

Guidelines for writing a good abstract are available at:

<http://www.waternetonline.org/Symposium/15/GuidelinesForWritingAGoodAbstract.pdf>

Guidelines for writing a paper are available at:

<http://www.waternetonline.org/Symposium/15/GuidelinesForWritingAPaper.pdf>

Selection Criteria

All abstracts submitted for oral/poster presentation will undergo a peer review process and the results will be communicated to the corresponding author.

Special Sessions

All organisations interested in convening a special session should submit their proposal on the digital platform as well. Please note that you will require to show the relevance of the workshop to the symposium and the expected number of participants. The proposals need to be motivating, and will be allocated on a first come/first served basis.

Each special session will be allocated approximately four hours. However, if more time is required the organisers should state this in the proposal. The proposal should state the materials and equipment that will be required.



PLEASE NOTE: Abstracts for special sessions should adhere to the deadlines and will be peer reviewed like all others.

Elsevier Journal of Physics and Chemistry of the Earth (JPCE)

After the Symposium, authors will also have the opportunity to submit their papers for review and publication in a special issue of the Journal of Physics and Chemistry of the Earth. It is a journal published by Elsevier and the normal peer review processes will apply. Submissions will be online via

Elsevier Editorial System (EES), <http://ees.elsevier.com/jpce>. Submission details and guidelines will be announced at the symposium.

Deadlines for Abstracts

Deadline for submission of abstracts	15 April 2014
Notification of acceptance of abstracts	30 May 2014
Deadline for submission of full papers	29 July 2014
Deadline for early registration	26 September 2014

Deadlines for Special Sessions

Deadline for Submission of proposals	15 April 2014
Notification of Acceptance of proposals	30 May 2014
Deadline for submission of full papers	29 July 2014
Deadline for early registration	2 Sept 2014

Registration Fees

Early Bird Registration	USD 300
Student Registration	USD 250
Normal Registration	USD 400
Late Registration	USD 500
Local exhibitors	USD 500
International exhibitors	USD 1000

For Further Information

Details on the Symposium will be uploaded and updated at the websites indicated as they become available.

<http://www.gwpsa.org>

<http://www.waternetonline.org>

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