

## Inception meeting

### **Addressing Water Security: Climate Impacts and Adaptation responses in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe** (With the support from Flanders Trust Fund for Science)

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 9-10 February 2015  
Bonvin Building – Room XIV

Organized by UNESCO-IHP

The inception meeting is organized with potential partners to discuss and design activities within the framework of the project “Addressing Water Security: Climate Impacts and Adaptation responses in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe”. The framework and objectives of the project will be presented and partnership mechanisms and ideas for potential joint projects will be discussed and developed. The inception meeting will contribute to UNESCO’s IHP-VIII (2014-2021) Phase entitled “Water Security: responses to local, regional and global challenges”.

The inception workshop will gather hydrologists, water resources experts, policymakers, IHP network, UN institutions and other stakeholders. The 2-days meeting will help further develop mechanisms and ideas for identifying potential collaboration and action plan with the participating experts and institutions.

The inception meeting aims at launching a discussion on a global knowledge forum on water security by building on already established networks, know-how and experiences. The specific objectives consist in developing partnership mechanism and projects which will contribute to the assessment of vulnerability and to map existing implementation of adaptation strategies in vulnerable regions. Furthermore, the goal is raising awareness on potential impacts of climate change on water resources by benefiting from experience of experts and different case studies on effective adaptation strategies.

## Programme

### 9<sup>th</sup> February

09:00-09:30

#### Opening

Session Chair: Mr Siegfried Demuth

Rapporteurs: Mr Koen Verbist, Mr Bhopal Pandeya

Opening remarks by

Ms Blanca Jimenez Cisneros, Director of the Division of Water Sciences,  
UNESCO;

Mr Rudy Herman, Representative of Flanders Trust Fund for Science  
(FUST)

**09:30-10:00**      **Addressing Water Security: Climate Impacts and Adaptation responses in Africa, Asia and the Americas**

Session Chair: Mr Siegfried Demuth  
Rapporteurs: Ms Sofia Widforss, Mr Bhopal Pandeya

General overview of the project and expectations of the meeting by Mr Anil Mishra and Mr Koen Verbist.

**10:00-10:30**      **Coffee Break**

**10:30-12:30**      **Keynotes: global challenges**

Session Chair: Mr Siegfried Demuth  
Rapporteurs: Mr John Pomeroy, Mr Bruno Freire de Souza

**“Water Security – Passing Fad—or Durable Concept?”** – Mr Robert Varady, Water Security Network

**“Vulnerability Assessment - Assessing vulnerability of water resources to environmental change”** – Mr Wouter Buytaert, Imperial College

**Science-policy Interface - “Navigating the Confluence of Policy and Technical Knowledge”** – Mr John Matthews, Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA)

**12:00-13:30**      **Lunch**

**13:30-14:30**      **Case studies, initiatives and linkages - Session I**

Moderator: Mr Rudy Herman  
Rapporteur: Mr Koen Verbist, Ms Barbara Avila

Speakers (10' presentation each):

**“Addressing water security through better understanding and predicting mountain snow water resources under climate change”** - Mr John Pomeroy, Global Energy and Water Exchanges Project (GEWEX)

**“Assessing the Impact of Climate Change and its Effects on Soil and Water Resources on Polar and Mountainous Regions: The IAEA international collaboration”** Ms Jane Gerardo-Abaya, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

**"Bridging the science-policy gap - UNEPs work on climate change adaptation in mountains"** Mr Matthias Jurek, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

**“Enabling regional cooperation in assessment and sustainable management of Central Asia high altitude glacier systems - GEF /**

**UNDP / UNESCO initiative**” Mr Vladimir Mamaev, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

**“Sediment - an Important Key Player in Water Security”** Mr Manfred Spreafico, UNESCO International Sediment Initiative (ISI)

**"Integrated glacier monitoring and capacity building activities within the Global Terrestrial Network for Glaciers"** Mr Samuel Nussbaumer, World Glacier Monitoring Service (WGMS)

**14:30-15:00** Discussion

**15:00-15:30** **Coffee Break**

**15:30-16:30** **Case studies, initiatives and linkages - Session II**

Moderator: Mr Robert Varady

Rapporteurs: Ms Sofia Widfors, Mr Bruno Freire de Souza

Speakers (10' presentation each):

**"Andean glaciers evolution and consequences for water resources"** Mr Patrick Ginot, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)

**"Water security in global environmental change times - challenges for science informing policy making in the Americas"** Ms Elma Montaña, Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)

**"Water Services of the Albertine Rift Mountain Ecosystems under Global Change"** Mr Sam Kanyambwa, Abertine Rift Conservation Society (Arcos)

**“Modelling vulnerability to develop adaptation measures for municipal water supply systems in Mexico: approach and key findings”** Ms Ines Navarro Gonzáles, Mexican National Autonomous University (UNAM)

**"Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Danube River Basin"** Mr. Raimund Mair, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)

**16:30-17:00** Discussion

**17:00-17:50** **Case studies, initiatives and linkages - Session III**

Moderator: Mr John Pomeroy

Rapporteurs: Mr Matthias Jurek, Ms Barbara Avila

Speakers (10' presentation each):

**“Environmental Knowledge for Change”** - Ms Tina Schoolsmeester, GRID-ARENDAL

**"Environment change over the Third Pole and impact on water resources"** Mr Yao Tandong, Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research

**"EC support to the implementation of Regional Networks of Centres of Excellence in Water Science: Africa and Latin America"** Mr Cesar Carmona-Moreno, European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC)

**"CONDESAN's contribution to Effective Adaptation for Water Security under climate Change in the Andean region"** - Mr Miguel Saravia, Consortium for the Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN)

**"The Himalayan Climate Change Adaptation Programme (HICAP)"** Mr Björn Alfthan, HICAP

**17:50-18:20**

Discussion

**18:30**

**Cocktail Reception – Lobby outside Room XIV**

**10<sup>th</sup> February**

**09:00-09:30**

**Contribution from UNESCO Category II Centres and Chairs**

Session chair: Mr Siegfried Demuth

Rapporteurs: Mr Bruno Freire de Souza, Mr Bhopal Pandeya

Speakers (5' presentation each):

Mr William Logan, International Center for Integrated Water Resources Management (ICIWaRM), USA

Mr Igor Severskiy, Central Asian Regional Glaciological Centre, Kazakhstan

Mr Helmut Habersack, Chair on Integrated River Research and Management - University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Austria – replaced by Mr Bernhard Schober

Mr Johannes Cullmann, International Centre for Water Resources and Global Change, Germany

Mr Jacques Ganoulis, Chair and coordinator of the International Network of Water-Environment Centres for the Balkans (INWEB)

**09:30-11:00**

**Vulnerability Assessment**

Moderator: Mr Wouter Buytaert

Rapporteurs: Ms Sofia Widforss; Ms Barbara Avila

**Panelists:**

Mr Miguel Saravia, CONDESAN

Mr Sam Kanyamibwa, ARCOS

Mr Matthias Jurek, UNEP  
Ms Tina Schoolsmeester, GRID-ARENDAL  
Mr Yao Tandong, Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research  
Mr. Samuel Nussbaumer, WGMS

The group will discuss and assess vulnerability and capacity across the regions to establish a baseline and develop 3 - 5 recommendations, and project action plan possibly along the following lines:

- Identification of land use changes and socio-economic conditions as a result of climate change;
- Identification of most vulnerable communities and groups;
- Key determinants of vulnerability and challenges for adaptive capacity;
- Implementation of Adaptation Strategies and Climate Risk Management in pilot areas;
- Awareness raising among local stakeholders on potential water security risks.

**11:00-11:30**

**Coffee Break**

**11:30-13:00**

**Science-policy for adaptation and awareness raising**

Moderator: Mr John Matthews

Rapporteurs: Mr Koen Verbist; Mr Bruno Freire de Souza

Ms Elma Montaña, IAI

Mr Rudy Herman, FUST

Ms Ines Navarro Gonzales, UNAM

Mr Robert Varady, Water Security Network

Mr Wouter Buytaert, Imperial College

Ms Sofia Widforss, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)

The Group will discuss policy and national framework conditions and review future national strategies and their relevance to community and develop 3 - 5 key recommendations and action plan, possibly along the following lines:

- Review current and future national adaptation strategies and their relevance to community level;
- Effective strategies and pilot case studies of how scientific results can be leveraged into policies;
- Policy impact analysis and policy changes;
- Constraints for policy implementation;
- Opportunities for policies at the national and regional levels.

**13:00-14:30**

**Lunch**

**14:30-16:30**

**Improving Communication between multi-stakeholders**

Moderator: Mr Anil Mishra

Rapporteurs: Ms Barbara Avila; Mr Bhopal Pandeya

Mr Vladimir Mamaev, UNDP

Mr John Pomeroy, GEWEX

Mr Raimund Mair, ICPDR

Mr Cesar Carmona, Excellence Center in LAC of the European  
Commission's Joint Research Center (RALCEA-JRC)

Mr John Matthews, AGWA

Mr Johannes Cullmann, International Centre for Water Resources and  
Global Change

The Group will discuss communication strategy involving multi-stakeholders to improve science communication to better convey science messages and effectively reach various audiences - particularly policymakers - to promote the process of converting science knowledge into action. The aim is to provide effective and relevant adaptation strategies for the community and develop 3 - 5 key recommendations and action plan, possibly along the following lines:

- Provide strategic reviews of the current-state-of-the-art of the science communication associated with the climate change adaptation;
- Depth discussion about how the messages have moved from the science sphere to the policy and public domains;
- Review some effective awareness raising and communication strategies related with the impact of climate change on water resources, and discuss what is/should be the role of scientists in this process;.

**16:30-17:00**

**Coffee Break**

**17:00-17:30**

**Closing of the meeting**

The outputs of the workshop will be drafted based on the moderators and rapporteurs contributions.