**Breaking silos: Climate action and water – across sectors and boundaries**

Co-conveners: Cooperation in International Waters in Africa, International Water Management Institute, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Climate change, ecosystems, society and economies interact dynamically and, therefore, a holistic approach to adaptation and mitigation is paramount. For example, improved water management can support healthy ecosystems that also capture carbon and provide livelihood opportunities, whereas degraded ecosystems can develop into additional carbon sources and hamper socio-­economic development. The changing climate is also affecting traditional water management for food and energy production, all the way from source to sea. Floods, droughts, water quality degradation, and related water stresses are increasing in severity and frequency in many places, where the most vulnerable people are increasingly threatened. While creating additional challenges, the changing climate also opens new opportunities for transboundary and intersectoral cooperation facilitating states to take joint actions which can bring mutual benefits in the future. This calls for new approaches to water management and inter-sectoral and transboundary cooperation to reduce risks while simultaneously stimulate carbon capture and other ecosystem services and provide new opportunities for socio economic development.

#### Focus

How can we all work better together towards a waterwise and climate-smart world? The seminar will explore political, socio-economic, institutional and technological strategies for addressing climate change across different sectors and boundaries through water management. More specifically, how is vulnerability and resilience affecting transboundary basins and inter-regional connectivity? What roles do international trade, demographic changes, expanding economies, land use change, digitalization and other aspects of globalization play? What are the options for stimulating carbon capture in ecosystems through integrated land-water management and related policies and strategies? Finally, how can progress through innovative and disruptive technologies, and how can digital transformations be accelerated?

# **Present in a Seminar**

Each year, nine seminars are hosted during the World Water Week. The seminars are the scientific core of the World Water Week and give speaker slots to individuals who want to present their research in a short and interactive way.

The content of each seminars is directly connected to the theme of the World Water Week; in 2020 it will be Water and [**Climate Change: Accelerating Action**](https://www.worldwaterweek.org/programme/thematic-scope-2020)**.**

Speakers are selected through the submission of a research abstract which will be reviewed by the [**Scientific Programme Committee (SPC)**](https://www.worldwaterweek.org/about/about-world-water-week/governance), who selects the ones that would make the seminars versatile and dynamic in regard to their content, innovation, regional and sectorial diversity.

All fields of research are welcome to submit a seminar abstract as long as they are related to the [**issues being addressed by the seminars.**](https://www.worldwaterweek.org/engage/before-you-apply/seminars2020)

The seminar programme is also complemented by keynote speakers.

Presenting in a seminar gives you the opportunity to present your research in front of a wide audience of experts, professional and decision makers in your field of expertise. It also gives you golden networking opportunities that might lead to future studies or research opportunities, project development, funding opportunities or even press coverage!

Contact Juliette Lunel (juliette.lunel@siwi.org) for questions on submitting your abstract.

**Frequently asked questions**

**What format should the research abstract follow?**The abstract should be in English, text only (no graphics) and be submitted in the following format:

- Abstract title (up to 10 words)

- Up to five keywords

- Highlights - Highlight the main contribution of this work/research. Please formulate highlights as 3 short bullet points. (up to 50 words)

- Introduction and objectives - A short background of the topic, scope of the study and a motivation for the research including comparison to related research. Please include what is novel about your work and how it fits with the purpose of the session. (up to 100 words)

- Methodology approach - Description and discussion of the approach of the study. Explain the research questions, describe research framework and the methods applied. Explain why the research questions are relevant and why the chosen method(s) are suited for the problem. (up to 100 words)

- Analysis and results - Discuss the results and put them in perspective by comparing to other studies or generally accepted knowledge in the field. Clear and understandable statements on which we can assess the value added of the proposed paper (up to 200 words)

- Conclusions and recommendations - Include the principles and generalizations inferred from the results, any exceptions, problems or limitations of the work, theoretical and/or practical implications of the work, and conclusions drawn and recommendations. (up to 100 words)

- The author must identify the corresponding seminar in which the abstract would be presented from those listed on our website.

Abstracts need to adhere to these requirements and must be submitted through our online submission system to be considered.

Abstract submitted are reviewed and selected by the Scientific Programme Committee. All accepted abstracts will be invited to submit an extended abstract to Water Alternatives, an interdisciplinary journal on water, politics and development.

If an abstract is accepted, at least one author must register and attend World Water Week. Authors must meet their own expenses (registration fee, travel, accommodation, etc.).

**What are the selection criteria?**
The abstracts will be evaluated and accepted on the basis of their relevance as well as their scientific quality. The Scientific Programme Committee will grade the abstracts against the following criteria:

- The extent to which it advances knowledge of and/or innovation within the subject

- The scientific quality and originality of the subject treatment

- The practical applications of the content

- The capacity for procedures or practices described to be replicated

**What are the tasks and deadlines?**

- 19 January 2020 - Deadline to submit a seminar abstract

- Mid-March 2020 - Letters of acceptance / rejection are sent

- 1 May 2020 – Deadline for accepted authors to update abstract and send a short biography and photo

- 15 June 2020 – Deadline to send in a first draft of presentation

- 15 July 2020 – Deadline to send presentation with amendments done for a second review

- 15 August 2020 - Presentation ready for the Week

- 23 - 28 August 2020 - World Water Week

**What happens after my research abstract has been accepted?**
Next step is for you to register! At least one author of each selected abstract must register and attend the conference. Information about registrations and costs can be found on our website under ‘tickets’.

**Where can I find instructions on how to prepare my presentation?**
Instructions for each specific seminar will be sent out after your abstract is accepted. You will be asked to prepare a first draft of your presentation and send it for review by the seminar team by mid-June.

**Can I register for free if I present in a seminar?**
The author presenting its research must cover the World Water Week participation costs (registration fee, travel, accommodation, etc.) at its own expenses.

However, financial support is available for some presenters actively involved in the World Water Week programme from low income countries, forgotten stakeholders or sectors and young professionals who wouldn’t be able to attend the week otherwise. Application for financial support will open in May.

Please note that SIWI offers a very limited amount of financial support. It is therefore strongly recommended to seek financial support from other sources.

**Will the accepted abstracts be published?**
All accepted abstracts will be collected in the Abstract Volume which will be available to download on our website.

Additionally, all accepted abstracts will be invited to submit an extended abstract for possible publication in the journal ‘Water’.