



XVII
World
Water
Congress

17th IWRA World Water Congress
(11-15 May, Daegu, Korea)

Special Session SS4-3 on:

“Ecosystem-based Adaptation in the basins of lakes, rivers and aquifers:
when green & grey make... blue!”

Tuesday 30th of November, 16:30-18:00 (South Korea time)

Hybrid format: on-site in Daegu EXCO Room n°322, and online on Zoom



Description of the session

Short Description

Climate change primarily affects water with unpredictable rainfall patterns, aquatic ecosystems degradation, altered river flows, sea level rise-induced salinization of coastal groundwater, more frequent and intense floods and droughts. Water-related disasters represent about 90% of all natural disasters.

Ecosystem-based Adaptation addresses this issue with Nature-based Solutions (NbS). It uses biodiversity and ecosystem services to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. As water flows and doesn't stop at borders, this approach should be implemented at the scale of the basins of lakes, rivers and aquifers, including in transboundary settings.

Through case studies from around the world, the audience will be invited to question conventional climate change solutions and the associated risks of maladaptation, to explore the range of “no-regret” Nature-based Solutions that Ecosystem-based Adaptation mobilizes and the interest to carry out this approach across borders at the scale of the basins of lakes, rivers and aquifers.

Objectives

The session will address ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) in water resource management by sharing experiences from basins around the world. It will review ecosystem-based approaches and measures to adapt to climate change in basins, identify good practices and lessons learned and formulate recommendations to scale-up actions. It aims to raise awareness, provide guidance and catalyze action for ecosystem-based adaptation at basin level.

Session draft program

Master of ceremony & introduction (5 min):

- **Dr. Eric Tardieu**, Secretary General, International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)

Keynote speech (10 min):

- **Mr Fred Kihara**, Africa Water Funds Director, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Panel (50 min):

- **Ms. Neeta Pokhrel**, Chief of Water Sector Group, Asian Development Bank
- **Mr. Maxime Fouillet**, Project manager, International Office for Water (OiEau)
- **Ms. SHI Qiuchi**, Director General, Ministry of Water Resources' (MWR) INTCE, China
- **Mr. Precious Simeon**, Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Nigeria (TBC)

Questions & answers (20 min):

Conclusion (5 min):

- **Mr. James Dalton**, Director of the Global Water Programme, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)