

SIWI World Water Week

SESSION: Mobilising Change: 10 years of climate resilient water investments

Thursday, 26 August 2021, 13:00-14:00 SAST

Background information

The world faces two huge crises interconnected by water security: the pandemic and the climate emergency. Both demand radical and coordinated action to address systemic challenges that threaten humanity.

According to the UN Climate Change synthesis of the updated Nationally Determined Contributions, nations must redouble their ambition on climate efforts if the global community is to reach the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global warming to well below 2°C. Climate change is altering rainfall patterns and affecting water availability and worsening the damage that floods and drought cause worldwide. The biggest impacts of climate change are water-related and by 2050, more than 50% of the population is expected to face water stress.

Meanwhile, practical solutions are required to address the immediate challenge of a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the pandemic.

Therefore, investments in water security must be at the centre of solutions for both climate change and economic recovery. Specifically, investments in water information, institutions, and infrastructure including at all levels is essential. There are many examples from around the world which prove that dramatic gains in climate change adaptation, improvements in water and sanitation are possible in just a few years and that some of the solutions are inexpensive, effective, and can be quickly deployed.

As the world prepares for COP 26 in November 2021, the *Mobilising Change: 10 years of climate resilient water investments* session at World Water Week 2021 will present perspective, opportunities and stories of change to inspire progress on solutions. The session is convened by Global Water Partnership (GWP).

The transformative power of partnerships to create real impact is demonstrated by 10 years of GWP's work in supporting water resource and climate resilience investments across 60 countries and influencing €1.5 billion investments, representing a leverage ratio of 1:33 for every dollar invested in GWP's water and climate programme.

The session will share how change can be mobilised through positioning water-informed insights in national adaptation planning, facilitating access to climate finance, and supporting integrated planning for water infrastructure.

Most recently, in Africa, where the water investment gap is growing and currently estimated at \$45-\$54 billion/annually, partnerships have laid the foundation for the [Continental Africa Water Investment Programme \(AIP\)](#) that aims to narrow the water investment gap and mobilise US\$30billion/year by 2030

for SDG 6 related targets. The AIP was adopted by the AU Heads of States in February 2021 following its recommendation by the UN High Level Panel on Water.

GWP Session objectives

1. Explore the challenges and barriers to increased ambition on climate action and mobilising investments for water security, and explore perspectives and opportunities in which these barriers may be overcome in order to inspire progress on climate action and water security, as part of the green recovery.
2. Showcase opportunities to accelerate progress in Africa through the AIP in order to accelerate progress for water investments in Africa, addressing SDG 6 targets.

Session message

The key message from the session is a call for an urgent increase in investment in water information, institutions, and infrastructure, sanitation services with corresponding actions from donor organisations, bilateral/multilateral organisations, national governments, private sector, and civil society. The session will reference appropriate responses, such as the AIP.

Moderator

Stacy Swann, Chief Executive Officer: Climate Finance Advisors

Speakers

1. Howard Bamsey, Chair: Global Water Partnership
2. Dario Soto-Abril, CEO: Global Water Partnership
3. Prof. Michael Scoullos, Chair: GWP Mediterranean

Panel discussion:

1. Alex Simalabwi, Head: Global Climate, GWP
2. Fabiola Táborá, Executive Secretary: GWP Central America
3. Sabina Bokal, Senior Project Manager: GWP Central and Eastern Europe
4. Trevor Thompson, Chair: GWP Caribbean and Land Use Officer: Ministry of Agriculture in Grenada
5. Dr. Youssef Nassef, Director: Adaptation Division, UNFCCC

Proposed Programme

Time	Agenda item
13:00 – 13:03	Introduction to session by Dario Soto-Abril, CEO: Global Water Partnership under the theme: How can we mobilise finance for climate-resilient water projects and infrastructure in address the dual risk of pandemic and the climate crisis?
13:04 – 13:10	Moderator Stacy Swann in conversation with Howard Bamsey, Chair: Global Water Partnership
13:11 – 13:20	Alex Simalabwi Head: Global Climate, GWP presents on the opportunities and achievements of past 10 years
13:21	45-second video break
	Moderator Stacy Swann poses question to Prof. Michael Scoullos, Chair: GWP Mediterranean
	Moderator Stacy Swann poses question to Trevor Thompson, Chair: GWP Caribbean
	Moderator Stacy Swann poses question to Fabiola Táborá, Executive Secretary: GWP Central America
	Moderator Stacy Swann poses question to

	Sabina Bokal, Senior Project Manager: GWP Central and Eastern Europe
	Outlook statement by Dr. Youssef Nassef, Director, Adaptation Division, UNFCCC
13:22 – 13:29	Questions from audience
13:30 – 13:31	SESSION CLOSE