

AGENDA

Regional Conference on Risks and Solutions: Adaptation Frameworks for Water Resources Planning, Development and Management in South Asia

Hilton Colombo, Sri Lanka, 12-13th July 2016

Conference goal

The two-phased South Asia Water Initiative aims to build knowledge, tools and capacity across South Asia to assist governments in adapting to emerging climate change challenges in the water sector. Envisaged support includes development of effective policy frameworks as well as practical planning, development and management actions that highlight and address the need for adaptation.

Phase 1 of this work on water resources management and climate adaptation is being implemented by IWMI with support from the World Bank and includes a review of the current knowledge, policy and institutional/financing environment on climate change adaptation and water resources management in the South Asia region.

The objective of this two-day regional conference is to bring together key decision makers from seven South Asian countries to review the three diagnostic papers prepared under Phase 1, and to seek guidance and support for the establishment of a second phase, focused on the development of adaptation frameworks in respective countries.

Day 1—Understanding the landscape of knowledge, policy, institutions and financing

The opening session will start with an address by the Guest of Honour from the Sri Lankan Government. A presentation by the World Bank and IWMI will then set the scene for the day, the focus of which will be on the complex landscape of existing scientific knowledge – including key gaps and challenges in downscaling climate models – and on the mosaic of policy and institutions tasked with addressing climate change and preparing countries and peoples in the region for greater climate resilience and adaptation capacity. This will be followed by a keynote address from Professor Mohan Munasinghe. The day will include further expert input on ways of systematizing responses to climate uncertainty in water resources planning and project design.

12 th July	Activity
08.00-09.00	Registration and coffee
Opening session: Scene setting	
<i>Chair</i>	<i>Mr Jeremy Bird, Director General, IWMI</i>
09.00-10.00	<p><i>Address by the Guest of Honour:</i> H.E. Dr Sarath Amunugama, Minister for Special Assignments, Government of Sri Lanka</p> <p><i>Welcome remarks from the World Bank:</i> Ms Rolande Pryce, World Bank Country Office, Sri Lanka</p> <p><i>Regional context and conference objectives:</i> Dr Rafik Hirji, Team Leader, World Bank / Dr Alan Nicol, Theme Leader, IWMI</p>

	Inaugural address: Professor Mohan Munasinghe, Founder Chairman of MIND: <i>'Is South Asia's water sector resilient enough to adapt to climate change and achieve the SDGs?'</i>
10.00-11.00	Country perspectives: brief interventions from country participants and feedback
11.00-11.30	Tea/coffee break
12.00-12.30	Facilitated plenary discussion: Navigating the complex mosaic of landscapes and change in South Asia / Facilitator: Dr Ajaya Dixit, ISET-Nepal
12.30-13.30	Lunch
Session 1: Knowledge and decision-making landscapes	
<i>Chair</i>	<i>Dr Vidhisha Samarasekara, ADB</i>
13.30-14.30	Keynote 2: An Operational Perspective: The Decision Tree Framework Dr Casey Brown, World Bank (including 30 mins discussion and feedback)
14.30-15.00	Diagnostic Paper 1: Climate change science, knowledge and impacts on water resources in South Asia: Dr Guillaume Lacombe / Dr Pennan Chinnasamy (IWMI)
15.00-15.30	Facilitated plenary discussion: Comments and feedback on the paper Facilitator Mr Madhav Belbase, Nepal
15.30-16.00	Diagnostic Paper 2: Policy and Planning Dr Richard Davis (Consultant)
16.00-16.30	Facilitated plenary discussion: Comments and feedback on the paper Facilitator Mr U. P. Singh, India
16.30-17.00	Tea/coffee break
Session 2: Economic and institutional landscapes	
<i>Chair</i>	<i>Dr Muhammad Nadeem Javaid, Pakistan</i>
17.00-17.30	Diagnostic Paper 3: Economic and Institutional Landscape Mr Sanjiv de Silva and Dr Diana Suhardiman, (IWMI)
17.30-18.00	Facilitated plenary discussion: Comments and feedback on the paper Facilitator Dr Ahsan Uddin Ahmed, Bangladesh
18.00-18.30	Closing summary and wrap up
18.30-20.00	Evening cocktail reception, Hilton Colombo

Day 2—Towards water resource management for adaptation and resilience

The second day builds on the knowledge, policy and institutional landscapes presented on day one. Participants will work more closely in groups to establish key steps towards developing national-level adaptation frameworks. Additional support will be provided through a keynote presentation providing an example from Africa in which climate change adaptation has been integrated into basin-level planning in Tanzania. Group work will both be centered on addressing specific risks and on establishing country-level approaches to the development of WRM adaptation frameworks.

13 th July	Activity
Session 3: From theory to practice	
<i>Chair</i>	<i>Dr Said Shakib Atef, Afghanistan</i>
09.00-09.15	Recap and introduction to second day Dr Alan Nicol (IWMI) / Dr Rafik Hirji (World Bank)
09.15-09.45	Keynote: Integrating climate adaptation at basin scale – the Rufiji Basin example, Tanzania, Prof Aris Georgakakos, Georgia Water Resources Institute

09.45-10.15	Facilitated plenary discussion: Comments and feedback on the presentation Facilitator Mr Karma Dupchu, Bhutan / Dr Alan Nicol (IWMI) / description of Group Work
10.15-10.45	<i>Break</i>
10.45-12.30	Group Work: Climate Risk Analysis: (Provisionally four groups split across countries and non-country participants: inland/coastal flooding; drought; sea-level rise; infrastructure design and operation)
12.30-13.30	Lunch
Session 4: Towards national WRM and Climate Adaptation Frameworks	
<i>Chair</i>	<i>Dr Kusum Athukorala, Sri Lanka</i>
13.30-14.00	Group presentations and feedback Facilitator Dr Alan Nicol (IWMI)
14.00-16.00	Country Adaptation Framework Groups: (Provisionally seven groups arranged by country with non-country participants distributed equally across groups to support deliberations); each addressing the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining priority actions to take forward WRM-related climate change adaptation • Ways of overcoming barriers and obstacles to managing water-related climate risks Feedback and presentations by country
16.00-16.30	Tea/coffee break
16.30-17.00	Facilitated discussion on key points arising and next steps to adaptation frameworks Facilitators: Dr Rafik Hirji / Dr Alan Nicol
17.00-17.30	Closing remarks from organizers and participants
14th July	Half-day field visit to irrigation and flood control areas near Colombo (08.00-12.00)