

**Special Session “Data and tools for water management and decision-making”  
(90 min)**

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February, 14h30-16h30

Auditório Águas Claras254

<b>Media-friendly title</b>	From data and tools to information: knowledge for decision-making
<b>Working title</b>	Data and tools for water management and decision-making
<b>Key question</b>	Why is data so crucial for decision-making and how can it be best produced, processed, tested and validated and finally shared and disseminated?
<b>Media-friendly session summary (3-5 sentences)</b>	We cannot manage what we do not measure! Yet, for decades, efforts have been insufficient in the field of data production, management and exchange, with in particular the slow degradation of monitoring networks in many regions, the lack of procedures facilitating the easy access to the various datasets and the lack of tools for the production and visualization of information required for an efficient water management. There is an urgent need to take action!

<b>Session description</b>	<p>There is still a great deal of uncertainty on the extent of hydrological cycle disruptions and even more on the efficiency of measures to be implemented to face effects of climate changes and other water challenges such as increasing demand for irrigation, industry or drinking water. Moreover, many countries face a lack of reliable data and water information, covering all the fields necessary to identify the main challenges and propose no-regret measures in the frame of resilience-driven permanent analysis. In many regions, the monitoring networks have significantly decayed for decades. It is equally important to highlight the role of citizen science as an important driver in hydro-climatic data collection and validation in this context. The consequence for water and adaptation to climate change and other challenges is clear: you can't manage what you don't measure. There is an urgent need to create or strengthen water information systems at all appropriate levels to allow modeling and forecasting of situations and evolutions and follow-up the measures taken. There is also a need to extend the scope of monitoring beyond hydrometeorological aspect to include environmental, economic and social data. The session will set effective options and vanguard experiences in the adaptation field, scaling up data production and information for decision making facilitating efficient and adaptive water management. The session will also emphasize the importance of engaging citizen in data collection and validation processes.</p> <p>This session will present cases and bring experts that have been working with different ways of addressing adaptation and its decision-making processes. Interesting points include means to identify no-regret measures, intelligent data management, citizen science, communication for adaptation and, resilience-driven analysis under the context of uncertainty. The expected outcome is a clear setting of effective options and vanguard experiences in the adaptation field, scaling up adaptive water management systems.</p>
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<p><b>Confirmed convening organization(s) and contact information</b></p>	<p><b><u>Session Coordination Group:</u></b></p> <p><b>Leader:</b> Global Alliances for Water and Climate (GAfWaC) – international</p> <p><b>Members:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNESCO - IHP - International</li> <li>- Euro Mediterranean Information System (EMWIS) – regional</li> <li>- International Water Resources Association (IWRA) - International</li> </ul>
<p><b>Other associated organizations</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. World Water Data Initiative (WWDI),</li> <li>2. UNESCO</li> <li>3. World Bank,</li> <li>4. World Meteorological Organizations, Dominique Berod (WMO)</li> <li>5. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)</li> </ol>

**Session outline and time allocation**

**INTRODUCTION (5 min)** : by the moderator, Mr. Jean-François Donzier, Secretary, Global Alliance for Water and Climate (GAfWaC)

**KEYNOTE SPEECH (10 min)**: Mr. Robert Argent, General Manager Water, World Water Data Initiative (WWDI), Australian Bureau of Meteorology, [robert.argent@bom.gov.au](mailto:robert.argent@bom.gov.au)

**PANEL (45 min) :**

1. Mr. Paul Haener, Water Information System specialist, International Office for Water, [p.haener@oieau.fr](mailto:p.haener@oieau.fr)
2. Ms. Blanca Jimenez-Cisneros, Director of the Division of Water Sciences and *Secretary* of the International Hydrological Programme (*IHP*), UNESCO [b.jimenez-cisneros@unesco.org](mailto:b.jimenez-cisneros@unesco.org) ; [a.otte@unesco.org](mailto:a.otte@unesco.org)
3. Ms. Sonja Koepfel, Environmental Officer, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) [sonja.koepfel@unece.org](mailto:sonja.koepfel@unece.org)
4. Mr. Dominique Berod, Chief “Basic Systems”, World Meteorological Organizations, (WMO) [dberod@wmo.int](mailto:dberod@wmo.int)
5. Mr. William Young, Lead Water Resources Management Specialist, World Bank, [wyoung@worldbank.org](mailto:wyoung@worldbank.org) ; Noosha Tayebi [ntayebi@worldbank.org](mailto:ntayebi@worldbank.org) ; Nagaraja Rao Harshadeep [harsh@worldbank.org](mailto:harsh@worldbank.org)
6. Mr. Eric Mino, Manager, Euro Mediterranean Information System (EMWIS) – regional [e.mino@semide.org](mailto:e.mino@semide.org)

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH THE AUDIENCE (25 min)**

**CONCLUSION (5 min)** : by the moderator, Mr. Jean-François Donzier, Secretary, Global Alliance for Water and Climate (GAfWaC)

<p><b>Contributions received that will be included in the session (with a word or two about how they are included)</b></p>	
<p><b>Missing stakeholders</b></p>	<p>NA</p>
<p><b>Expected outcomes, impacts and follow-up linkages with events and initiatives after the Forum</b></p>	<p>Recommendations on how to produce, process and share data and information in order to improve water resources management.</p>
<p><b>Cross-cutting questions</b></p>	<p>This session will be related to thematic sessions of the Theme Governance (9), Finance (6) and Capacity (8).</p>
<p><b>Provisional outcomes</b></p>	<p>Will be drawn from the following recent publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handbook “Water Information Systems: Administration, processing and exploitation of water-related data”, published under the supervision of the INBO, in partnership with International Office for Water, the UNESCO, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the World Water Data Initiative (WWDI).</li> <li>• The Australian Bureau of Meteorology and World Meteorological Organization (WMO)’s "Practice guidelines for water data management policy".</li> <li>• The e-Book on "water assessment and accounting methods" by the World Bank.</li> <li>• IHP publications on data tools and methodologies will be presented.</li> </ul>