

Session Title: [Water Governance to build resilience that benefits vulnerable populations](#)
(Session ID: S26)

Lead organizer: Water Integrity Network (WIN)

Co-organizers: [Dutch Water Authorities \(DWA\)](#), [Global Water Partnership-West Africa \(GWP-WA\)](#), [International Water Management Institute \(IWMI\)](#), [Kenya Water and Sanitation Civil Societies Network \(KEWASNET\)](#), and [OECD-Water Governance Initiative \(OECD-WGI\)](#)

Chair: Professor Sue Walker, University of the Free State, South Africa

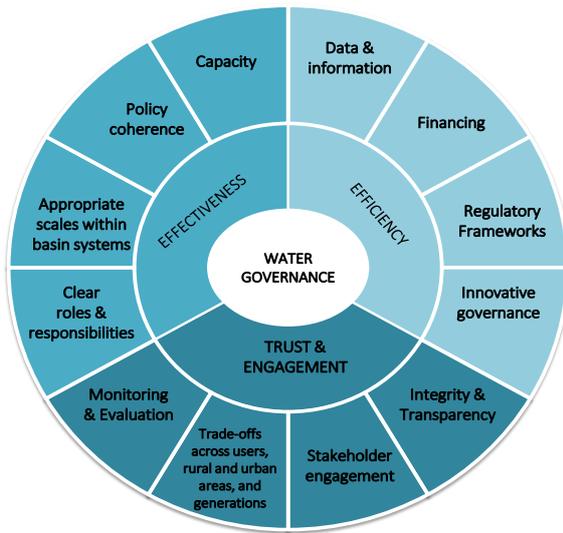
Rapporteur: Bart Schaub, Advisor, Rijnland, The Netherlands

Session background: With the conclusion of COP 23, it is becoming increasingly clear that there are significant gaps on ensuring that vulnerable communities benefit from the current efforts via numerous climate related projects. A key concern that has been reiterated over the recent years is the risk of excluding vulnerable groups in climate related measures including financing of schemes and projects. This risk holds very strongly in relation to water related management and adaptation. There are transparency, equity and integrity concerns that is shaping the current approach to climate projects.

Vulnerable groups are at the frontline of climate risks when it comes to handling climate related disasters like floods and droughts, when it is related to the security of their food and livelihoods including small scale farming, and when the natural environmental infrastructure which supports their lives are destroyed.

This session raised these concerns around vulnerable communities that are at risk in relation to water related management and adaptation.

Presentations and Discussions: The session applied the 12 [OECD Principles of Water Governance](#) as framework for a means to implementation aiming for advocacy and development to support vulnerable communities linked to water and climate governance.



Prof Sue Walker as chair started the session emphasising on the key pillars of OECD Principles of Water Governance where *effectiveness, efficiency, trust and engagement are crucial* for water governance and resilience.

Presentation 1: Community-Led integrity initiatives as a trigger to effective Adaptation (Vincent Ouma, Programmes Coordinator), KWASNET

The presentation informed that KWASNET works with the government and communities supporting Social Accountability in Kenya. The presentation highlighted how KEWASNET focuses on WASH sector activities for improving governance. Integrity and transparency to build trust among the communities and the government is a key focus of their work.

KWASNET builds capacities of both the duty bearers to deliver on their mandate and that of rights holders not only to hold the public officials to account and also understand their obligations. This approach has presented KEWASNET with the opportunities to bring both duty bearers and rights holders together to improve integrity and governance in the sector.

Link to OECD WGI Principles:

Principle 9: Mainstream *integrity and transparency* practices across water policies, water institutions and water governance frameworks for greater accountability and trust in decision-making.

Principle 10: Promote **stakeholder engagement** for informed and outcome-oriented contributions to water policy design and implementation.

Message: With increased participation of communities and more responsive government and service providers, more appropriate adaptation measures can be realized.

Presentation 2: Project Rain for Africa: Quality and timely information access for local food security in Africa (Rob Uijterlinde and Keimpe Sinnema, DWA)

The presentation informed that water governance in Netherlands is applying the OECD principles on water governance. It further informed that Netherlands spends 1.3 % of its GNP on water.

The Rain for Africa project focuses on information access for better water management and local food security. Previously, rainfall data was not shared in South Africa, whereas in Netherlands, real time data was shared. Via this project, using a Hydronet dashboard, real data is now available for small scale farmers who fall in the vulnerable category.

The project has launched a few digital innovations to empower farmers. These include R4A, a platform that supplies near real time weather information and agricultural advices directly to the farmers. About 125,000 small scale farmers and an improved food production of 10 % are targeted in the project. Small scale farmers can use cell phone or smart phone and can earn credits for local observations, commercial farmers and others pay for the service. Crowd sourcing is a way to actively involve stakeholders and to enrich data sets with local information. This project aims to be develop a sustainable business model.

Link to OECD WGI Principles:

Principle 5: Produce, update, and share timely, consistent, comparable and policy-relevant water and water-related **data and information**, and use it to guide, assess and improve water policy.

Principle 9: Mainstream **transparency** in practices

Principle 10: Promote **stakeholder engagement** for informed and outcome-oriented contributions to water policy

Principle 11. Encourage water governance frameworks that help manage **trade-offs**

Principle 12: Promote regular monitoring and evaluation of water policy and governance where appropriate

Messages:

Sharing Multiplies Knowledge and Information

Shared data and information gives transparency and trust in decision making,

Presentation 3: Accountability to communities in climate change adaptation (Binayak Das, WIN; Barbara v Koppen & Diana Suhardiman, IWMI)

The presentation started by highlighting that irregularities and corruption are already impacting adaptation and resilience measures. An example was provided on the current ongoing investigations and sanctioning in Bangladesh in relation to construction of dykes for flood protection.

The presentation then elaborated on two key areas for building accountability based on two IWMI research projects. The first study focused on Institutional Frameworks for Climate Adaptation in South Asia, what are the current trends and ways to move ahead taking into account the concerns of vulnerable communities. Financial flows which are mostly external are not reaching the vulnerable groups.

The second study highlighted the disconnect between Roman laws that govern water management in most countries while communities in numerous instances are managing themselves using their age-old traditional laws and institutions.

Link to OECD WGI Principles:

Principle 1: Clearly allocate and distinguish **roles and responsibilities** for water policymaking, policy implementation, operational management and regulation, and foster co-ordination across these responsible authorities.

Principle 6. Ensure that governance arrangements help mobilise water **finance** and allocate financial resources in an efficient, transparent and timely manner.

Principle 9: Mainstream **integrity and transparency** practices across water policies, and water institutions for greater accountability and trust in decision-making.

Principle 10: Promote **stakeholder engagement** for informed and outcome-oriented contributions to water policy design and implementation

Messages:

Transparency, accountability and oversight are the key to ensuring successful adaptation processes

Participatory processes are crucial in adaptation-polycentric planning is required so both top-down and bottom-up include the voices of local communities and marginalized groups.

Presentation 4: Enabling Delta Life- increasing cooperation for good governance to enhance climate resilience of communities in delta regions (Fabien C.C. Hountondji and Armand K. Houanye, GWP)

The presentation focused on the complexity of governance of deltas and raised the issues of gender mainstreaming, role of youth, water security in deltas, addressing governance in processes and focus on integrity in delta management. The presentation highlighted that institutional implementation is always difficult and not easy to enable good governance. There are numerous stakeholders involved from the high governmental to the local level. Numerous problems are at the local level where there is a need to build capacities of delta communities. The presentation informed that IWRM and cross-sectoral integration will help in addressing adaptation and resilience challenges that are spread across various sectors. It is important to build trust, share knowledge and information in a transparent manner among the delta communities and stakeholders. The presentation also shared information about an ongoing initiative called WACDEP- to advance the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change through ensuring water security.

Link to OECD WGI Principles:

Principle 2: Manage water at the **appropriate scale(s)** within integrated basin governance systems

Principle 3: Encourage policy coherence through effective **cross-sectoral co-ordination**

Principle 4: Adapt the level of **capacity** of responsible authorities

Principle 9: Mainstream **integrity and transparency** practices for greater accountability and trust in decision-making.

Principle 10: Promote **stakeholder engagement** for informed and outcome-oriented contributions to water policy design and implementation.

Messages:

Integrity implies fairness and honesty in assuming duties and responsibilities

Setting a full enabling environment for sustained, good water governance is with no doubt a tremendous challenge

Cooperation among delta communities is highly recommended

Concluding discussion

For the plenary discussion, based on the presentations, session identified three key topics for discussion. These include:

- i. Role of Traditional laws and institutions
- ii. Stakeholder engagement and integration of cross systems
- iii. Integrity in and of adaptation processes

The discussion raised the concerns about the tricky balance and frictions between State laws and traditional institutions. Administrative structures are governed by state laws while end users including communities, including vulnerable ones are often living by traditional institutions and this dichotomy affects governance; mostly the end users being the discriminated against. It was highlighted that the same legislations will govern climate change related processes for the next 30 to 40 years. This will also lead to decisions in the nexus and trade-offs around land, water, food and energy. Hence there needs to be found ways and means to recognize and incorporate traditional laws and institutions in climate adaptation. The role of women was also discussed as crucial that is many times neglected.

It is important to talk to relevant stakeholders across cross-systems; and as they are complex time consuming processes, it will need to be pragmatic so as to ensure that timely decisions are made for ensuring strategic adaptive management in adaptation and resilience. Local communities have an important role to play especially in relation to prioritizing and allocation of water.

On the topic of integrity, in relation to adaptation processes, the discussion revolved around the need for integrity management where monitoring corruption and sanctioning against the corrupt are crucial. Media also has a very important role to play for building a system with more integrity.

Key messages for Adaptation Futures Organizers and IPCC

- Stakeholder engagement needs to be strategic adaptive management to ensure timely decisions
- Vulnerable and other communities need to be part of decision making where traditional laws and institutions role needs to be considered
- Apply OECD Principles on Water Governance as a supportive framework for Adaptations projects linked to water
- The need to ensure a transparent and accountable process in adaptation financing and projects
- Open sharing of data and information are important along with sharing learning from projects.

Messages from the presentations

- With increased participation of communities and more responsive government and service providers, more appropriate adaptation measures can be realized.
- Sharing Multiplies Knowledge and Information
- Shared data and information gives transparency and trust in decision making,
- Transparency, accountability and oversight are the key to ensuring successful adaptation processes
- Participatory processes are crucial in adaptation-polycentric planning is required so both top-down and bottom-up include the voices of local communities and marginalized groups.
- Integrity implies fairness and honesty in assuming duties and responsibilities
- Setting a full enabling environment for sustained, good water governance is with no doubt a tremendous challenge
- Cooperation among delta communities is highly recommended

Resources:

Presentation 1:

Civil society performance report 2016/2017

County Integrated development Plan, 2018, Laikipia, Kwale and Kajiado

Presentation 2:

Water Governance. The Dutch Water Authority model, Dutch Water Authorities, The Hague 2015, www.dutchwaterauthorities.com

Brochure Dutch Water authorities, www.dutchwaterauthorities.com

video RAIN for Africa: <http://www.hydronet.co.za/>

video water control room

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K57XsLfSutk&feature=youtu.be>

website Rain for Africa: <http://www.rain4africa.org>

Download the AgriCloud app from Google play store

Presentation 3:

Institutional Frameworks for Climate Adaptation in South Asia: Current Trends and Ways Forward; Diana Suhardiman, Sanjiv de Silva, Indika Arunlingam, Sashan Rodrigo and Alan Nicol

Supporting or criminalizing 'best practice'? Informal holistic water economies
Barbara van Koppen, Barbara Schreiner, Moritz Hofstetter, Kenny Phasha, Itumeleng Modiba

[Water Integrity Global Outlook, 2016, Water Integrity Network](#)

[Global Corruption Report on Climate, 2011, Transparency International](#)

[Daily Star, 03.08/2017, Bangladesh](#)

Community driven multiple use water services in Limpopo Province South Africa (AfDB, WRC, IWMI, Tsogang)

Presentation 4

OECD, 2015. OECD Principles on Water Governance. OECD Better policies for better life. 24 p.

GWP Water governance results. <https://www.gwp.org/en/interactivemap/>

INE, 2016. Governance and integrity in the water sector. MSC Course, Water National Institute (INE), University of Abomey-calavi.

Delta Alliance <http://www.delta-alliance.org/>

Wetlands International <https://www.wetlands.org/>