



SESSION DESCRIPTION FORM 2.

10TH WORLD WATER FORUM

This Session Description Form 2 is for the specified program of the session. Please complete this form no later than 28th of February 2024.

**The session description 1 (online form) is separately requested for the session coordinators to deliver a concise session outline with the contact info and the logistical requests.*

Session Code and Title:

T6C1

Successful water and ecosystem management through Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK)

Date: 23 May 2024; Time: 08:30 - 10:00 (GMT+8); Venue: Room 6

Session Coordinators (Name, Position, Organization, email, mobile number):

- Mr Nigel Crawhall, Chief of Section Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems, UNESCO, n.crawhall@unesco.org +33770010392
- Khalissa Ikhlef, Programme Specialist, Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS) programme, UNESCO, k.ikhlef@unesco.org , +33(0)650642950
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Session Description including objectives and expected outcomes (500 words maximum):

Indigenous Peoples and local communities have sustained systems of freshwater governance, management and complex knowledge systems over many generations. From equatorial rainforests, to deserts, small islands and the High Arctic, Indigenous Peoples have been able to adapt their systems of governance and management to very different ecosystem contexts. The aim of the session is to learn about different practical examples of Indigenous and local water management and governance, and to consider how this can be supported by science and policy making. The aim is a paradigm shift in working with different knowledge systems in understanding and making decisions on water.

Drawing on a range of case studies, Indigenous peoples and local communities share their experiences of knowing and protecting freshwater, according to their cultures, values and knowledge systems. This perspective is complemented by contributions from the UN system and governments that are finding new ways for multiple evidence-based approaches to environmental decision making, and ways in which formal science and Indigenous and Local Knowledge can enter into respectful dialogue and generate new information, approaches and norms.

Whereas there has been substantial knowledge in United Nations and different national context in building relationships between Indigenous Peoples, scientists and policy makers on biodiversity and climate change, freshwater knowledge and systems of governance and management have received less attention, and the space is sometimes highly contested. In the preparations for the Mid-Term Review of the UN Water Action Decade, Indigenous Peoples describe water as being at the centre of their cultures, food systems, sustainability and understanding of the world. At the same time, water is one of the most difficult policy spaces, with numerous challenges of privatization, contamination, rapid climate change impacts, and over extraction.

The UN Water Conference of 2023 provided one of the world's largest ever forums to discuss rights-holders relationship with water, water policy, management and governance. Indigenous Peoples, in cooperation with national governments and the United Nations System placed emphasis on the need for multiple knowledge systems, human rights and interculturality as way to ensure water for future generations.

Detailed Session plan :

ESTIMATED TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE	SPEAKERS	SPEAKERS STATUS (OK OR TBC)
6 mins	Moderator: Description of the ILK - Science - Policy interface and the multiple evidence based approach to decision making.	Nigel Crawhall , Chief of Section, UNESCO Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS) programme, UNESCO	OK
7 mins each 42 mins	Panel of Indigenous Experts: Different regional and national cases and considerations of rights, culture and intergenerational responsibilities	Mona Polacca (Hopi-Havasupai-Tewa) University of Arizona, International Council of the Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers, USA	OK
		Prem Tharu Singh (Tharu) Asia Indigenous Peoples' Pact (AIPP), Nepal	OK
		Tekaherha Logan Lazore (Haudenosaunee), Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, World Youth Parliament for Water, Canada	OK
		Putu Willy Suputra Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (AMAN), Indonesia	OK
		I Ketut Eriadi Ariana , Jero Penyarikan Duuran Batur, Bali, Indonesia	OK
		I Wayan Mustra (Pekaseh Subak Jatiluwih), Bali, Indonesia	OK
7 mins	Government: Approaches to inclusivity in water management and governance	A representative from Australian Water Policy Division, Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water	Confirmed but they will inform us who will speak ahead of the event.
5 mins each 10 mins	United Nations: Working with diverse rights holders and knowledge holders in Africa.	Bandiougou Diawara , UNESCO Yaounde Office.	Ok
		Ricardo Burg Mlynarz , Coordinator of the UNESCO/CAF/GEF Guarani Project	OK
5 minutes	UNEP	XXX UNEP UNEA Water Focused Resolution	TBC
20 mins	Q&A & closing remarks		