



SIDE EVENT DESCRIPTION FORM 2.

10TH WORLD WATER FORUM

This Session Description 2 is for the specified program of the side event. Please complete this form no later than 22nd of April 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:

SE 33; Improving water management decisions in Africa through Earth Observation data

Side Event Coordinators (Name, Position, Organization, email, mobile number):

Session coordinator and moderator: Abdulkarim H Seid, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), A.Seid@CGIAR.ORG; Mobile: +251 911 227413; Ms Louise Heegaard, DHI, lohe@dhigroup.com

Session Description including objectives and expected outcomes (500 words maximum):

Introduction: The side event is designed as a platform for showcasing the water data products and tools developed under the **Digital Innovation for Water Secure Africa (DIWASA) Initiative** of International Water Management Institute (IWMI) as well as other relevant data products and tools by DE Africa and DHI and sharing of experiences among policymakers, data users, and water resources management professionals in leveraging digital innovations for improving water management in Africa. The side event will explore some of the real game changers when it comes to integrating climate and water resilience: data, information systems and modelling for decision support.

Background and Context: Africa has significant but underutilized water resources. The lack of water infrastructure, and poor water resources management practices, however, are causing water insecurity in the continent. Further, lack of water data poses a significant barrier for many countries in Africa to improve water resources management. The **International Water Management Institute's Digital Innovations for Water Secure Africa (DIWASA) initiative** is generating reliable and systematic analysis-ready water data products and tools that will be showcased at the proposed side event. Examples of the water data products – contributing to making the invisible “visible” – are available at Africa Geoportal (<https://iwmi.africageoportal.com>). Additional Earth Observation applications will be presented and discussed during the panel session.

Purpose: To enhance awareness among policy/decision makers, planners, and practitioners of Earth Observation-based water accounting datasets and its applications that are generated by IWMI and are available in the public domain to address key water data gaps in Africa. It contributes to the two 10th World Water Forum sub-themes: Water Security and Prosperity and Knowledge and Innovation.

Focus area: The range of water data products that will be showcased by the co-conveners in the side-event would cover the continental Africa with zoom-ins for selected river basins/countries. It

includes water availability indices, water use by different sectors, agricultural water use indicators, water supply deficits and water security hotspots, and drought and flood prone areas.

Target audience are water management professionals in Africa, development partners, researchers, and experts in digital innovation from the government and non-governmental agencies.

Outcomes: The outcome of this event will be enhanced use of Earth Observation (EO) based analysis-ready water data products and tools for Africa that improves water management decisions. We aim at expanding the number of end users that will utilize the data products and tools for improving water management decisions in Africa.

Detailed Session plan : *F/M indicates Female or Male

ESTIMATED TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE	SPEAKERS	SPEAKERS STATUS (OK OR TBC)
5 Minutes	Welcome remarks by Session Moderator	Dr. Rachael McDonnell (F)	TBC
7 Minutes	keynote on potential of Earth Observation for addressing water data gaps in Africa.	Dr. Abdulkarim H Seid (IWMI) (M)	Confirmed
7 Minutes	Continental water accounting and its significance for improving water management decisions in Africa	Dr. Velpuri Naga (IWMI), M	Confirmed
7 Minutes	Improving water productivity in agriculture using near real time earth observation data.	Dr. Virginie Gillet (F), IHE	Confirmed
7 Minutes	Experiences and lessons from innovative wastewater reuse practices from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.	Dr. Muhamed Al-Omair (M), Director of Data Department	Confirmed
7 Minutes	Water deficit for cocoa farming in West Africa (online participation)	Obahoundje, Salomon (M)	Confirmed
10 Minutes	Q and A		
		1. Dr. Michael Kizza, Deputy Executive Director, Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat	Confirmed
		2. Dr. Virginie Gillet (F), IHE	Confirmed
		3. Mr. Stefan Szykarski, Executive Vice President, DHI,	Confirmed
		4. Dr. Muhamed Al-Omair, Director of Data Department	Confirmed
		5. Dr. Abdulkarim H Seid, IWMI,	Confirmed
5 Minutes	Closing and highlighting main outcomes and way forward	Dr. Rachael McDonnell (F)	

Additional information:



The subject of side event is, i.e., addressing critical data gaps in Africa, is of strategic significance for water security in Africa. It is also aligned with the main theme of the Forum. The side event is expected to significantly expand the user circle for the digital innovation solutions offered by IWMI, DE Africa and DHI. Therefore, providing a time slot for this side event at the Forum contributes towards achieving the fourth and fifth objectives of the Forum, i.e., To provide a platform to exchange views, information, and knowledge on current issues and information related to global water; and to present the knowledge on global water assessment, challenges, and potential solutions.