



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:

T1A2. Nature-based solutions / ecosystem protection and restoration to improve water supply

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

Session Coordinator

(1)

Name: Kinuko Hibi (age: 28)

Position: Technical Chief

Organization: INWEPF Japan Committee, International Network for Water Ecosystem in Paddy Fields (INWEPF)

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(2)

Name: Rahmah Elfithri (age: 46)

Position: Chief of Section

Organization: Capacity Development and Water Family Coordination (CDW), Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP), Division of Water Sciences (HYD), UNESCO

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

This session will focus on showcasing the best practices and challenges for the implementation of Nature Based Solutions (NBS) for sustainable water supply. Notably:

- Effective deployment of NBS and healthy water-related ecosystems, which are essential to ensure water and economic resilience to shocks and long-term prosperity. NBS are indispensable to retain and reuse water, and for the protection and restoration of water ecosystems. Successful examples will include the quantification of benefits of wetlands, mountain grasslands, healthy soils, aquifer recharge zones, including paddy fields as part of water supply planning and water quality improvements. There will also be examples to show how economic feasibility and efficiency of NBS create business cases that specify the Return On Investment to be expected from NBS alongside grey infrastructure measures. These examples will show how these cases support regulatory reform processes that permit investment in natural ecosystems.
- Cross-sectoral/cross-governmental approaches, that raise awareness, enhance technical capacity, and improve the policy and regulatory environment for NBS. Responsibilities for planning and implementing NBS are often shared across government entities, regional and local authorities as well as local communities.
- Basin-level approaches that integrate ecosystem protection and restoration into water supply and demand planning. This includes addressing the synergetic use of NBS and grey infrastructure for water supply in the context of sustainable development, climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Also, surface and groundwater, ecosystem connectivity and ecological flow for sustainable water supply will



be discussed.

- Valuation of water-related NBS. Financing conservation and restoration - investing in more resilient freshwater ecosystems and their watersheds through collective action will be discussed.

The expected outcomes from the session are:

- Better understanding in current state and connectivity of ecosystems, regional characteristics of water use, and both benefits and limitations of NBS to successfully integrate NBS into environmental and societal water-related challenges.
- Identification of synergies across different sectors including national and sub-national actors, decision-makers, and communities to design NBS.
- Investment in NBS to effectively address societal challenges and brings co-benefits to such as water, biodiversity, climate, and food security.

Detailed Session plan :

ESTIMATED TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE **	SPEAKERS <i>*F/M indicates Female or Male</i> (Name, Type, <u>Location</u> of Organization, Age)	SPEAKERS STATUS (OK OR TBC)
5 min	Opening speech / Rapporteur	Rahmah Elfithri *F (UNESCO, International Organization, <u>Europe</u> , 46)	OK
10 min	Keynote speech*** / Moderator	Maria Ana Borges *F (TBC) (IUCN, International Organization, <u>Europe</u> , ??)	OK
10 min	Presentation 1****	Meredith Hickman *F (Water Aid, NGO, <u>Oceania</u> , 40)	OK
10 min	Presentation 2	Keigo Noda *M (INWEPF, International Organization / Academia / Government, <u>Asia</u> , 44)	OK
10 min	Presentation 3	Kyohei Matsushita *M (INWEPF, International Organization / Academia / Government, <u>Asia</u> , ??)	OK
10 min	Presentation 4	Linda Smal *F (Zayed University, Academia, <u>Middle East</u> , ??)	TBC
10 min	Presentation 5	Cesarina Quintana *F (TBC) (Forest Trends, NGO, <u>South America</u> , ??)	OK
20 min	Q & A (overall discussion)	Speakers and audience	-
5 min	Closing speech	Kenji Seiyama *M (INWEPF, International Organization / Government, <u>Asia</u> , 56)	OK

** The presentation order is subject to change.

*** There is no representation from Africa in this session. Instead, a case study of NbS in Africa will be included in the presentation.

**** There is no youth representation up to age 35 in this session. Instead, a short video from the youth will be included in the presentation.