



REGIONAL PROCESS SESSION DESCRIPTION FORM 2.

10TH WORLD WATER FORUM

This Regional Session Description Form 2 is for the specified program of the session. Please complete this form no later than 10th of March 2024.

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

Regional Session Code and Title:

Managing water resources sustainably: Leveraging Earth Observation and Diverse Data Sources

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

Dr Abdulkarim H Seid
Country Representative - Ethiopia
Regional Representative - East Africa
IWMI
E: A.Seid@cgiar.org
M: +251 911 22 74 13

Dr Alexandros Makarigakis
Director and Representative a.i.
UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa
+ 254700115664 (mobile)

Session co-coordinator: African Member State (TBD)

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

Earth observation and diverse data sources for sustainable management address the critical need for a robust water resource monitoring system. This system is essential for gathering comprehensive data on the availability of water resources and actual water usage. Such data are integral to understanding and improving water productivity and efficiency, particularly agriculture. This is vital to achieving the water and food security goals outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While earth observation technologies, predominantly satellite remote sensing, offer valuable insights into agricultural water usage, there is an increasing awareness of the need to incorporate a broader spectrum of data sources. This is particularly relevant in many African countries, where data on actual water use in agriculture are often limited or non-existent.

OBJECTIVE: The session will discuss the following:

1. Share experiences from various data collection methods to enable a holistic approach to water resource management
2. Showcase an innovative groundwater mapping programme to identify high-potential areas for sustainably tapping shallow and deep aquifers to supply vulnerable communities in the Horn of Africa



3. Explore strategies for persuading and partnering with high-level leaders to enable adoption of advanced solutions like AI-powered infrastructure planning

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

- Awareness on earth observation datasets available for water resources monitoring and delve into the experiences and learnings from employing a range of data sources
- Highlight the vital role of AI in supporting efficient, resilient water infrastructure development
- Map pathways to implement data-driven water management for sustainable, equitable access

THIS TO BE DEVELOPED FURTHER

FORMAT: Setting the Scene -Keynote, Panel discussion, followed by discussion and closing and way forward

Detailed Regional Session Plan:

ESTIMATED TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE	SPEAKERS	SPEAKERS STATUS (OK OR TBC)
	Session Chair: Africa Member State		TBC
10 Minutes	Setting the Scene	- Presenter TBC	TBC
10 Minutes	Case study	- TBC	TBC
30 Minutes	Panel discussion	All participants	
20 Minutes	Closing and highlighting main outcomes and way forward	TBC	TBC