

8th Water Research Horizon Conference 2017

19/20 September 2017 | Hamburg, Wälderhaus

jointly organised by the Water Science Alliance and Climate Service Center Germany

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Climate change impacts and rising adaptation and mitigation needs – Future challenges for water-related research

In 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs). In 2016, the **Paris Agreement** (COP21) on climate change entered into force, stressing the need to limit global warming to less than 2 °C as well as to adapt to ongoing and future climate change. Parties to the COP21 have committed themselves to contribute to the goals by measures defined in their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC). This involves major challenges for the societies and has to be based on solid scientific evidence, thereby strengthening inter- and transdisciplinary research.

Although not directly mentioned in the Paris Agreement, **water is a central element** in the climate system and hence any future climate policy will have significant impacts on water. The SDGs comprehend one goal dedicated to water (SDG 6), which calls for sufficient water availability and sustainable management of the resource for all. In addition, water plays an important role for other SDGs.

The 8th **Water Research Horizon Conference** therefore brings together international and national scientists from various disciplines in order to discuss challenges of water-related research in the context of the COP21 and SDG processes. The focus is on understanding **climate change impacts on water** as well as related **adaptation and mitigation needs** considering the **2 °C target** and **accomplishment of the SDGs**. Accordingly, the conference addresses knowledge and methodologies as well as research challenges of climate change impact assessment and enhanced adaptation and mitigation options referring to hydro systems on different spatial and temporal scales. Main objective is the exploration of **future research demands** together with stakeholders also including the science-policy interface.

Presentations and discussions are organised under the following tracks and sessions:

Track A: Water quantity and quality

Session A1: **Climate change impacts on water resources and aquatic ecosystems**

Session A2: **Climate change impacts on hydrological extreme events**

Track B: Water engineering and management

Session B1: **Urban water and infrastructure under climate change**

Session B2: **Methods and tools for foresight and impact assessment**

Track C: Adaptation and mitigation with governance context

Session C1: **Cross-disciplinary and sectoral adaptation and mitigation options**

Session C2: **Climate change water governance**

The sessions are complemented by Open Space Workshops, which provide additional fora for exchange mainly arranged based on the initiative of participants. There is currently room for a few additional contributions to these workshops.

The detailed programme will be available soon at <http://www.watersciencealliance.org/8-wrhc-2017/>

The partner country of this year's Water Research Horizon Conference is South Africa.

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