



SESSION DESCRIPTION

H3 Managing water resources in cities

Presentations

Date: Saturday, 28 April, 2018

Time: 11:00-12:30

Rooms: S30-32

Language: English

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Organized by: ICLEI World Secretariat

OBJECTIVE

Many cities are facing growing difficulties in securing safe and reliable water supplies, managing wastewater and dealing with floodwaters that threaten human health and safety and put critical infrastructure at risk. While cities' vulnerability to water-related challenges are often associated with inadequate infrastructure, ineffective urban planning approaches and unplanned urban development, increasingly added pressure is generated by the impacts of climate change, increased population growth and related water-use needs, as well as water mis-management in the broader catchment which significantly reduces water availability in cities.

The first presentation set the scene with the argument, that a transition is needed to redesign cities into 'water smart cities' – i.e. green, resilient, and circular urban environments – by integrating urban planning with innovative water management measures so that every drop of water in a city is considered a benefit, instead of a problem. Investing in the right kinds of solutions could help drive this vision. Showcasing how leveraging partnerships with the private sector can increase effectiveness of water use and distribution, the next presentation focused on two cities in Uganda. The last presentation introduced how African cities are managing (scarce) water resources in the region, with the example of Cape Town's recent water shortage crisis in focus.

OUTCOMES

The session provided examples of:

- Effective urban planning approaches that address the challenges of urban water security and water safety;
- The benefits and challenges of establishing integrated, circular economy approaches;
- How knowledge-sharing can benefit implementation and replication of good practices.

METHODOLOGY

- The facilitator provided an introduction to the session topic and contributors. **(10 minutes)**
- Each presentation was allotted 10 minutes. **(3 x 10 minutes)**
- The facilitator will manage questions and answers. **(40 minutes)**
- Closing remarks by the facilitator. **(10 minutes)**



CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitator *Vasileios Latinos, Program Officer, Sustainable Resources, Climate and Resilience, ICLEI Europe, Freiburg, Germany*

Presenter *Tim van Hattum, Program Leader Climate, University of Wageningen, The Netherlands*

Towards water smart cities

Water is a vital resource and plays an important role for the livability of cities. Cities around the world face great challenges with water including risks for water shortage and floods. These challenges ask for a systemic approach and a transition in urban planning. We have to rethink the way we deal with water in our cities to create green, resilient and circular cities, so called "Water Smart Cities", where collaboration between businesses, public authorities, researchers and citizens plays a unique part to ensure rapid transition.

Presenter *Scott McCormick, Senior Associate, Land and Water Resources, Tetra Tech, Burlington, USA.*

Leveraging partnerships for water security: Reducing non-revenue water in Uganda

Urban areas in East Africa face the challenges of competition for water resources, inadequate infrastructure, droughts and water shortages, and non-revenue water loss. Under the USAID-funded PREPARED project, Tetra Tech harnessed private sector engagement to reduce water loss in two urban areas (Jinja and Iganga) in Uganda. In order to achieve the project goals three key components had to be addressed: (1) Improving service delivery, (2) enhancing customer engagement, and (3) improving water monitoring and management through engineering and ICT solutions. Working in a Public-Private Partnership Uganda's National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) the project also partnered with an international engineering firm and a local NGO, showing how critical partnership with the private sector and civil society is in creating a successful holistic water resilience strategy.

Presenter *Jessica Kavonic, Climate Change Officer, ICLEI Africa, Cape Town, South Africa*

Building African city-region resilience: Translating priority principles into action for improved management of water resources

A coordinated sharing of knowledge, particularly in the context of south-south and south-north learning, for the implementation of climate resilience interventions is imperative. ICLEI Africa's cutting-edge projects provide good practice case studies for learning, providing solutions and guidance for better resilience planning in an African context. Based on these learnings, ICLEI Africa and partners have been exploring the development of core principles for implementing resilience initiatives in African cities. Case studies will be showcased, with Cape Town's current water shortage in focus.