

Transboundary Hydro-Governance and SDG 6¹ First Workshop Provisional Agenda

Jordan University of Science & Technology, Irbid
8-10 February 2020

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Context: In light of the rapidly expanding global governance on water resources, the Middle East water situation continues to deteriorate from the inherent pressures of growing populations, increasing demands, and exacerbating factors such as the impact climate change make water management more challenging. In 2015, UN Member States adopted the historic 2030 Agenda, setting universal and transformative goals and targets, and committing to working tirelessly for their full implementation. In this context, one of the initiatives of the international community has been the creation of a water specific goal among the seventeen. The official title “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all” or Sustainable Development Goal 6. Water and Sanitation is a political commitment of all UN member states to achieve mutually agreed goal of water, but in the most recent 2018 synthesis report the United Nations stated that “the world is not on track”.² The report identifies that to be successful SDG 6 needs to (i) **Adapt to country contexts;** (ii) **Create multi-stakeholder partnerships and strengthen regional integration;** and (iii) **Implement integrated water resources management (IWRM).** In the transboundary context, SDG 6 recognises that water is a basic human needs and rights, and its target 6.5 highlights the need to implement IWRM at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation, in order to ensure access for all. Further, SDG 6.5.2 provides an indicator to check progress against the “proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation”.

The goal of this workshop is to build the participants’ capacity and ability to fulfil the transboundary commitments of SDG6, with a focus on technical advances, international water law knowledge and negotiation case-studies and exercises.

Workshop objectives: To equip senior academics and researchers with (i) the **technical** knowledge and tools required to be able to better respond to future transboundary water challenges induced by increasing demand for water (overwhelmingly from intensive agriculture) and reduced water availability (due to climate change); (ii) the **legal** knowledge required to appreciate global instruments and international legal principles relevant to transboundary waters; and (iii) the **negotiations** skills required to effectively assess discussions with colleagues from neighbouring countries, regional counterparts and development in water governance at the international level.

The training will be delivered in a highly engaging and interactive manner with regional and world-class experts listed in Annex I. Also, a study visit will be optionally available for participants to Umm Qais with views of Lake Tiberias.

Workshop Participants: Water professionals, academics, researchers, etc. from the Mashraq region.

¹ The Centre of Water Cooperation and Diplomacy at JUST shall award a certificate to participants who attended both the **Transboundary Hydro-Governance and SDG 6** and a follow-up workshop planned for Fall 2020.

² *The Sustainable Development Goal 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation.*

Workshop Hosts: Dr. Sa'eb Khresat (JUST), Dr. Mark Zeitoun (UEA), Dr. Suhil Kiwan (JUST), and Eng. Enas Albakri (Regional Program Coordinator).

Hydro-Governance Expert Team for 1st Workshop: Mr. Fuad Bateh (Legal/Negotiations), Dr. Abdullah Droubi (Knowledge/Technical), Dr. Chadi Abdallah (Knowledge/Technical), Dr. Raya Stephan, Consultant for the Water Convention Secretariat, UNECE (Legal/Governance), Dr. Ana Cascao (Negotiations/Governance).

Saturday 8 February 2020

Arrival of participants to Seven Days Inn, Irbid Jordan³

13:00 An optional study visit available for participants to Umm Qais with views of Lake Tiberias.

18:00 Buffet dinner with "Get to Know Each Other" ice-breaker exercise (Mr. Bateh) [15min]

19:00 Hydro-Governance Team Meeting

Sunday 9 February 2020

08:45 Transfer from Irbid to JUST Campus

09:30 Opening of First Hydro-Governance Workshop

- *Opening Session [40min]*
 - *Welcome and Vision (Dr. Khresat, President of JUST) [5 min]*
 - *Introduction of new centre (Prof. Suhil Kiwan, Director of Centre) [10min]*
 - *Background to new water program and review of water in the region (Prof. Zeitoun, Univ. of East Anglia) [45min]*

10:30 Coffee Break

10:45 Travel to (Center of Excellence for Innovative Projects) inside JUST to start the workshop.

11:00 IWRM and operationalizing SDG6 (Dr. Droubi) [45min]

11:45 Introduction to surface water and groundwater availability, interaction and use (including dams and wells) and expected impact of climate change (Dr. Abdallah) [45min]

12:30 Lunch [45min]

13:15 Modern technologies in Integrated Watershed Management (Dr. Abdallah) [45min]

14:00 Water planning in the context of transboundary basins (Dr. Droubi) [45min]

³ All hotel accommodations and meals are covered for participants from outside Jordan. All meals and most hotel accommodations are covered for Jordanian participants.

14:45 Coffee Break [15min]

15:00 Global water governance: Introduction to International Law

- *Background to customary international law and treaty law (Dr. Bateh) [45min]*

15:45 Daily summary & introduce transboundary basin exercise (Dr. Zeitoun/Dr. Cascao) [30min]

16:15 Finish – Transfer from JUST Campus to Restaurant

17:00 Dinner in Irbid

Monday 10 February 2020

09:00 Recap of previous day (Dr. Bateh/Dr. Zeitoun) [15 min]

09:15 Global water governance: the 1992 UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

- *A regional convention going global (Dr. Raya Stephan, Consultant for Water Convention Secretariat) [60min]*

10:15 Coffee Break [10min]

10:25 Global water governance: the 1997 UN Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses

- *Global convention and its Arab parties (Mr. Bateh) [45min]*

11:10 Global water governance: Introducing SDG 6.5 and indicator 6.5.2 with highlights on Arab region (Dr. Raya Stephan, Consultant for Water Convention Secretariat, UNECE) [60min]

12:10 Lunch [50min]

13:00 Transboundary water cooperation: from negotiations to legal/institutional arrangements

- *Case-studies from Africa (Dr. Cascao) [60min]*

14:00 Transboundary basin riparian exercise

- *The River Basin Game (Dr. Cascao/Dr. Zeitoun) [45min]
 - *Define issues that cause tension*
 - *How to build framework for transboundary water resources management**

14:45 Working coffee break [during Transboundary Exercise] [30 min]

15:15 Sub-regional initiatives of hydro-governance

- *Case study of the North West Sahara Aquifer System (Mr. Bateh) [20 min]*

15:35 Workshop summary and participant survey (Dr. Zeitoun et. al.) [25 min]

16:00 Finish – Transfer from JUST Campus to Hotel/Departure

ANNEX I:

BIOGRAPHIES OF PROJECT LEAD, CORE TEAM MEMBERS, SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS

Prof Mark Zeitoun is co-founder of the [Water Security Research Centre](#), and Professor of Water Security and Policy at the School of International Development, University of East Anglia. His research follows three streams: i) development of theory and case-based research on international transboundary water management; ii) examination of the influence of armed conflict on water and other essential urban services, and iii) water security and management in development, post-conflict, and conflict contexts. This stems from his work as a humanitarian-aid water engineer, and advisor on water security policy and transboundary water negotiations throughout the Middle East and Africa. He has a B. Eng in civil engineering and an MSc in environmental engineering from McGill University, and a PhD in human geography from King's College London.

Mr. Fuad Bateh consults regularly for a variety of organizations and institutions working development, law and negotiations related to environment and water resources. He provides legal and negotiation support to the Chair of the G77 with the United Nations on global environmental processes such as the intergovernmental conference to elaborate an international legally binding instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. He has served as the Water Governance and Infrastructure Advisor to the Office of the Quartet (OQ), and Advisor to the Palestinian Minister of Water working on multilateral negotiations and water sector reform, and worked in the World Bank's Legal Department.

Dr Chadi Abdallah is an associate Researcher and Geologist holding a PhD in GIS and RS of natural resources (Paris VI University-France), a Post-doc in Radar Interferometry (University of Missouri-USA), and a Professor Degree (Lebanese University, 2016). Researcher at the Lebanese National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS-L), Remote Sensing Center (1998-Present). Principle Investigator on several projects related to natural disasters, water information management, modeling and decision-making; assessment, monitoring and management of natural resources and sustainable development. Deputy Director and responsible of the Early Warning System platform, CNRS-L. Member of Disaster Risk Management Unit, Presidency of Councils. Has fourteen years of teaching experience in Hydrology, geology GIS and Remote Sensing. Chair of the Arab Science and Technology Advisory Group for DRR, Adjunct Researcher at AUB and the University of Missouri Columbia-USA. Authored and co-authored over 80 scientific papers in peer-reviewed international journals, and conference proceedings.

Dr Ana Elisa Cascão is currently advisor to GIZ/NBI Transboundary Water Cooperation in the Nile Basin. Just previously she was an independent consultant working in the field of transboundary water management and cooperation. She has led major Applied Research, Capacity Building, and Advisory Services in transboundary river basin in the Middle East/North Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa regions, as Programme Manager at the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). With a PhD in Geography from King's College London, she has authored several academic publications, with her latest book entitled *The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and the Nile Basin: Implications for Transboundary Water Cooperation* (Routledge, 2017), and is currently working on *Water Security in the Nile Basin: Understanding and Expanding the solution space*.