

Structure of the conference

The conference will begin with a plenary session featuring opening addresses and keynote presentations by speakers from Africa and around the world. Subsequent sessions dedicated to each of the conference's five foci will include keynote and invited speakers. Poster sessions supporting each topic session will be held if the number of presenters exceeds the time permitted for oral presentations. On the fourth day of the conference, two plenary round-table discussions, focused on (1) improving groundwater & climate research and (2) translating groundwater & climate research into policy, will be led by a multidisciplinary panel of experts.

Venue, Dates and Language

The conference will take place at the **Speke Conference Centre (Munyonyo)** in **Kampala, Uganda** from **24th to 28th June 2008**. The conference will be followed by field trips to Jinja and Entebbe on Saturday 28th June. The language of the conference will be English but translation facilities will be provided in French.

Conference registration and submission of abstracts

Registration for the conference and submission of abstracts should be done online at the conference website: <http://www.gwclim.org>. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is November 15th, 2007. The conference registration fee is US\$250 for those who pay before April 30th, 2008. The fee will be raised to US\$300 after that date. **A limited number of grants will be available to facilitate the participation of speakers from low-income countries with accepted papers.** Please apply for a conference grant online at the conference website by November 15th, 2007.

Publications

All abstracts will be included in a bound book which will be made available to all participants at the conference. Following the conference, a selection of conference papers will be published in a special issue of *Hydrological Sciences Journal*. Remaining papers will be published in a special volume of the conference proceedings on CD-ROM. Both the special issue of the journal and the CD-ROM will be distributed to all conference participants.

Accommodation

A number of hotels within the Speke Group of Hotels have been identified that are either close to the conference venue or where transport to the conference will be provided. For details of available rooms, please visit: <http://www.spekeresort.com>. The Speke Resort & Conference Centre can be contacted directly by telephone (+256 41 4 227438 / 227111), fax (+256 31 2227110) or email (spekeresort@spekeresort.com). Be sure to quote "Groundwater & Climate in Africa" when making your booking to take advantage of preferred rates. Information regarding other possible hotels will be furnished upon request. For sponsored participants from low-income countries, accommodation will be arranged by the conference organisers.

Contact

To get involved or for more information, please contact the conference co-chairs or the conference secretariat.

Conference co-chairs

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Timetable

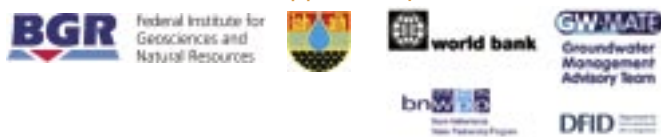
December 2006	first call for abstracts
October 2007	final call for abstracts
15th Nov. 2007	deadline for submission of abstracts
15th Dec. 2007	completion of peer review of abstracts
28th Feb. 2008	deadline for submission of papers
15th April 2008	completion of peer review of papers
31st May 2008	deadline for submission of revised papers
24th – 28th June 2008	conference

Organized by



JIIHP Project

Supported by



International conference

Final Call for Abstracts

June 24th-28th, 2008

Speke Conference Centre, Munyonyo
Kampala, Uganda



GROUNDWATER AND CLIMATE IN AFRICA

Co-organized by

Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda,
University College London
UNESCO International Hydrological Programme-IHP
IAEA-UNESCO JIIHP Project

Supported by

BGR, IAH, World Bank-GWMATE, BNWPP, DFID, GEF IW

Committees

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Local organising committee

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A. Rugumayo (Makerere University)	N. Wobusobozi (DWRM, MWE)

Background

Current monitoring and assessments of the impacts of climate variability and change on water resources commonly exclude groundwater. This omission is of particular concern in Africa where current usage and future adaptations in response to climate change and rapid population growth, place considerable reliance upon groundwater to meet domestic, agricultural, and industrial water demands.

Objectives of the Conference

1. The conference aims to enhance and develop networks of water and climate scientists in order to improve the effectiveness and scope of future research assessing the impacts of climate change and development on groundwater resources in Africa.
2. The Conference will serve as a preparatory stand point for the establishment of a regional network of African experts on Groundwater and Climate Change in AFRICA under the umbrella of the UNESCO's IHP-VII (2008-2013) GRAPHIC (Groundwater Resources under the Pressures of Humanity and Climate Change) project.
3. The conference also seeks to engage policy makers so that knowledge gained through research can be translated into practical strategies that help communities mitigate, or adapt to, the impacts of climate change.

Session topics*

1. Impact of climate variability and change on groundwater-based livelihoods

This session will explore the susceptibility of groundwater-fed water supplies in both rural and urban areas to climate variability and change, and the ability of communities to adapt to changing groundwater availability. As groundwater is the primary source of safe water for dispersed rural communities and low-cost urban water supplies in Africa, this session will also invite papers specifically exploring methods of overcoming climate variability and change in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goal of halving, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water.

2. Impact of climate variability and change on groundwater and groundwater-fed ecosystems

This session will seek to improve the currently limited understanding of how climate variability and change affect: (1) groundwater storage; (2) interactions between groundwater and surface waters including lakes, river and wetlands; and (3) ecosystem services provided by these aquatic habitats. Papers based on contemporary field investigations and historical, palaeohydrological studies are particularly welcome.

3 Monitoring and modelling groundwater use and replenishment

This session will seek to address the critical shortfall in Africa of sustained monitoring of hydrogeological parameters (e.g., groundwater levels, abstraction) as well as the storage and use of monitoring data that are presently available. Papers that discuss: (1) the design, construction and maintenance (e.g., logistical, financial) of monitoring networks, (2) design and management of databases, and (3) case studies that employ monitoring data and model groundwater use and/or recharge are particularly welcome.

4. Estimation of groundwater resources and demand under a changing climate

This session will examine current methods of estimating groundwater resources and demand under conditions of climate variability and change in the wide range of environments (tropical humid, semi-arid, arid) that occur in Africa. A key focus of this session will be the assessment of uncertainty not only in model predictions of climate variability and change but also in hydrological models that are driven by climate data. This session also invites papers that apply new methods and insight into the estimation of groundwater resources (e.g., satellite datasets such as GRACE) as well as current and projected water usage for domestic, agricultural and industrial purposes.

5. Groundwater management

This session will discuss groundwater management strategies under conditions of variable climate and considerable hydrological uncertainty. Papers that explore: (1) new strategies for improving the protection (e.g. vulnerability of sources to heavy-rainfall events) and sustainability of groundwater discharges, and (2) the relationship between user communities and both local and national management and regulatory agencies are particularly welcome.

* We welcome presentations of cases studies from outside Africa. Presenters are encouraged, however, to articulate clearly in their presentations and papers the generic aspects of their study that might inform research and policy in Africa.

GROUNDwater
& climate in
AFRICA