

Water, WASH & Climate Virtual Symposium

June 20-23 2022



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS THIS IS WATER, WASH & CLIMATE: STORIES FROM PRACTICE

The Water and WASH Futures event series brings together both WASH and WRM professionals to discuss the challenges facing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 6 targets, in the context of a changing climate and in the midst of a global pandemic.

We are pleased to open the Call for Abstracts for the Water, WASH and Climate virtual symposium. Abstracts are invited for “Story Hosts” - water and WASH professionals interested in sharing their experiences relating to water management, WASH and climate change during a dedicated session: This is Water, WASH and Climate: Stories from Practice.

The “stories” are an opportunity to discuss your recent work – new projects, policies, or emerging situations - with the aid of audio-visuals such as photos, videos, and verbal presentations.

Water, WASH and Climate Virtual Symposium

The Water and WASH Futures series of forums continues the WASH Futures series of conferences, targeting WASH, and now also water resources, practitioners working in international development. The Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with the International Water Centre at Griffith University, and the Conference Committee have built on the success of past conferences by expanding the scope from WASH to also include Water Resources Management, and by adding two virtual symposiums in the lead-up to the in-person conference.

Join us for this virtual symposium 20-23 June 2022 to explore key issues and success in our efforts to integrate WASH and water resources management for resilience to, and mitigation of, climate change.

The symposium comprises four days four days of engaging panels and presentation sessions focused on specific topics, a semi-structured networking session and our first ever ‘This is Water, WASH & Climate: Stories from Practice’ session.

Symposium Theme: Water, WASH and Climate

A critical, but devastating, lesson from the global pandemic has been the lack of resilience of many water-supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems. Climate change will have even more serious effects on WASH systems, setting back the critical path to sustainable development and poverty alleviation outlined in the SDGs, and further exacerbating inequalities.

Water security is fundamental to the resilience of WASH to climate change; holistic-thinking and integration across water resources and WASH sectors is critical to water security. This means thinking about, governing and managing water as a whole system rather than by its parts – applying integrated water management to connect water resources management with WASH (water supply, sanitation and hygiene).

We need to develop policies and practices to connect catchment-scale management of water resources with local-scale WASH management actions; to consider the social and economic systems of water – which reach into livelihoods, health, education, energy, primary industry sectors such as agriculture and farming, mining, forestry and fisheries; to weave together sustainable water resources and WASH development with disaster resilience and climate mitigation; and to go beyond conventional WRM and WASH enabling actors for assistance with reaching everyone, sustaining development and addressing financing challenges. Reducing inequalities and social exclusion, and preparing for future scenarios, must be at the forefront of this thinking, governing and managing.

Abstracts for 'This is Water, WASH & Climate: Stories from Practice' Session

We are now inviting abstracts for a two-hour session entitled 'This is Water & WASH Climate: Stories from Practice', to encourage wide sharing of experiences from policy and practice. We encourage anyone active in water management or WASH from any sector, working in a resource constrained environment (such as developing countries, or remote or challenging areas), interested to discuss their work or situation to submit an abstract. In particular we encourage stories that share:

1. Practices and policies operating at a diversity of scales – from local community to national level actions
2. Emerging practices and/or research about approaches to improving water management or WASH in relation to climate change
3. Community experiences of climate change relating to water management or WASH systems.



How will the story session work?

This session will be held in the Remo platform and during the session, "Story Hosts" will be seated at a specified virtual table, which can seat up to 8 people in total, including up to 3 Story Hosts. At the table, Story Hosts can share their own screen to display any audio-visuals such as videos or slides. Each Story Host will also have access to an electronic whiteboard to display text, photos/images/graphics, links to external documents and videos that they may wish to share with delegates.

Participants will move around the virtual room, joining stories that are of interest to them, joining in discussions with Story Hosts and other delegates at the table. Symposium organisers will promote movement of delegates to different story tables at 20 min intervals (though delegates are free to stay longer if they choose). If you are planning a structured presentation, we suggest it is kept to under 10 minutes, and be prepared to repeat this as delegates join and leave your table.

We encourage Story Hosts to have visual aids, such as photos, videos, slides, maps, websites, electronic posters, to assist in sharing their story. But this session will work best if you are able to discuss and engage with delegates based on their interests and questions. Think of this like a poster session at an in-person conference, where delegates can approach you at any time, take a look at your visual aids and ask you some questions - only it's all virtual, so your visual aids can include electronic aids. We hope this session brings both hosts and participants a welcomed opportunity to meet new practitioners and discuss issues of common interest.

In advance of the session, the Symposium organisers will promote the story session, including the stories that will be shared, by sharing information from the submitted abstracts. Following the Water, WASH and Climate: Stories from Practice session, resources shared during the session can be made available from the WaWF website for wider sharing.



Story Hosting requirements

- The online platform (Remo) to be used will require reasonably good internet access (minimum upload and download speeds of 8Mbps), and because it is web-based may require access through security firewalls. You are able to test your connectivity via the Remo Geartest [here](#). If you would like further information please contact: waterandwashfutures@dreamweavers.com.au
- Story Hosts will need to be able to communicate their information in English as this will be the most common language of international delegates.
- Stories must be communicated live by the Story Hosts online during the two-hour session at the designated session time (2 – 4 pm AEST), and Story hosts should be identified at the time of submitting the abstract
- A maximum of 3 Story Hosts can join the allocated story group/table (to allow at least 5 participants to visit and discuss your story)
- Story Hosts may either share their screen, or preload the Remo whiteboard at their virtual table with visual aids, including photos, maps, graphics, small text blocks, links to websites or videos (which can be screened), or any other audio-visuals screen from your own computer.
- Due to the interactive and informal nature of the session, Story Hosts will need to be able to showcase their Water & WASH Climate Story multiple times throughout the session (as delegates come and go from their tables) and to respond to the questions and interests of participants – the goal is to have conversations and interact with participants.
- Once abstracts are accepted, Story Hosts will be asked to submit a draft outline of their session and AV materials prior to the symposium to be reviewed by the Conference Committee to ensure a high quality of stories is achieved.
- Story Hosts will be required to attend a rehearsal session, where they will be given a demonstration of the Remo platform and able to make any final arrangements for their story materials.
- Water & WASH Futures will ask for any materials (e.g. PPT presentations, videos) to be made available for upload to the Water & WASH Futures website for other delegates and interested parties to view. These will be accessible for at least one year. We will not be recording each story session - only making available the resources you make available during your story session.



Abstract Submissions and Selection Criteria

Abstracts will comprise a short online form, with a 30-60 second video submission. These are to be submitted through the [abstract submission system](#) – see details below.

Story sessions should rely on sharing experiential and evidence-based practice or research, and can relate to any scale of practice – from small local scale to national, regional or global scale.

Individual abstracts will be assessed using the following criteria:

1. Relevance to the symposium theme Water, WASH and Climate
2. Likely interest to an international audience
3. Clarity of the information to be communicated (ability to clearly communicate the focus of the proposed story session and the type of information to be shared).
4. Gender diversity and equity of Story Hosts

In selecting the final program of stories, consideration will be given to achieving a balance of stories concerning WASH and water management, geographic diversity, scales (local to global), and types (policy, practice, research “stories from the frontline”).

Participation by people with all levels of abilities is encouraged within the limits of the technological capabilities of the platforms – please do make contact with the Secretariat to discuss any specific needs or enabling technologies.

Abstract Submission Process

Abstracts can be submitted through the Water and WASH Futures website (www.washfutures.com), and will comprise:

- A form identifying Story title, keywords, location of story, author and host (presenter) information.
- A brief description of the topic/story to be shared (maximum word count: 300 words).
- A 30-60 sec video submission describing briefly the topic of the story and why you would like to share this at an international symposium. The video does not need to showcase any visual aides and can be easily recorded via Zoom, Teams, PowerPoint or any other software available. It is preferred the video is submitted as an MP4, please save the video with your first and last name, e.g. Smith_John.
- Abstract submission deadline: Midnight (AEST) 22 April 2022

The Committee and Secretariat will review abstracts and advise the outcome by 15 May 2022.

To help make this process easier, please use the abstract template available from washfutures.com to prepare your abstract. You will be required (i)to copy and paste your abstract details into the online abstract submission form, and (ii) upload your abstract video to the online abstract submission system.

Key Dates

Abstract submission closes: 22 April 2022

Expected notification of acceptance: 13 May 2022

Deadline for acceptance by authors: 20 May 2022

Deadline for registration for presenting authors: 27 May 2022

Privacy Statement

In accordance with the Privacy Amendment Act 2021, we advise that information provided in the online submission system will be held in a database on a secure server by the International WaterCentre at Griffith University.

Contact

For more information about Water and WASH Futures knowledge events, please visit: www.washfutures.com

If you have any questions regarding the submission portal please contact: waterandwashfutures@dreamweavers.com.au

If you have any questions regarding Selection Criteria or the Water, WASH and Climate: Stories from practice session please contact: iwc_washconference@griffith.edu.au

