



OpenWater2015 symposium: Open source software and open access tools within the water domain

Venue: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, ILRI campus

Dates: September 16-18, 2015

Conference chairs: Ann van Griensven (Vrije Universiteit Brussel/UNESCO-IHE) , Simon Langan (IWMI, Ethiopia), Semu Moges (Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia)

Aim

The OpenWater symposium aims at sharing experiences, tools, training materials and model codes applicable in the water domain. Several open source tools are emerging and initiatives are currently taken to initiate open standards and interfaces.

OpenWater will be organised as a series of invited presentations, dedicated workshops, demos and oral / poster presentations in the following fields:

- Interoperability and standards in the water domain
- Repositories and SDI's
- Open source developments in water science
- Open hardware
- Open acces training materials
- Environmental modelling using open source tools
- Crowd sourcing

Open source tools are seen as important to both research and practice in the management of water resources. Tools and models provide researchers and planners with the ability to improve the management of the water resources. In Africa, this capacity for assessment and planning are becoming all the more critical with increased demands on water from agriculture, industry and a growing population, as well as concerns over potential impact of climate change, declining water quality, and environmental impact of commercial farming and urbanization. However, most African researcher institutions and development implementing agencies and organizations are unable to access many of the tools available that would enable them to conduct effective research for analysis and planning. In addition, the capacity to use existing tools is also low. At the same time, new tools are being developed to be accessible to all – open source tools. While this offers promise for users in Africa, these users remain largely disconnected from developers. The disconnects is leading to a lack of awareness of tools available, continued low capacity on how to use the tools, and at times, mismatch between the tools developed and what is needed to optimise the use of water in relation to environmental protection, food security, energy protections and many other demands. By organising the 3rd OpenWater symposium in Africa, we hope to highlight models and tools that are overcoming existing gaps in water management, such as with gender and nutrition balances.

Targeted audience:

- Developers and providers of open source tools in the water domain from all over the globe.
- Users of open source tools for water resources management in Africa
- Academics and students doing research using open source tools in Africa

Call for abstracts

Abstracts can be sent to openwater2015.symposium@gmail.com before January 31, 2015.

Notification of acceptance of abstracts by February 28, 2015

African presenters can request for travel grants from UNESCO-HOPE initiative or VLIR-UOS.

Notification of travel grant by April 30, 2015.



Keynote speakers:

- Modelling needs for climate impact studies from *prof. F. Mutua, University of Nairobi, Kenya*
- How to Manage Open Source Tools and User Communities/experiences from SWAT" - *Prof. Dr. Raghavan Srinivasan, Texas A&M University, USA*
- Data fusion in the water accounting framework, and first results for the Nile Basin, *Yasir Abbas Mohamed, Hydraulic Research Station, Sudan.*
- Adapting models to African conditions, *Tammo Steenhuis, Cornell University, USA.*
- Data and model interoperability challenges for integrated assessments in Africa, *Ioannis N Athanasiadis, university of Thessaloniki, Greece and Andrea-Emilio Rizzoli Istituto Dalle Molle di studi sull'intelligenza artificiale, Switzerland on behalf of international Environmental Modelling and Software Society*
- Challenges and opportunities in incorporating local knowledge/models in international open source systems, *Graham Jewitt, University of Kwazulu Natal, South Africa*
- Basic concepts of water accounting and the availability of open access data sources for standardization. *Wim Bastiaansen, TUDelft/UNESCO-IHE*
- Modeling experiences in the Nile basin, *Dr. Mohamed Elshamy.*
- Lessons learnt from SWAT applications in Africa, *Preksedis Ndomba, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania*
- Toward a Global Water Data Infrastructure: Lessons Learned and Future of Hydroshare, *Dan Ames, Brigham Young University, Utah, USA*
- Reg-MIP: Intercomparison study of regional hydrological models for climate change impact assessment, *Fred Hattermann, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research-PIK, Germany*
- Crop modelling in Africa, *Prof. Dr. Dirk Raes, KULeuven, Belgium*

Organising committee:

- Simon Langan (IWMI, Ethiopia)
- Semu Moges (Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia)
- Ann van Griensven (VUB/UNESCO-IHE, Belgium/Netherlands)
- Tadesse Alemayehu (VUB, Belgium)
- Raghavan Srinivasan (Texas A&M, USA)
- Youssef Filali Meknassi (UNESCO, Namibia)
- Seleshi Yalew (UNESCO-IHE, Netherlands)
- Akililu Dinkneh (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium)

Scientific committee:

- Dr. Hans van der Kwast (UNESCO-IHE, Netherlands)
- Dr. Andreja Jonoski (UNESCO-IHE, Netherlands)
- Dr. Schalk-Jan van Andel (UNESCO-IHE, Netherlands)
- Dr. Haddush Goitom (University of Mekelle, Ethiopia)
- Prof. Dr. Semu Moges (Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia)
- Prof. Dr. Stefan Uhlenbrook (UNESCO-IHE, Netherlands)
- Dr. Gabriel Senay (U.S. Geological Survey Earth Resources Observation & Science, EROS Center, USA)
- Dr. Shimelis Setegn (Florida International University, USA)
- Prof. Assefa Mekonnen Melesse (Florida International University, USA)
- Dr. Max Kigobe (Makerere University, Uganda)
- Dr. Peter Fitch (CSIRO Land and Water, Australia)
- Dr. Tracey Baker (IWMI, Ethiopia)
- Dr. Hans Komakech (NM-AIST, Arusha, Tanzania)
- Dr. Nicolas Ray (University of Geneva/UNEP, Switzerland)
- Prof. Dr. A. van Griensven (Vrije Universiteit Brussels/UNESCO-IHE, Belgium/Netherlands)