



## **International Conference**

*on*

**“Water Security and Hydrological Extremes:  
Towards Sustainable Development in Africa”**

*and the*

**“1<sup>st</sup> African Regional Consultative Meeting of the National  
Committees for  
UNESCO-International Hydrological Programme”**

**27<sup>th</sup> February - 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2006**

**Abuja**

**Nigeria**

# BACKGROUND



At the kind invitation of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and under the auspices of UNESCO and the Federal Ministry of Water Resources for Nigeria, the International Conference on *Water Security and Hydrological Extremes: Towards Sustainable Development in Africa* and the *1<sup>st</sup> African Regional Consultative Meeting of the National Committees for UNESCO-International Hydrological Programme*, will take place in Abuja, Nigeria, from 27 February - 2 March 2006.

Water has been recognized as a global issue that is both complex and critical, and for which there is sadly no technical ‘quick-fix’. Indeed, developing a multi-disciplinary approach towards the assessment, planning, and rational management of this resource, requires cooperation between natural and social scientists, engineers, and society as a whole.

UNESCO-IHP activities are usually executed through the National Committees. Over the years, most African countries have formed respective National Committees which have been subsequently involved in the implementation of various national, sub-regional and regional IHP activities.



## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES



One of the aims of the International Conference on “*Water Security and Hydrological Extremes: Towards Sustainable Development in Africa*” and the “*1<sup>st</sup> African Regional Consultative Meeting of the National Committees for UNESCO-International Hydrological Programme*” is to strengthen Africa’s regional capabilities as well as the cohesive implementation of IHP programmes. It will also enhance the scientific and technical competence base of countries in the sub-Saharan African.

Secondly, these events will serve as a catalyst for the IHP National Committees in Africa to enable them to work in synergy and collaborate with the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW). This, in order to initiate technical support for AMCOW programmes as well as further the NEPAD initiative in the development and management of water resources. It will also contribute to the follow-up of the World Summit on Sustainable Development pursue the targets for those Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) relevant to Africa.

These two events will seek to create opportunities for real output and results as well as improve the knowledge base. It will also give rise to increased capacity and create a family of IHP National Committees working towards the common goal; that of resolving issues surrounding water in the region.





Most importantly, this conference and meeting will:

- provide a platform for African countries to prepare actions and activities in Africa within the Seventh Phase of the IHP Plans (2008-2013);
- achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals in Africa;
- achieve specific actions to be taken within the framework of the UN International Decades for Action (“Water for Life”) and Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2015);
- enable the IHP National Committees to contribute towards the above mentioned UN Decades.

The Conference will also seek to strengthen partnerships and coordinate IHP National Committees in Africa.

The Conference will also be a forum to attract attention on a worldwide scale to water related issues in Africa. Recommendations from these two events as well as a report will be presented at the Fourth World Water Forum, taking place in Mexico, March 2006. This will be a chance for the international community to hear the voice of Africa; to hear its viewpoint on issues related to water that are of particular concern to the African region, and especially to sub-Saharan Africa.

One of the issues related directly to Africa is that of Transboundary aquifers which will be discussed during the International Conference. Given the fact that sharing Transboundary aquifers is of such great importance, coordination is required to carry out an assessment of the Transboundary Aquifer system in Africa, as has been the case in other regions of the world.

➤ **Languages of the Scientific Conference and Regional Meeting**

The Scientific Conference and Regional Meeting will be serviced by simultaneous translations to **French and English** only.

➤ **Proceedings of the Scientific Conference and Regional Meeting**

A Technical publication of the Proceedings of the Scientific Conference and Regional Meeting will be published by UNESCO IHP after the Conference.

➤ **Registration**

**Deadline for registration : 10 February 2006**

For registration, please contact (with all the persons mentioned in copy):

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<b>Day 1, Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2006</b>	<b>11:30h-13:00h</b>
<b>TECHNICAL SESSIONS -</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parallel sessions begin on Scientific Conference Themes on Surface Water issues : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Floods, Droughts, Sedimentation and Risks management in Africa - Invited Key Speaker</li> <li>➢ Urban water issues- Invited Key Speaker</li> <li>➢ Adaptation measures to Climate Change in Africa - Invited Key Speaker</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	<b>13:00h – 15:00h</b>
<b>Day 1, Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2006</b>	<b>15:00h – 18:00h</b>
<b>AFTERNOON TECHNICAL SESSIONS –</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parallel sessions continue on the Scientific Conference Themes</li> </ul>	
<b>Day 2, Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2006.</b>	<b>09:30h – 11:00h</b>
<b>TECHNICAL SESSIONS -</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parallel sessions begin on Scientific Conference Themes on Ground Water issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ National and Regional Evaluation of Groundwater resources including quantity and quality - Invited Key Speaker</li> <li>➢ African Transboundary Aquifer Systems - Invited Key Speaker</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>	<b>11:00h – 11:30h</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parallel sessions continue on Scientific Conference Themes on Ground Water issues</li> </ul>	
<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	<b>13:00h – 15:00h</b>
<b>Day 2, Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2006.</b>	<b>15:00h - 18:00h</b>
<b>AFTERNOON TECHNICAL SESSIONS -</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parallel sessions continue on Scientific Conference Themes on Ground Water issues</li> </ul>	
<b>Day 3, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2006</b>	<b>09:00 – 10:30h</b>
<b>INTERACTIVE TECHNICAL SESSION with AMCOW, NEPAD, Donors and Development Partners -</b>	
<b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>	<b>10:30h – 11:00h</b>
Interactive Technical Session with Donors and Development Partners continues and Conclusions	<b>11:00h - 12:00h</b>
<b>CONCLUSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>12:00h – 13:00h</b>
<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	<b>13:00h – 15:00h</b>

**Day 3, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2006.**

**15:00h - 18:00h**

**REGIONAL MEETING OF IHP  
NATIONAL COMMITTEES IN AFRICA**

Draft Agenda

- Organisation and Work Programme of the Meeting
- Strengthening the Coordination Mechanisms of the IHP National Committees in Africa
- Report of the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the IHP Bureau
- Report of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UNESCO General Conference
- Overview of IHP activities in the 2006-2007 Biennium
- Inputs to the preparation of the IHP-VII
- Cooperation with AMCOW and NEPAD
- Communication between the Secretariat, Regional Hydrologist and IHP National Committees
- Establishment of UNESCO-Water Centres in Africa
- Presentation of Country's Reports of the IHP National Committees in Africa
- Regional Activities
- Establishment of sub-regional Working Groups
- IHP Governance in Africa
- Recommendations for sustainability of the Regional Consultative Meeting
- Consideration of Draft Report of Meeting

**Day 4, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2006.**

**09:30h – 11:00h**

**INTERNAL MEETING OF IHP  
NATIONAL COMMITTEES IN AFRICA**

Continues with deliberations of the items on the Draft Agenda

**Tea/Coffee Break**

**11:00h – 11:30h**

**MEETING OF IHP NATIONAL  
COMMITTEES IN AFRICA**

**11:30h – 13:00h**

Continues with deliberations of the items on the Draft Agenda

**LUNCH BREAK**

**13:00h – 15:00h**

**Day 4, Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2006.**

**15:00h - 17:00h**

**MEETING OF IHP NATIONAL  
COMMITTEES IN AFRICA**

Continues with deliberations of the items on the Draft Agenda

**CONCLUSIONS AND CLOSURE OF  
THE IHP REGIONAL MEETING SESSIONS  
DECLARATION STATEMENT**

**17:00h - 18:00h**