

**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**  
**MINISTRY OF WATER**



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First call for Abstracts/Call for Sessions  
2020 *Maji* (Water) Week Annual Scientific Conference

***Theme:***

***Water and Climate Change: Ensuring Water Security for All***

Convened by Ministry of Water in Collaboration with

**Global Water Partnership Tanzania**



17-18 March 2020

***Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC)***

***Dar es Salaam***

## 1. BACKGROUND

An international day to celebrate freshwater was recommended at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The United Nations General Assembly responded by designating 22 March 1993 as the first World Water Day. Since then, World Water Day has been held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. On this day, member states are called upon to devote this day, as appropriate in the national context, to tangible promotional and public awareness activities including, but not limited to, production of documentaries, organization of conferences, seminars, and expositions related to conservation and development of water resources. In Tanzania, every year, the Ministry of Water has been celebrating the World Water Day by organizing a week-long series of events in various regions under different themes. These events have since been famously known as *Maji Week Celebrations* in Tanzania. However, it is acknowledged that previous *Maji Week* celebrations did not incorporate a scientific conference as part of the events. It is only in 2019 that the *Maji Week* celebrations uniquely incorporated a scientific conference for the first time.

This year, as was the case in 2019, the Ministry of Water will be hosting the Water Week Celebrations in collaboration with partners in the water sector. The following are the events, in sequential order, which will mark the *Maji Week* celebrations:

- i. Day 1 (Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020): Launching of water projects across the Country;
- ii. Day 2 (Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020): *Maji Week* Scientific Conference;
- iii. Day 3 (Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020): *Maji Week* Scientific Conference
- iv. Day 4 (Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020): Joint Water Sector Review Mission for WSDP II - which is a dialogue mechanism for Government, Development Partners and other stakeholders
- v. Day 5 (Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020): EWURA Day - A national convening for all water utilities;
- vi. Day 6 (Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020): EWURA Day and end of Water Week Celebrations.

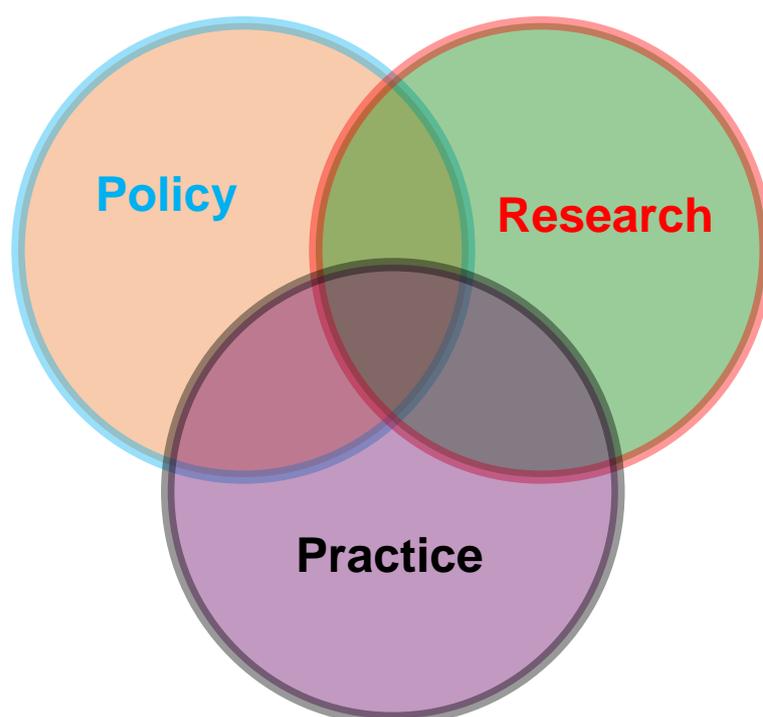
The venue for Day 2 - 6 activities will be the **Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre in Dar es Salaam** (<https://www.aicc.co.tz/jnicc/>) and it is expected that more than 500 participants will convene to observe the *Maji Week* celebrations including exhibition.

This concept note focuses on the processes leading to the *Maji Week* Scientific Conference, to be held on 17-18 March 2020 at the Julius Nyerere International Conference in Dar es Salaam. Global Water Partnership Tanzania will coordinate the *Maji Week* Scientific Conference on behalf of Ministry of Water.

## 2. RATIONALE FOR MAJI WEEK SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

The *Maji Week* conference was conceived as a platform for sharing new knowledge, insights and experience for research undertaken in Tanzania on water. Most of the researchers and practitioners in the water sector have often presented their work in regional and global forums with minimal sharing of the same in the country. Thus, this second *Maji Week* Scientific Conference is geared towards filling this gap – by providing a national platform where all the research undertaken in Tanzania and beyond on water will be shared for the benefit of adoption and upscaling of some of the innovative ideas and insights in the water sector development processes.

*Maji Week* Scientific Conference is a flagship event for the Ministry of Water where the Triple Helix Concept on knowledge sharing, learning and interaction between three main actors in the water sector is fully realised. The three main actors are (i) Policy makers (ii) Researchers and (iii) Practitioners as illustrated in the Figure below:



During the *Maji Week* Scientific Conference, practitioners, policy makers, researchers and academicians from across the world will gather to network, collaborate, learn and inspire each other. Cognisant is made to the fact that the 2020 has been declared as the year of action on climate adaptation by the global community and hence the conference is uniquely placed to contribute to the worldwide momentum on climate change adaptation and resilience in the water sector.

The 2020 *Maji* Week Scientific Conference is expected to provide an ideal opportunity to highlight climate change challenges and plausible actions in the water sector in Tanzania and beyond. It will also emphasize knowledge sharing and co-learning for actionable solutions across scales (Local, national and international). The *Maji* Week Scientific Conference is committed to generate a rich and stimulating discourse on climate change in the water sector and provide a platform for engagement between and within the science, practice and policy communities. To achieve this, we invite proposals for sessions and individual abstracts of papers in all areas related to climate change and water, and in particular, aligning with the key conference sub-themes as highlighted in Section 5. The 2020 *Maji* Week Scientific conference will have a unique feature in the form of an award for young researchers (under 35 years) christened *The Maji Week Scientific Conference Young Researchers Award*. More information on the award is highlighted in Section 13.

### 3. OBJECTIVES

The conference is part of an effort to address water security issues in the country in the context of National Water Policy and Water Sector Development Programme.

The conference has three main objectives:

- a) Facilitating platform for scientific discussions, learning, knowledge exchange and collaboration among experts (from within and outside the country) and stakeholders in the water sector.
- b) Promoting innovative scientific research, methodologies, tools, technologies, and policy approaches in the water sector.
- c) Documentation of innovative practical case studies and lessons in the water sector.

### 4. EXPECTED CONFERENCE OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

- i) Conference report outlining key issues, take away messages, and recommendations for possible adoption by the Government
- ii) Establishing a peer knowledge exchange platform and collaboration among experts and stakeholders in the water sector
- iii) Development of collaborative adaptation projects in the water sector based on findings from the scientific conference

### 5. THEME

The theme for this year's *Maji* Week Scientific Conference is: ***Water and Climate Change: Ensuring Water Security for All***. Water is an important element in the climate change mitigation puzzle but the single most important component in adaptation. It is evident that climate change has continued to manifest itself through water and its impacts has widely been experienced in key sectors e.g water, agriculture, and energy. Changes in water availability will impact food security and may lead to instability in social-economic fabrics and trigger displacements of

people. Water is clearly vital for the healthy functioning of socio-ecological systems, and every day we acquire new levels of understanding about the interrelationship between water and climate dynamics. Although sufficient water for human consumption is indispensable, an over-abundance of water, caused by extreme events, for example, floods can destroy houses, crops and cities. Similarly, an under-supply of water may lead to droughts.

In this regard, paper presenters are advised to align their presentations in the context of the sub-themes highlighted in section 5.1.

## **5.1 Sub-themes**

### **a) Water Resources Governance in a Changing Climate**

Water has always been contested in terms of who is able to access, who benefits from it, who bears the costs of pollution, and whose values are represented. This applies to transboundary water resources as well. Therefore, a key aspect of water governance is the uncertainty that surrounds it – the variable outcomes it can produce at different scales, and its lack of linearity as exhibited in hydrological processes. Water security therefore needs to capture and reflect the range of values related to its occurrence and governance. As such, there is a need to examine and understand different innovative water governance processes and assess if these can enable an adaptive and systemic transformation of institutions and organisations related to water sector in the face of climate change. There is no doubt that such a reflection needs to be done under the umbrella of Integrated Water Resources Management where the 3rd IWRM principle highlights the critical role of women in managing and safeguarding water resources. Such a perspective, in the context of adaptation to Climate Change, is also highlighted in the Paris Agreement. There is no doubt climate change will threaten and exacerbate the inequalities between women and men's relationship to water and hence we need to articulate such issues in all platforms especially at the *Maji* Week Scientific Conference. The Possible sub-topics, but not limited to, within this theme for paper submission or hosting a session include:

- i) Institutional attributes for advancing water security in the face of climate change.
- ii) Climate change vulnerability and adaptation analysis in water resources governance
- iii) Climate induced human behaviour and water related institutions and governance
- iv) Influence of climate change on partitioning of the hydrological cycle and accrued impacts
- v) The role of Artificial Intelligence in adaptation to climate change
- vi) Managing transboundary water resources in the realms of climate change
- vii) Managing extreme hydrological events in a changing climate

- viii) Climate analytics, information and decision-support systems in water governance
- ix) International climate finance and adaptation in the water sector
- x) The interface between Indigenous knowledge and Science in adaptation to climate change
- xi) Gendered hydro–dimension of climate change impact and adaptation in water governance
- xii) Gender strategies in coping with climate change in water sector

### **c) Nature Based Solutions for Adaptation to Climate Change**

The common definition of Nature-Based Solutions is: *“are actions geared to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits”*. These solutions can range from simply protecting natural areas to establishing new ecosystems and cleaning up polluted areas as well as instituting sustainable sanitation solutions. The 2019 UN Secretary-General’s Climate Action Summit noted that Nature Based Solutions is a key measure to address climate change and strengthen the connection of people and communities to nature, aspiring for a harmonious coexistence between the two. Nature Based Solutions can help advance climate change mitigation and adaptation, reinforcing the value of ecosystems services and encouraging investments in nature that benefit people’s livelihoods and wellbeing, as well as improve ecosystem health, protect biodiversity and address food and water security. There is no doubt that there is need for greater recognition of the interconnection between humans and nature and the integration of natural systems especially in ensuring water security for all in a changing climate. Thus, in the 2020 *Maji* Week Scientific Conference, we will explore on how Nature Based Solutions concept can be applied in the water sector with the view of deriving maximum benefits. This sub-theme invites submissions that address:

- i) Mainstreaming and integration of Nature Based Solutions concept in catchment management and planning for sustainable management of water resources in a changing climate
- ii) Role of Nature Based solutions in enhancing conservation of water resources
- iii) Innovations and capacity building processes in Nature Based Solutions in managing water resources in a changing climate
- iv) Identifying indicators for assessing the effectiveness of Nature Based Solutions and addressing related knowledge gaps in the water sector
- v) Evidence of Nature Based Solutions to adapt to climate change
- vi) Implementation of Nature Based Solutions in rural and urban landscapes to improve water security and increase beneficiation of water resources
- vii) Nature Based Solutions for ensuring sustainable sanitation

- viii) Understanding existing barriers, limits and potential opportunities for increasing the scale and effectiveness of Nature Based Solutions in the water sector
- ix) Gender dimensions of Nature Based Solutions in a changing climate

### **c) Water Energy Food Security Nexus in a Changing Climate**

Interactions between water, energy and food systems are multifarious. Energy is required to process and distribute water, water is central for nearly all forms of energy production, and both energy and water are key to the food value chain. These interactions intensify as the demand for resources increases, driven by population and economic growth, urbanisation and the move towards ever more resource-intensive lifestyles. Such an interplay is set to shift and or enhanced in the advent of climate change. As a result, pursuing one security objective (i.e. food, water or energy security) over another may be to the detriment of the others, which reflects the competing claims over limited natural resources. Interactions between food, water and energy systems and the trade-offs between them are likely to operate across different spatial scales. The interactions in the Nexus are deemed to change in the realms of climate change and hence the need to have a deeper insight on potential alignments, new equilibrium and pathways for managing such intrinsic relationships. In this sub-theme, we invite papers on the following topics:

- i) Mainstreaming WEF in planning and adaptation strategies
- ii) WEF multi-criteria analysis and impact assessment
- iii) Use cases on application of WEF concept in project management and appraisal
- iv) Institutional alignment and coordination in maximizing WEF benefits
- v) Dimensions of WEF security in a changing climate
- vi) Equilibrium and interactions between NEXUS sectors
- vii) Modelling the NEXUS mechanism in data scarce environment and changing climate

### **d) Mobilizing investments for a water secure future in a changing climate**

In 2018, all countries in Africa, including Tanzania, undertook an appraisal on level of implementation of SDG indicator 6.5.1 (IWRM implementation). The AMCOW led appraisal process noted that most African countries (71 per cent) are in the medium-low to very low categories of IWRM implementation, meaning that their capacity for effective implementation is largely inadequate mainly due to unsustainable financing. Tanzania was ranked in the medium-low category. Considering recent trends and current stages of IWRM implementation, it is projected that almost three quarters of African countries (36 out of 51) will not meet the global SDG target 6.5 – by 2030,

implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate – unless progress is significantly accelerated in realizing sustainable financing options. The same applies for SDG 6.1 and 6.2 on safe and affordable drinking water and access to sanitation and hygiene respectively. It has been noted that the water sector in many countries, including Tanzania has not attracted significant investments mainly due to its failure to highlight its overall contribution to the national development process as has been the case with other sectors e.g Agriculture. It is worth noting that SDG target 6a sets a scene for an enviable future by stating that by 2030, there will be an expanded capacity on international cooperation on water and increased prowess in developing countries in water and sanitation related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies. There is no doubt that the above can only be achieved through sustained targeted investments in the water sector targeting both resource management aspects as well as sustainable use (water supply) including pollution control. Sustainable financing in water sector has the capacity to catalyse for jobs, industrialization and gender sensitive climate resilient SDG investments for water security as well as mobilising innovative partnerships and socio-economic water analytics to strengthen water governance, gender equality and women's empowerment in decision making of water related climate resilience investments. This sub-theme invites submission of papers that address, but not limited to, the following areas:

- i) Potential funding opportunities for climate resilient water projects
- ii) Quantifying economic contribution of water sector in development processes
- iii) Risks of heavy reliance on donor funding for national or basin-level water-related interventions
- iv) Sustainable pathways for investing and monitoring water supply and sanitation projects
- v) Home-grown solutions for mobilizing resources in water supply and sanitation projects
- vi) Innovative and promising examples of water governance financing mechanisms based on water use and water pollution fees
- vii) Reducing the investment gap in water infrastructure and financing water governance costs.
- viii) Acceleration of project preparation for climate resilient water investments at national and transboundary levels.
- ix) Gender sensitive Public Private finance partnerships in water infrastructure
- x) Mobilising climate resilience water partnerships and knowledge generation for inclusive water governance
- xi) Mainstreaming gender, youth and social inclusion in development and water investments projects.

## 6. CALL FOR PAPER ABSTRACTS

We invite submissions of paper abstracts for the 2020 *Maji* Week Scientific Conference. One may submit a research-based, policy-based or practitioner-oriented abstract as well as that focus on amalgamating policy, research and practice under any of the sub-themes described above.

Abstracts should have the following attributes:

- i) A maximum of 350 words
- ii) The format for all text should be font size 12, Times New Roman and single-spaced
- iii) The title should be no more than 16 words in title case
- iv) Author's names should be written in such a way that the initials appear first followed by the last name.
- v) The authors names should indicate one corresponding author\* (with an asterisk) and the email and phone number of the corresponding
- vi) The affiliations of authors should be shown through letter superscripts (such as <sup>a,b,c</sup>).
- vii) The abstract should include a clear statement of the issues addressed, the research methodology and a concise summary of the findings and conclusion.
- viii) Five keywords should be included in alphabetical order at the end of the abstract.

- **Selection process and criteria**

All abstracts should directly link to at least one conference sub-theme. Authors should make every effort to craft a well written abstract without grammatical or spelling errors and ensure that the abstract is easy to read and understand. We suggest that authors keep sentences simple, use the active voice and spell out any abbreviations or acronyms. Abstract review criteria include clarity, supporting data, scientific rigour, relevance, potential significance, interest in the topic chosen and innovation or usefulness.

## 7. CALL FOR HOSTING SESSION(S) OR EVENT(S)

We invite submissions for proposals to organise session(s) or partnership event(s) at the 2020 *Maji* Week Scientific Conference. Proposal for sessions or events should have details of proposed presenters and topics, including who will moderate/chair along with the desired format of the session. We welcome sessions that are purely research-based, policy-based or practitioner-oriented, as well as sessions that focus on amalgamating policy, research and practice in their agenda. We invite calls for Open and Closed sessions. **Hosting a session(s) or partnership event(s) will**

**attract a fee and applicants of sessions are advised to get in touch with the Scientific Conference Committee for information on payment and further instructions on managing their sessions.**

- **Types of Sessions**

In an Open Session, the session organisers define the topic and format of the session, invite one or more speakers to moderate/chair the session, but advertise for and accept contributions from the wider community through their own networks. All contributions for an open session will need to be submitted via the conference abstract submission process. The conference Steering Committee may also suggest additional contributors to the session.

In a Closed Session, the session organisers define the topic and format of the session, and invite all speakers/contributors in the session. In closed sessions, the session organisers will manage submission of papers/abstracts but will be required to submit the details of all the speakers/contributors and topics or titles of presentations to the *Maji Week Scientific Committee*.

- **Session Formats**

*Maji Week Scientific Conference* is committed to producing rich, interactive sessions which engage diverse participants. Apart from the traditional session format with a facilitator and a panel of speakers or paper presenters, we welcome proposals that uses stimulating, innovative formats with plenty of opportunity for audience interaction. Host of sessions are encouraged to adopt and adapt to such innovative formats. A few examples of these formats are given below.

- ***World Café***

This format begins with the first of two or more rounds of discussion for groups of 4-6 seated around a table. Each round is prefaced with a question. At the end of every 15-20-minute round, each member of the group moves to a different table. They may or may not choose to leave one person as the “table host” for the next round, who welcomes the next group and briefly fills them in on what happened in the previous round. Once all rounds have been completed, key points from each table are presented to the whole group for a final collective discussion.

- ***Talent Show***

The talent show format is ideal for presenting projects, demonstrating technology or pitching ideas. Participants have 3-5 minutes to demonstrate their concepts and, ideally, this is done visually with props to create a “show”. After the demonstrations and presentations, the audience is asked to vote on their favourite. A presenter helps to introduce the acts and keep the audience engaged.

- **Campfire Sessions**

These sessions are set in a laid-back environment to simulate the atmosphere of storytelling by the campfire. The facilitator introduces a topic and lets the participants create content themselves through discussion. For the remainder of the session, the presenter becomes a facilitator, inviting comments, insights and questions from those around the room. Campfire sessions allow attendees to drive their own learning and share experiences with others, which also assists with networking and building new connections.

- **Selection process and criteria for sessions**

The main criteria for selection of sessions will be quality, relevance, diversity and inclusivity. We particularly welcome sessions that:

- i) Facilitate dialogue between research and government, civil society, international agencies and business/private sector
- ii) Contribute to a diverse and balanced programme that focuses on solutions and innovations in the water sector
- iii) Link climate action to sustainable water resources development, investment and planning.
- iv) Contribute to a conference programme with a wide range of topics, stakeholders, scales and regions
- v) Showcase examples (case studies, best practices, tools) or research that are internationally applicable in the water sector
- vi) Involve a partner organisation from a different country or organisation community
- vii) Fit a 90-minute time slot or otherwise as will be determined by the structure of the conference programme. It is also possible to arrange for two or three linked sessions around a particular topic

## **8. SUBMISSION AND REVIEW PROCESS FOR SESSION PROPOSALS AND ABSTRACTS**

All session proposals and abstracts should be addressed to: [2020 Maji Week Scientific Committee](mailto:2020_Maji_Week_Scientific_Committee) and submitted through [majiweek.2020conference@gmail.com](mailto:majiweek.2020conference@gmail.com) and copy to [dorisia.mulashani@maji.go.tz](mailto:dorisia.mulashani@maji.go.tz) before **6th February 2020**. The abstracts or proposals will be reviewed by experts and the corresponding author will be notified of outcome of the review process not later than **14th February 2020**. All session proposals and abstracts will be reviewed by at least 3 members of the *Maji Week Scientific Conference* review panel who will make the final decision on whether the submission/abstract will be accepted or not. If an abstract will be accepted, the authors will be requested to prepare an oral or poster presentation.

## **9. CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE**

By submitting an abstract, authors agree to publication of the abstract, if accepted, on the conference website and in other conference materials such as Book of Abstracts. Authors also agree to publication of photos, video recordings or live streaming of the presentations.

The Scientific Committee of 2020 *Maji* Week Scientific Conference is the final arbiter of:

- Whether the session proposal or abstract is accepted or rejected
- Whether it will be an oral or a poster presentation
- The session in which the abstract will be placed
- The date and time that the presentations will take place

## **10. TARGET AUDIENCE AND EXPECTED CONTRIBUTIONS**

Policymakers, academicians, researchers, practitioners from water and related sectors, and development partners are invited to register and attend the 2nd *Maji* week scientific conference. The conference presents a good opportunity for dialogue and internalising findings from presentations on the different sub-themes. Authors wishing to present their work should submit their abstracts targeting any of the sub-themes highlighted above.

## **11: REGISTRATION FOR 2020 MAJI WEEK CELEBRATIONS**

All participants for events marking the 2020 *Maji* Week Celebrations i.e Scientific Committee, Joint Water Sector Review and EWURA Day **MUST** register through an online portal that will be provided in the second call for papers to be released before 19th December 2019. Each participants **MUST** indicate, during the registration process, which of the three (3) events he or she will participate. A participant can choose more than one event to participate. Registration at the conference venue is highly discouraged and may attract some inconveniences and hence all participants are advised to register early enough through the online portal before the closing date indicated in Section 15.

## **12. VENUE AND DATE**

The second *Maji* Week Scientific Conference will be convened by Ministry of Water in collaboration with Global Water Partnership Tanzania. It will be held at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre from 17 to 18 March 2020.

## **13. MAJI WEEK CONFERENCE YOUNG RESEARCHER AWARD**

An honorary *Maji* Week Conference Young Researcher Award will be given to the best youth presenter (under the 35years) who will demonstrate exceptional oral presentation skills, insight of subject matter, articulation in response to questions etc. There will be a winner in each sub-theme thus making a total of four sub-winners from which the overall *Maji* Week Young Researcher Award Winner will be

nominated based on a scoring criteria that will be developed by the Scientific Committee. An adjudication team will be availed in all sessions to assess all youth presenters. There will also be an award of the Best Poster Youth Award as well of which will be determined through as adjudication process.

#### **14. CONTACT INFORMATION**

For more information about the conference please contact the following:

Dr. Victor Kongo <[victor.kongo@gwpsaf.org](mailto:victor.kongo@gwpsaf.org)>  
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#### **15. IMPORTANT CONFERENCE DATES**

Start of submission of paper abstracts and proposals for session	5th December 2019
End of submission of session proposal and paper abstracts	6th February 2020
Notification of acceptance of session proposals and paper abstracts	14th February 2020
Start of conference registration	19th December 2019
End of conference registration	14th February 2020
<b>2020 Maji Week Scientific Conference</b>	<b>17-18 March 2020</b>