



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

FAO Regional Workshop on “National Water Roadmaps”

Date: 22-24 February 2023

Venue: Harare International Conference Centre and Rainbow Towers, Harare, Zimbabwe

Format: Hybrid

Background

Water is central to agriculture that accounts for 72% of global freshwater withdrawals, to other economic sectors such as energy and to the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. While there is increasing awareness of water importance, there is still a need for more effective, integrated and coordinated actions, coupled with strong political will in recognizing, valuing and managing water in a holistic and integrated manner to achieve all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Unfortunately, freshwater resources are becoming increasingly scarce and water crisis is identified as one of the crises to have the largest impact in the next decade. Currently 2.3 billion people live in water-stressed countries, of which more than 733 million people - approximately 10 per cent of the global population - live in countries with high and critical water stress. Water scarcity, drought, floods, pollution and other climate change impacts are key challenges to sustainable agriculture and rural development.

Several important actions towards the UN 2023 Water Conference have been initiated, including the Ninth World Water Forum held in March 2022, the Second High Level International Conference on International Water Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028” in June 2022, the High-Level Political Forum and the Geneva Water Dialogue in July 2022. The Rome Water Dialogue, held at the FAO Headquarters on 29 November 2022, further contributed to this process, catalyzing innovation and mobilizing political will towards integrated water resources management for food security and climate resilience.

Governments and other stakeholders have acknowledged that water, sanitation, health, ecosystems, ocean, energy, food systems and nutrition are interlinked and that the rising trend of losses caused by water-related disasters, such as droughts, floods, cyclones, coastal surge, sea level rise, salinity intrusion, mudslides and avalanches, must be addressed, with particular attention paid to people in vulnerable situations.

There is an urgent need to consider how best to address these interconnected issues. A strong, coherent and explicit integration and prioritization of water into national sustainable development strategies, policies and investment plans is required to help understand why and how water resources shall be used to achieve social, economic and environmental objectives embedded in related national sustainable development strategies.

In this context, proposed by FAO and endorsed in the Dushanbe Declaration, a country-led water dialogue and country-owned **National Water Roadmaps** or strategies will help to strengthen the inter-sectoral coordination on water resources management and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. FAO is supporting Member countries, upon request, in the development of country-specific National Water Roadmaps through country-led dialogues and participatory processes, following the example of the sustainable pathways for the future of food systems, charted by 116 countries in the background of the Food Systems Summit 2021.

On 22-24 March 2023, the UN will convene the UN 2023 Water Conference to review the progress made in the UN Water Action Decade. This will provide an opportunity to keep the momentum and raise the awareness of the water's role in economies, societies and environment and to mobilize global-local actions on water for sustainable development.

To foster collective action at national level for the development of such roadmaps, FAO is organizing regional workshops on the National Water Roadmaps. The aim of these workshops is to inform FAO Members about the overall role of water for sustainable development and to provide a platform for all stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, civil society, the private sector and academia, to discuss and develop country-specific National Water Roadmaps, taking into consideration of regional and national perspectives. These regional workshops will also prepare countries for their participation and contribution to the UN 2023 Water Conference. UN Resident Coordinators will be informed and invited to the workshop, to ensure coherence of the roadmaps with the UN Cooperation Framework at country level.

In many countries, access to and use of water resources in rural areas is governed by customary arrangements. A key challenge to sustain and improve water and food security for rural populations, is to include such types of water tenure arrangements in the effort to effectively manage water resources. This can be achieved through the responsible governance of water tenure. Therefore, one workshop session will be dedicated to water tenure, in which the concept of **water tenure and governance**, its relationship with water accounting and its importance for improving climate resilience, as well as food security and livelihoods will be explored. A particular focus of the session will be on regional perspectives and support for the Global Dialogue on Water Tenure.

The first regional workshop on National Water Roadmaps will focus on Africa, and will be held in person in Harare, Zimbabwe, and virtually on Zoom Platform from 22 to 24 February 2023.

Draft Programme

In order to discuss how the National Water Roadmaps could best be implemented at country level, the event will be organized around five Workshop Sessions, one for each of the five Accelerators for SDG 6; Financing, Data & Information, Capacity Development, Innovation, and Governance.

Please note: all speakers listed are suggestions and need confirmation.

Draft Programme		
Time	Intervention	Speaker
Day 1: 22 February 2023		
08.30 – 09.00	Welcome Coffee	
09.00 – 10.00	High-Level Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remarks by African Development Bank• Remarks by African Union Commission• Remarks by African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW)• Remarks by the Honourable Anxious Jongwe Masuka, Minister for Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, Zimbabwe• Remarks by FAO Director-General, Dr QU Dongyu• Remarks by His Excellency, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Emmerson Mnangagwa (tbc)	Speakers tbc: Southern African Development Community (SADC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Economic Community of Central African State (ECCAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
10.00 – 10.30	Keynote Presentation: National Water Roadmaps to spearhead Global Acceleration Framework for Water and the Sustainable Development Goals	Mr Lifeng Li, Director of Land and Water Division (NSL), FAO

10.30 – 12.00	<p>High-Level Roundtables: National Perspective on Water Sector Planning</p> <p>Remarks by Ministers and other high-level participants.</p>	
12.00 – 14.00	Lunch Break	
14.00 – 15.15	<p>Session 1: Financing Accelerator</p> <p>Presentation followed by Roundtable/Panel discussions</p> <p>Outcome: Defining actionable recommendations per stakeholder-group based on regional perspectives</p>	
15.15 – 15.30	Coffee Break	
15.30 – 17.00 (TBC)	<p>Session 2: Data & Information Accelerator</p> <p>Presentations: 60 minutes</p> <p>Panel discussion, including Q/A from the floor: 30 minutes</p> <p>Outcome: Defining actionable recommendations per stakeholder group based on regional perspectives</p>	<p>Lead: FAO</p> <p>Speakers: Riccardo Biancalani, FAO Stephen Maxwell Kwame Donkor, Independent Consultant Japhet J. Kashaigili, PhD, Sokoine University of Agriculture Eric Tardieu, INBO-NEWS on-line Jonathan Lautze, IWMI (tbc) AWARE Initiative (tbc)</p>
Day 2: 23 February 2023		
08.30 – 09.00	Welcome Coffee	

<p>09.00 – 10.30</p>	<p>Session 3: Capacity Development Accelerator</p> <p>Presentation followed by Roundtable /Panel discussion</p> <p>Outcome: Defining actionable recommendations per stakeholder group based on regional perspectives</p>	
<p>10.30 – 12.00</p>	<p>Session 4: Innovation Accelerator</p> <p>Presentation followed by Roundtable /Panel discussion</p> <p>Outcome: Defining actionable recommendations per stakeholder group based on regional perspectives</p>	<p>Lead: FAO</p> <p>Speakers: Prof. Bancy M. Mati (Kenya) Professor Innocent Nhapi (Zimbabwe) Livia Peiser (FAO HQ) (on-line)</p> <p>Facilitator: Valere Nzeyimana (FAO RAF)</p>
<p>12.00 – 14.00</p>	<p>Lunch Break</p>	
<p>14.00- 16.30</p>	<p>Session 5: Governance Accelerator</p> <p>Presentation followed by Roundtable /Panel discussion</p> <p>Outcome: Defining actionable recommendations per stakeholder group based on regional perspectives</p>	<p>Lead: FAO</p> <p>Speakers: Emanuel Manzungu University of Zimbabwe Sasha Koo-Oshima, FAO on-line Riccardo Bianchalani FAO Barbara van Koppen, IWMI on-line Hans Komakech, on-line Jennifer Mowantwa, , South Africa tbc</p>

			Elizabeth Rutsate, Zimbabwe tbc Inga Jacobs-Mata, IWMI, on-line Facilitator: Jessica Troell Zimbabwe
16.30 – 17.00	Regional perspectives and commitments for a global dialogue on water tenure in national water roadmaps	Short round of comments from countries	Country representatives

Day 3: 24 February 2023

08.30 – 09.00	Welcome Coffee		
09.00 – 10.30	Summary of Session’s Highlights: Putting all recommendations/commitments together to accelerate achievement of SDG 6 and beyond.		Rapporteur of each Session
10.30 – 11.30	Concrete regional commitments on the road to UN 2023 Water Conference: Putting together the actions on the Accelerators with the National Water Roadmaps		Resident Coordinators
11.30 – 12.00	Closing & Next steps		FAO
12.00- 14.00	Lunch		