

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



IAH ANNUAL CONGRESS

DAVOS, Switzerland, Sept 2024

<http://www.iah2024davos.org/parallel>



You are cordially invited to submit an abstract for a presentation/paper.

Special Session:

Conjunctive Management of Water Resources – Aquifers at the Heart of Hydrological Interactions and Sustainable Water Management

Co-hosted by UNESCO-IHP, UNECE, IGRAC, GEF-IW:LEARN, SADC-GMI, IAH Transboundary Aquifers Commission

Conjunctive management of water resources is known to be a powerful means to addressing crises from climate change, water shortages and quality deterioration. So many of the world's river basins are facing declining surface water resources, leading to groundwater being spontaneously utilised as replacement. Unfortunately, groundwater remains the 'Cinderella' of water resources – it is there in the background, but remains unseen in explicit policies, legal regimes, and accessible financing. This 'spontaneous conjunctive use' is becoming more widespread and is resulting in chaotic resources governance further undermining water security. These symptoms have been recognised by many actors in the water sector. There is a real interest in moving from "chaos to order" and a growing recognition that aquifers are at the heart of fundamental hydrological interactions and hence need to be explicitly addressed (see for example [UNECE 2023](#) and [GEF IW:LEARN](#)). Enhanced conjunctive management, where groundwater and aquifers are at the centre of attention, may require retrofitting of policies and practices, which may be complex in some situations, but holds great potential to address common issues faced in many regions.

The session of the congress is devoted to improving measures, policies, and practice for how to ensure that conjunctive management, with aquifers at its core, can be adopted to enhance water security and sustainability under greater water demands and climate change, from local to transboundary scales. Contributions from practitioners in all relevant disciplines are invited to:

1. Increase understanding and awareness of the benefits of conjunctive water management, especially for climate change adaptation.
2. Move from spontaneous conjunctive use to planned conjunctive water management.

In particular, papers covering the following areas are invited:

Analyses and evaluation: of current/planned practices: modelling the management of conjunctive use, data requirements, analytical methods, evaluation of the move from spontaneous to planned management.

Best practice: case histories that yielded political, legal, and social attention to the benefits and opportunities of conjunctive water management, especially in agriculture, but also in water supply, and ecohydrological enhancement.

Policies: legal, financial, and technical approaches; cost-benefit and risk-sharing strategies for retrofitting conjunctive management; methodological approaches to the use of various instruments, including economic (taxes, subsidies), legal, and other.

Capacity development: skillsets and tools required, and institutional strengthening needed for effective adoption of sound conjunctive management.

Transboundary scale: transition from national to transboundary scales in terms of conjunctive water management, support from international instruments such as the 1992 Water Convention and its tools (e.g., the Model Provisions on Transboundary Groundwaters) and the 2009 UN ILC Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers, support to negotiation of agreements/arrangements and resource allocation to conjunctive transboundary management.

Call for abstracts

Abstracts can be submitted via the online submission platform:

<https://express.converia.de/frontend/index.php?sub=1381>

Before submitting an abstract, a user account has to be created, which can later be used to register for the congress and modify an abstract. The abstract can be entered in the online form with a maximum length of 2000 characters (including spaces). Special characters, pictures or graphics cannot be included. Abstract submitters must indicate whether they prefer an oral or poster presentation, and select the session topic, in this case: **Conjunctive Management no. 3.05. Deadline: 29 Feb. 2024.**

Paper topic*

3.05. Conjunctive management of water resources: aquifers at the heart of interactions

Planned dedicated volume on Conjunctive Water Management

It is planned to select up to 10 papers for publication in a dedicated volume of a journal (initial discussions with Editors are underway). Selected Authors will be invited to develop their theme/case into an extended paper, which, following the peer review process, will be compiled into strategic state of the art contributions, which will help guide the way ahead.

Contacts for further information

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