

DAY  
1

# WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH

13.30	Registration, tea and coffee served	Arco Room
14.00	<b>Welcome</b> Professor Louise Richardson, Vice-Chancellor, University of Oxford	Lecture Theatre
14.10	<b>Keynote</b> Martha Solomon, WASH Adviser, DFID Ethiopia	Lecture Theatre
14.25	<b>Plenary   REACH successes, challenges and prospects</b> In this session, the REACH programme directors will present key findings from REACH on successes and barriers for improving water security for the poor in Kenya, Ethiopia, Bangladesh and more widely in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. The session will set the stage by introducing key thematic areas for the conference. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Professor Rob Hope, University of Oxford</li><li>• Professor Katrina Charles, University of Oxford</li></ul>	Lecture Theatre
15.30	Tea and coffee break	Arco Room
16.00	<b>High-level panel   Water security, risk and poverty</b> In the High-level Panel, we will explore the status, challenges and policies to ensure water security for the poor in Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Kenya. Drawing upon the expertise and leadership of senior policy-makers, we will explore how different policies and investments are delivering benefits for the poor. What is working, why it is working and what more needs to be done? What is the role and timing of science to help policy makers? How can promising policies which work for the poor be sustained across political cycles and environmental shocks? Do long-term, science-practitioner partnerships create value? Chair: Dr Irene Guijt, Oxfam GB <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• HE Dr Abraha Adugna Ashenafi, State Minister, Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy, Government of Ethiopia</li><li>• Mr Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Principal Coordinator for SDG Affairs, Prime Minister's Office, Government of Bangladesh</li><li>• Hon. Simon Chelugui, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Water and Sanitation, Government of Kenya</li><li>• Dr Ana Gren, Senior Policy Specialist for Water Resources Management and Sanitation, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)</li></ul>	Lecture Theatre
17.30	Close	
18.30	Conference dinner	Keble dining hall



# THURSDAY 28 MARCH

9.00

## Plenary | Addressing water quality for the poor

Lecture Hall

Many of the world's poor experience unsafe water on a regular basis due to contamination from industrial and natural sources, faecal matter, and increasing salinity. Poor water quality can have significant impacts on people's health and livelihoods and can thus limit pathways out of poverty. In this session, we explore the water quality risks that are impacting the development trajectories in Bangladesh and Ethiopia.

Chair: Dr Sara Marks, Eawag

- Professor Katrina Charles, University of Oxford
- Professor Md. Abed Hossain, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology
- Professor Seifu Kebede, University of Addis Ababa
- Professor Mashfiqus Salehin, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology

Discussants: Professor Susan Elliott, University of Waterloo; Dara Johnston, UNICEF Bangladesh

10.30

Tea and coffee break

Arco Room

11.00

## Parallel 1 | Integrated approaches to rural water security

Douglas Price

Rural development initiatives in water often focus on either WASH or water resources management. Integrating these approaches can have significant benefits for water security in the intervention areas and downstream. This session will present results from REACH research on aspects of water security in rural communities and explore opportunities to develop a more integrated approach to rural development interventions from a water security perspective.

Chair: Professor Tassew Woldehanna, University of Addis Ababa

- Nancy Balfour, Centre for Humanitarian Change
- Dr Salome Bukachi, University of Nairobi
- Dr Sarah Dickin, Stockholm Environment Institute
- John Gowing, Newcastle University
- Dr Claudia Ringler, International Food Policy Research Institute
- Dr Gete Zeleke, Water and Land Resource Centre, University of Addis Ababa

11.00

## Parallel 2 | Institutions, risk and poverty

Lecture  
Theatre

Whether in a household, community, town or water basin, institutions shape risks which influence poverty transitions and outcomes for women, men and children. Institutions assign risk and blame from water hazards, and allocate who bears responsibility for managing risks. Media, politics and culture shape the processes and practices of risk management over time. The session will discuss these questions from multi-decadal analysis of water quality risks in Bangladesh, rural and urban water institutions in Kenya, and river basin management in Ethiopia.

Chair: Professor Rob Hope, University of Oxford

- Alex Fischer, University of Oxford
- Dr Johanna Koehler, University of Oxford
- Discussants: Dr Tena Alamirew, Water and Land Resource Centre, University of Addis Ababa; Professor Md. Abed Hossain, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology; Professor Mahbuba Nasreen, University of Dhaka
- Reflections: Hon. Simon Chelugui, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Water and Sanitation, Government of Kenya

11.00

## Parallel 3 | Managing for climate resilience

Seminar A

Climate variability and change are a key threat to the water sector. Droughts, floods, changes in disease patterns and uncertainty require integrated planning approaches. This session explores the challenges of managing and planning for climate resilience in the Awash basin, Ethiopia, considering aspects of uncertainty and future climate change, while ensuring more equitable outcomes. Presenters will discuss tools and approaches relevant to other contexts in Ethiopia and internationally.

Chair: Daniel Yeo, Independent Analyst

- Dr Feyera Hirpa, University of Oxford
- Dr Catherine Grasham, University of Oxford
- Dr Meron Teferi Taye, Water and Land Resource Centre, University of Addis Ababa

Discussants: H.E. Dr Abraha Adugna Ashenafi, State Minister for Water, Irrigation and Energy, Government of Ethiopia; Professor Simon Dadson, University of Oxford; Dr Barbara van Koppen, IWMI; Dr Alan Nicol, IWMI;

11.00

## Parallel 4 | Not just respondents: knowledge co-production through transdisciplinary participatory research

Seminar B

This session will discuss alternative experiences of research informed by people's knowledge, drawing attention to how the "researched" as well as other non-academic stakeholders can and do bring their own perspectives on the production and validation of knowledge. Presenters will use insights from ongoing research in Bangladesh to explain how diverse experiences relating to water emerged from such methods.

- Dr Deepa Joshi, International Water Management Institute
- Javier Sanchez Rodriguez, Braich Goch
- Dr Jasber Singh, Coventry University
- Dr Tina Wallace, University of Oxford

12.30	Lunch	Keble dining hall
13.45	<p><b>Panel   Aligning sectors to achieve SDG6.3</b></p> <p>Sustainable Development Goal 6.3 aims to improve ambient water quality through reducing pollution, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater that is discharged to the environment. Increasing pollution associated with urbanisation and industrialisation are placing increasing pressure on ecosystems, while little success has been measured in meeting this SDG target. This session will tackle the challenge of how progress towards reducing pollution can be accelerated through science and policy interventions.</p> <p>Chair: Dr Graham Alabaster, UN-HABITAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Principal Coordinator for SDG Affairs, Prime Minister's Office, Government of Bangladesh</li> <li>• Charles Dickinson, Primark</li> <li>• Dr Jenny Grönwall, Stockholm International Water Institute</li> <li>• Dr Nilufa Islam, Bangladesh Water Partnership</li> </ul>	Lecture Theatre
		Arco Room
15.15	Tea and coffee break	
15.45	<p><b>Plenary   Water justice: recognising gendered needs and practices</b></p> <p>Water justice implies recognising social differences, social norms and practices that ultimately lead to inequalities in terms of access to and use of water and of water governance. Acknowledging the existing inequalities and heterogeneity within social groups is essential to develop tailored and fair water-related interventions and policies, and to ensure their implementation. This session will discuss diverse gender aspects of water justice, presenting key conclusions from a REACH report and discussing the most critical and novel aspects emerging from the multiple REACH research studies in Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Kenya.</p> <p>Chair: Dr Alan Nicol, International Water Management Institute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Deepa Joshi, International Water Management Institute</li> <li>• Dr Marina Korzenevica-Proud, University of Oxford</li> <li>• Dr Maggie Opondo, University of Nairobi</li> <li>• Dr Salome Bukachi, University of Nairobi</li> <li>• Dr Zenawi Zerihun, Mekelle University</li> </ul>	Lecture Theatre
17:15	Poster exhibition and drinks reception	Arco Room
18.45	Conference dinner	Keble dining hall

9.00

**Parallel 1 | Groundwater and poverty in Africa**Douglas  
Price

Improving groundwater science is considered necessary to improve water security for the poor. What is the current status of groundwater science in Africa? Is groundwater science being used effectively to reduce poverty? Is the relationship between groundwater and poverty adequately understood? Are there effective institutions and policies to translate science into meaningful action at the right level? We debate these questions from the perspectives of science, policy and practice.

Chair: Dr Johanna Koehler, Unievrstity of Oxford

- Dr Irene Guijt, Oxfam GB
- Professor Seifu Kebede, University of Addis Ababa
- Professor Daniel Olago, University of Nairobi
- Florence Tanui, University of Nairobi

9.00

**Parallel 2 | The challenge of achieving safe water**Lecture  
Theatre

Ensuring the safe quality of drinking water has been a low priority in the push towards improving access. Safety has been assumed to be provided by improved technologies, with limited emphasis on verifying quality or monitoring systems. This session will present results from REACH research to advance safe drinking water through technical, behavioural and institutional developments.

Chair: Dr Andrew Trevett, UNICEF Kenya

- Dr Caroline Delaire, Aquaya
- Dr Md. Sirajul Islam, icddr,b
- Dr Sara Marks, EAWAG
- Saskia Nowicki, University of Oxford

9.00

**Parallel 3 | African climate: knowledge production and decision making**

Seminar A

Researchers are increasingly encouraged to work with practitioners and policy-makers to accelerate impact. The assumption is often that knowledge flows in a uni-directional way: researchers produce data which then gets taken up by policy-makers and practitioners. This session explores different models of production and flows of knowledge for decision making with examples from African projects.

Chair: Professor Rosalind Cornforth, University of Reading

- Maurine Ambani, Kenya Red Cross
- Sukaina Bharwani, Stockholm Environment Institute
- Dr Ellen Dyer, University of Oxford
- Dr Sophie Haines, University of Oxford
- Dr Rachel James, University of Oxford
- Dr Gilbert Ouma, University of Nairobi

10.30	Tea and coffee break	Arco Room
11.00	<p><b>Plenary   Water security across scales</b></p> <p>Water security shapes the local practices of the poor every day in regional systems of shifting environmental processes and shocks. How can these inconvenient scales be effectively considered so policy can make decisions to benefit the poor? If we have more information and smarter models will that lead to better decisions? What is the right scale for water security interventions? We illustrate the case of coastal Bangladesh to reflect on the implications in the differing contexts of Ethiopia and Kenya.</p> <p>Chair: Dr Claudia Ringler, IFPRI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professor Jim Hall, University of Oxford</li> <li>• Dr Sonia Hoque, University of Oxford</li> <li>• Md. Saif Uddin, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology</li> <li>• Sabrina Zaman, University of Dhaka</li> </ul> <p>Discussants: Professor Daniel Olago, University of Nairobi; Professor Tassew Woldehanna, University of Addis Ababa</p>	Lecture Theatre
12:30	Conference close	Lecture Theatre
13:00	Lunch	Keble dining hall