

# Session on Thematic Day 8 at the Water Pavilion COP27

Event title: “Empowered Climate Resilience: Women as change-makers for water-sensitive climate action”

## Summary

Climate resilience depends on women! Women change-makers are playing a powerful role in tackling the effects of climate change – nowhere more apparent than through innovative water management at local, national, and transboundary levels. Yet, women continue to face persistent social, political, and financial barriers to equal participation in water jobs and water decision making. It is often said that ‘water is a women’s affair’ due to the legacy of personal responsibility that women have had to ensure clean water and sanitation at the household level in many parts of the world -areas particularly impacted by climate change. However, women are *not* the passive victims ‘development-speak’ has often generalized half of humanity to be but crucial change- makers.

True and inclusive resilience can only be built if we enable a broad engagement in climate adaptation and mitigation. The urgency of the climate and water crisis demands to lift up those leaders in communities with the experience and knowledge to prioritize water and sanitation for all and reach our adaptation and mitigation goals. We cannot afford to have the decision-making bodies shaping the arc of humanity to have one hand tied behind their backs. Barriers to women’s participation in climate and water jobs and decision making must be actively removed. Therefore, this session will feature female water and climate leaders and strategies for stakeholders – local, national, regional, international – to build inclusive water and climate resilience. Examples drawing on the experience of female water and climate leaders will showcase their role as change-makers for water and climate resilience in:

- water, sanitation and hygiene
- agriculture and food security
- nature based solutions (and traditional knowledge) for water security
- water diplomacy
- water jobs

## Convenors of the event

GIZ, SuSanA, SIWI, WaterAid, Environmental Law Institute (ELI), Women in Water Diplomacy Network, Forest Trends, African Women Sanitation Professionals Network, Greening Maa Environmental Initiative, RAWSA, GWP Central America, WASHfin, University of Technology Sydney (UTS), African Water Association

## Event description

This session will explore how women engaging in resilience strategies, adaptation as well as mitigation activities across sectors provides broader benefits to communities. It will reflect the insights gained from the practice and policy of water resilience and draw a diverse picture of female engagement and gender equality. By providing concrete examples and lessons learnt from Latin America, Africa and Asia and from different sectors, we will discuss the merits of and need for including women more actively in water-related climate adaptation and mitigation

to make policies and activities more effective and enable true resilience. It aims at centering gender equality and enhancing engagement on the application of an intersectional gender lens in water-related climate adaptation and mitigation policies and activities to enable inclusive resilience.

The proposed format is hybrid with an in-person moderation. This will include on-site and live-streamed speeches as well as pre-recorded videos.

## Agenda (1,5h total)

Date: Wednesday 16 November

Time: 11:15 – 12:45 (CET) or 12:15-13:45 (EET)

Time	Agenda item	Speaker/moderator	Notes and key messages
5 min	Short welcome and introduction	Tanvi Oza, WaterAid, (in person)	
10 min	Welcoming Remarks	Elke Hüttner - Director of GIZ's division Climate Change, Environment, Infrastructure (in person)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>important role of women as agents of change in water security and climate resilience</li> </ul>
12 min	Segment 1: Water, Sanitation, Hygiene	WaterAid (online)  Melita Grant - UTS (online)  Fabiola Táborá - GWP Central America (online)  Nada Elbohi - RAWSA MENA (online)  <b>Chaiwe Mushauko-Sanderse – SuSanA (online)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>women and girls are disproportionately impacted by climate change when it comes to water, sanitation and hygiene</li> <li>importance of gender inclusion in the WASH sector to combat climate change</li> <li>role of policies in addressing gender inclusion and climate resilience at the sectoral level and in WASH programmes</li> <li>recent research findings on differentiated climate impacts on women and girls and ways in which improved gender equality in WASH can contribute to climate resilience</li> </ul>
12 min	Segment 2: Agriculture and Food Security	Zenobia Quiruchi - GIZ Bolivia (online)  Meena Bilgi - Women's Working Group on Financing for Development (online)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The participation of women in decision-making spaces and recognition as farmers is essential for the sustainable management of natural resources in times of climate change</li> <li>Gender budgeting and investing in women and girls is crucial for raising future leaders</li> </ul>
12 min	Segment 3: NbS	Gena Gammie - Forest Trends (online)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening the technical and leadership skills of women as well as their inclusion at all levels is key to facilitate the adoption of inclusive and resilient approaches to the effects of climate change.</li> <li>Greater gender equality will ensure our efforts to adequately safeguard and manage the scarce and valuable water resources and related ecosystems for future generations.</li> </ul>
12 min	Segment 4: Water Diplomacy	Julienne Ndjiki – SIWI (online)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The promotion and facilitation of the meaningful participation of women at all scales of decision-making, peacebuilding and conflict</li> </ul>

		Dr. Zodwa Dlamini - Women in Water Diplomacy Network (online)	<p>resolution processes are essential for the development and sustainability of durable and equitable transboundary water related agreements and water diplomacy processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A collective commitment to address the gender equality gap across the water sector and elevate women water leaders in decision making roles has the potential to drive transformative change and achieve our shared goal of sustainable water for all.</li> </ul>
12 min	Segment 5: Water Jobs	<p>Moderator: Tanvi Oza, WaterAid, (in person)</p> <p>Panelist 1: Malama Munkonge - AWSPN-ZC (online)</p> <p>Panelist 2: Dr. Leticia Ackun - AfWA (online)</p> <p>Panelist 3: Maren Heuvels - SuSanA (online)</p> <p>Panelist 4: Juliet Willetts - UTS (online)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender equality and women's active participation in water jobs is key for achieving the water and sanitation goals of the 2030 Agenda as well as climate targets.</li> <li>• A paradigm shift is needed: female water professionals can contribute significantly to the provision of WASH services. Women are not only most vulnerable to the lack of WASH services, but they can also play a key role in achieving SDG 6</li> <li>• Support for women to enter and stay in the sector is needed at both entry-level jobs as well as senior positions. At the same time working environments need to change towards inclusion.</li> </ul>
15 min	Closing + Joint Statement and Call to Action	<p>Anton Earle - Director, SIWI Africa Regional Centre (onsite)</p> <p>Moderator: Tanvi Oza - WaterAid (on-site)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key learnings from the session</li> <li>• Outlook and call to action</li> <li>• Closing remarks</li> </ul>

## Links

- Water Pavilion: [Water Pavilion at COP27 \(waterforclimate.net\)](https://waterforclimate.net)
- TD8 – Inclusion: Accelerating Youth, Indigenous and Gender Action: [TD8: Inclusion: Accelerating Youth, Indigenous and Gender action \(zoom.us\)](https://zoom.us/j/9181234567)
- Session registration: [“Empowered Climate Resilience: Women as change makers for water-sensitive climate action” – Updates on Gender-Climate-Water Session at the Water Pavilion of COP27 \(susana.org\)](https://susana.org/en/2022/12/15/empowered-climate-resilience-women-as-change-makers-for-water-sensitive-climate-action)

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16 Nov 2022

Empowered Climate Resilience:  
Women as change makers for  
water-sensitive climate action



Climate resilience depends on women!  
Women are playing a powerful role in  
tackling the effects of climate change  
– nowhere more apparent than through  
innovative water management. The  
session celebrates female knowledge  
and their potential as leaders of  
change for water and climate action.



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