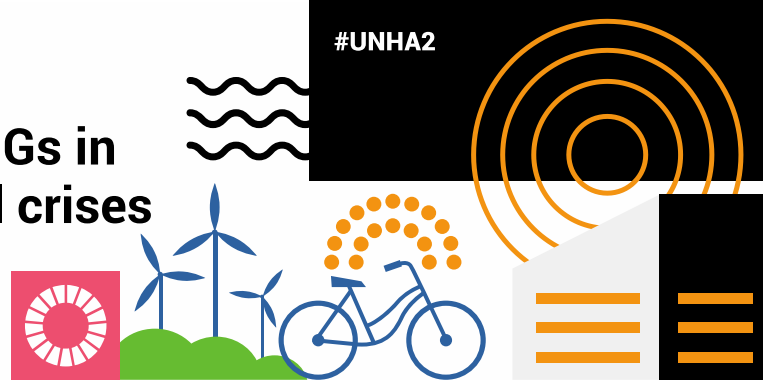



Achieving SDGs in times of global crises



From Resource to Resilience: Harnessing Urban Water for Inclusive and Sustainable Cities

 9 JUNE 2023, 09:00 – 09:45

 Press Centre Room

SUMMARY

Water has been the lifeline of human civilization, influencing the location and development of cities. 50 percent of the world's population lives closer than 3km from a freshwater body, while 40 percent of the world's population lives within 100km of the coast. Urban waters have, however, been placed in direct conflict with urbanization, resulting in pollution, destruction of ecosystems, limited access to public spaces, climate change related hazards, and poor urban health for over 3 billion people, particularly because cities are failing to sufficiently undertake advance evidence-based planning.

There is, therefore, need to enhance knowledge sharing, public discourse, and capacity building amongst stakeholders, to further advance the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, SDGs, and local commitments to climate action, particularly through the embedding of 'planning with water' in urban policies.

The proposed event seeks to contribute to the discourse on sustainable growth of cities and emerging human settlements alongside water resources, particularly rivers (both perennial and intermittent), lakes, and oceans. It aims to convene stakeholders to share their experiences on planning with water in cities and in the humanitarian-development context, highlighting the application of innovative approaches such as Nature-based Solutions (NbS), Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), the blue economy, community-led initiatives, Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK), and green technology.

The event also aims to expand the knowledge base that can be drawn upon by urban planning, humanitarian, and development practitioners, national and local governments, and other stakeholders while promoting strategies for sustainable land and resource management alongside complementary economic development and livelihood opportunities. New approaches are needed for managing and responding to the challenges associated with changing and unpredictable environmental conditions like flooding, sea level rise, desertification, and intermittent rivers, but the opportunities that improved relationships between human settlements and nearby water resources can present can be leveraged simultaneously. The "Designing for Displacement in Drylands" spatial guide by UN-Habitat that will be discussed in this event presents an increasingly urgent consideration of the above themes and aims to share nature-based solutions applicable in the semi-arid land regions of East Africa.



Achieving SDGs in times of global crises



Organizers

UN-Habitat

Moderator

Alex Francisco, Arcadis

Speakers

Ambassador Sebastian Groth, Embassy of Germany to Kenya

Oumar Sylla, Director, Regional Office of Africa

Dr. Pamela Olet, Chair, Nairobi Rivers Commission

Representative of Kota Kita, Indonesia

Florian Lux, Go Blue Project Manager, UN-Habitat and UNEP

Ivana Unluova, Senior Programme Advisor, UN-Habitat

Stine Kronsted Pedersen, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Asa Jonsson, Senior Programme Management Officer, UN Habitat

Agenda

Time <i>(total: 45 mins)</i>	Agenda item	Speaker	Topic / Theme
5 mins	Opening remarks	Ambassador Sebastian Groth , Embassy of Germany to Kenya	Introductory remarks
4 mins		Oumar Sylla , Director, Regional Office of Africa	Introductory remarks
7 mins	Presentation: The Nairobi Rivers Basin Regeneration Programme	Dr. Pamela Olet , Chair, Nairobi Rivers Commission	Nature-based solutions in river regeneration
5 mins	Video message	Kota Kita, Indonesia	
7 mins	Presentation: The Go Blue Project, Kenya	Florian Lux , Go Blue Project Manager, UN-Habitat and UNEP	The Blue Economy





UN-HABITAT

ASSEMBLY

5 to 9 June 2023

Achieving SDGs in times of global crises

#UNHA2



7 mins	Presentation: PEARLS – The Community of Knowledge and Practice on Urban River Regeneration	Stine Kronsted Pedersen, Norwegian University of Science and Technology	'Life along rivers' and community driven projects on river regeneration
7 mins	Presentation: Intermittent Rivers	Ivana Unluova, Senior Programme Advisor, UN-Habitat	Intermittent rivers in humanitarian development contexts
3 mins	Closing remarks	Asa Jonsson, Senior Programme Management Officer, UN Habitat	Conclusion and way forward



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