

Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum 'The Heat is on Climate Change and the Media'

Session 14: Monday, 21 June 2010 • 16:00 – 17:30

Water for Life: Where is water in the climate change debate?

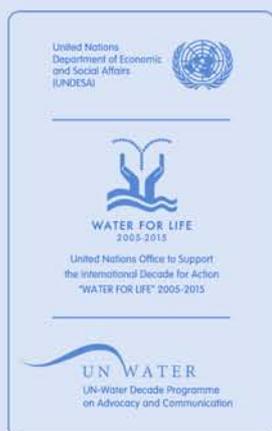
Water is the primary medium through which climate change influences the earth's ecosystem and therefore people's livelihoods and welfare. What water-related climate change impacts can already be felt? Who is most affected? How can developing countries adapt to climate change? What does climate change adaptation imply?

The discussion will include experienced journalists and experts from the United Nations as well as from stakeholder organizations to examine how communication can influence issues surrounding water and climate change. What is the best way to convey the urgency of action in the communication of climate change adaptation, which is centrally about water and sustainable development and affects mainly developing countries and the poor? This workshop will discuss the role of the media in communicating the urgency of climate change adaptation and water as a determining factor.

Panelists

- David Coates (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity)
- Felix Dodds (Stakeholderforum)
- Mannava Sivakumar (World Meteorological Organization)
- Sergio A. Zelaya-Bonilla (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification)

Moderator: Josefina Maestu, UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication



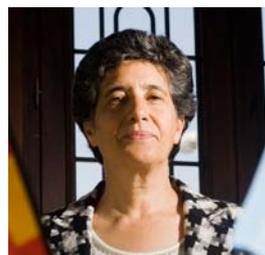
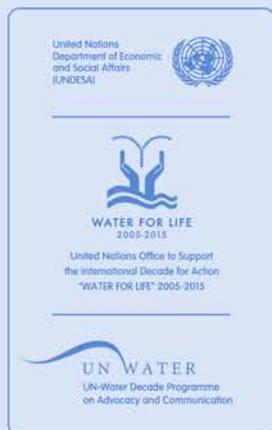
David Coates
Environmental Affairs Officer, Inland Waters
UNCBD – United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity

David Coates graduated in biology from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, and also obtained a Masters Degree from the same university in tropical marine ecology. In the late 1970's he worked on environmental management problems in irrigation schemes in the Nile Basin, Sudan. In 1980 he went to Papua New Guinea where he worked on a wide range of issues but particularly on large river fisheries development. He earned his PhD in 1986 at the Open University, UK, on applied biology of tropical freshwater fish faunas with focus on Africa and Australia. Joining the field programme of FAO for 11 years he concentrated mainly on the management and development of large river fishery resources, including food-security, sustainability and environmental issues. Working with the fisheries programme of the Mekong River Commission he dealt with water resource management aspects of fisheries in the region. And further to this he joined a project for mainstreaming biodiversity and environmental considerations into the fisheries, agriculture and water resources sectors in the lower Ganges Basin. Dr. Coates joined the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, based in Montreal, in August 2003.



Felix Dodds
Executive Director,
Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future.

Felix Dodds is dedicated to promote the multi-stakeholder dialogue at the UN. From 1997 to 2001 he chaired the NGO Coalition on Sustainable Development at the UN. He facilitated the setting up of the international NGO Coalition for the UN Commission on Sustainable Development and the UN Habitat II Conference. He has been an advisor to the UK and Danish Governments and the European Commission at a number of UN meetings. He co-founded the Global Public Policy Network on Water Management in 2007 now called the Water and Climate Coalition. He has published seven books, the latest edited with Andrew Higham and Richard Sherman is called Climate Change and Energy Insecurity, the previous one with Tim Pipard Human and Environmental Security brought out for the World Summit 2005 and was nominated as best environmental book of 2005. Felix Dodds has become a regular contributor to the BBC Green Room and other media outlets.



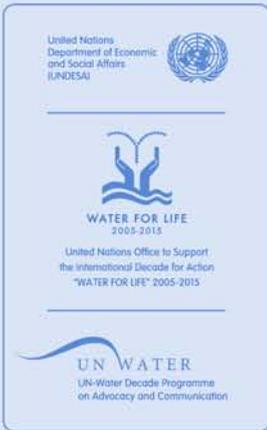
**Josefina Maestu,
Director,
UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and
Communication.**

Josefina Maestu has been appointed as Director of the programme in September 2009. Prior to her appointment Ms. Maestu served as senior advisor to the Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs. Recently she has represented Spain in the Environmental Committee of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, and backstopped the Spanish EU Presidency. Her extended professional career in the field of water, international relations, national civil servant positions and international advisor consultancies include coordination of the preparation of the economic analysis of River Basin Management Plans in implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the economic evaluation of infrastructure investment projects and programs and European Funded Programs. Further on, for several years, she was Secretary-General of the Mediterranean Water Network, and has been technical adviser to the European Commission and several UN agencies and programmes including the World Bank.



**Dr Mannava Sivakumar,
Director of the Climate Prediction and Adaptation
Branch
World Meteorological Organization**

Dr. Mannava Sivakumar obtained his Ph.D in Agricultural Climatology in 1977 at the Iowa State University (USA). From 1977 to 1996, Dr Sivakumar worked at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in India and in Niger in West Africa. He was the Director of the Soils and Agroclimatology Division at ICRISAT when he moved to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1996. He is currently the Director of the Climate Prediction and Adaptation Branch in WMO. Dr Sivakumar has over 200 publications to his credit, including 42 books and 75 articles in various international journals. He received the 'Young Scientist Award' and the Science Academy Medal from the Indian National Science Academy of India in 1983. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences of India, Fellow of the Indian Meteorological Society, Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy, Member of the Royal Academy of Overseas Sciences of Belgium and Corresponding Academician of the Academy of Georgofili of Italy. Dr Sivakumar received the 2007 International Service in Agronomy Award from the American Society of Agronomy and the Award of Excellence for exceptional and outstanding contributions in the field of Science from the Telugu Association of North America in 2009.



Sergio A. Zelaya-Bonilla
Coordinator of Unit

UNCCD - United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Sergio A. Zelaya is an environmental economist from Honduras involved in matters related to environment and sustainable development policy development and research at the international level, especially in developing countries as well as globally. Within the overall mandate of the United Nations he has focused his professional action on the economic, social and environmental aspects, especially sustainable management and use of natural resources; poverty, food security, climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation. He has undertaken his academic studies in Honduras, USA and other Latin American countries. He has served as vice minister of the environment of Honduras (1996-1998) and since 2002 he has been working for the secretariat of the UNCCD, initially as coordinator for the Latin America and the Caribbean unit and since 2008 as coordinator for the unit in charge of policy development and advocacy at the global level.