

SESSION 19:

CLIMATE FUTURES

Chair: Brilliant Petja (WRC) | Venue: Ballroom 3

Climate change is projected to impact drastically on southern Africa during the 21st century under low mitigation futures. Temperatures are projected to rise rapidly, at 1.5 to 2 times the global rate of temperature increase. The southern Africa region is likely to become generally drier under enhanced anthropogenic forcing, the exception being Mozambique, where wetter conditions are likely to occur over the central and northern parts, with East Africa projected to become generally wetter under low mitigation climate change futures. This implies that the projected climate change signal over Africa exhibits a distinct El Niño signal, with East Africa projected to become generally wetter and southern Africa projected to become generally drier. The projected changes in this climate are simulated to occur in association with changes in the attributes of extreme weather events over the region. The generally drier conditions over southern Africa are projected to occur in association with the more frequent occurrence of dry spells and drought. What was envisaged in redefining the climate change research was to integrate it into a larger sphere of national research, thereby embracing a multi-sectoral and multi-level approach towards securing the water sector's contribution to enabling South Africa deal effectively with a multiplicity of existing stresses that climate change impacts will undoubtedly be bringing over coming decades as well as addressing the expected transboundary impacts. Considering water as a constraint and opportunity to sustainable growth and development under a changing climate, this session attempts to mainstream research outcomes into water-related policy practice as well as developmental and adaptation needs, as well as integrating a cross-sectoral capacity development.

PROGRAMME

Welcome and introduction		Brilliant Mareme Petja (WRC)
13:45 – 14:10	National climate change policy response	Tlou Ramaru (DEFF)
14:10 – 14:35	Integrated land use and water use in water management areas, with a view of future climate and land use changes	Nebo Jovanovic (CSIR)
14:35 – 15:00	Using land use changes to mitigate impacts of future droughts on water yields in South Africa	Babatunde Abiodun (UCT)
15:00 – 15:25	Hydrological modelling of climate change impacts for development of adaptation strategies in Luvuvhu River catchment	Rachel Makungo (UNIVEN)
15:25 – 15:45	Discussion and closing remarks	Facilitated by Gabriel Lekalakala (SAWS)