

Extreme water events and indigenous peoples

how ancestral knowledge can support climate adaptation measures

Concept Note for World Water Week, updated 17/5/24

At Water 4 All Pavilion, hosted by SD-WISHEES, 15-16.30h on 20th May 2024

The increasing number of extreme water-related climate events is affecting our ways of life, and destroying the cultural heritage that has taken thousands of years to be established. Our cultural heritage, whether it is the way we live, the buildings that we live in, or the natural landscape that we share our time with, is in danger of being eroded or washed away.

SD-WISHEES is a consortium of researchers, water governance and cultural heritage experts that is collaborating with a Research Funding Organisations in Europe and beyond to understand some of the innovation pathways for climate adaptation, and the barriers to entry for new investment in this area.

This 90 -minute event, in the sidelines of the World Water Forum, is designed to bring together experts from indigenous communities and areas affected by flood or drought erosion, to give the floor to this relatively new Nexus for Water-Climate and Cultural Heritage.

Outline of the Event:

1. Cultural performance including art/music/dance highlighting indigenous values **TBC**
2. Welcome and introductions from Moderator (5 mins)
3. Video introducing SD-WISHEES (3 mins)
4. Introduction to SD WISHEES and adaptation to water extreme events – **Jessica Amadio**, Coordination Team at SD-WISHEES, CNR, Italy (10 mins)
5. Keynote speaker –introducing how hydroclimatic events can affect cultural heritage (tangible and intangible) and how ancestral knowledge can support climate adaptation - **Eddy Moors**, Rector at IHE Delft Institute for Water, NL (10 mins + 5 min Q&A)
6. Erosion affecting islands in Ontario and Quebec- **Tekaherha Logan Lazore**, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, Canada (10 min)
7. How Tharu Indigenous community of western Nepal has been affected by climate change – **Prem Singh Tharu**, Regional Programme Officer, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), Nepal (10 mins)
8. Case study of an ancestral hydrotechnology in Latin America with relevance to climate change adaptation. – **Jordi Morato**, Coordinator at UNESCO Chair on Sustainability, Barcelona, Spain (10 mins)
9. Innovation pathways on SD-WISHEES and nature-based solutions that could help to adaptation/mitigation to climate changes. – **Ali Rhouma**, Project Partner at SD-WISHEES, PRIMA, Spain (10 mins)
10. Discussion with the audience to understand some of the challenges and barriers to attracting investment in these types of projects
11. Closure at 16:30h

Moderator: **Amanda Loeffen**, CEO, Human Right 2 Water and advisor on human rights, SD-WISHEES