



# Water in Africa: Hydro-Pessimism or Hydro-Optimism?

# Água em África: Hidro-pessimismo ou Hidro-optimismo

Centro de Estudos Africanos da Universidade do Porto  
Porto, Portugal, 2-3 October 2008



# Water in Africa: Hydro-Pessimism or Hydro-Optimism?

Fundação Eng. António de Almeida – Porto, Portugal  
2-3 October 2008

## Programme

Room 1

Room 2

2nd October	9:00-10:30	Opening Session	
	Coffee Break		
	11:00-13:00	Transboundary Water Politics	Water Supply and Sanitation
	Lunch Break		
	14:30-16:00	Water as a Human Right	Water and Agriculture – Global and Local Level Approaches
	Coffee Break		
	16:30-18:30	Water Governance and Institutional Issues I	Large Dams in Africa: Case-studies
3rd October	09:00-11:00	Water Governance and Institutional Issues II	Water and Climate Change
	Coffee Break		
	11:30-13:00	Water Decentralisation and Regionalisation	Water and Participation
	Lunch break		
	14:30-16:00	Closing Session	
	Afterwards	Visit to Porto city	

# Water in Africa: Hydro-Pessimism or Hydro-Optimism?

How are water resources being managed in Africa? What are the main **challenges** concerning access, distribution and allocation of freshwater resources in the continent? What are the driving forces that shape current and future demand for water? What are the **solutions** being developed by communities, policy-makers, private sector and environmental activists? What are water scientists and international donor organisations contributing?

**Pessimists** highlight water scarcity and insecurity, water inequity and the conflict potential at local and regional levels. They forecast a gloomy future for Africa. Can they be wrong?

**Optimists** emphasise the potential of improved water management practices, water policy reforms and socially, economically and environmentally sustainable policies. They argue that local adaptive capacities can be enhanced and regional hydropolitical cooperation can be established. Water optimists believe in windows of opportunity to improve water resources management and that Africa's water crises can be addressed. Can they be right?

The **Centre of African Studies of the University of Porto** (CEAUP) invited researchers and practitioners to contribute with water management experiences and case-studies from the diverse regions of Africa, and to participate in a wide debate on hydro-pessimism and hydro-optimism in the African context.

**2<sup>nd</sup> October 09:00 - 10:30**

*ROOM 1 – Opening session*

**9:00 General Presentation**

**9:30 Keynote speeches**

**Prof. Tony Allan**

- \* Professor at King's College of London and School of Oriental and African Studies (UK)
- \* Director of London Water Research Group
- \* 2008 Stockholm Water Prize

**Dr. Alan Nicol**

- \* Programme Leader of Water Policy Programme – Overseas Development Institute (UK)
- \* Director of the Research-inspired Policy and Practice Learning in Ethiopia and the Nile Region – RiPPLE (Ethiopia)

**10:00 Debate**



# 2<sup>nd</sup> October 11:00 - 13:00

## *ROOM 1*

### TRANSBOUNDARY WATER POLITICS

Chair/Discussant

**Tony Allan**

**King's College/ London Water Research Group (UK)**

11:00 **Dinis Juízo**

**Faculty of Engineering, Eduardo Mondlane University  
(Mozambique)**

“Computation of water share and reliability of water supply for  
key users in transboundary Umbeluzi river”

11:15 **Ibrahima Anne**

**CEAUP (Portugal)**

“The experience of integrated water resources management in  
the Senegal River Basin”

11:30 **Ana Cascão**

**King's College/ London Water Research Group (UK)**

“Power relations, conflict and cooperation in the Nile River  
Basin”

11:45 **Debate**

## *ROOM 2*

### WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

Chair/Discussant

**Alan Nicol**

**Overseas Development Institute (UK/Ethiopia)**

11:00 **Katharina Welle & Josephine Tucker**  
**Overseas Development Institute, Water Policy Programme  
(UK)**

“Achieving greater progress on aid effectiveness in the water  
and sanitation sector – a case for hydro-optimists?”

11:15 **Adriano Bordalo & Joana Savva-Bordalo**  
**Institute of Biomedical Sciences/Instituto Português de  
Oncologia (Portugal)**

“The water question under extreme poverty: The example of  
Bolama, Guinea-Bissau”

11:30 **Manuela Cardoso**  
**CEA-ISCTE & CEAUP (Portugal)**

“The problematic of water resources in Cape Verde:  
desalination and water treatment in ETARs as solutions  
for the water scarcity problem”

11:45 **Gabriel Miguel, J. Neto, H. Andrade, L. Rebollo &  
M. Loeches**  
**Faculty of Sciences, University Agostinho Neto e Parceria  
Angolana Pela Água (Angola)**

“Access to water: the case-study of Luanda and outskirts”

12:00 **Alexandra Serra, D. Soares, E. Naiene & K. Riberiro**  
**Águas de Portugal/Águas de Moçambique  
(Portugal/Mozambique)**

“The future of water supply services in the metropolitan area of  
Maputo”

12:15 **Debate**

# 2<sup>nd</sup> October 14:30 – 16:00

## *ROOM 1*

### **WATER AS A HUMAN RIGHT**

Chair/Discussant

**Paula Duarte Lopes**

**CES – University of Coimbra (Portugal)**

14:30 **Manuel Branco & Pedro Damião Henriques**

**University of Évora (Portugal)**

“The Market Economy and the Challenges of guaranteeing the human right to water in Africa”

14:45 **David Blanchon**

**Université Paris X – Nanterre (France)**

“Implementing water justice : lessons from case studies from South Africa and Sudan”

15:00 **Michela Marcatelli**

**Institute of Social Studies, The Hague (The Netherlands)**

“Access to Water in Post Apartheid South Africa: Right or Commodity?”

15:15 **Debate**

## *ROOM 2*

### **WATER AND AGRICULTURE – Global and Local Level Approaches**

Chair/Discussant

**Naim Haie**

**University of Minho (Portugal)**

14:30 **Tony Allan**

**King’s College/ London Water Research Group (UK)**

“Virtual water: capturing the invisible”

14:45 **Nico Leeuwen**

**Food and Agriculture Organisation (Italy)**

“Rainwater management for increased agricultural production”

15:00 **Els Lecoutere**

**Centre for Third World Studies, Ghent University  
(Belgium)**

“Water insecurity in rural Tanzania: a poverty trap... for some”

15:15 **Debate**



# 2<sup>nd</sup> October 16:30 – 18:30

## *ROOM 1*

### **WATER GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES I**

Chair/Discussant

**Susana Neto**

**Instituto Superior Técnico, Lisboa (Portugal)**

16:30 **João Rabaça, Maria Piedade Coruche & Nuno Assunção**

**Programa Engenheiros Sem Fronteiras da TESE (Portugal)**

“Integration of informal business models into water supply operations: International practices and the case of Maputo”

16:45 **Álvaro Pereira**

**Laboratório Nacional de Engenharia Civil (Portugal)**

““How worth is so much water?": risks and opportunities in water resources management in Angola”

17:00 **Victor Reis**

**CEA-ISCTE & CEAUP (Portugal)**

"The social onus of water in Cape Verde"

17:15 **Ahmed Gaaloul**

**Société Nationale d'Exploitation et de Distribution des Eaux (Tunisia)**

"The problematic of water resources in Tunisia: experiences and future"

17:30 **Debate**

## *ROOM 2*

### **LARGE DAMS IN AFRICA: CASE-STUDIES**

Chair/Discussant

**Alan Nicol**

**Overseas Development Institute (UK/Ethiopia)**

16:30 **Jean-Gabriel Leturcq**

**Centre d'études et de documentation économiques, juridiques et sociales (Egypt)**

“Social and Cultural Impacts of Large Dams: Case-study of the Merowe Dam in Sudan”

16:45 **Daniel Alvarenga**

**Centre for Chinese Studies - University of Stellenbosch (South Africa)**

“How does the river flow? The Mphanda Nkuwa dam project and China's impact in Southern Africa's Water and Development”

17:00 **Tiago Brito**

**Teixeira Duarte S.A./Mostaganem (Portugal/Algeria)**

"Hydro-pessimism vs. Hydro-optimism in Algeria - the Kerrada Dam"

17:15 **Debate**

# 3<sup>rd</sup> October 09:00 – 11:00

## *ROOM 1*

### **WATER GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES II**

Chair/Discussant:

**Ana Cascão**

**King's College of London/CEAUP (UK/Portugal)**

09:00 **Helen Brown**

**Department of Geography, Sheffield University (UK)**

“Catchment-management initiatives in Southern Africa: an investigation of social learning processes in participatory water-management institutions”

09:15 **Álvaro Carmo Vaz**

**Faculty of Engineering, Eduardo Mondlane University (Mozambique)**

“Water resources development in Mozambique in a regional perspective”

09:30 **Mathias Polak & Stefan Liehr**

**Research Project Cuvewaters/ Institute for Social-Ecological Research (Germany)**

“Water Management in the Cuvelai-Etoshia Basin under the Perspective of Resilience”

09:45 **Américo Ferreira**

**Centre of African Studies – ISCTE (Portugal)**

“ACP-EU Water Facility”

10:00 **Debate**

## *ROOM 2*

### **WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

Chair/Discussant:

**Maria Leonor Fidalgo**

**Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade do Porto (Portugal)**

09:00 **Sara Dourado**

**Euronatura – Centro para o Direito Ambiental e Desenvolvimento Sustentado (Portugal)**

“Adaptation to Climate Change: the case of water resources in Cape Verde, São Tomé e Príncipe and Guinea-Bissau”

09:15 **Hypatia Nassopoulos**

**Centre International de Recherche sur l'Environnement et le Développement (France)**

“Different cases of optimal reservoir dimensioning under climate change”

09:45 **Debate**





# 3<sup>rd</sup> October 11:30 – 13:00

## *ROOM 1*

### **WATER DECENTRALISATION AND REGIONALISATION**

Chair/Discussant

**Ibrahima Anne**  
CEAUP (Portugal)

11:30 **Signe Cold-Ravnkilde**

**Danish Institute for International Studies (Denmark)**

“Between a Rock and a Hard Place – Decentralisation and struggle over water resources in the Douentza district, Mali”

11:45 **Agathe Maupin**

**University of Bordeaux 3 (France)**

“From Hydro-Pessimism to Hydro-Optimism in Southern Africa Water management: challenging the hydropolitical risk at work”

12:00 **José Francisco Pavia**

**Universidade Lusíada de Lisboa (Portugal)**

“Power Politics in Africa: Portugal, Mozambique and South Africa in the negotiation process of the Cahora Bassa hydroelectric project“

12:15 **Debate**

## *ROOM 2*

### **WATER AND PARTICIPATION**

Chair/Discussant:

**Carlos Garrido**  
CEAUP (Portugal)

11:30 **Godwin Ojo**

**King’s College of London (UK/Nigeria)**

“The Politics of Water in Rural Communities of Nigeria: Deep or Shallow Commitment?”

11:45 **Roberta Pellizzoli**

**Università di Bologna (Italy)**

““Water users must be efficient producers”: gender perspectives from irrigation schemes in South Africa and Mozambique”

12:00 **Olivier Graefe**

**Fribourg University (Switzerland)**

“Water management and gender relations in Morocco”

12:15 **Debate**

3<sup>rd</sup> October 14:30 – 16:00

*ROOM 1 – Closing Session*

14:30 **Conclusions of the Chairs/Discussants**

15:00 **General Debate:**

**“Water in Africa:  
Hydro-Pessimism or Hydro-Optimism?”**

**Conclusions of the Organisers**



# Organisation:

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