

# Women in Water Diplomacy 2022 Global Network Forum Participants

*Collected biographies*

*Nile Basin, Central Asia & Afghanistan, and beyond!*



# Women in Water Diplomacy Network Mission:

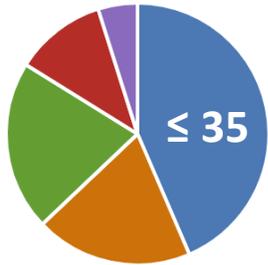
To improve gender equality in high-level decision making in transboundary basins with focus on women's leadership in regional dialogues around shared waters - with resultant positive implications for regional peace and human security.



# Women in Water Diplomacy: Our Shared Objectives

- **To improve gender equality in high level decision making in transboundary basins** with focus on enhanced women's leadership in decision making on the shared waters in the Nile Basin and other transboundary basins in Africa and globally - with resultant positive implications for regional peace, human security and water governance.
- **To support technical and research cooperation, knowledge exchange, peer to peer experience exchange, and capacity building** opportunities to enhance coordination, shared understanding, and trust building among Network members.
- **To elevate dialogue, knowledge, and experience** around the intersecting themes of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network (gender equality, women's leadership, male championship, water cooperation, water security, climate security, human security, etc.) as part of the basins processes, Pan African processes and globally.
- **To contribute to empowering young water diplomats** by fostering experience exchange and empowering early career water diplomats.
- **To engage new sustainable core and thematic partners** to continue to support the Network in the Nile and develop adapted and contextualized Women in Water Diplomacy Networks in other strategic basins in Africa and 'beyond'.

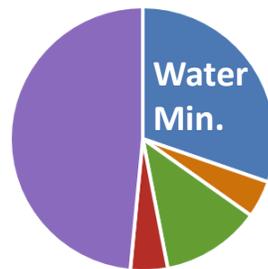
# Women in Water Diplomacy 2022 Global Network Forum Participants: Snapshot



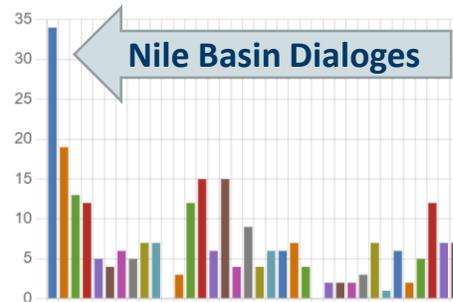
Age Distribution



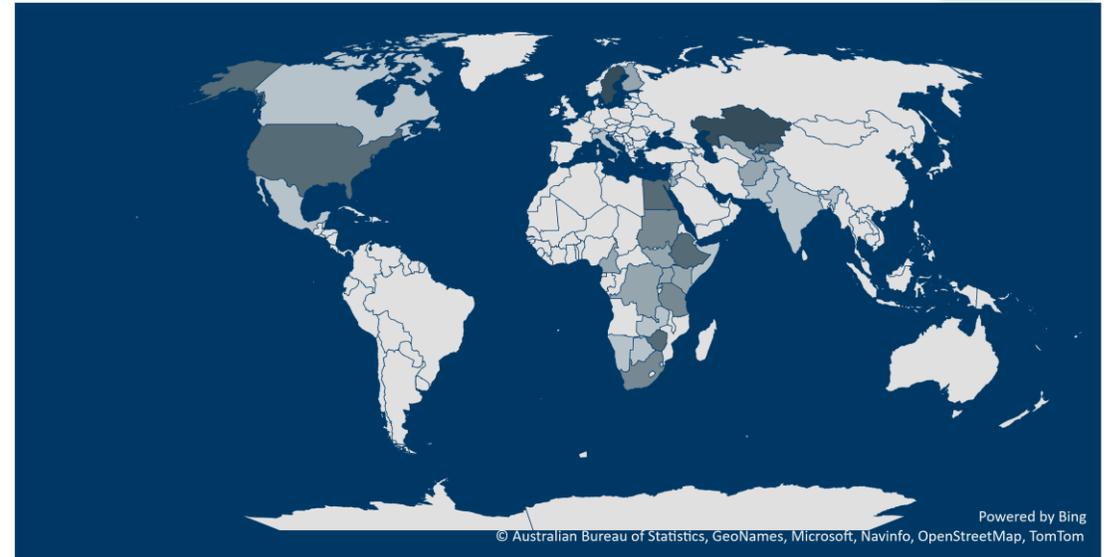
**535+** Years of Collective Experience



Formal and Informal Water Diplomats



Diverse Basin Expertise



Women Water Diplomats at the frontlines of addressing global water insecurities

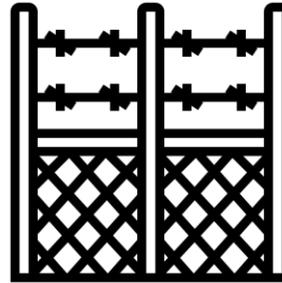
# Persistent Barriers to Women Water Diplomats' Participation in Global Policy Dialogues



Sponsored in person attendance is rare.



Women Water Diplomats have a lot of different responsibilities



Conflict Barriers restricting movement



Language Barriers

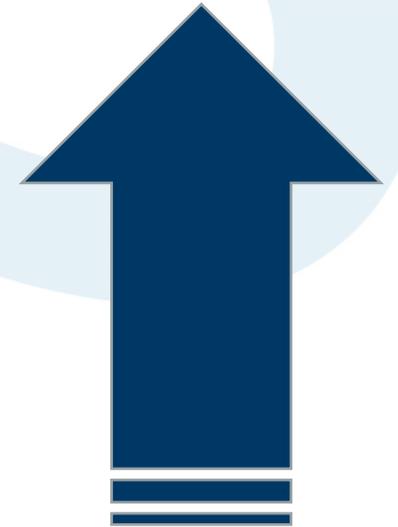


Internet connectivity



Political Barriers restricting movement

**Result:** Improved Inclusive Decision Making



**Target:** Removal of Participation Barriers

# 2022 Global Network Forum Participants: Nile Basin



# Dr. Adanech Yared Jillo (Ethiopia)

**Dr Adanech Yared Jillo (Ethiopia)** is a member of the Ethiopian Negotiations Team to the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) and adviser on national and regional transboundary water issues in the Minister of Water and Energy in Ethiopia. Her main duties include advising ministers, facilitating hydro-diplomacy, negotiation meetings, and internal consultation meetings, and doing hydrological analysis. Since January 2019 Dr. Adanech Yared Jillo has led Ethiopia's national NBI, Nile Equatorial Lake Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP), and ENTRO, supporting Nile-COM/EXCO members of the respective countries in prioritizing NBI, NELSAP-Cu, ENTRO, and AMCOW activities as member and chair of the NBI, NELSAP, ENSAP, and AMCOW Technical Advisory Committee. Dr. Adanech Yared Jillo provides regular guidance and technical support on matters related to the Nile cooperation and the sustainable management of the Nile water resources including providing oversight for the NBI, its centers, and AMCOW programmatic activities.

**Dr. Adanech Yared Jillo has been a member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2018 and a founding member of the Ethiopian Women in Water and Climate Association and will be attending the 2022 Global Network Forum in person.**



# Anna Stephen Mremi (Tanzania)

**Anna Stephen Mremi (Tanzania)** serves as an Assistant Lecturer at the Tanzania Water Institute within the Ministry of Water. As part of her roles, she is responsible for capacity development and knowledge management in the Ministry, teaching coursework on water and environmental management including transboundary water and conflict resolution modules. Anna is registered with the National Environmental Council (NEMC) since 2016 with expertise in Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Auditing and Environmental and Social Impact Assessment among other areas. Anna holds a master degree in Integrated Sanitation Management. As a determined environmental professional with over 10 years of experience, Anna reports she *'is always looking for new challenges where my career as an environmentalist will grow and gain opportunities to practice my skills and gain new skills and experience'*.

**Anna has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Nile since 2021 and will be attending the 2022 Global Network Forum in-person.**



# Belaynesh Birru (Ethiopia)

**Belaynesh Birru (Ethiopia)** is the founding Director of Save the Future, an Ethiopian non-profit supporting programming focused on environmental sustainability, humanitarian action, and women and youth empowerment. Until 2021, Belaynesh served as the Director for the Environment and Climate Change Directorate at the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and as a Member of National Climate Negotiation Team. Belaynesh graduated from Kharkov State University Ukraine, received MSC Degree on Geography with a specialization of rational utilization of natural resources and environmental protection. She has extensive experience in transboundary waters, environment monitoring and evaluation, gender equality, and energy. Previously in her career she served as a geography teacher for ten years.

**Belaynesh Birru is a founding member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and will be attending the 2022 Global Network Forum in-person.**



**SAVE**  
*The Future*

# Eng. Enas Ahmed Abdelhalim Hussien (Egypt)

**Eng. Enas Ahmed Abdelhalim Hussien (Egypt)** is a Senior Water Resources Engineer at the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation in Egypt. She holds a MSc. Degree (2017) from the Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University, Egypt. Enas has more than 15 years of experience, specialized in multinational projects coordination and monitoring and evaluation. She worked as a Member of Shared Vision Program (SVP) team in the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) National Office, where she was responsible for evaluating, approving and commenting on NBI SVP projects' proposals, appraisal documents and progress reports. As part of her responsibilities she tested, validated, and analyzed scenarios of development alternatives in the Nile Basin. She has organized, participated in and reported on many regional and international events (Arab Water Forum, Africa Water Week, Union of the Mediterranean, and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, etc). She has served as the AMCOW M&E and UN- Water Overall Focal Point (OFP) and has published in key academic journals on topics related to Nile Basin discourse.

**Enas has been a Member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2019 and will be attending the 2022 Global Network Forum in-person.**



وزارة الموارد المائية والري  
جمهورية مصر العربية  
Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation  
Arab Republic of Egypt

# Firmina Acuba (Uganda)

**Firmina Acuba (Uganda)** serves as the Senior Sociologist in the Ministry of Water and Environment in Uganda. Firmina has worked with the Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda since 2001, serving as the Ministry's Gender Equality and HIV Mainstreaming Expert. Firmina has developed, guided and revised several Ministry of Water and Environment Gender Equality and HIV mainstreaming policies and strategies and provided extensive capacity building on these areas. She is an advocate of inclusion of rights of women and vulnerable groups in water supply and management programming and a training and capacity development expert. Firmina has years of experience supporting bottom up/grassroots water diplomacy processes and inclusive decision making in several key sub-basins in the Nile including the Maziba River catchment in the Kagera – one of the key sources of Lake Victoria shared by Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.

**Firmina has been a Member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2018 and will be attending the 2022 Global Network Forum in-person.**



MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT  
REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

# Gladys Wekesa (Kenya)

**Gladys Wekesa (Kenya)** serves as the Director of Transboundary Water Resources in the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation in Kenya. As the Director of Transboundary Water Resources in the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation she is charged with spearheading the sustainable management and development of the transboundary water resources in Kenya through formulation of the relevant policies, strategies, protocols etc., in collaboration with other stakeholders and riparian states. As such, she is a member of the various Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) of the regional inter-Governmental bodies, including the Nile Basin Initiative (on the Nile River Basin), The Lake Victoria Basin Commission (Mara River and Lake Jipe/Challa Basins), African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), IGAD Water Unit, and the UNEP Coordinated Project on the Sustainable Development of Lake Turkana and its River Basins, between Kenya and Ethiopia. The role of the TAC Members is to support the Ministers responsible for water affairs of the Member States in providing the overall policy direction and strategic guidance in the joint management and development of the shared water resources.

**Gladys Wekesa has been a Member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2018 and will be attending the 2022 Global Network Forum in-person.**



MINISTRY OF WATER, SANITATION  
AND IRRIGATION

# Jacqueline Nyirakamana (Rwanda; Network Leadership Council Member)

**Jacqueline Nyirakamana (Rwanda)** is a Transboundary Water Resources Cooperation Specialist in Ministry of Environment, and a Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC) member. She served as Nile-TAC Chair from 2020-2021. She previously served as Representative of Rwanda in Lake Kivu and Rusizi/Ruzizi River Basin Authority (ABAKIR). Jacqueline has a Masters MBA in Strategic Management from Mount Kenya University (MKU) and a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration from Université Libre de Kigali (ULK). She has 8 years of experience in Transboundary Water Resources management.

**Jacqueline has been a Member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2018 and serves on the Network's Leadership Council. Jacqueline will be joining the Global Network Forum online.**



# Dr Karima (Egypt)

**Dr. Karima Attia (Egypt)** is Professor Emeritus at the Nile Research Institute and Former Director of the Water Resources Research Institute, National Water Research Institute in Egypt. Karima has more than thirty years of experience in water resource management working as a team leader and member of many national and international projects with a focus on watershed management, drought early warning and forecasting, sediment transport modelling, as well as waterway navigation development. She is one of the principal authors of the book, 'Regime of the River Nile in Egypt,' and has published more than 45 research papers in scientific journals and conferences. Karima serves on numerous professional committees and advisory councils in her professional capacity and has been awarded a number of key prizes for her scientific and administrative contributions.

**Dr Karima has been an active Member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2020.**



# Eng. Marwa Khattab (Egypt)

**Eng. Marwa Khattab (Egypt)** serves as the Deputy Director of the Establishment of a Navigational Line Between Lake Victoria and the Mediterranean Sea (VICMED) project and Senior Engineer in the Central Department of External Cooperation, Nile water sector, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation. She holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA), Government and Public Sector; Shared Water Resources Diploma, Cairo university 2004; and B.Sc Civil engineering, Ain Shams university, Egypt 2000. Eng. Khattab has twenty years' experience in water resources management in different disciplines, including as a team member in Nile Basin Initiative National Office Shared Program and Eastern Nile projects and member of the Bilateral Cooperation Department.

**Eng. Marwa has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2020 and will be attending the 2022 Global Network Forum in-person.**



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جمهورية مصر العربية  
Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation  
Arab Republic of Egypt

# Dr. Muna Musnad (Sudan; Network Leadership Council Member)

**Dr. Muna Musnad (Sudan)** serves as the Director of the Research and Innovation Department at UNESCO Chair in Water Resources - Omdurman Islamic University. Dr Musnad has more than 20 years of experience as a senior researcher leading research and training related to Nile Basin water governance and cooperation including in leadership roles in the Nile Basin Capacity Building Network in Sudan. Dr Musnad has a varied background with experience in Flood Risk Mapping, Integrated Water Resources Management, MODFLOW, HEC-RAS, HEC-HMS and GIS. Her vast research includes work with Riverside Company (USA) for ENTRO-NBI and the Nile Basin Capacity Building Network-River Engineering Project (NBCBN-RE). In addition, she is a lecturer in M.Sc. Environmental Engineering Program.

**Dr Muna is a founding Member of Women in Water Diplomacy Network and serves on the Network Leadership Council. She is also a member of Board of the UNESCO Category II International Centre for Water Cooperation, hosted by SIWI. Dr Musnad will be attending the 2022 Global Network Forum in-person.**



# Ambassador Nadia Mohamed Eisa Gefoun (Sudan)

**Ambassador Nadia Eisa Gefoun (Sudan)** currently serves as the Deputy President of the Charter Committee of Arab Human Rights. Ambassador Gofoun has over 30 years of direct experience in formal water diplomacy processes in the Nile Basin on behalf of Sudan. Ambassador Gefoun has played key roles in regional and bilateral water cooperation since the 1990s, including as a Member of Sudan's official delegation in the GERD negotiation processes. Until 2021, Ambassador Gefoun served as the Deputy General Director of International Issues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Director of the Department of Water, Environment and Natural Resources. She also served as a Member to the Human Rights Committee in the Arab League from 2016-2021. She served as Sudan's Ambassador to Norway and Demark (2011-2015), prior to that she served as Sudan's Deputy Ambassador to Sweden, Malaysia, and served as part of the delegation to the United Nations.

**Ambassador Gefoun is a founding Member of the Women in Water Diplomacy and will join the Global Network Forum in-person.**



# Nompumelelo Ntshalintshali-Motsa (Eswatini; Leadership Council Member)

**Nompumelelo Ntshalintshali-Motsa (Eswatini)** is a WASH Specialist and independent consultant. She is the former Africa Region Coordinator for the Sanitation and Water for All and has over 15 years of experience in the WASH sector of which 10 years was spent providing strategic direction on multi-stakeholder engagement, coordination and planning the implementation of the community water supply and sanitation programmes. She was the national WASH Forum Chairperson in the Kingdom of eSwatini responsible for the coordination of the national WASH sector, coordinating work of multilateral and international development partners including UN agencies, facilitating the development of the WASH policies, strategies, and development of national plans for the country as well as monitoring and evaluation of the national WASH programme. Prior to joining SWA as Africa Regional Coordinator, Nompumelelo was elected to the SWA – Steering Committee member representing the East and Southern Africa sub-regions, the Technical Advisory Committee member for the African Minister’s Council on Water (AMCOW), a focal point for GLAAS, JMP and SADC gender mainstreaming in the water sector programme.

**Nompumelelo has been active in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since the 2018 Network Forum in Ethiopia and serves as a Member of the Network’s Leadership Council and will be attending the Global Network Forum in-person.**



# Noella Queen Bwiza (Rwanda)

**Noella Queen Bwiza (Rwanda)** Noella holds a bachelor's degree in Water and Environmental Engineering with more than 3 years' experience in the field of Integrated Water Resources and Sustainable Environmental Management. Being an active member of the Rwanda Young Water Professional and Water Partnership-Rwanda, she contributes to the tasks of facing water security related challenges. She currently works with ARCOS Network as Programme Officer, a regional organization working in the Albertine Rift region to enhance sustainable natural resources management and Biodiversity Conservation through a collaborative action for nature and people.

**Noella has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since the 2020 Network Forum and will be joining the Global Network Forum online, adding, that 'she enjoys learning from the senior experts in the Network and believes that failing to try is a failure itself; therefore, she always aims higher and never gives up while growing her career'.**



# Prisca Nandede (Uganda)

**Prisca Nandede (Uganda)** serves as a Senior Sociologist with the Ministry of Water and Environment in the Republic of Uganda. She has a background in Social Sciences with specific interest in gender equality and community development. Prisca, an advocate for improved livelihoods of vulnerable people through provision of sustainable water and environmental services. She is also a member of the International Association for Community Development. Prisca has been involved in the development and review of a number of policies and strategies key among which include: the first African Ministers' Council on Water's Gender Strategy (AMCOW's), the Strategy for Mainstreaming Gender in Uganda's Water and Environment Sector, National Guidelines for Assessing Gender, Environment and Social Risk in the Water and Environment Sector in Uganda, and the development of Grievance Redress Mechanisms for several projects in the Ministry of Water and Environment. A firm believer and beneficiary of mentorship and coaching, her main areas of interest are gender equality, community development, religion, conflict resolution and water security. Ms. Nandede holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences at Makerere University, Uganda and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Development Studies.

**Prisca has been active in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since the 2018 Network Forum in Ethiopia and will be joining the Global Network Forum in person.**



MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT  
REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

# Eng. Samaa El Baroudy (Egypt)

**Engineer Samaa El Baroudy (Egypt)** is a Senior Water Resources Engineer serving as the Technical Office Director and the Head of Nile Water Sector in the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation in Egypt. Eng. El Baroudy has more than 18 years of experience in the field of transboundary water cooperation, participating in the preparation, negotiations and implementation of many technical projects related to water resources management that are implemented under the umbrella of the Nile Basin Initiative such as the Eastern Nile joint multi-purpose, flood preparedness and early warning systems, The Eastern Nile Irrigation and Drainage projects, the Watershed management project. Eng El Baroudy has participated in the negotiation process of many bilateral cooperation protocols held between Egypt and some of the Nile Basin countries including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Uganda, and South Sudan. Eng El Baroudy is a member of the Egypt-Sudan Permanent Joint Technical Commission for Nile Water and the Ministry's representative in the Water-Employment-Migration Task force formed under the umbrella of the Union for the Mediterranean.

**Eng El Baroudy has been an active Member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since the Network's first gathering in 2017 and will be joining the 2022 Forum online.**



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جمهورية مصر العربية  
Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation  
Arab Republic of Egypt

# Dr. Tahani Sileet (Egypt; Network Leadership Council Member)

**Dr. Tahani Sileet (Egypt)** is currently the Head of the Central Department for External Cooperation in the Nile Water Sector, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt. She also represents the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation in many regional and international organizations as the Technical Advisory Committee Member in the African Minister Council On Water (AMCOW), the Technical and Scientific Committee Member in the League of Arab States (LAS), the Water Expert Group Member in the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the Director of Nile Basin Initiative National Office and the Project Management Unit Director and Regional Coordinator of “Establishment of a Navigational Line Between Lake Victoria and the Mediterranean Sea (VICMED) Project”. She is also appointed as the National Focal Point of Program Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). She holds a PhD in Shared Water Resources Management, a M.Sc. In the “Impact of Climate Change and Sea Surface Temperature on the River Nile Flood Regime”, an International Post Graduate Diploma in Shared Water Resources, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Irrigation and Drainage from Cairo University. She frequently publishes on many different topics related to the Shared Water Resources Management with focus on the Nile Basin.

**Dr Tahani is a founding Member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and serves on the Network’s Leadership Council. Dr Tahani will be attending the Global Network Forum in person.**

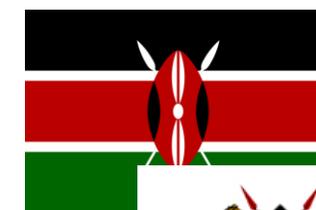


وزارة الموارد المائية و الري  
جمهورية مصر العربية  
Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation  
Arab Republic of Egypt

# Theresa Khakasa Wasike (Kenya; Network Leadership Council Member)

**Theresa Khakasa Wasike (Kenya)** currently serves as Director of Administration in the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation. Theresa has 23 years of experience in public administration at both the grass root and central government administration levels. She has worked in the Ministry for 12 years in various administrative positions including as a Project Steering Committee member of a Nile Basin Initiative projects on Mara River, shared by Tanzania and Kenya. Theresa is also a member of the Ministry's Water Sector Reforms team that is aligning the Ministry's mandate and functions to the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and the Water Act 2016. An alumni of the Ukrainian Institute of International Relations, Kiev University, she has an M.A in International Relations. Further, Theresa has training in strategic leadership and management with the objective of enhancing public service delivery in the ministries that she serves.

**Theresa is a founding Member of Women in Water Diplomacy Network and serves on the Network's Leadership Council. She will be attending the Global Network Forum in person.**



MINISTRY OF WATER, SANITATION  
AND IRRIGATION

# Tumaini Mwamyalla (Tanzania; Network Leadership Council Member)

**Tumaini Mwamyalla (Tanzania)** is Tanzania's National Desk/ Focal Officer for the Nile Basin Initiative. She holds a Master of Science in Community Economic Development from New Hampshire University and Master of Science in Engineering Management from University of Dar es Salaam as well as a Post Graduate Diploma in Integrated Water Resources Management from SIWI. She has 18 years of experience in transboundary water resources management, coordinating transboundary issues with different regional cooperation institutions such as AMCOW, NBI, ZAMCOM, LVBC, Lake Tanganyika Authority, Ruvuma Basin Commission and Songwe River Commission. Tumaini has participated from negotiation to ratification of the Nile Basin Comparative Agreement Framework (CFA) and has participated in preparation and implementation of Several Shared Vision Programmes under the Nile basin Initiative. Generally, she has responsibility of coordinating and supervising preparation and execution of transboundary water resources management and development plans as well as implementation of national, regional and international programmes at national level.

**Tumaini is a founding member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and serves on the Network's Leadership Council. She will be attending the Global Network Forum in person.**



NILE BASIN INITIATIVE  
INITIATIVE DU BASSIN DU NIL

# Yodit Balcha (Ethiopia; Network Leadership Council Member)

**Yodit Balcha (Ethiopia)** currently serves at the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT-Africa Hub in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where she leads integrated weather and climate analytics to develop climate-informed investments in agricultural. Until early 2022, Yodit served as the Senior Climate Change Adaptation Advisor at the Ministry of Water, Irrigation, and Energy in Ethiopia, where she is responsible for mainstreaming climate change adaptation and resilience plans into the ministries sectoral strategic and development projects. Her work focuses on the nexus approach of Climate, Land (Agriculture), Energy, and Water Systems. Yodit holds a Master's degree in Sustainable Development from Uppsala University, a Master's course in Agricultural Economics from Haramaya University, and Bachelor's Degree in Natural Resource Economics and Management from Mekelle University.

**Yodit is a founding member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and serves on the Network Leadership Council. Yodit is also a founding member of the Ethiopian Women in Water and Climate Association and will be attending the 2022 Global Network Forum in-person.**



# Dr Zodwa Dlamini (South Africa; Network Leadership Council Member)

**Dr Zodwa Dlamini (South Africa)** is a seasoned international transboundary water management specialist, development professional, and senior infrastructure projects manager. As the former South Africa's Chief Delegate and Permanent Representative on the Lesotho Highlands Water Commission (LHWC) for 11 years, she oversaw the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) and its implementation and served as South Africa's Chief Negotiator for Phase 2 of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project that is currently being implemented in Lesotho. The LHWP is a binational project between the government of the Republic South Africa and the Kingdom of Lesotho responsible for delivering water from the highlands of Lesotho to South Africa, and utilising the water delivery system to generate 72MW hydro-electric power for the Kingdom of Lesotho at 'Muela Hydropower Station. LHWP is Africa's largest water transfer scheme to date. Zodwa further ensured that gender policies in the LHWP are intentional and decisive in matters of gender inclusivity and participation of women. It was during her tenure when the LHDA first appointed a woman Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in over 20 years of its existence.

**Dr Zodwa is a founding member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and serves as a member of the Network Leadership Council. Dr Zodwa will be attending the Global Network Forum in person.**



# 2022 Global Network Forum Participants: Central Asia & Afghanistan



# Aigerim Karibay (Kazakhstan)

**Aigerim Karibay (Kazakhstan)** has a Bachelor's Degree in Water Resources Management and works in the branch “BAC named after D.Kunayev” of RSE Kazvodkhoz. The Big Almaty Canal (BAC) is the main enterprise supplying water to agricultural producers in a few districts of Almaty region. She is a young, experienced specialist at the local and basin level on water resources.

In addition, Aigerim works as a volunteer, involving young people, organize regional and national events, implement projects for youth engagement, participate in regional water conferences. She likes swimming and self-development. An interesting fact, when she was 3 years old, she drowned in the Syrdarya playing near the river after she got out of the lake herself while her parents came to the rescue, and she claims this situation influenced the choice to water resources in the future.

**Aigerim is a founding Member of the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan and will join the Global Network Forum in person.**

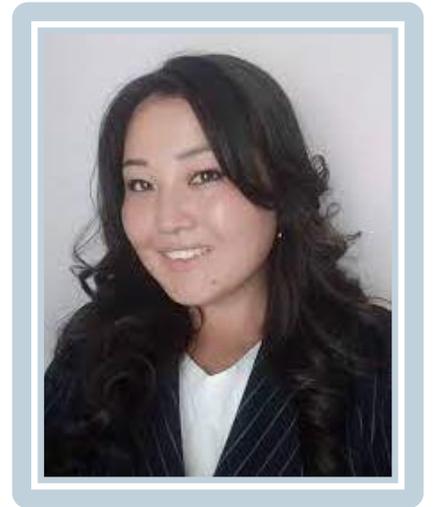


MINISTRY OF ECOLOGY,  
GEOLOGY AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES OF THE RK

# Cholpon Aitakhunova (Kyrgyzstan)

**Cholpon Aitakhunova (Kyrgyzstan)** is a Research Fellow at Collective Leadership Institute under the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's International Climate Protection Fellowship. She is carrying out her research at the interface of water, climate, and security in Central Asia with a special focus on collective leadership approaches. She leads Central Asia Youth for Water (CAY4W) in her role of regional co-coordinator for Central Asia and Afghanistan. The network's mission is empowerment of a new generation of water leaders to work on peaceful and sustainable development through transboundary water cooperation. Through a journey of around 5 years across different sectors (state, civil society, academia) and between various levels (national to international) Cholpon got well-acquainted with climate and water governance topics, and for more than a decade now she has been involved in youth empowerment in Kyrgyzstan and beyond. She strongly believes that in the face of polycrises the world is confronting today it is only through quality dialogue and collaboration that we can bring transformative change. Everyone matters in water action, everyone can learn how to collaborate.

**Cholpon is a founding member of the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan and will join the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Farangis Ukumatshoeva Akramshoevna (Tajikistan)

**Farangis Ukumatshoeva (Tajikistan)** was born in Khorog, Tajikistan. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Engineering Protection of Environment at Tajik Technical University by the name of M. S. Osimi, a first Master's degree in Energy Efficiency and Energy Management Technology at the Institute of Water Issues, Ecology and Hydropower under the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan, and a second Master's degree in Integrated Water Resources Management program at Kazakh – German University. Besides her academic studies, Farangis also attended training courses on Water Use Efficiency and Energy Efficiency, Disaster Risk Management in mountainous areas, and The Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan.

Farangis has over 5 years of experience in monitoring, administration, management, and accounting spheres. Currently, she is employed as an intern at the International Secretariat for Water (ISW).

**Farangis is a founding member of the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan and will join the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Foman Forough (Afghanistan)

**Foman Forough (Afghanistan)** holds an MSc of Hydraulics structure from Ferdowsi University and served at the National Water Affairs Regulation Authority (NWARA) as General Director of Kabul River Basin, the largest basin in Afghanistan, before the Taliban captured Kabul in 2021. Foman has extensive experience in transboundary water management serving in various capacities at NWARA including as acting director of water allocation, dam and river adviser, and hydraulic structure design specialist. In addition, Foman has taught courses on hydraulic structure at Kateb Private University and is a proud board member of the Afghanistan Infrastructure Transparency Initiative (COST), which works in the field of transparency in infrastructure projects, access to information, and the clean-up against corruption.

**Foman is a founding member of the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan and will be joining the Global Network Forum online.**



# Gulzhan Makhmudova (Kyrgyzstan)

**Gulzhan Makhmudova (Kyrgyzstan)** is a National Project coordinator/Adviser of the EU-funded project Climate Change and Resilience in Central Asia (Ferghana project) in UNDP Kyrgyzstan from April 2022 (before she was Environmental Sustainability Expert – Leading specialist in Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyzstan). Gulzhan has a Bachelor's Degree in Ecology (International University of Kyrgyzstan), a Master's Degree in Law (2010), and a Master in Environmental Sciences, (Japan, Tsukuba University), also graduated from Tomsk Polytechnic University (Russia) and got a diploma in Environment Safeguard. Gulzhan experienced and hard-working ecologist with professional experience, she has more than 10 years of professional experience working in the governmental sector (State Agency on Environment Protection, Ministry of Energy and Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision) in different environmental directions - Environmental Assessment, SDG, Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change Issues, Water issues, Industrial Safety and Environment Management, Regulatory frameworks and permitting, Mining Reclamation and Closure, and has a broad network with key government, academic, and non-governmental stakeholders in Kyrgyzstan.

**Gulzhan is a founding member of the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan and will attend the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Meerim Seidakmatova (Kyrgyzstan)

**Meerim Seidakmatova (Kyrgyzstan)** graduated with honors from the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University in 2021, specializing in ecology and environmental management. She is currently studying for her master's degree in Integrated Water Resources Management at the Kazakh-German University. She founded the student eco-club "Young Environmentalists" at the higher student council of the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University in 2019 to increase social environmental education among students. At the same time, Meerim interned at the "Urban Initiatives" and "Rural Development Fund" public foundations, the Agency for Hydrometeorology under the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic, in the Department of Environmental Monitoring (surface water and atmospheric air). She worked on research and projects on "Revival of indigenous livestock breeding. Kyrgyz horse", "Land of snow leopards", in the laboratory assisted in physical and chemical analysis of surface water samples, atmospheric air monitoring, including PM 2.5, freons. Since the beginning of 2021, she has served as the project coordinator for the Kyrgyzstan Youth Network CAY4W.

**Meerim is a founding member of the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan and will attend the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Minura Begishbek (Kyrgyzstan)

**Minura Begishbek (Kyrgyzstan)** previously served at the Department of Water Management of the Karasuu District before completing her studies at the Kazakh-German University on Integrated Water Resources Management. Currently, Minura works at the Ministry of Water Management of the city of Osh as an economist, and she is a nominee of Blue Peace Story. She wishes to continue her career in the water sector as well as to grow professionally.

**Minura is a founding member of the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan and will attend the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Narges Sediqi (Afghanistan)

**Narges Sediqi (Afghanistan)** graduated with a BSc in GeoScience at Kabul University. She served at National Water Affairs Regulation Authority (NWARA) as Quality Control and Data process Engineer before the Taliban took over Kabul. Narges has a experience serving in different positions at Afghanistan's Ministry of Energy and Water, now called NWARA. She was also a Rural Drinking Water Management engineer, and an Intern for GIZ and FAO. For about two years Narges had worked with Afghanistan Civil Aviation Authority (ACAA) and NGOs. In addition, she used to be a co-member of Quality Control of JICA and volunteer member of Afghan Astronomy Association which works in the field of planetary and space science. Currently Narges is enrolled as a Master Student of integrated water management at Ankara University, Turkey.

**Narges is a founding member of the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan and will be joining the Global Network Forum online.**



# Shohida Tulieva (Tajikistan)

**Shohida Tulieva (Tajikistan)** has a Master Degree in Social Sciences: Regional Studies - Integrated Water Resources Management, Kazakh-German university, Almaty, Kazakhstan. Shohida is the Senior Project Officer "Basin Management" and the National Coordinator for "Gender and Social Equality" in the National project "Water Resources Management in Tajikistan", which aims to support the "Tajikistan Water Sector Reform Program for 2016-2025", HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation in Tajikistan. Moreover, Shohida is the President of the Association "Woman and Water" of Central Asia and Afghanistan with the aim of developing networking and increasing the potential of women specialists in the water sector.

Shohida has contributed to the development of social, gender issues in water resources management, taking into account the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), development of the Basin, Sub-basin and Watershed management with focusing on the development of the "Bottom-Up" approach with 14 experience in Central Asia.

**Shohida is a founding member of the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan and will be attending the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Hadia Saboory (Afghanistan)

**Hadia Saboory (Afghanistan)** previously served as an intern at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock & Irrigation in Afghanistan with prior experience from service at AIESEC Afghanistan, Khurasan Academic Association, Afghanistan Builders Association (ABA), and the Humanitarian Organization for Motivation and Empowerment. She obtained her Bachelor Degree in Kabul University in 2019. Hadia is very enthusiastic to grow her areas of expertise and has participated in numerous training programmes with focus on communications, women's empowerment, leadership, and social skills and management and looking forward to continue to grow her proficiencies and competencies. Currently, Hadia is enrolled as a Master Student in the AUAF American university of Afghanistan.

**Hadia is a founding member of the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan and will be joining the Network Forum online.**



# Dr Sitora Mirzokhonova (Tajikistan)

**Dr Sitora Mirzokhonova (Tajikistan)** is currently a candidate of technical sciences. She works as a lecturer at the Department of Meteorology and Climatology of the Tajik National University. From 2019 to present she has been working as a part-time senior researcher at the Institute of Water Problems of Hydropower and Ecology of the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan, and from 2000 to 2007 Dr Sitora worked at the Agency for Hydrometeorology of Tajikistan.

Study of climate change in the upper reaches of the Panj River is in her scientific interests. She participated in technical part of national projects on the Panj river. In 2019, she received her PhD in Hydrology and Meteorology. In 2004, she graduated from Tajik National University as a meteorological engineer.

**Sitora is a founding member of the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan.**



# Zhanar Naurozbayeva (Kazakhstan)

**Zhanar Naurozbayeva (Kazakhstan)** is a leading researcher of the Department of Hydrometeorological Research of the Caspian Sea at the Research Center of RSE Kazhydromet since 2011. Zhanar graduated from the Faculty of Geography at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, majoring in Hydrometeorology, and also received her master's degree at the same - Farabi University. In addition, Zhanar completed postgraduate studies at the Faculty of Meteorology, Department of Meteorology, Climatology, Atmosphere Protection at the Russian State Hydrometeorological University in St. Petersburg, Russia. She successfully defended her PhD thesis and received the degree of Candidate of Geographical Sciences in 2021. .

**Zhanar is a founding member of the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan and will be attending the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Aziza Sharofova (Uzbekistan)

**Aziza Sharofova Khamza kizi (Uzbekistan)** is a Chief Expert of the Center for State Ecological Expertise of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Ecology and Environmental Protection. She was born in Tashkent (Uzbekistan), in a family of farmers. After graduating from a secondary school in 2008, she entered the Tashkent Financial and Economic College at the Faculty of Accounting and Audit, and successfully completed it in 2011 (secondary special education with a degree in accounting and economics). She also graduated Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration at the Faculty of Hydromelioration in the direction of Ecology and Environmental Protection, in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering (in water management).

**Aziza a founding member of the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan and will be attending the Global Network Forum in person.**



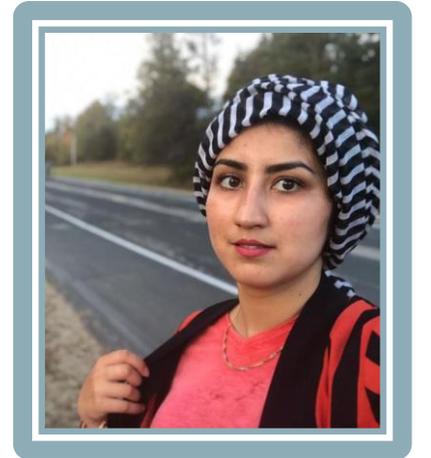
# Beheshta Saboory (Afghanistan)

**Beheshta Saboory (Afghanistan)** graduated BSc from Chemistry department of Science Faculty of Kabul University; Beside she did some ACCA papers in American University of Afghanistan. Beheshta was working in National Water Affairs Regulation Authority (NWARA) in Asian Development Bank as Reporting officer before Taliban capturing the Kabul.

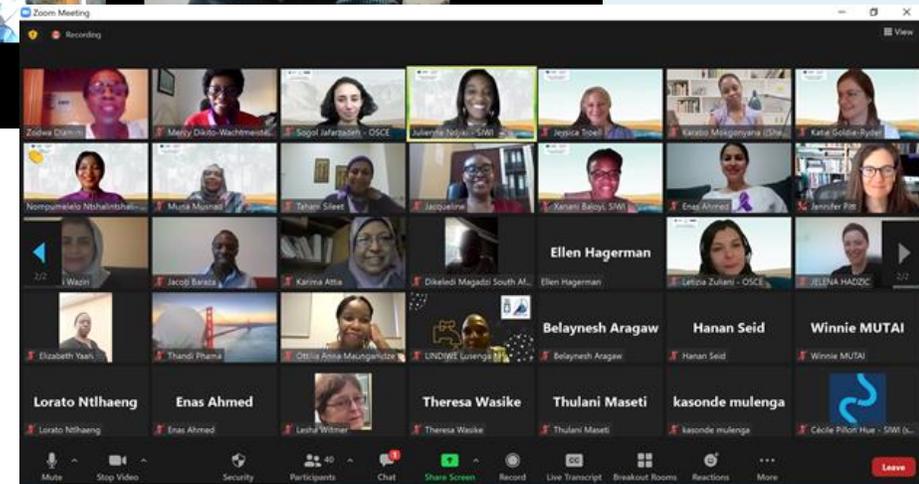
Her field of work is Administrative, Finance, Project and specifically with different and many years of experience in water sector.

Beheshta has worked in different positions in the Ministry of Energy and water, now called NWARA. She worked as a Project Assistant with CAREC, Reporting Officer, and Administrative Consultant from July 2018 to April 2022. Moreover, for about two years, she has worked with a Purdue International University (USAID Funded project) located in USA. Her position was Admin & Finance Assistant. Also, Beheshta worked with Afghanistan Builders Associations as Admin Assistant.

**Beheshta is a founding member of the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan and will be attending the Global Network Forum online.**



# 2022 Global Network Forum Participants: Basin representatives from 'beyond' the Networks ...



# Commissioner Bogadi T. Mathangwane (Botswana - ORASECOM)

**Bogadi T. Mathangwane (Botswana)** currently serves as Botswana's Commissioner to the Orange-Senque Water Commission (ORASECOM). Bogadi Mathangwane holds an integrated Master's Degree in Water Resources from Iowa State University in the US and BSc Honors double major in Applied and Analytical Chemistry from the UK. She is currently working as Director for Botswana Government in the Ministry of Lands and Water Affairs in the Department of Water and Sanitation. Bogadi has extensive knowledge in areas of integrated water resources management with emphasis in water conservation, water demand management, water quality and trans-boundary water resources management. She has also facilitated and directed mega national and regional water and sanitation projects some of which were funded by different International cooperating Partners. She is Coordinator of Transboundary Water Resources, a Member and sits in the Advisory Committees of the SADC River Basin Commissions of which Botswana is party to, which include ORASECOM, OKACOM, LIMCOM and ZAMCOM.

**Bogadi and her colleagues are currently driving the development of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Orange-Senqu Basin and will be joining the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Lenka Thamae (Lesotho – ORASECOM)

**Lenka Thamae (Lesotho)** is the Executive Secretary of Orange-Senqu River Basin Commission (ORASECOM) with a demonstrated history of working in the transboundary water cooperation and water diplomacy field and expertise related to water diplomacy, water governance, intergovernmental relations, and sustainable development. Lenka is a leading institutional development professional with an MSc in Engineering - Water Resources Management from University of Guelph, Canada.

**Lenka and his colleagues are currently driving the development of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Orange-Senqu Basin and will be joining the Global Network Forum in person (TBD).**



# Maria Amakali (Namibia - ORASECOM)

**Maria Amakali (Namibia)** is a water resource manager and head of the Water Department from Namibia. With 30 years' experience in the water sector, her expertise lies in integrated water resource management and transboundary water governance. She has developed water policies, strategies and IWRM Plans for Namibia and shared watercourses in SADC. She leads the Namibia delegation to Kunene, Cuvelai and Orange-Senqu River Basin commissions, whose basin agreements she was involved in development and provides technical advice to Okavango and Zambezi Watercourse Commissions. She is a member of the Technical Committee of Expert for the Cabinet Committee on Water Supply Security in Namibia whose main task is to ensure water supply security in the country. Maria holds a Master of Engineering on Water and Environmental Resources Management from IHE-Delft, Netherlands and a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Chemistry from Dana College in the USA.

**Maria and her colleagues are currently driving the development of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Orange-Senqu and will be joining the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Phuti Moshina Setati (South Africa - ORASECOM)

**Phuti Moshina Setati (South Africa)** is a Director for Gender and Disability Mainstreaming in the Department of Water and Sanitation in South Africa. She has been a Gender focal person since 2010. Her main role in the water sector is to provide guidance on mainstreaming Gender and disability in projects and programmes. She performed that duty for more than 12 years. She leads women empowerment programmes in the water sector. She represents South Africa in SADC Gender related activities. She also participated in the development of Gender strategy and mainstreaming of Gender in two transboundary organisations: Orange Senqu and Limpopo. She is also coordinated two impactful programmes: Women in Water Awards (this is the programme through which community women competed on different strategies their projects used to develop, protect and use water resource) and Adopt a River which is a project that encouraged the community women groups to remove solid waste at banks of rivers and recycle the waste. Phuti Setati has an honors degree in education and was a geography lecturer at college of education, geography subject advisor and geography educator.

**Phuti and her colleagues are currently driving the development of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Orange-Senqu and will be joining the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Puleng Pali (Lesotho- ORASECOM)

**Puleng Pali (Lesotho)** works as a Director of Legal Services in the Ministry of Water in Lesotho. She also represents Lesotho in the Orange-Senqu River Basin Commission (ORASECOM). In November 2016, she was appointed as a board member to the Centre for Coordination of Agriculture Research and Development in Southern Africa (CCARDESA), for a period of three years. She is an accomplished legal professional with extensive experience in providing legal advisory services to various government agencies and private entities. She is committed to providing legal support with a keen interest on development projects that promote human rights, gender equality, capacity building and the empowerment of women. Puleng Pali holds academic qualifications in women's law, intellectual property, and international trade.

**Puleng and her colleagues are currently driving the development of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Orange-Senqu Basin and will be joining the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Phera S. Ramoeli (Botswana – OKACOM)

**Phera Ramoeli (Botswana)** is currently the Executive Secretary of the Okavango River Basin Commission since October 2018, after serving as Senior Program Officer in Directorate of Infrastructure and Services – Water Division, SADC Secretariat for over 15 years. He was responsible for the coordination and facilitation of the implementation of the SADC Program of Action in Water. He has been working in the water sector for at least 20 years over 14 of this in Transboundary Water Resources management at the SADC Level. He joint SADC Water Sector Coordinating Unit as Senior Environment Officer in 1997 and was in charge of, among other things, coordinating the implementation of the ZAMBEZI Action Plan Program including the Chairing the negotiation Process for ZAMCOM. He became the Sector Coordinator in 1999 until the restructuring of SADC in 2003 and has been with the SADC Secretariat as head of the Water Program since, and was active in the process of negotiating the amendments and subsequent revision of the SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses. Mr. Ramoeli has a Masters Degree in Aquatic Resources Management from the Kings College, University of London, A Post Graduate Diploma in Operational Hydrology from Institute of Meteorological Training and research in Nairobi, and BSc in Biology and Chemistry from the National University of Lesotho.

**Phera will be joining the Global Network Forum in person.**



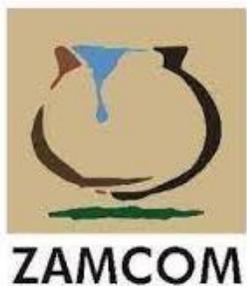
# Felix Ngamlagosi (Tanzania - ZAMCOM)

**Felix Ngamlagosi (Tanzania)** currently serves as the Executive Secretary of the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM). Felix over 30 years of professional experience of the Energy and Water Sectors. From 1988 to 2006 he held various positions rising ranks to Senior Economist in ministries responsible for Water and Energy. He was the founding Director of Regulatory Economics in the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) of Tanzania; and the second Director General of EWURA.

Felix extensively worked on water sector reforms; institutional restructuring; design of regulatory frameworks, corporate strategic planning; policy formulation in the water sector, sector programme design, and public expenditure reviews. He held positions in regional governance bodies including: Chairman of the African Forum for Utility Regulators (AFUR) based in Pretoria South Africa; Chairman of the Independent Regulatory Board (IRB) of the Eastern Africa Power Pool (EAPP); a member of the Executive Committee of the Energy Regulators Association of East Africa (EREA); Executive Committee of the Regional Electricity Regulators Association (RERA); and of the Executive Committee of the Eastern and Southern Africa Water Association (ESAWAS) Regulators.

Felix holds a Master's Degree in Economics (Moscow State University); Post Graduate Diploma in Policy Analysis and Project Planning (Institute of Social Studies, The Hague); and is a Certified Regulation Specialist, awarded jointly by the Institute for Public-Private Partnerships (IP3) of USA and the Loughborough University (WEDC/LU) of the United Kingdom.

**Felix will be joining the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Evans Kaseke (Zimbabwe - ZAMCOM)

**Eng. Evans Kaseke (Zimbabwe)** serves as a Programme Manager of the Zambezi Strategic Plan at ZAMCOM. Eng Kaseke holds a Master of Applied Science (MAsc) in Civil Engineering from the University of British Columbia, Canada, and a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Wales' Saint David's University College. He is a registered Professional Engineer with the Zimbabwe Institution of Engineers (ZIE) and the Engineering Council of Zimbabwe. He is a Member of IAHS and IAHR.

Eng. Kaseke has over 25 years of professional experience with competencies in engineering hydrology, applied hydraulics, water resources management and decision support systems, water supplies and sanitation, agricultural and rural development, capacity development, policy development, strategic planning, consultancy and advisory services, procurement, problem solving research and publishing. Eng. Kaseke is passionate about the nexus and systems approaches in as far as the inter-dependences or linkages of water and diverse demand uses impact on resource availability in the context of climate variability and change.

**Evans will be joining the Global Network Forum in person.**



**ZAMCOM**

# Ambassador Tanja Miškova (Slovenia)

**Ambassador Tanja Miškova (Slovenia)** is in charge of water diplomacy and circular economy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia. During her diplomatic career she served as Director General for Multilateral Affairs and Development Cooperation, as head of Department for Emerging Challenges, as Ambassador to Egypt (non-resident to Jordan, KSA, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and Oman), as Diplomatic Adviser to the President of Slovenia, and as Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Slovenia to Israel. In her current position, she is focusing on the four priority areas of the Slovenian water diplomacy: water & peace nexus, the transboundary water cooperation, water & climate change nexus, and the SDG6 and other water-related goals & targets of the Agenda 2030.

**Ambassador Miškova is a supporter of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and will join the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Commissioner Merrell-Ann Phare (Canada - IJC)

**Commissioner Merrell-Ann Phare (Canada)** is a lawyer, writer, strategist, negotiator and relationship-builder who worked extensively in and with indigenous organizations on environmental, land, water, rights and governance issues. She, along with 10 First Nation Chiefs, was the founding Executive Director of the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER), a national First Nation charitable environmental organisation. As Chief Negotiator for the Government of the Northwest Territories, Ms. Phare led the negotiation of transboundary water agreements in the Mackenzie River Basin and the creation of Thaidene Nene, a national and territorial park in the east arm of Great Slave Lake. She is the author of the book “Denying the Source: the Crisis of First Nations Water Rights” and co-author of “Ethical Water”. She is a member of the Forum for Leadership on Water, Smart Prosperity's Leadership Council, and is a recipient of Canada's Clean 50 Award. She served as legal counsel and advisor to a number of First Nation and Metis governments and organizations. Ms. Phare holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics (Environmental) Bachelor of Laws, Master of Law (Aboriginal Water Rights and International Trade Law) from the University of Manitoba a Master of Fine Arts (Creative Writing) from University of British Columbia. She resides in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

**Commissioner Phare is a supporter of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and will join the Network's first-ever Global Network Forum in person.**



# Susan Daniel (United States - IJC)

**Susan Daniel (United States)** is the Secretary for the United States Section of the International Joint Commission (IJC). The IJC is a bilateral treaty organization created by the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty which assists in preventing and resolving disputes between the United States of America and Canada over the use of waters shared by the two countries. She also served as legal advisor for the U.S. Section of the IJC. Prior to moving to Washington, D.C. she worked as an attorney-advisor for the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission on the southern boundary of the United States, between the U.S. and Mexico, in El Paso, Texas. She has also served as legal counsel to the Oklahoma Municipal League, an association of cities and towns, and was in private legal practice in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Susan received both an undergraduate degree in economics and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Oklahoma.

**Susan Daniel is a new supporter of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and will join the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Felicia Marcus (United States)

**Felicia Marcus (United States)** is the William C. Landreth Visiting Fellow at Stanford University's *Water in the West* Program, an attorney, consultant and member of the Water Policy Group. She most recently served as chair of the California State Water Resources Control Board, implementing laws regarding drinking water and water quality and state's water rights, hearing regional board water quality appeals, settling disputes and providing financial assistance to communities to upgrade water infrastructure. Before her appointment to the Water Board, Marcus served in positions in government, the non-profit and private sector. In government, Felicia served as the regional administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency's Pacific Southwest region during the Clinton Administration, where she was known for her work in bringing unlikely allies together for environmental progress and for making the agency more responsive to the communities it serves, particularly Indian Tribes, communities of color, local government and agricultural and business interests. Preceding the EPA, Marcus served as the president of the board of Public Works for the City of Los Angeles presiding over the department through a time of great change and challenge, including numerous emergency response situations (including flood, earthquake and riots).

**Felicia Marcus is a supporter of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and will join the Global Network Forum in person.**

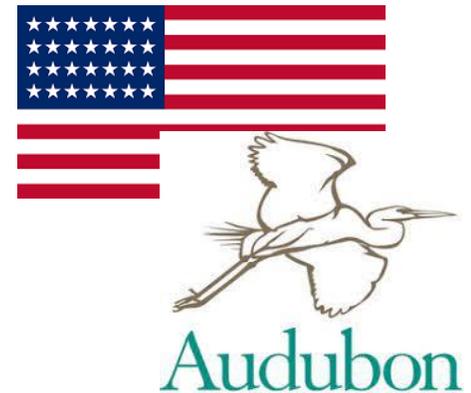


**Stanford**  
University

# Jennifer Pitt (United States – Colorado Basin)

**Jennifer Pitt (United States)** joined the National Audubon Society, a U.S.-based environmental NGO, in 2015 to advise the organization's strategies to protect and restore rivers, in the context of climate change, throughout the Colorado River Basin. She works to improve river governance for stakeholders excluded from historic legal agreements, including the environment and indigenous communities. She helped to negotiate, and continues to lead, the United States–Mexico collaboration to restore ecosystem values in the long-desiccated Colorado River Delta. Prior to joining Audubon, Jennifer spent 17 years working to protect and restore freshwater ecosystems in the Colorado River Basin at the Environmental Defense Fund. Jennifer has also worked at the National Park Service headquarters and in Mesa Verde and Sequoia National Parks, and as a legislative assistant to a U.S. Congressman. Jennifer graduated from Harvard University and received a master's in Environmental Science and Policy from Yale University.

**Jennifer is a supporter of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and will join the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Dr Sharon B. Megdal (United States)

**Dr Sharon B. Megdal (United States)** is Director of The University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center (WRRC), a Cooperative Extension center and a research unit in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Other primary titles are Professor and Specialist in the Department of Environmental Science, C.W. & Modene Neely Endowed Professor, and Distinguished Outreach Professor. Dr Megdal aims to bridge the academic, practitioner, and civil society communities through water policy and management research, education, and engagement programs. The geographic scope of Dr. Megdal's work ranges from local to international. Applied research projects include analysis of water management, policy, and governance in water-scarce regions, groundwater recharge, and transboundary aquifer assessment. Key engagement initiatives are Indigenous Water Dialogues and Diversifying Voices in Water Resources. She is the lead editor of the book, *Shared Borders, Shared Waters: Israeli-Palestinian and Colorado River Basin Water Challenges* and she has guest edited several special journal issues. Dr. Megdal teaches the multi-disciplinary graduate course "Water Policy in Arizona and Semi-arid Regions". In 2020, she was awarded the Warren A. Hall Medal for lifetime achievement in water resources research and education by the Universities Council on Water Resources. Dr Megdal serves on the Board of the American Water Resources Association and is an ex officio member of the Leadership Team for the Colorado River Basin Water & Tribes Initiative.

**Dr Megdal is a supporter of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and will join the Global Network Forum in person.**



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF ARIZONA

# Rehab Abd Almohsen (Egypt)

**Rehab Abd Almohsen (Egypt)** is an Egyptian science journalist, based in Cairo, covering the Nile Basin and MENA water issues extensively. In 2021, Rehab took home three prizes from the Nile Media Awards ceremony, in the categories of Digital, Print and the Best Female Entry. Rehab also contributed to the open access ebook *Water Conflicts and Cooperation: A Media Handbook* edited by Rasha Dewedar and coordinated by SciDev .Net under the Open Water Diplomacy Lab project. The Handbook was designed for journalists and other professionals working on science communication in the field of water, peace, and cooperation and draws upon the experience of like Rehab. Rehab was also a recipient of the SIWI World Water Week Journalism Grant in 2018.

**Rehab will be joining the 2022 Global Network Forum in person.**



# Farwa Aamer (Pakistan/United States)

**Farwa Aamer (Pakistan)** is a Research Analyst with the Stimson Center's Energy, Water, & Sustainability program. Her research focuses primarily on the security and political dimensions of transboundary river water governance in the Himalayan region. Farwa periodically organizes and convenes several Track II dialogues and discussions designed to facilitate greater inter-and intra-regional cooperation on issues around water security and hydrodiplomacy in South Asia, Central Asia and the Euphrates-Tigris river basin. Prior to joining the Stimson Center, Farwa served as the Director of South Asia program at the EastWest Institute (EWI)—a global think tank headquartered in New York. At EWI, Farwa worked on promoting non-traditional channels of diplomacy and establishing multi-stakeholder platforms for shared economic, financial, and geopolitical interests by bringing together media influencers, thought leaders, and business experts from within South Asia and across the globe.

**Farwa is a supporter of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and will join the Global Network Forum online.**



# Ambika Vishwanath (India)

**Ambika Vishwanath (India)** is Founder and Director of the Kubernein Initiative and a Transboundary Water Security and Diplomacy Specialist. The Kubernein Initiative is an India-based geopolitical advisory group that aims to bridge the gap on issues that require greater intellectual questioning. Ambika works in the space of multilateralism and at the intersection between transboundary water security and foreign policy. She has led Track II diplomacy efforts and consulted with several governments and international organizations both in India and around the world.

**Ambika is a supporter of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and will join the Global Network Forum online.**



 Kubernein  
Initiative

# Dr Mercy Dikito-Wachtmeister (Sweden)

**Dr Mercy Dikito-Wachtmeister (Sweden)** is an independent consultant and strategic programme manager and experienced evaluator in international development for 20 years in the practice areas of IWRM, transboundary water management and climate change, women & water diplomacy, water supply and sanitation, agriculture & rural development, and gender and social inclusion. Dr Dikito-Wachtmeister expertise connects the interlinked international development thematic areas of water governance, institutions and gendered livelihoods. Dr Dikito-Wachtmeister possesses a wide expertise in working with governments, regional cooperation organisations, bilateral & UN agencies, civil society in Southern and Eastern Africa, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Caribbean and Central and Eastern Europe. As a water diplomat, she has 'sought to facilitate dialogue over the political nature of transboundary management in the context of broader regional cooperation and geopolitics and promoted women's participation in water diplomacy and supported regions to utilise decision support tools for equal participation in water governance.

**Dr Dikito-Wachtmeister is a supporter of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and will join the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Nsuku Nxumalo (South Africa)

**Nsuku Nxumalo (South Africa)** is a Consultant in the Water Practice at Pegasys Strategy and Development. She is a young professional with growing experience in development, water cooperation and project management including supporting the implementation of the Strategic Water Sector Programme between Denmark and South Africa. Nsuku completed her masters research work on transboundary water management/water diplomacy in 2020 at the University of Oxford. Previously, she served as an environmental officer/ water specialist in the mining sector where she gained knowledge and skills in the implementation and auditing of Environmental Management System and advising on mine water management.

**Nsuku is a supporter of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and will join the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Karabo Mokgonyana (South Africa)

**Karabo Mokgonyana (South Africa)** is an award-winning Activist and Lawyer from South Africa. She was raised in a rural village in South Africa that exposed her to the realities of insecurity, poverty and inequality. Karabo is an outgoing member of the Youth Advisory Panelist for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) South Africa, one of the 12 global Youth Power Panel with Restless Development and a Youth and Gender Innovation Expert for UNDP's Africa Borderlands Centre. Karabo is the former African Youth Ambassador for Peace with the African Union, the Coordinator of the Commonwealth Youth Human Rights & Democracy Network and a Campaigns Coordinator at Change.Org.

Karabo has supported the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2021 and will join the Global Network Forum online.



# 2022 Global Network Forum Process Support Team and Participating Development Partner Representatives



Government of the Netherlands



Ministry for Foreign  
Affairs of Finland



Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe



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# Katja Ahlfors (Finland - MFA)

**Katja Ahlfors (Finland)** serves as the Director of the Centre for Peace Mediation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland. Prior to this she served as Senior Advisor on Horn of Africa to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland. She joined the Foreign Service in 2004 and has since served at the Department for Africa and the Middle East, the Department for Americas and Asia and at the Department for Development Policy. Ahlfors has served at the Embassies of Finland in Addis Ababa and Stockholm. She has also been seconded to the European Commission in Brussels and as Senior Advisor to CMI - Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation.

**In her capacity as a senior diplomat and a peace mediator Katja is a supporter of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and will join the Global Network Forum in person.**



Ministry for Foreign  
Affairs of Finland

# Antti Rautavaara (Finland - MFA)

**Antti Rautavaara (Finland)** comes from the Political Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. In this role he supports and represents all five water mandated ministries in Finland and continues to lead Finland's Water Diplomacy efforts. He has been in-house at Tumen River Commission and is well aware of Nile Basin Initiative and GERD dispute insights. Earlier he also managed UNICEF Nepal Water Section during Gorkha Earthquake 2015, including leadership of water sector response and humanitarian cluster coordination for over 4 million people. During his professional career he has been living and working in Sweden, China, Ethiopia and Nepal. Rautavaara holds a MSc from Aalto-university (Helsinki) and a certificate from the Royal Institute of Technology (Stockholm).

**Antti has been a member of Finnish Water Diplomacy Network since its establishment and supporter in his capacities of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network. Antti will serve as a speaker during the Women in Water Diplomacy strategy launch at the 2022 World Water Week and will join the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Dr Suvi Sojamo (Finland)

**Dr Suvi Sojamo (Finland)** serves as a Senior Research Scientist with the Finnish Environment Institute and has over 10 years of experience researching and developing principles and practices of sustainable and equitable water use and governance in international context, collaborating with academia, governments, civil society and businesses alike, in national and transboundary settings. Suvi acts as a co-chair of the Technical Advisory Group of the Glasgow COP26 Declaration for Fair Water Footprints and leads a forthcoming Horizon Europe project Governance innovations for a transition to sustainable and equitable water use in Europe (GOVAQUA). She was a member of the drafting team for the UNECE Handbook on Water Allocation in Transboundary Context (2021) and is currently supporting international collaboration and joint research as a part of the Finnish water diplomacy activities. In Stockholm World Water Week 2022, she will be moderating the session on Value of Water at Times of Armed conflicts, organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Finnish Environment Institute, Geneva Water Hub, United Nations Children’s Fund and CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation, and contributed by OSCE.

**Dr Suvi has previously supported knowledge exchange between the Finnish Water Diplomacy Network and the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and will join the Global Network Forum in person.**



Ministry for Foreign  
Affairs of Finland

# Ambassador Lena Sundh (Sweden - MFA)

**Ambassador Lena Sundh (Sweden)** has long experience of working on issues relating to peace and stability, conflict resolution and gender equality both at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the United Nations. She is currently Special Envoy to the Great Lakes at the Ministry and participates in the Burundi peace talks facilitated by Tanzania's former President Mkapa. In January 2018 she was appointed by the UN Secretary-General as chair of the International Commission of Inquiry for Mali. She was Ambassador to Angola until September 2016. Ambassador Sundh has served as the Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of Congo, MONUC, 2002-2004. Moreover, she was Head of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal 2006-2007 and member of the UN Monitoring Mechanism for the Angola sanctions 2000-2001. In 2004-2005 Lena Sundh chaired SIDDR, the Stockholm Initiative on disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration and participated in the work to follow up the findings of SIDDR in the field. She also represented Sweden as delegate to the UN Commission on the Status of Women 1987-1989 and 1992-1995.

**Ambassador Sundh is a founding member of the Swedish Women's Mediation Network (SWMN) and participated in the very first Women in Water Diplomacy Network Forum in Uganda in 2017 and will join the Global Network Forum 2022 in person.**



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Ministry for Foreign Affairs  
Sweden

# Dr. Marianne Kjellén (Sweden - UNDP)

**Dr. Marianne Kjellén** serves as Senior Water Advisor at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), works with UNDP's Water & Ocean Governance Programme in support of operations through UNDP country offices and regional hubs. She provides in-house and external water-related advice and expertise and oversees project activities for knowledge management and capacity development.

**Dr Kjellén and UNDP have supported the Women in Water Diplomacy Network through the Shared Waters Partnership programme since its inception and will join the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Dr Saule Ospanova (Kazakhstan - OSCE)

**Dr Saule Ospanova is a** Senior Environmental Affairs Advisor heading the environmental cooperation portfolio at OSCE with activities in sustainable water management, water diplomacy, disaster risk reduction, good environmental governance and hazardous waste management. She has over 20 years of experience contributing to international multi stakeholder initiatives, managing and implementing sustainability projects in different parts of the world (including Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Africa and China). Prior to joining OSCE, she worked with the International Institute for Environment and Development, the World Bank, UN and other institutions on policy development in water, climate change, energy and green economy, as well as accountability in the extractive sector. Her doctorate studies at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor focused on resource governance and environmental justice.

**Dr Saule has been instrumental in initiating the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan and will join the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Sogol Jafarzadeh (Switzerland - OSCE)

**Sogol Jafarzadeh (Switzerland)** serves as the Environmental Affairs Adviser at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna. She started her position at the OSCE Secretariat in April 2019, where she works on environmental security in general and water diplomacy and gender and water management the Central Asia Region in particular. Prior to joining the OSCE, Sogol worked at the United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG) Secretariat, UN Environment in Geneva and at the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Iran acting as the SDG focal point and supporting initiatives on environmental security and combating sand and dust storms. She also worked at the City University of New York as an Adjunct Instructor teaching environmental sciences, environmental psychology and statistics 2010-2014. Sogol has an MSc in Environmental Sciences from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETHZ) and a post graduate certificate in Environmental Sustainability from the Earth Institute, Columbia University in New York.

**Sogol has led OSCE support for the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan since inception and will join the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Letizia Zuliani (Italy - OSCE)

**Letizia Zuliani (Italy)** is a Project Assistant at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna. Letizia started her position in August 2020 as an intern and is currently supporting the daily work of the Environmental Cooperation Unit, with particular reference to the Water Management and Good Environmental Governance portfolio. Letizia holds a Master in International Relations and Eurasian Studies at the University of Bologna and Saint Petersburg State University and a post-graduate Master in Sustainable Development and Geopolitics of Resources.

**Letizia has supported the development of the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan since 2021 and be attending the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Tais Reznikova (Kazakhstan - CAREC)

**Tais Reznikova (Kazakhstan)** is a water resources management specialist with an academic background in IWRM, environmental management, and policy. Currently, she is coordinating the Mentoring and Career Development Programme for Women in Water and the Blue Peace Central Asia Secretariat at the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) in Almaty, Kazakhstan and the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan. Tais has more than 7 years of experience in the implementation of projects in Central Asia in the field of basin management and planning, water diplomacy. She holds a master's in Environmental Science, Policy and Management from Central European and Lund Universities, and in IWRM from Kazakh-German University.

**Tais has supported the development of the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan since its inception in 2021 and will be attending the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Irina Yugay (Kazakhstan - CAREC)

**Irina Yugay (Kazakhstan)** has 15 years of professional expertise in the water sector focusing on water management.

She studied Economics and Water Governance at the Kazakh Research Institute of Water Economy and Integrated Water Resources Management at the German-Kazakh University. Prior to joining the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), Irina worked as the researcher in the department of Agricultural Water Supply, where she implemented and coordinated projects on natural resource management and sustainable development of rural territories. As a program specialist at the CAREC within the Swiss-funded Project Blue Peace, she is currently responsible for coordination of the Network of Academic societies with the ultimate goal to promote a systemic approach to water education across the Central Asia region.

Further, Irina is engaged in different initiatives on strengthening interaction between Small Basin Councils and Basin Organizations at the local and transboundary levels.

**Irina has supported the development of the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan since April 2021 and will be attending the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Zebuniso Muminzoda (Tajikistan - CAREC)

**Zebuniso Muminzoda (Tajikistan)** since Oct. 2021 is leading the CAREC Country Office in Tajikistan, having the overall responsibility over the portfolio and providing technical guidance for the formulation of project proposals, analytical overviews, policy briefs and thesis speeches for topics related to environment, water resources, renewable energy, climate adaptation and mitigation. In her current position, she also supports the government of Tajikistan on environmental, water, agriculture cooperation on regional level with the countries of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) to enhance an inter-sector cooperation through information exchange and knowledge management, improvement of delivery services, technology transfer and finance. She facilitates a sub-regional dialogue and explores opportunities for a joint vision of the countries of Central Asia towards formulation and implementation of a joint environmental and sustainable development agenda. She is responsible for the mobilization of resources from multiple donor organizations (incl. EU, USAID, UNDP, World Bank etc.) to the Branch office portfolio to enhance national actions in addressing environmental and water related issues and to promote sustainable development in Central Asian countries. Zebuniso has a Bachelor Degree in International Relations from the Russian-Tajik Slavic University (2010 – 2015). She has a Certificate for Leadership & Management; Leadership & Management skills for UN volunteers (Sept-Oct 2015).

**CAREC and its country offices have supported the development of the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan since April 2021 and Zebuniso will be attending the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Julienne Ndjiki (Cameroon/South Africa - SIWI)

**Julienne Ndjiki (Cameroon)** serves as Programme Officer in the Transboundary Water Cooperation Department at SIWI and is responsible for supporting water diplomacy processes as part of SIWI's Shared Waters Partnership programme. Leveraging her background in water resources management, Julienne supports efficient coordination and engagement, programme management and development.

**Julienne has supported the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Nile since 2021 and will be attending the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Xanani Baloyi (South Africa - SIWI)

**Xanani Baloyi (South Africa)** serves as a Programme Officer in SIWI's African Regional Centre and is the Gender Equality Focal Point for SIWI. Her prime work area at SIWI is supporting the implementation of development projects that seek to make more public and private capital accessible for water-related projects in Africa: advancing the financial viability of these projects, attracting investment finance into the regional water sector and strengthening national IWRM governance frameworks. Xanani also contributes to the development of activities related to transboundary water governance and cooperation. Some of the projects worked on include: The Africa-EU Water Partnership Project (AEWPP), Transforming Investments in African Rainfed Agriculture (TIARA) initiative and 'Enhancing rainfed agricultural system in the Zambezi watercourse'. She holds a Master's degree in International Development Studies from Palacký University, Czech Republic obtained via the EU Erasmus Mundus mobility program; an Honours degree in International Relations and a Bachelor of Political Sciences in International Studies from the University of Pretoria, South Africa. She has worked for GIZ, Genesis Analytics, Higher Education and Training, South Africa.

**Xanani serves as part of the Women in Water Diplomacy Process Support Team since 2022 actively supporting new Networks to develop across Africa and will be joining the Global Network Forum in person.**



## Anton Earle (South Africa - SIWI)

**Anton Earle (South Africa)** is the Director of SIWI's Africa Regional Centre in Pretoria. Anton has over 15 years of experience specialising in transboundary water management, and institutional capacity development and policy-formation for water resource management and water infrastructure finance and development at the inter-state level in the Southern and East African regions, the Middle-East, and others. Prior to joining SIWI in 2008, Anton worked with the Africa Centre for Water Research, the University of Pretoria, and the Global Water Partnership.

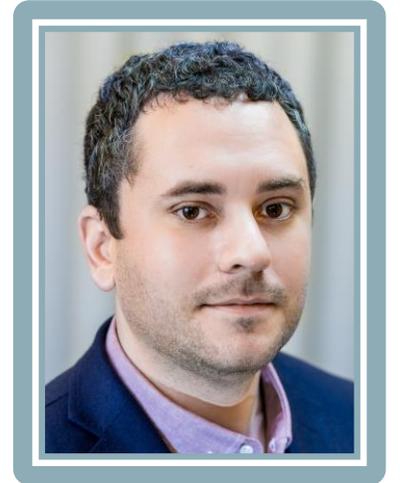
**Anton is a longtime supporter of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and will join the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Kerry Schneider (United States/Sweden - SIWI)

**Kerry Schneider (United States/Sweden)** serves as SIWI's Senior Programme Manager for the Shared Waters Partnership programme, a multi-stakeholder platform aimed at advancing cooperation over shared water resources in regions where political tensions could be a source of conflict. He contributes to the development of research and project management in a number of fields including transboundary water management, climate change, and capacity building. Kerry holds a Master's degree in International Humanitarian Action from Uppsala University, Sweden. Prior joining SIWI in 2013, Kerry worked for Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

**Kerry has supported the Women in Water Management Network since it was initiated as part of Shared Waters Partnership in 2017 and will join the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Katie Goldie-Ryder (Canada/Sweden - SIWI)

**Katie Goldie-Ryder (Canada/Sweden)** serves as a Programme Officer in the Transboundary Water Cooperation Department at SIWI. Katie supports the Shared Waters Partnership (SWP) programme, focusing on advancing SWP water diplomacy processes with a focus on Central Asia & Afghanistan and the Middle East engagements. Katie also supports the development of the International Centre for Water Cooperation's water diplomacy curricula.

**Katie has supported the Women in Water Management Network since 2021 and will be attending the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Kasonde Mulenga (Zambia- SIWI)

**Kasonde Mulenga** is a water professional with extensive work experience ranging from water resources planning and management, program and project management in the water sector. He has worked both in the public and private sector in the Southern African Region. He is currently the Programme Manager at SIWI's Africa Regional Centre in Pretoria, South Africa. He holds a Masters of Science (MSc) in Civil Engineering from University of the Witwatersrand focusing on water resources management and a Bachelor of Engineering degree from the University of Zambia.

**Since joining SIWI Kasonde has been a strong champion of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and will be attending the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Elizabeth A. Koch (United States - ELI)

**Elizabeth A. Koch (former Yaari) (United States)** leads the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Process Support Team, supporting the Network's development since inception. In 2022, she began a new role as Senior Manager of International Programmes at the Environmental Law Institute where she will continue to work to support environmental peacebuilding programmes including the Women in Water Diplomacy Network. She has over 15 years of experience supporting water diplomacy engagements in conflict sensitive basins on behalf of SIWI's Shared Waters Partnership programme, the UNESCO Category II International Centre for Water Cooperation, and EcoPeace Middle East.

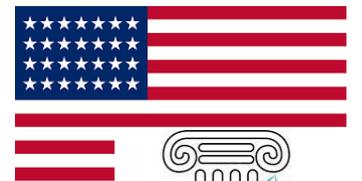
**Elizabeth had the honour of supporting the design and development of both the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Nile and the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan on behalf of SIWI Shared Waters Partnership programme and its partners since 2017 and will be joining the Global Network Forum in person.**



## Jessica Troell (United States - ELI)

**Jessica Troell (United States)** is a Senior Attorney and has directed the Environmental Law Institute's International Water Program since its founding in 2006. Under her leadership, the Program has developed and implemented projects to define and track the legal recognition and protections for Indigenous and community-based water tenure; create realistic mechanisms for involving diverse stakeholders in water-related decision-making; identify and implement innovative water governance mechanisms to strengthen resilience of communities and countries in the face of climate change; build the legal and institutional capacity to manage transboundary water challenges; strengthen livelihoods and food security through more effective water management; and ensure that water management is effectively leveraged in fragile and post-conflict states to promote peacebuilding. Jessica works with NGOs, governments, the private sector, and universities to create, implement, and enforce sustainable water laws, policies, and management mechanisms.

**Jessica has supported the development and implementation of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network on behalf of ELI's International Waters Programme since inception in 2017 and will be joining the Global Network Forum in person.**



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# Dr Anders Jägerskog (World Bank CIWA)

**Dr Anders Jägerskog (Sweden)** is the Program Manager of the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA) Trust Fund and Transboundary Waters Focal Point at the World Bank. Prior to joining the World Bank he was Counselor at the Swedish Embassy in Amman with responsibility for Swedish support to regional water resources in the MENA region. He has held the position as Director at the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) where he headed the Transboundary Unit and the Applied Research work of SIWI and was project manager for the UNDP Shared Waters Partnership (SWP). Between August 2009-August 2011 he was Senior Program Manager, Water resources at the Embassy of Sweden, Nairobi. He is an Associate Professor at Peace and Development, University of Gothenburg. He has worked at the Expert Group on Development Issues (EGDI) at the Swedish MFA, at the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (Sida) and at Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) with Middle Eastern security issues. In 2003 he finished his PhD on the water negotiations in the Jordan River Basin at the Department of Water and Environmental Studies at the Linköping University, Sweden. He has published over 100 scientific articles, book chapters, debate articles and reports.

**Anders is a longtime supporter of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and from 2022 CIWA has engaged with the Network in the development of its Global Strategy. Anders will join the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Soma Ghosh Moulik (World Bank)

**Soma Ghosh Moulik (India)** is currently the Practice Manager, Water in the East and Southern Africa region of the World Bank. She has been in the World Bank since 1999 and held several positions in the water sector. She has been responsible in leading several transformational operations and knowledge products in urban and water to client counties in South Asia, MENA and Africa regions. Her main areas of work are around policy and institutional development, performance based fiscal transfer systems in large national and subnational urban and rural programs, designed large scale national campaigns in behavior change and universal access to water and sanitation in IDA and IBRD countries. She was also the Global Focal Point on Social Inclusion at the World Bank's Water Global Practice. Prior to joining the World Bank, Soma has also worked in international and national foundations, bi-lateral institutions and civil society organizations.

**Soma is a longtime champion of women's leadership across the water sector and from 2022 the World Bank's CIWA has engaged with the Network in the development of its Global Strategy. Soma will join the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Alyssa Offutt (United States/ The Netherlands)

**Alyssa Offutt (United States/ The Netherlands)** is currently completing her PhD at the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education where she is focused on the multi-scalar hydro politics of transboundary water quality. She also supports the Water, Peace, and Security and Water Diplomacy initiatives hosted by IHE. Alyssa has a background and training in Water Cooperation and Diplomacy as well as Environmental and Water Resources Engineering.

Alyssa has contributed to key scholarship related to the Women in Water Diplomacy Network as well as supporting experience exchange opportunities such as through the IHE Delft Seminar entitled “(En)Gendering Transboundary Water Governance” in 2020 and the IHE Water and Peace Seminar 2022 session featuring members of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network. Her chapter ‘A Gendered Perspective on the Multiple Scales of Water Conflict’ is set to be released in the soon to be released IHE Delft edited book Gender dynamics in transboundary water governance: Feminist Perspectives on Water Conflict and Cooperation.

**IHE Delft is a long-time partner to the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and Alyssa will be joining the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Dr Josephine Sundqvist (Sweden)

**Dr Josephine Sundqvist (Sweden)** is the Secretary-General of Läkarmissionen International (LM), a Sweden-based international aid organization promoting sustainable poverty reduction from a rights perspective with focus on health, water, and sanitation. Dr Sundqvist has extensive experience managing and supporting humanitarian and development programs, including through her years of service with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

**Läkarmissionen International is a new partner of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and Dr Sundqvist will join the Global Network Forum in person.**



LM International

# Nasra Mohamed Ahmed (Somalia)

**Nasra Mohamed Ahmed (Somalia)** is the Director of Occupational Safety and Health at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for the Government of Somalia and currently serves at the Somalia Country Office of Läkarmissionen International (LM), a Sweden-based international aid organization promoting sustainable poverty reduction from a rights perspective with focus on health, water, and sanitation. She is an experienced mediator and negotiator, with areas of expertise including community development, women's empowerment, and youth leadership. Nasra's work primarily focuses on educating and empowering women and girls as well as tackling societal stigmas and gender stereotypes in Somalia. Her current projects include projects addressing mental health and post-partum depression as well as river flooding and water safety.

**Läkarmissionen International is a new partner of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and Nasra will join the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Sally Magzoub (Sudan)

**Sally Magzoub (Sudan)** currently serves as Programme Manager at the Sudan Country Office of Läkarmissionen International (LM), a Sweden-based international aid organization promoting sustainable poverty reduction from a rights perspective with focus on health, water, and sanitation. Sally leads the LM Sudan programme sections on advocacy, education, programme design, and partnership, ensuring that LM continues to advance as one of the leading organizations in Sudan in the field of water resources management and humanitarian response.

An experienced humanitarian and development practitioner, Sally has more than 13 years of experience with INGOs in Sudan in various functions in the field and country office levels on technical and managerial sides. She began her career as a hydrogeologist based in the field where she led geological and geophysical studies to identify suitable locations to drill highly yielded boreholes and design suitable water infrastructure to increase access to safe water for vulnerable groups. She has extensive experience and strong skills in program development and management, Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and rural Water, Hygiene and Environmental Sanitation (WASH) solutions, and mainstreaming of environment and gender in WASH.

**Läkarmissionen International is a new partner of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and Sally will join the Global Network Forum in person.**



LM International

# Florien van Weerelt (The Netherlands)

**Florien van Weerelt (The Netherlands)** is the Protocol and External Relations Officer at Läkarmissionen International (LM), a Sweden-based international aid organization promoting sustainable poverty reduction from a rights perspective with focus on health, water, and sanitation. She holds a Master of Laws in International Human Rights Law from Lund University and a Bachelor of Laws from University College London. Prior to joining LM International, Florien has been a project leader at Save the Children (Rädda Barnen) in Lund and has actively engaged in several pro bono projects in London.

**Läkarmissionen International is a new partner of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and Florien will join the Global Network Forum in person contributing to the events as part of the Process Support Team.**



LM International

# Yasmina Rais El Fenni (Morocco/Denmark)

**Yasmina Rais El Fenni (United States)** serves as Senior Programme Officer and Gender Specialist for UNDP CapNet, ensuring gender mainstreaming is incorporated in policy, reporting and programmes. Yasmina is responsible for monitoring and evaluation and reporting of all UNDP CapNet activities; coordination of training manuals development; virtual course development; fundraising strategies and donor engagement conceptualization; as well as communication and outreach development with geographical expertise in the Middle East and Africa.

**Yasmina is a long-time supporter of the Network specifically supporting the development of the new Women in Water Diplomacy UNDP CapNet Virtual Campus – coming soon! – and will joining the Global Network Forum online.**



Cap-Net



# Lesley Pories (United States)

**Lesley Pories** (USA) has been engaged in the water sector for over a decade. She first became passionate about water management and governance during her two year service as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Uzbekistan. She later complemented that experience with a one year fellowship at a water conservation NGO in Hubli, India. Lesley recently joined GWP as the Global Coordinator for its Global Water Leadership Programme, an initiative aiming to improve climate-smart water governance in seven countries through bringing the WRM and WASH sectors together. This role leverages her previous 8.5 years at Water.org, where she initially managed half the organization's portfolio for India but then migrated to its global advocacy team, where she built partnerships with stakeholders across the water, WASH and finance spaces, served as a primary external-facing voice for critical messages, and worked with country teams to develop national strategies for policy and advocacy. Lesley has a Masters in City and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Masters in International Relations (focusing on international environmental resource policy) from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. She is currently based in Stockholm, Sweden.

**Lesley is a supporter of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and will join the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Dr Yumiko Yasuda (Japan/Sweden)

**Dr Yumiko Yasuda** (Japan-Sweden) is the Senior Network and Transboundary Water Cooperation Specialist at the Global Waters Partnership Secretariate (GWP). She is presently the Network Specialist for both GWP-C and GWP Southeast Asia. She joined GWP in 2017, and has been network officer for China, Southeast Asia, South Asia and Pan Asia. In addition to being a Senior Network Specialist, she currently leads GWP's thematic work on transboundary water, and is the lead faculty of the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Transboundary Freshwater Security, where she designed and directed the production of the course. She obtained her PhD degree from the Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science at the University of Dundee, MA in environmental policy from the Tufts University, and MSc in Environmental Science from Tsukuba University. Her research on the Mekong has culminated in the publication of a book titled "Rules, Norms and NGO Advocacy Strategies: Hydropower Development on the Mekong River" by Routledge in 2015.

**Dr Yasuda is interested in learning more about the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and will join the Global Network Forum in person.**



# Rachel Lew (United States)

**Rachael Lew** (United States) is a geospatial professional with a passion for water security, climate security, sustainable water management, and water conflict and cooperation. She is a recent alumna of The Fletcher School at Tufts University where she studied Environment Policy and Human Security while earning two certifications in Geographic Information Systems and Water Systems.

**Rachel is a new supporter and student of water diplomacy interested in learning more about the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and will join the Global Network Forum online.**



**Tufts**  
UNIVERSITY

# Women in Water Diplomacy Network

## A Global Partnership



**SIWI Shared Waters Partnership**  
supporting Women in Water Diplomacy in  
the Nile Basin 2017 - 2023



Government of the Netherlands

**Women in Water Management Network**  
Central Asia and Afghanistan 2020-2022



Ministry for Foreign  
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**Together, we can do more!**



***'We must all do everything possible to ensure women are at the table, our voices heard, and our contributions valued.'***

-- UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, as UNGA adopts resolution declaring June 24, 2022 the first-ever International Women In Diplomacy Day.

***Help support leading women water diplomats to take a seat at the table and collectively change the status quo for women, water, peace and security!***

***Support the Women in Water Diplomacy Global Strategy!***

