



Call for Contributions - AfriAlliance launch Conference

The first AfriAlliance Conference will be held from **22-24 March 2017** in The Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre in **Ekurhuleni, South-Africa**, and serves as the inaugural meeting of the AfriAlliance innovation alliance. AfriAlliance is a 5-year project funded by the European Commission aiming to facilitate the collaboration of African and European stakeholders in the areas of water and climate innovation, research, policy and capacity development.

The first AfriAlliance Conference will be hosted by the **Local Climate Solutions for Africa (LoCS4Africa) 2017 Congress** on Water and Climate, organized by ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability, Africa Secretariat, in partnership with Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality. The Congress connects Africa's urban water & climate development challenges with solutions and opportunities for access to finance & technology, inclusivity through design and building more resilient urban communities.

What can you expect from the AfriAlliance Conference?

- Being part of the launch of the AfriAlliance innovation alliance on the African continent bridging climate change and water related needs with potential innovative solutions
- Inspiring keynote speakers
- A diverse audience (incl. small & medium enterprises (SMEs), industry, policy makers, scientists, municipalities, regulators, civil society organisations and financiers)
- Ample opportunities for networking, exchanging experiences and mutual learning
- Different types of interactive sessions, such as demand-driven workshops, showcases of African initiatives and pitch-based poster sessions
- Opportunities to give input and help shape the future AfriAlliance activities on social innovation for water and climate change challenges in Africa
- Inspiration from the first set of AfriAlliance Action Groups and the chance to help identify themes for the next set of Action Groups

Become part of the action!

AfriAlliance invites your proposals for contributions at the AfriAlliance Conference. In order to have rich discussions and to help attendees find solutions, AfriAlliance welcomes perspectives and ideas from a variety of individuals and organisations from the water & climate change communities.

Concretely, we provide the following opportunities to get involved:

1. Host a **demand-driven workshop**. The workshop should take 90 minutes for up to 60 participants. We are looking for interactive and dynamic workshops that provide the opportunity for in-depth exchange of experiences and ideas.

2. **Showcase African initiatives.** Present your innovative African research, technology, capacity development, policy or governance initiative. The preferred duration of your showcase contribution is 20 minutes, including discussion time.
3. **Pitched poster session.** Present highlights from your innovative African research, capacity development, policy or governance initiative during a dedicated plenary session (pitch duration 2 minutes) to attract the audience to your poster for detailed discussion.

Themes

AfriAlliance solicits submissions related to the following requested themes

1. Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)
2. Food security / agriculture
3. Human capacity development
4. Climate change adaptation & mitigation
5. Water & Climate data monitoring, forecasting, collection & analysis.

Key dates

- 30 November 2016: early bird registration opens
- 30 November 2016: Call for Contributions
- 9 January 2017, 5pm CET: deadline for submission of proposals
- 13 January 2017: notifications of acceptance

More information

Detailed requirements, instructions for submissions and the selection criteria for the conference contributions are available in the annex 'Contribution Guidelines'. For personal guidance on your proposal, please do not hesitate to contact afrialliance@unesco-ihe.org.

For more information about the meeting venue, fees and registration, visit www.locs4africa.iclei.org. Please note that all participants, including accepted contributors, are required to pay the congress registration fee.

About AfriAlliance

AfriAlliance is a 5-year project running from 2016 to 2021. The project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 689162 and is coordinated by UNESCO-IHE. The project consortium is made up of 16 African and European partner organisations. Visit us at www.afrialliance.org.



Annex

Contribution guidelines

We encourage you to go beyond simply disseminating information and to consider a creative format for your contribution that will engage the audience in discussion and interaction. If relevant, contributions may contain visual and/or audio material. Accepted contributors will not receive any financial support from AfriAlliance to attend the conference.

Submission

The following guidelines apply to all contributions (**workshops, showcasing initiatives and posters**).

Please prepare and submit a proposal in Microsoft Word. The following elements should be included:

- Title of the contribution
- Type of contribution (demand-driven workshop, showcasing an initiative or poster)
- Setup of the contribution / summary of the poster
- Key issues addressed by the contribution ¹
- Relevance of the contribution
- Contact information of the contribution lead (name, professional affiliation, e-mail, phone)
- Name(s) of presenter(s)/contributor(s)
- A contribution summary of 75 words (to be published on the conference website if accepted)

The overall proposal should be between 500 and 750 words. The language of the proposals should be English.

The contribution proposal should be sent to afrialliance@unesco-ihe.org by Monday 9 January 2017, 5pm CET. A confirmation that the proposal was submitted successfully will be sent by e-mail to the contribution lead.

Selection process

In order to be considered, contribution proposals must be **complete** and **received by the deadline**.

Proposals for contributions to the conference are selected to make sure the conference offers a comprehensive and diverse program. Attention will be given to diversity of presenters and geographic and thematic focus. Further criteria are whether the proposed contribution will be lively and participatory in style and whether it delivers a key and substantiated message.

The contribution lead will be notified of the acceptance of his/her contribution on Friday 13 January 2017.

¹ (1) Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) (2) Food security / agriculture (3) Human capacity development (4) Climate change adaptation & mitigation (5) Water & Climate data monitoring, forecasting, collection & analysis.