



CS4Water
Conference 2027

Call for Contributions

Cape Town, South Africa

Emeris Newlands Campus

29 June to 1 July 2027

Submissions open 31 October to 14 December 2026



info@cs4water.net



cs4water.net

in

[CS4Water conference](#)

Call for contributions

We invite researchers, practitioners, policymakers, educators, community members, and all others working in citizen science for water to submit contributions to the second Citizen Science for Water (CS4Water) Conference, held from 29 June to 1 July 2027 at the Emeris Newlands Campus in Cape Town, South Africa.

Focus for the 2027 edition

The inaugural edition in Delft, the Netherlands, established the breadth, importance, and interest in citizen science for water on the international stage. The CS4Water Conference 2027 in Cape Town takes a deeper dive, focusing on elevating knowledge from the Global South, integrating citizen science into education, embracing digital innovation to enhance citizen science data systems, and increasing trust in citizen science within governance systems for policy adoption and enhancement.

Southern Africa and the wider continent hold strong current momentum on this focus, making Cape Town a perfect destination to gather, share, and drive progress. Cape Town is also more than a venue; it is a living landscape of innovation in inclusive water management. The city's famous response to its Day Zero crisis is a globally relevant case study in urban water resilience, quality and quantity regulation, and participatory adaptive governance.

We aim for a dynamic programme, with formats designed to protect discussion time. We encourage submissions across contribution types and welcome innovation beyond them.



Conference aims

Five aims guide the programme and the review of every submission.

1

Advance collaborative research and knowledge exchange

Connect researchers, practitioners, policymakers, decision-makers, educators, stakeholders, and community members across the globe, and especially the North-South bridge, to strengthen cooperative freshwater monitoring, education, management, and research, with African and Global South practices at the centre of the conversation.

2

Strengthen community and institutional agency in the water commons

Examine how inclusive community freshwater science can shape decision-making, communication, accountability, and governance, and what it takes to integrate and sustain citizen science systems within formal structures.

3

Accelerate practical solutions to the freshwater crisis

Co-develop citizen science-driven approaches to water security, climate adaptation, and ecosystem stewardship that deliver solutions both locally and for increasingly urgent worldwide objectives, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Africa Water Vision and Policy 2063 (AWVP63), and Output 1.10 of the ninth phase of UNESCO's IHP-IX.

4

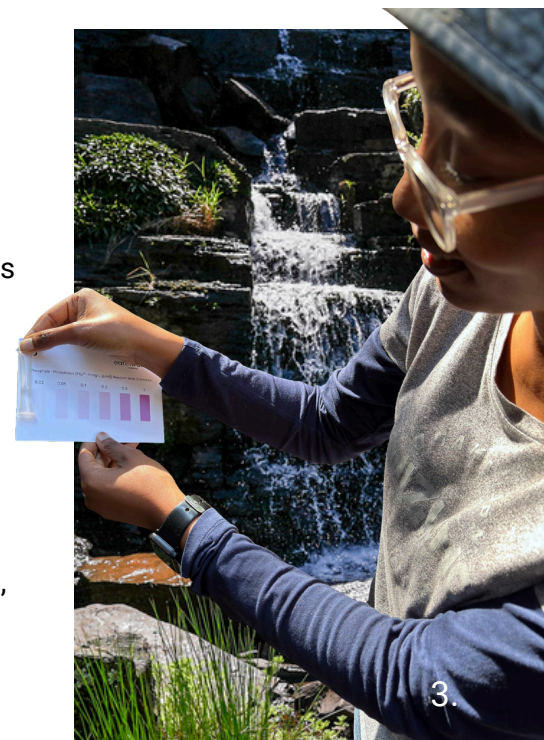
Build lasting Global South capacity and networks

Establish durable North-South connections between institutions, community programmes, and the international citizen science community, with emphasis on platforming and strengthening Global South networks.

5

Champion ethical and inclusive science

Promote openness and empowerment in science through advocating consent, recognition, and ethical and responsible generation and ownership of Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR) data.



Conference themes

Each submission selects the one theme it most closely addresses.

1 Citizen science for water in the Global South

Showcasing citizen science within freshwater monitoring and management through a Global South lens.

2 Water, digital innovation, and AI

Digital innovation and artificial intelligence (AI) for good in the realms of citizen science for water, exploring how emerging technologies can integrate with citizen science to improve freshwater monitoring and management.

3 Education and citizen science for water

Addressing the potential of citizen science for water to enhance youth participation in the water commons and drive innovation in upskilling, as well as the widespread need for integration of citizen science into formal and informal education.

4 The next generation of citizen science practitioners

Strengthening or reimagining the role of young people in citizen science for water, exploring how young people can take on roles as leaders, innovators, and changemakers.

5 Empowerment and traditional knowledge systems

Illustrating citizen science for water as a vehicle for community empowerment, and exploring how traditional and local knowledge systems can deepen understanding and accelerate more inclusive, locally driven water monitoring and management.

6 Co-creating resilient landscapes and communities

Advancing citizen science for water as a mechanism for supporting ecosystem stewardship, enhancing our long-term understanding of landscapes, and strengthening community resilience to climate change and water security pressures.

7 Transformative changes in multi-level governance

Exploring ways in which citizen science for water can help to strengthen trust, credibility, and accountability, and enable the transformative changes required to embed citizen science for water in formal decision-making processes and systems locally and globally.

8 Sustainable programme operation and funding solutions

Developing, discussing, and showcasing models for sustainable citizen science for water programmes and tools, looking at how we can co-create solutions that overcome common finance, partner support, participation, and short-term project limitations.

Contribution types

Every contribution addresses one of the eight conference themes. Plenary sessions sit outside the call and are organised by the Conference Organising Committee (COC) by invitation.

PAPER AND DIALOGUE ORAL PRESENTATION

15-minute oral presentation of research findings, programme experience, or practice insights in a themed session followed by facilitated dialogue. Abstract of up to 350 words.

POSTER

Research and work more suitable for less formal, more interactive and concise presentation and discussion (for example, early-stage research), in 90-minute evening poster sessions alongside the exhibition. Abstract of up to 350 words. A0 portrait poster.

WORKSHOP

A hands-on, facilitated session in which participants apply or develop methods, tools, skills, or other collaborative outcomes. Proposal of up to 350 words covering objectives, target audience, activities, and facilitators. 90-minute slot.

WORLD CAFÉ

A facilitated discussion in which participants rotate between small-group tables to explore open questions and harvest shared insights. Proposal of up to 350 words covering guiding questions, facilitators, and intended outputs. 90-minute slot.

SPECIAL INTERACTION

Any format outside the standard structure, such as practitioner-led or community-led sessions, panel discussions, demonstrations, creative formats, or competitions, organised and delivered by the proposers. Proposal of up to 350 words. 90-minute slot.

FIELD EXCURSION

A visit to a site, project, or community initiative in or near Cape Town that shows citizen science for water in practice. These are by arrangement, ticketed separately, and must be led by the proposers; include estimated max. attendees and cost per person. 500 words.

EXHIBITION STAND (EXPRESSION OF INTEREST)

Display space for organisations, companies, or research groups to showcase projects, products, services, or research. Stands are confirmed through sponsorship; we will send you the sponsorship prospectus. Up to 350 words.

Final format guidance and upload deadlines follow with your acceptance.



How to submit

Submit through the conference platform at cs4water2027.dryfta.com between 00:00 on 31 October and 23:59 on 14 December 2026, South African Standard Time (SAST). No late submissions will be accepted and the call will not be extended. The conference runs in English, and all submissions are in English.

- 1. Create an account.** Open the platform, select Create Account, and register with the email address you want all conference correspondence sent to.
- 2. Start a submission.** Sign in, open the submission form, and choose your contribution type. The form then shows only the fields for that type.
- 3. Choose your theme.** Select the one conference theme your contribution most closely addresses.
- 4. Write your title and summary.** Keep within the word limit for your contribution type, and leave out all author names and affiliations, because review is double-blind.
- 5. Add your co-authors.** List up to five co-authors or presenters with their names, affiliations, and email addresses, and mark who will present.
- 6. Confirm and submit.** Accept the Privacy Policy and Code of Conduct, then submit. You will receive a confirmation email, and you can edit your submission until the deadline. After the deadline, you may withdraw a submission but editing will be locked.

Rules at a glance

- Each person may submit up to three contributions as the lead coordinator or presenter and be listed as a non-presenting co-author on up to five more.
- Each submission may list up to five co-authors or presenters.
- Abstracts and proposals are up to 350 words, or 500 words for field excursions.
- Accepted submissions are not a confirmation of inclusion in the programme. Presenting authors and contribution leads must register by 3 May 2027 to guarantee their place in the programme.
- Contributions whose presenting author or lead has not registered by 8 June 2027 will be removed from the programme.

Questions about the call or a contribution idea?
Email info@cs4water.net.



Review, selection, and next steps

Members of the volunteer Conference Review Committee (CRC) review paper and dialogue oral presentations, posters, workshops, world cafés, and special interactions in the conference platform. Review is double-blind: author names and affiliations are hidden from reviewers, and each submission receives at least two reviews. Reviewers assess each submission against the criteria set for its contribution type, drawn from relevance to the conference themes, clarity, completeness, and suitability to the conference aims, with session design, outcomes, and delivery also assessed for workshops, world cafés, and special interactions. Field excursions are considered by the Conference Organising Committee (COC), while exhibition-stand expressions of interest are handled through the sponsorship process.

Submissions are allocated to reviewers in a manner designed to avoid conflicts of interest. The COC makes the final decisions informed by the completed reviews. The COC may offer a change of format, for example a poster in place of a presentation.

After acceptance

Decisions are issued by 1 February 2027, when early bird registration opens.

Accepted submissions are not a confirmation of inclusion in the programme.

Presenting authors and contribution leads must register by 3 May 2027 to guarantee their place in the programme. Contributions whose presenting author or lead has not registered by 8 June 2027 will be removed from the programme. Format guidance and instructions for contributors will follow acceptance.

The Practical Information page of the cs4water.net website offers full guidance and details for preparing for your travel to Cape Town.



Key dates

- **31 October 2026:** call for contributions opens
- **14 December 2026:** submission deadline (23:59 South African time)
- **1 February 2027:** decisions issued; early bird registration opens
- **15 February 2027:** draft outline programme released
- **5 March 2027:** early bird registration closes
- **3 May 2027:** registration deadline for presenting authors and contribution leads
- **29 June to 1 July 2027:** CS4Water Conference 2027, Cape Town

The Emeris Newlands Campus and the sixth-floor conference venue are wheelchair accessible. Practical information on travel, visas, and accommodation is available at cs4water.net.

Please note: the conference offers no travel grants, accommodation support, or per diems. However, in an effort to increase inclusivity and accessibility, reduced registration fees apply for delegates based in the Global South, students, and practitioners; fees will be published when registration opens. We encourage attendees to reach out to their faculty grant advisors or networks to find out about conference travel and attendance support; many universities and national governments offer travel support grants.

Contact

Questions about the call or a contribution idea? Email info@cs4water.net.

Visit cs4water.net for the full call and practical information, and follow the CS4Water conference on LinkedIn for updates.



Co-organised by IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, GroundTruth, Emeris, Pulsaqua, Earthwatch Europe, the Citizen Science Association for Southern Africa (CSA SA), University of the Western Cape (UWC), and the UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) with support from the Government of Flanders.

Supported by



Flanders
State of the Art

