

Call for papers and guidelines for preparation for a special edition of Hydrological Sciences Journal (HSJ) on 'Sub-Saharan Africa Hydrology Research'.

Objective and call for abstracts

To highlight and promote the development of hydrological research that is being undertaken by individuals and organisations within sub-Saharan Africa, with an emphasis on post-graduate research programmes.

There are a number of groups that are promoting post-graduate research programmes that are designed to develop capacity in high level hydrology and water resources science research within the region. Some of these groups have been active for a number of years and have produced many research outputs. Some of the past work has been published in various journals and conference proceedings, but it now seems appropriate to bring recent contributions together in a single publication to demonstrate the quality of research that is going on within the region and to encourage further development of research capacity. The journal of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS) is considered to be the best avenue for this process given the commitment of IAHS to promoting research in developing regions.

This document invites abstract proposals from groups or individuals working on hydrological research projects within the region who would like to see their work and results highlighted in such a special issue of HSJ. Papers should present original research that has not been published elsewhere and should address the understanding of sub-Saharan Hydrology or the contributions that hydrological science can make to improved water resources planning and management within the region. Papers that address the themes of the new IAHS Scientific Decade (Panta Rhei) are especially encouraged. Preference will be given to papers that are authored or co-authored by early career hydrologists within the region (post-graduates or recently graduated PhD's). All submitted papers must have at least one author who is resident within the region and affiliated with an institution within the region.

Editorial Team

Denis Hughes (IWR, Rhodes University South Africa & Academic Director of the Carnegie RISE, SSAWRN programme designed to develop academic and research capacity in water resources science. Also an Associate Editor of HSJ).

Graham Jewitt (Umgeni Water Chair of Water Resources Management, Centre for Water Resources Research, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Involved with various post-graduate development programmes, including WaterNet, for many years. Also South African National Representative of IAHS).

Simon Stisen (GEUS, Denmark. Programme Leader of CLIVET, a DANIDA funded project supporting the training of post-graduates in Tanzania).

Dominic Mazvimavi (Dept. of Earth Sciences, University of the Western Cape, South Africa. Editor of Physics and Chemistry of the Earth and long-term involvement in WaterNet).

Gil Mahé (IRD, Morocco and involved with a number of post-graduate student development programmes in West and Central Africa).

The editorial team are tasked with soliciting papers from appropriate individuals and organisations and guiding the initial selection of papers. They will also contribute to the review process.

The editorial team will be supported in the review process by a number of individuals who are familiar with sub-Saharan African hydrology and water resources issues and who will be contacted at an early stage in the process to ensure their commitment to thorough, rigorous and timeous reviews.

Process - Timing

Targeted call for abstracts during **August 2013** with a strict deadline of the **14th of October 2013**. The editorial team will review the abstract proposals and select up to **25 contributions** for further development.

The authors of the accepted abstracts will be notified by the end of **October 2013** and invited to prepare the first drafts of their papers. These must first be submitted to the editorial team for checking that the papers strictly conform to the HSJ guidelines for paper preparation. Only then will they be permitted to submit the paper to HSJ through the normal HSJ online submission system.

The deadline for full paper submission to HSJ will be the end of **March 2014**, after which no outstanding papers will be accepted for possible inclusion in the special edition. The papers will then follow the normal reviewing process. Those authors whose papers are ready before the end of March 2014 are encouraged to **NOT** wait for the deadline.

The expected publication date for the special edition will be the **end of 2014 or the beginning of 2015**.

Process – Principles for accepting abstracts

The opening section of this document identifies the type of paper that we are looking for and clearly all papers must fall within the scope of the Hydrological Sciences Journal. The abstracts will be initially screened by the editorial team to ensure that they do fall within the scope of the special editions and that they meet the author criteria (at least one author resident in the region and preference given to early career hydrologists, also located within the region).

Authors should be aware that the acceptance of an abstract and notification that the full paper can be prepared will not be considered as a guarantee that the paper will be accepted for final publication in the journal. All papers will be initially checked by the editorial team and those that do not conform to the standards or format of HSJ will be returned to the authors. Only after this initial checking will authors be advised that they may submit the paper to the journal through the online submission system. All papers will be then be subjected to the full HSJ review process. The final number of papers that will be included in the special edition has yet to be decided, but is likely to be about 14. Any papers that pass through the review process, but cannot be accommodated in the special edition can be published in other editions of HSJ.

Introductory paper

It is proposed that the introductory paper for the special edition will be drafted by the editorial team and will focus on 'Developing and sustaining hydrological research in sub-Saharan Africa'. This paper will focus on a number of issues related to the research that is undertaken within the region, the relevance of the research to practical water resources decision-making and problem-solving as well

as sustaining the development of future research expertise and skills. The editorial team members all have a great deal of experience in these matters (some of them shared).

The introductory paper will necessarily have to be reviewed by individuals who are not part of the reviewer team for the other submitted papers (i.e. a fully independent review).

Guidelines for authors

Abstracts

Abstracts should include the names, affiliations and contact details of all of the authors and should be no more than 2 pages in length. The abstract should contain sufficient information for the editorial team to understand what the final paper will be about and the expected contents. The abstracts must include details of the methodology and expected results. Any final paper that substantially deviates from the description provided in the abstract may be rejected.

Abstracts should be submitted to a dedicated gmail address, which can be accessed by all of the editorial team:

Hsj.ss.africa@gmail.com

Papers

Extensive guidelines for preparing manuscripts for HSJ are provided on the journals web page (<http://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?journalCode=thsj20&page=instructions>) and all authors must read through this document and abide by the rules. If student authors are in any doubt they should contact an experienced author or one of the editorial team for guidance (but only if they do not understand some parts of the guidelines on the HSJ website).

Taylor and Francis (publishers of HSJ) also provide some help on preparing papers for first time or inexperienced authors at <http://journalauthors.tandf.co.uk/preparation/writing.asp>.