

Nigeria National Committee for UNESCO-IHP (NNC-UNESCO-IHP)

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Roundtable 3: Data and Information

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Africa is one of the most vulnerable regions for the impacts of climate change. Climate extremes have become more frequent and more intense in the region. The region, especially sub-Saharan Africa region continues to experience erratic rains resulting in droughts and floods with high social, economic and environmental consequences. Drought has a creeping nature with negative impact on water supply, crop production, livestock, and flora and fauna of surface stream environments. Using groundwater in drought-prone areas would help address water scarcity and improve livelihood among the most vulnerable. Groundwater is a shared resource amongst regions with different social, economic and legal frameworks. The overarching goal in this climate is to enhance understanding of the resource to improve transboundary groundwater management. Critical activities should include capacity-building and networking for practitioners, researchers and professionals. We need to understand the trends, challenges and risks of groundwater management. In addition, we need to assess progress made through data collection, monitoring and evaluation of interventions. The Committee is advocating for interventions that strengthen groundwater development and management, ensuring water security, prioritizing sanitation and hygiene, and promoting water governance and transboundary water cooperation in the region.