

Navigating Dry Futures with Seasonal Drought Forecasting: OUTLAST and SPS-Blue Nile Tools for Proactive Water Management



Dissemination and Transfer Event

We welcome you to the presentation and discussion of two **BMFTR-funded** research projects, **OUTLAST** and **SPS-Blue Nile**, which aim to enhance water management through global and regional drought early warning systems.



Modalities

👉 The event is held in person and is free of charge.

📅 **27th of November 2025 (9:15-16:30).**

📍 *Gustav Stresemann Institute, Bonn*

👉 OUTLAST and SPS-Blue Nile will conduct a half-day in-person workshop for a technical introduction on products and portals. Participation is free of charge.

📅 **28th of November 2025 (09:00-14:00)**

📍 *Gustav Stresemann Institute, Bonn*

Registration and contact persons

Dr. Neda Abbasi
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OUTLAST



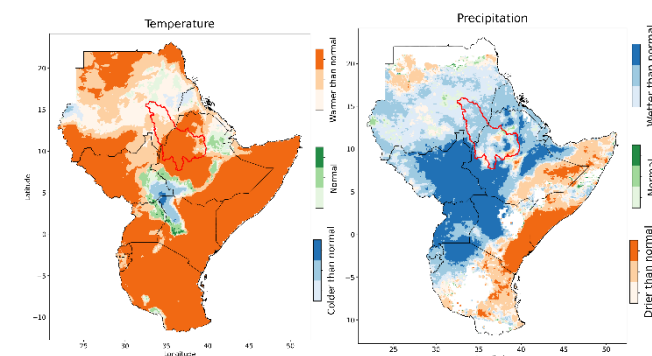
HydroSOS portal



SPS-Blue Nile

Objectives of the Event

- Inform on achievements in drought early warning several months in advance for proactive water management
- Present global and regional perspectives on the developed forecasting methods and tools
- Discuss lessons learnt and prepare long-term operational continuity
- Bring together scientists and potential users and service providers



Bias-corrected SEAS5 seasonal outlook of JJAS temperature and rainfall, Greater Horn of Africa & Blue Nile, issued in May 2025

Organizers

This event is co-organized by OUTLAST (Prof. Stefan Siebert, University of Göttingen) and SPS-Blue Nile (Prof. Harald Kunstmann, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology- Campus Alpin) teams.

Participants

The event will bring together regional representatives, international organizations (notably WMO), researchers, developers, donors, implementers, and public and private organizations.

With funding from the:



© OUTLAST drought hazard indicators on the HydroSOS portal

Introduction to the Event

Drought early warning is a key to enable proactive management of water resources and to implement timely adaptation measures. This seminar showcases the latest developments from the **OUTLAST** and **SPS-Blue Nile** projects, highlighting practical pathways for drought early-warning and water-management decision support. Through keynotes, live demonstrations, and stakeholder perspectives, we will present the operational systems, methods, and results, and discuss their transferability and long-term use.



Thursday 27th, November 2025
Moderators: Prof. Petra Döll & Prof. Axel Bronstert

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09:15-
09:45

Registration

09:45-
10:00

Welcome address

Dr. Rainer Müssner (BMFTR)
Prof. Stefan Siebert (Univ. Göttingen)
Prof. Harald Kunstmann (KIT)

10:00-
10:15

Keynote

Prof. Stefan Uhlenbrook (WMO, video)
Petra Herzog (BfG)

10:15-
10:30

Drought early warning systems for water management

OUTLAST & SPS-Blue Nile: Early warning challenges & opportunities
Prof. Stefan Siebert & Prof. Harald Kunstmann

10:30-
11:15

OUTLAST - Development of an operational, multisectoral, global drought hazard forecasting system

- Co-design process
 - Multi-sectoral drought early warning
 - Operational system and transferability
- Prof. Stefan Siebert & Dr. Stephan Dietrich*

11:15-
11:30

Stakeholder views

Regional stakeholders and partners
Dr. Habiba Mtongori (Tanzania Meteorological Authority) & Dr. Kamar Saliyeva (KAZHYDROMET, Kazakhstan)

11:30-
12:00

Q&A

Prof. Stefan Siebert

12:00-
13:00

Lunch Break



13:00-
13:45

SPS-Blue Nile: Development and transfer of a seamless prediction system for decision support in transboundary water management of the Blue Nile

- Methods and technical realization
 - Hydrometeorological forecasting
 - Hydrology and sediments
 - Policy paper
 - Co-designed climate services
 - Pycast S2S community building
- Prof. Harald Kunstmann, Prof. Axel Bronstert, André Müller*

13:45-
14:00

Stakeholder views

Regional stakeholders and partners
Dr. Titike Bahaga (IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Center, Kenya) & Dr. Fasikaw Atanaw Zimale (Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia)

14:00-
14:30

Q&A

Prof. Harald Kunstmann

14:30-
15:00

Coffee Break



15:00-
16:15

Plenary discussion: future opportunities

Possible applications and long-term operation

16:15-
16:30

Closing remarks

Dr. Leif Wolf, PTKA