



Tuesday, November 18

11:30am **Summit Opening Luncheon**

Today, global demands for food, energy and shelter are putting unprecedented pressure on the resources of the planet. Water is at the heart of this challenge. Achieving water security while protecting invaluable biodiversity requires solutions at an unprecedented scale. To have impact, the time has come to adopt new approaches, work with and through private sector partners, mobilize capital, and influence policy at scale. The Summit will open with a keynote address from Prof. John Briscoe, winner of the 2014 Stockholm Water Prize.

1:30pm **Panel 1: The Role of Conservation in the Global Water Challenge**

The Nature Conservancy has 60 years of individual conservation projects around the world that demonstrate methods of securing water and protecting our great rivers. In this panel, we will explore how the Conservancy can, working with partners, leverage expertise to scale conservation work around the world. This panel will also highlight the scale of the water challenge in Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin America and North America.

2:45pm Break

3:15pm **Panel 2: Scaling Solutions**

What does it mean to talk about solutions at scale? Join experts from around the world working in education, health, development, and industry to discuss approaches to scale. What does it take to make change happen on a planetary scale? What can we learn from efforts that have endeavored to work through the logistics, product development, and marketing of having impact beyond the demonstration project?

4:45pm Break

5:00pm **Urban Water Risk Report Launch**

Which cities around the world are the most water stressed? And how stressed are their water sources? What can cities do to better prepare for future that promises increased water scarcity amid a changing climate? A new report issued by The Nature Conservancy, in partnership with C40 and the International Water Association, analyzed the state of water in 550 cities around the world and the 2,000 watersheds on which they depend. The report provides insight on natural infrastructure solutions that cities can use to better manage limited water supplies and promote sustainable communities. Hear directly from the report's authors and those impacted by current water scarcity issues about how cities should be thinking about their future water today.

6:00pm **Welcome Reception Featuring Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel: Celebrating Conservation Approaches to Secure Water for Cities**

Join the Conservancy as we celebrate the launch of our Urban Water Risk Report that

showcases the approach the Conservancy is proposing to help cities secure water.

Opening remarks: Michelle Carr, State Director, The Nature Conservancy in Illinois

Featured Speaker: Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel

Wednesday, November 19

8:00am **Building Our Water Portfolio: A Historic Look at TNC's Water Program Breakfast**

Join TNC's Global Water Lead Scientist Brian Richter for a look at how The Conservancy has protected and secured water over the past 60 years and how our work has led to current global strategies for great rivers and securing water.

8:45am **Securing Water (SW) Opening Panel: Implementing Conservation at Scale: Where have we had success?**

Population growth, rapidly increasing urbanization and consumption, an expanding global middle class, climate change and other challenges are stretching already stressed water supplies—putting lives, ecosystems and economic development at risk. In the face of these challenges, examples exist where conservation solutions have been implemented at scale to balance economic, environmental, and social needs. This panel will discuss several water solutions that have been implemented at scale spanning different regions, sectors, and actors focusing on what works and what obstacles need to be overcome.

NOTE: This session will include topics related to sustainable agriculture and water

Great Rivers (GR) Opening Panel: Solutions for System-wide Impact

Infrastructure development and land uses often focus on single sector needs, resulting in impacts to other sectors and a broad range of stakeholders, inefficient and costly management, and limited abilities to adapt to changing situations and needs. Integrated approaches to water resource management engage corporations, governments, NGOs, and communities in developing management solutions. Collectively, these entities implement solutions that integrate traditional and natural infrastructure to meet a range of freshwater ecosystem challenges. New technical, management, and partnership solutions are being created and tested, and pathways to encourage adoption at appropriate scales are being pursued in two areas:

- Sustainable Water Infrastructure: Changing the way hydropower dams and other water infrastructure is planned, developed, mitigated, and managed to achieve balanced outcomes for rivers.
- The Land-Water Interface: Developing, testing, and demonstrating agricultural, forest, grassland and floodplain management and protection and leveraging them to scales that contribute to system-wide sustainability.

The panels will discuss experiences from specific places where actors found the right solutions, opportunities for application at appropriate geographic scales, sector representation, and partnerships to make progress. They will specifically draw on these experiences to discuss how these lessons can be adapted and applied more generally.

10:00am Break

10:30am **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

(SW) Source Water Protection: Rapid Urbanization

Cities are at the center of the global water crisis. Currently, over half of the world's population lives in cities. By 2050, cities will become home to roughly 2 billion more

people and 70% of the global population, with much of this growth occurring in regions already experiencing water scarcity, with inadequate water systems, and/or facing significant climate risks. The way cities are designed, built and operated in the coming decades will have a tremendous impact on the watersheds on which they rely. This panel will bring together experts on cities, urban infrastructure, conservation, and finance to discuss the challenges and opportunities for cities and natural systems.

(SW) Water Markets: Enabling Conditions

In many regions, meeting water needs will require increased efficiency and a re-allocation of water use among existing users, such as exchanges between cities and farms, or between farms and ecosystems. Water markets offer a concrete opportunity to incentivize water conservation and rearrange the allocation of water and exist in some form in the Western U.S., Mexico, Chile, South Africa, and Australia. This panel will explore the enabling legal, financial, hydrological, and political conditions needed to develop functioning water markets that protect economic and environmental interests.

NOTE: This session will include topics related to sustainable agriculture and water

(GR) Sustainable Water Infrastructure: Teaching an old dog new tricks: restoring rivers by improving the performance of dams

This panel will explore a range of solutions that can be implemented at dams, including environmental flow releases, fish-passage improvements, and strategic removal of aging infrastructure at the project scale. These interventions are building blocks of the strategies aimed at achieving sustainable water management at the scale of river basins, regions, and countries. The panel will discuss what is working and what is necessary to scale up the most effective solutions, including incorporation into infrastructure design.

(GR) Freshwater Conservation at the Land-Water Interface: What is working?

Many approaches are being developed, tested, and applied to address land use and development impacts to freshwater ecosystems and services for application at multiple sites. The panel will highlight and discuss a suite of approaches being implemented at the land-water interface to address multiple needs and adaptations for multi-site use. Examples will address approaches ranging from agricultural best management practices to reduce sediment and nutrient loading, to floodplain restoration and management, to strategic land protection activities.

12:00noon **Great Lakes Lunch**

2:00pm **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

(SW) Source Water Protection: Increasing demand and risk

Increasing urban populations, energy consumption, demand for food, and global consumption (projected to double to more than \$60 trillion/year) are driving global water consumption to double every 20 years at a time when climate change is putting many of our water resources at risk. The CDP estimates that “business as usual” water management practices will put at risk 45% of the projected global GDP in 2050. This panel will bring together corporate and agricultural water users and experts to discuss the risks posed by declining water systems and innovative solutions to increase water efficiency and ensure the long-term health and sustainability of water sources. *NOTE: This session will include topics related to sustainable agriculture and water*

(SW) Water Markets: Sustainable Financing

While over \$60 billion is spent annually on water supply infrastructure, only a small

portion of this is dedicated to source water protection or investments in natural infrastructure. To scale up the use of conservation-based strategies, we must increase the size and types of funding available for conservation. Private capital—particularly impact capital—offers an attractive opportunity to accelerate the pace and scale of conservation. This panel will bring together bankers, philanthropists, and conservation specialists working on impact capital to discuss what it is, what it isn't, and how and where it can best be used.

(GR) Sustainable Water Infrastructure: Basin-scale solutions

To achieve sustainable river basin management at the scale needed to protect and restore the world's rivers collaborative efforts around the globe are building on past experience and seeking system-scale solutions for improving the sustainability of water infrastructure. These include 'hydropower by design' (system-scale hydropower planning), regional environmental flow policies, and building the mitigation hierarchy into environmental licensing policies. This panel will explore what is necessary in terms of technology, protocols, and financial incentives to achieve solutions at the basin scale.

(GR) Freshwater Conservation at the Land-Water Interface: How do we go to scale?

In today's world, site-based conservation remains vital, but in order to solve major freshwater challenges resulting from increasing development and resource use, solutions must be translatable and implemented at scales appropriate to adequately address the challenges. This panel will discuss incentivizing, financing, policies and practices, and leading the implementation of conservation practices "at scale".

3:30pm Break

4:00pm **(SW) Securing Water Session Wrap Up – Where are we heading?**

Join global experts on a variety of water and conservation issues for a discussion on where we are heading and the challenges we face. Topics will include China, which has 20% of the world's population and 7% of its freshwater resources, much of which is heavily polluted; Lake Tanganyika, which holds almost 20% of the world's freshwater and is on the cusp of oil and resource extraction; and the challenges of doubling the world's food production. The discussion will be moderated by a leading water journalist. *NOTE: This session will include topics related to sustainable agriculture and water*

(GR) Great Rivers Session Wrap Up– Integrated management approaches - are we heading in the right directions?

Join global experts for a discussion on where we are heading, the challenges we face, and our opportunities for changes to practices to achieve integration and results at appropriate scales. Topics will include assessing gaps in needed solutions and integrated approaches for infrastructure and land development and management, and opportunities for policy, finance and corporate practices to achieve broader implementation.

5:00pm **Travel to Art Institute of Chicago**

6:00pm **Reception**
Art Institute of Chicago Auditorium

This event will showcase the importance of communicating the water challenge to the world through film. Conference attendees and VIP guests will view recent productions that highlight the importance of water to both people and nature as well as hear perspectives from the companies and individuals that commissioned their production.

- 7:00pm **Reception and Dinner at The Art Institute of Chicago**
- After the reception, join TNC CEO Mark Tercek and high profile supporters of the Conservancy for dinner at the Art Institute. Evening programming will highlight the role our stakeholders play in helping the Conservancy scale our work.

Thursday, November 20

- 8:00am **Breakfast**
- 9:00am **Private Funding for water conservation**
- Join a panel of TNC supporters for a look at private funding for local water conservation projects and global conservation strategies.
- 10:15am **Conference Adjourns**