Al driven Digital Twin for Water Management for Limpopo River Basin and Inclusive Integration with Citizen Science

Gaborone, Botswana 9–11 June 2025



Online Agenda

bit.ly/4jVtXgR





















IWMI







Digital Twin Hands on

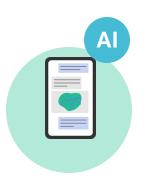
Listening Session for Data Challenges

Digital Twin Concept

Hands on:

Water Availability
Irrigation Water Use
Droughts Index

Day 2

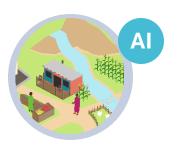


Al for Water Management

Al and Data Governance 101 generative Al Prompt engineering

Hands On:

Limpopo Water Copilot



Day 3

Citizen Science Co-designs

Creating trust on citizen science data



DIWASA Training

Use cases from DEA



Listening Session

Stakeholder consultation scaling opportunities



Tentative schedule.docx

Day 1



Digital Twin Hands on

Listening Session for Data Challenges

Digital Twin Concept

Hands on:

Water Availability

Irrigation Water Use

Droughts Index

Time	Description
8:30 – 9:15	Online Registration
9:15-10:00	Welcome IWMI, LIMCOM, HOST.
10:00- 11:00	 Overview of Digital Twin Project (P) Recap Icebreaker Listening Session: Fish Bowl Exercise Task Team Top 5 data integration challenges (20 min)
11:00- 11:30	Group Photo and Tea
11:30 – 12:00	 Digital Twin Technology in Water Management (D) Live demonstration of digital twin software platforms Walk-through of user interface and functionalities Overview of system components and data integration
12:00 13:00	 Hands on into Digital Twin Applications (H) Case studies on environmental flow monitoring, dam monitoring, water availability and seasonal forecast.
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 15:30	 Hands on into Digital Twin Applications (H) Case studies on Irrigated area mapping and drought monitoring
15:30 – 15:40	Break
15:40 – 17:00	 Feedback Session for Digital Twin Applications MDII Survey – Digital Twin Q&A session to clarify technical aspects Participants feedback Decision point: Dates for capacity building in each country.

Al driven Digital Twin for Water Management for Limpopo River Basin and Inclusive Integration with Citizen Science



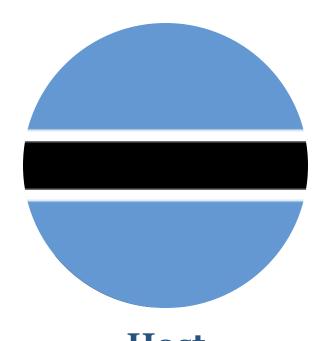
WELLCOME



Henry Roman IWMI



Sergio Sitoe LIMCOM



Host Host Organization

















In collaboration with



Enabel

Official Partnership IWMI with LIMCOM

• To support advance citizen science in the region







The integration of *Enviro* Champs data into the Digital Twin will significantly enhance modeling, forecasting, and scenario planning, creating new opportunities for datainformed decisionmaking that is inclusive, equitable, and climateresilient.

Sergio Sitoe, LIMCOM Executive Secretary









"The purpose of this Agreement is to formalize the partnership between IWMI and LIMCOM under the Enabel Project to enhance water resource management in the Limpopo River Basin. This collaboration focuses on implementing citizen science programs and ensuring effective integration of data into the Digital Twin for the basin. Through this partnership, IWMI and LIMCOM will work together to empower communities, improve decision-making, and advance sustainable water management practices across the Limpopo Region "

Activities	Collaboration	Tentative Due Date
Activity 1.4: Community Engagement Work with LIMCOM and communities to establish citizen scientist network - facilitate train the trainers and engagement	1.The Digital Twin designated Country Focal Points Nominated 2.Support the Schedule at least 3 Training engagements 3.Support the Schedule Co-design Citizen science workshop	30 June 2025
Activity 3.3: Use case for citizen science data	Recommendations to develop citizen science use cases for decision making	15 August 2025
Activity 4.2: Citizen Scientist engagement	Support the execution of at least 2 capacity workshops	15 January 2026
Activity 4.4: Embed citizen science data	Support the adoption of the citizen science Data integrated into the Digital Twin	30 March 2026

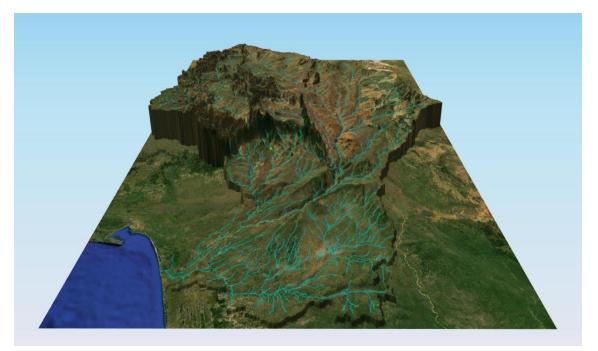
The Digital Twin designated Task Team

The objectives of the task tram are to:

- 1. Identify key data and use cases: Work collaboratively to outline specific data needed for digital twin applications relevant to the stakeholders for Limpopo.
- 2. Capacity building: Work collaboratively to increase capacity on the use of the digital twin for the region.
- 3. Enhance operational efficiency: Utilize the task team structure to promote cross-team collaboration and knowledge sharing, accelerating the adoption of digital twin technology.







Digital Twin Limpopo Recap

International Water Management Institute

Angie Garcia





















Water managers

Water challenges

Water management problems

Government agencies

Water utilities

Increasing multi-sector demand with increasing gap to supply systems

Drought

Floods

Limited technical capacity

investors,
water,
energy and
data
technology
companies

Farmers and food processin g Overabstraction , changing availability

Pollutio n Complex Science

Delayed

response to

taking

actions and

investments

needed

Fragmented or absence of data



The problem: communities and economies are suffering from water insecurity

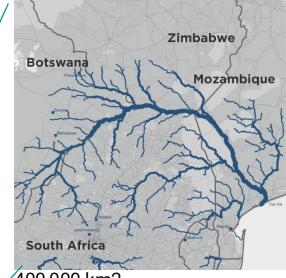
"We sometimes go for days without bathing as we try to preserve the little water we have for drinking and cooking. It is not healthy.

If it does not rain in the coming weeks, I do not think we are going to survive this time around. This drought has gone for too long now."

Mavis Chauke, resident, Limpopo Basin

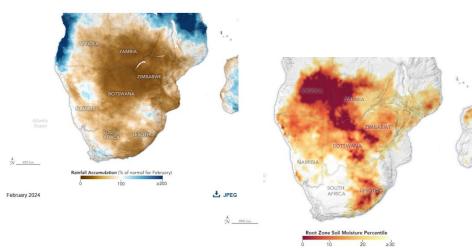
Central Mozambique & Zimbabwe: faced "crisis level" food insecurity, meaning households require humanitarian assistance to meet minimum food needs.

- What is needed to support timely informed decisions?
- Which communities, businesses and investments are at risk?
- Who and when can have water?



400,000 km2

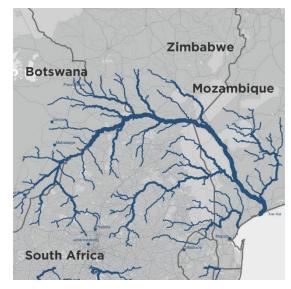
Severe Drought in Southern Africa



NASA Report Severe Drought in Southern Africa (nasa.gov)



Limpopo challenges



400,000 km2

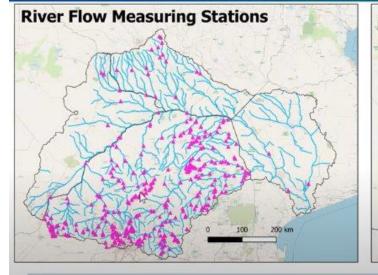
8M life depend on Limpopo River basin

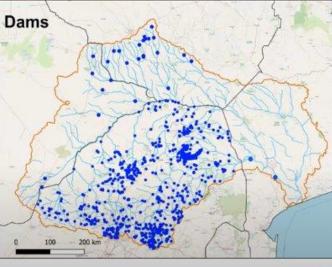
We are all connected!

Deteriorating Water Quality

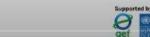


Weak Transboundary Water Resources Management





ntegrated Transboundary River Basin Management for the Sustainable



Prioritised Transboundary Problems

- Deteriorating Water Quality
- ii. Declining Availability of Water Resources
- iii. Weak Transboundary Water Resources Management
- iv. Loss of Biodiversity
- v. Land Degradation
- vi. Sedimentation
- vii. Low Resilience to Extreme Climatic Events







Managing our water resources is a highly complex – water is dynamic, moves and is used by many sectors

What if we could



What if we could create a digital representation of our basin?

What if?
What now?
What next?







Physical world



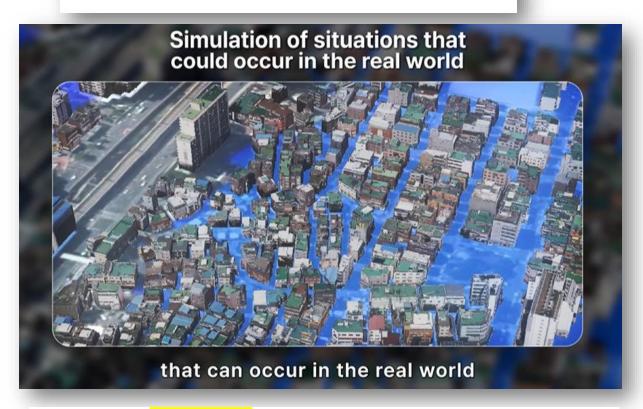




EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

How digital twins are transforming the world of water management

Nov 1, 2024



The initiative follows a **USD100 million** deal secured by Naver in October 2023. Leveraging its advanced cloud technology and Al-driven solutions, Naver will create highly accurate **3D models of Riyadh, Medina, Jeddah, Dammam and Mecca,** with precision down to 10cm. These digital twins will serve as virtual replicas of the cities, enabling real-time data analysis and sophisticated simulations for enhanced urban management.

WIRED Middle East

Saudi Arabia wants to build digital twins for five major Saudi cities, including Mecca



The project will involve the creation of a cloud-based digital twin platform for the Kingdom's smart city project.

Oct 24, 2024

The National

Dubai employees could soon have AI digital twins, conference hears



Experts predict Al avatars could reshape workplace roles and intellectual property by 2027.

1 day ago

M Khaleej Times

UAE's gym of the future: Al to guide on fitness, nutrition via a digital twin



The Department of Health, Abu Dhabi has introduced a new initiative called the 'Gym of the Future', reimagining how personalized health and...

1 week ago

وكالة أنباء الإمارات 🔝

MBRSC signs MoU with SpaceData to advance digital twin technology



DUBAI, 29th January, 2025 (WAM) — Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SpaceData,...

Jan 29, 2025

GlobeNewswire

Infinite Reality Launches Immersive Digital Twin for DMCC's Crypto Centre in Dubai



Bespoke Virtual Experience Aligns with UAE's Dubai Digital Strategy, Offering Businesses an Interactive Digital Workspace...

Dec 17, 2024

Despite increase on data availability from remote sensing

NISAR

The NASA-ISRO (In (NISAR) mission wil Sentinel-1. Researc monitor groundwat



Food and Agriculture Organization

http://www.fao.org > in-action > remote-sensing-for-wate...

WaPOR, remote sensing for water productivity

The FAO has developed a publicly accessible near real time **database** using satellite data that allows the monitoring of agricultural water productivity at ...

WaPOR data · Accessing WaPOR data · WaPOR project · WaPOR partners

SWOT

The Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) satellite provides freshwater data that can improve flood prediction.



NASA (.gov)

https://landsat.gsfc.nasa.gov > article > new-tool-provid...

New Tool Provides Rapid Evaluation of Water Quality

27 Jun 2024 — A new data processing tool that **rapidly ingests**, **processes**, **and displays water quality maps** generated from the Landsat 8 and 9 Operational Land Imager (OLI)



ESA Climate Change Initiative

https://climate.esa.int > projecten > river-discharge

River Discharge ESA CCI project

The ESA river **discharge** CCI project derives long-term (at least over 20-years) climate data



Space in Africa

Digital Earth Africa Launches Groundbreaking Waterbodies Monitoring Service for Continent-Wide Impact

Digital Earth Africa's Waterbodies Monitoring Service is unique among satellite-based global surface water datasets due to its accessibility....

We are still facing the same data challenges:

- Data Gaps and Quality
 - Fragmented Data Sources
 - Data Sharing Hesitancy
 - •IT Infrastructure Limitations
 - High Implementation Costs
 - Organizational Resistance
 - Skill Shortages
 - Training Gaps
 - Bias Concerns
 - Data Privacy and Security
 - Access Disparities
 - Policy and Research Gaps

Kinds of scientific services from an international science effort that would be most useful for their work



52% water data and information that can be used at a country scale



42% **forecasts**, **projections** and **scenarios** that can be used as a country scale

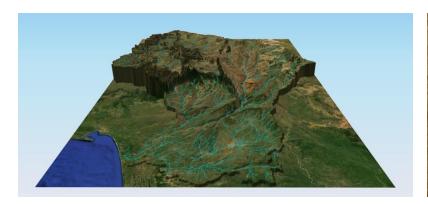
Can digital twins help river basin management in developing countries?

The adoption of digital twins can be challenging but opportunities are growing as technology becomes more affordable.

June 27, 2024 | By IWMI

Botai, Joel O.; Ghosh, Surajit; Matheswaran, Karthikeyan; Dickens, Chris; Langa, Nkateko; Garcia Andarcia, Mariangel. 2023. *Options for digital twin application in developing country river basin management: a review*. Colombo, Sri Lanka: International Water Management Institute (IWMI). CGIAR Initiative on Digital Innovation. 20p. https://hdl.handle.net/10568/134763

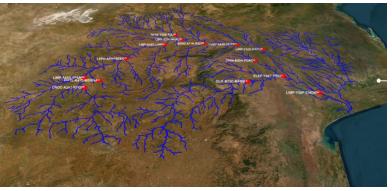




Digital Model:

A digital model is a representation of a physical object or system in a digital environment. It is traditionally used in fields like engineering and design.

Purpose: Digital models serve various purposes, including concept evaluation, detailed design, and creating production and construction documentation.



Digital Shadow/replica:

A digital shadow is a reflection of a physical object captured in digital form.

The DS is a model which is fed by a **one-way** data flow with the state of an existing physical object

A change in state of the physical object leads to a change in the digital object, but not vice versa.

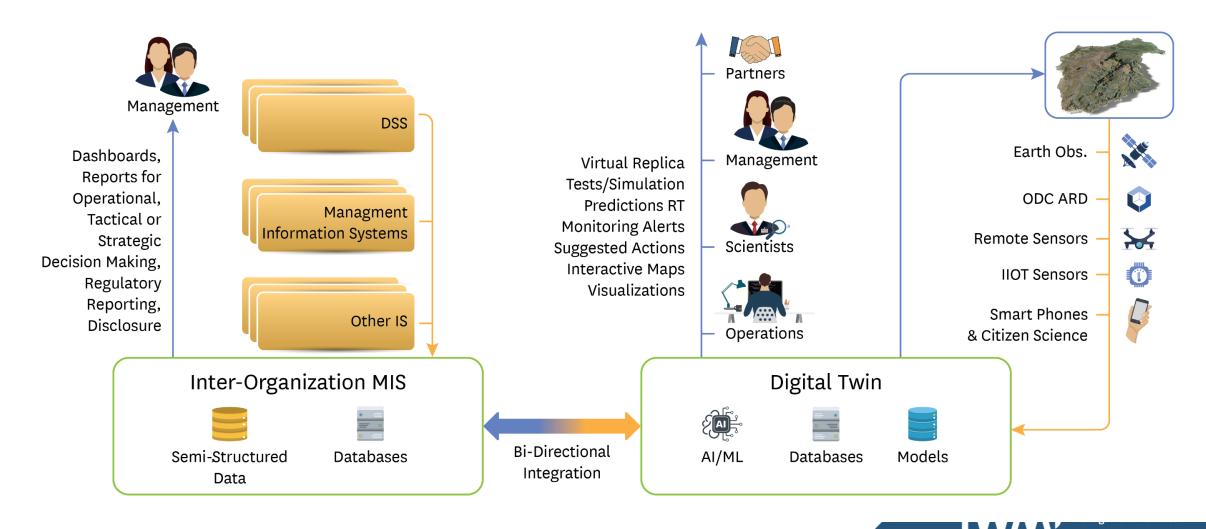


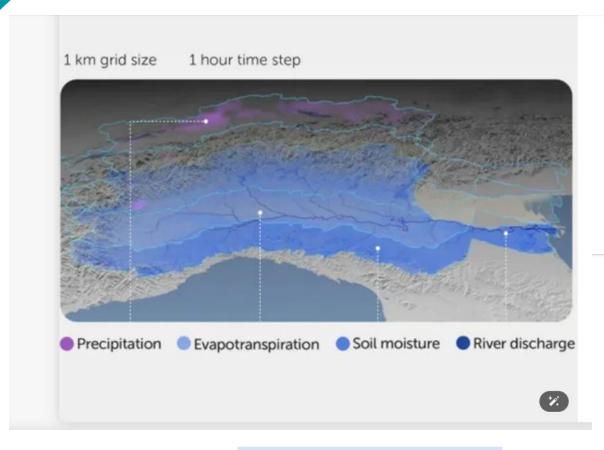
Digital Twin:

DT data flows between physical and digital object are fully integrated in **both directions**

The digital twin was created to operate in parallel and <u>interact with</u> the real-world in near real-time

MIS vs Digital Twin for River Basin





Digital twins of the Earth are digital representations of the Earth system, spanning scales and domains. Their purpose is to monitor, forecast and assess the Earth system and the consequences of human interventions on the Earth system. 27 Aug 2024



Digital twins of the Earth with and for humans - Nature

FRONTIERS IN SCIENCE LEAD ARTICLE

Published on 05 Mar 2024

A Digital Twin of the terrestrial water cycle: a glimpse into the future through high-resolution Earth observations

Luca Brocca · Silvia Barbetta · Stefania Camici · Luca Ciabatta · Jacopo Dari · Paolo Filippucci · Christian Massari · Sara Modanesi · Angelica Tarpanelli · Bianca Bonaccorsi · Hamidreza Mosaffa · Wolfgang Wagner · Mariette Vreugdenhil · Raphael Quast · Lorenzo Alfieri · Simone Gabellani · Francesco Avanzi ·

Al Overview

A digital twin hydrology model is a virtual replica of the Earth's water cycle that uses artificial intelligence and ICT technologies to simulate and monitor various water-related phenomena. These models can be used to:

- Forecast events: Predict flash floods, landslides, and other extreme weather events.
- Support water management: Optimize water usage, monitor drought, and support early warning systems
- Support policy decisions: Inform basin-wide adaptation policies and water management practices
- **Support equitable water sharing:** Facilitate decisions that promote equitable sharing of scarce water resources *@*

Some examples of digital twin hydrology models include:

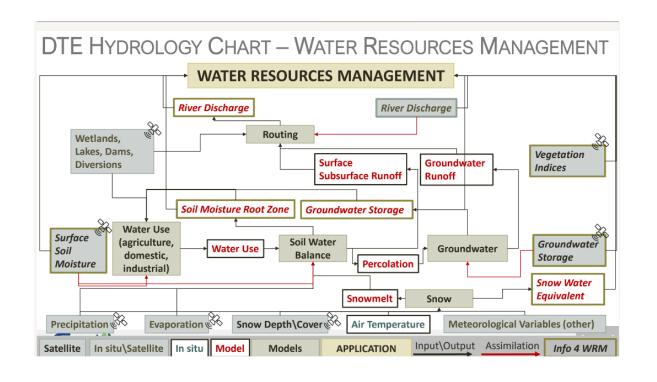
- Digital Twin Earth (DTE) Hydrology Platform: This platform simulates five water variables at a high resolution, including soil moisture, precipitation, evaporation, snow depth, and river discharge. It includes case studies that showcase how the platform can be used to visualize water anomalies, flooding events, and flood risk
- Hydrological digital twin model of a large anthropized Italian alpine: This model
 was able to reproduce measured discharge, reservoir turbinated discharges, and
 snow cover and snow water equivalent.
- Pipedream: This interactive model is for natural and urban drainage systems.

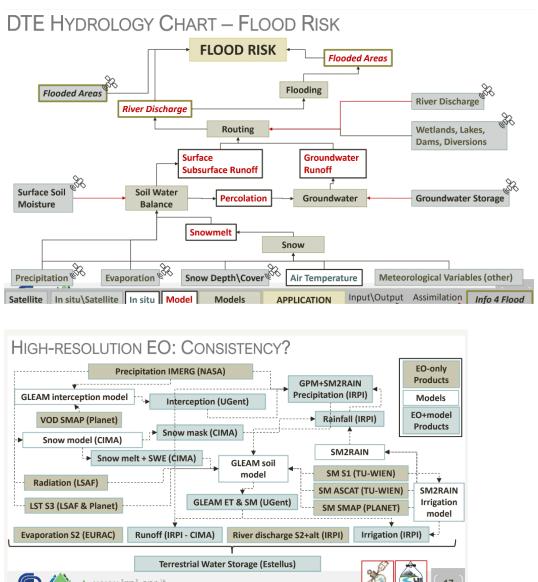
Digital twin hydrology models are still evolving technologies, but they have the potential to provide innovative solutions to complex water management challenges.



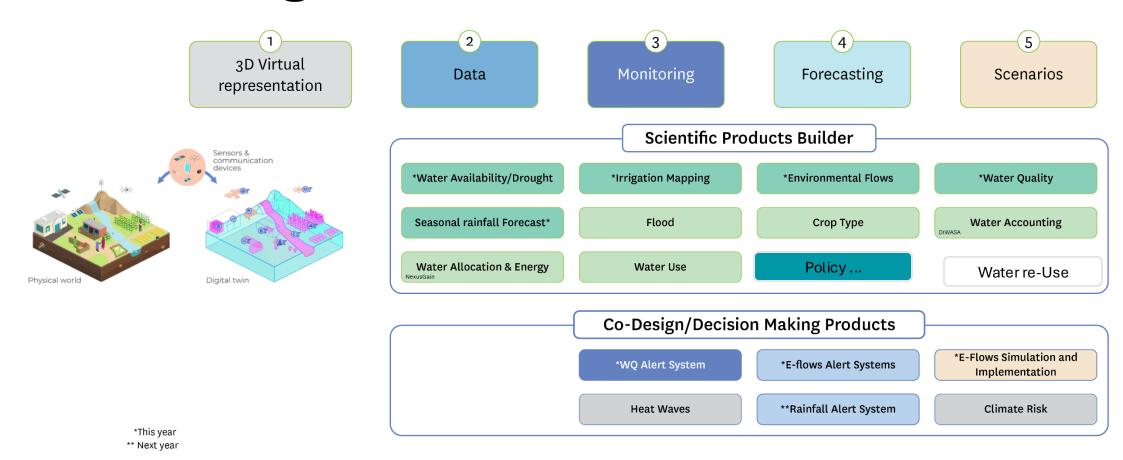
Learn more

DT for Water Management is very complex





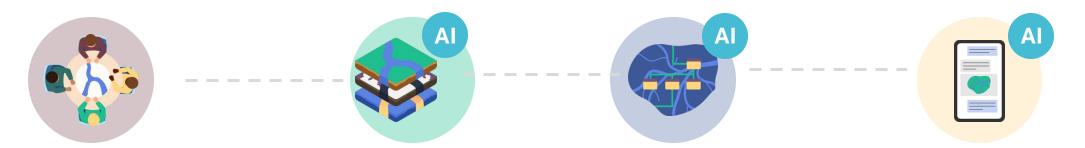
IWMI's Digital Twin Framework



Building a reliable and **scalable digital infrastructure for DT** that enables seamless integration of Water Managers applications to improve water management decisions



Digital Twin Framework



Co-design

Stakeholder-driven process with public sector NRM managers

Open data cube

Integrates available data: monitoring stations, earth observation, remote sensors, UAVs, citizen science...

Foundational models

Hydrological models, forecasting, decision simulations

Inclusive interfaces

Digital Twins, Realtime dashboards, Al assistants, 3D modelling, VR/AR



5 Phases for development

 Capacity Building Phase 5 Solution migration Democratizing access to Phase 4 knowledge Unlocking GenAl Scientific Products Phase 3 •Al on the loop •Integration Existing tools Phase 2 Affordable Infrastructure •FAIR Data Design Thinking Phase 1 •Co-design and Co-Creation

Building a reliable and **scalable digital infrastructure for DT** that enables <u>seamless</u>
<u>integration of Water Managers applications</u> to
improve water management decisions





Open Data Cube (ODC) for the Limpopo River Basin Twin

The Open Data Cube (ODC) is a critical component of the Limpopo River Basin Twin, designed to facilitate efficient access, storage, and analysis of vast amounts of geospatial data. The ODC enables stakeholders to track and assess critical environmental variables, such as drought hazards, over both space and time.





Building a Digital Twin for water Management for all users From Scientific evidence to decision making!



Researcher



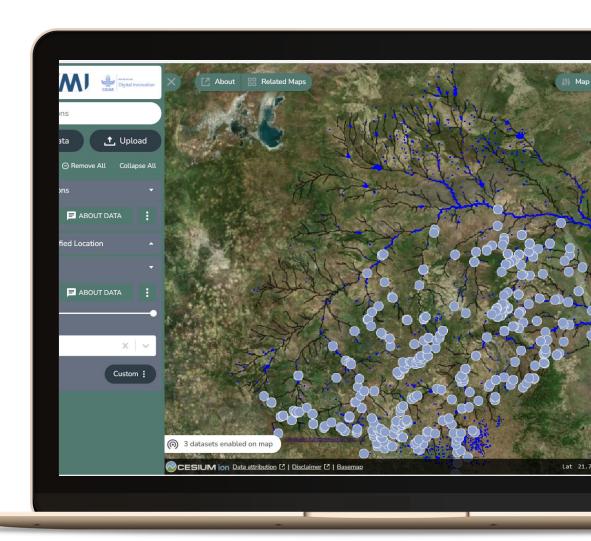
Water Manager



Citizen







Prototype Digital Twin for the Limpopo River Basin

Accelerating water futures, one basin at a time.



Management for the Sustainable Development of the Limpopo River Basin."

Digital Twin for Water Management

A 3D representation of the basin that integrates diverse datasets and existing resources/technologies (e.g., DEA, WAPOR, ECMWF, CHIRPS) to understand the current basin dynamics, offering monitoring, forecasting, and scenario analysis for informed decision-making...

For Limpopo: we are providing seasonal water availability forecast, operationalization of environmental flows using a modular approaches of scientific products.

Citizen Science Data Integration

The DT will Empowers local communities to contribute data, closing information gaps and enriching water management insights across the region

AI-Powered Virtual Assistant (research)

Translates complex science into timely, accessible insights, democratizing access to Trustworthy AI for decision-makers in the Global South.

Only possible with:

Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration/Investments

Aligned with member states' priorities and leveraging local resources. Involves the tech/private sector in creating scalable, interoperable and accessible open-source data infrastructure.















2024 – Incredible Year!

1. UNDP-GEF Project



4. WaterNet & MoU Signing



2. World Water Week



5. LIMCOM member state data sharing agreement workshop





3. Design thinking workshop







THANK YOU TEAM



"Integrated Transboundary River Basin Management for the Sustainable Development of the Limpopo River Basin.'











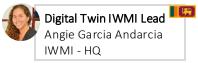
















Stakeholders



Team up with







DT Program Management Upamali Surangika



Post-doc

Zolo Kiala

Hydrologist

Data Scientist

Thilina Gurusinghe

Kayathri Vigneswaran







Intern Data Scientist

Interin Director Water

Data Science

Ian Overton

Keerththanan



Intern Data Engineer Abdul Afham



Digital Inclusion Researcher Fellix Opala



Al Ethics and Digital Inclusion Expert Daniella Darlington

Implementing Partners



Director Mark Graham (GroundTruth)



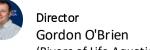
Research Scientist Nicholas Pattinson (GroundTruth)













External Leveraged Support Resources



Front End Developer Akanbi Adeyinka





Senior IT Architect Paulo Silva





Lead Impact YOMA - UNICEF Michael Scheibenreif



YOMA-UNICEF Coordinator Leah Khanya Bashe







IWMI

Virtual Reality

Researcher

Nicole Langa









Consultants/External/Support















Thank you for joining the Tean!! The Digital Twin Task Team

Digital Twin Task Team!

B. LIMCOM GEF

- 1. Maryna Storie
- 2. Laura Danga-Kuzora

C. Member Sates

- 1. Alhinos Rugara (Zw)
- 2. Shepherd Shereni (Zw)
- 3. Martha Gerls Alfonso Zunguza (Mz)
- 4. Moz Delegate (Mz)
- 5. Alfred Moloko (SA)
- 6. Vuledzani Thenga (SA)
- 7. Ogopotse Batlokwa Pule (Bw)
- 8. Samuel Manda (Bw)



The objectives of the task tram are to:

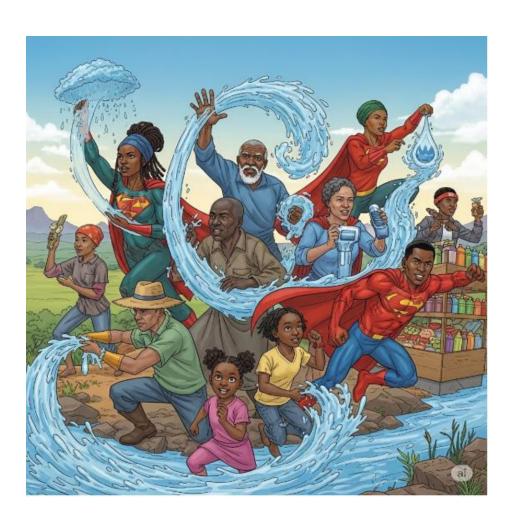
- 1. Identify key data and use cases: Work collaboratively to outline specific data needed for digital twin applications relevant to the stakeholders for Limpopo.
- 2. *Capacity building*: Work collaboratively to increase capacity on the use of the digital twin for the region.
- 3. Enhance operational efficiency: Utilize the task team structure to promote cross-team collaboration and knowledge sharing, accelerating the adoption of digital twin technology.





Let's Meet each other: Your super power!

- Get to know your team! Imagine you have a superpower that can address any water management related issues.
 - What's your superpower?
 - Why did you choose it?
 - How would you use it?
- Activity 20 min
 - Draw your super power (5 min)
 - Shared with the person next to you (5 min)
 - Shared with your group 10 min





Menti Question

Moderator: Surajit























Listening session 20 min Moderators: Henry & Hugo

What Data Integration challenges do water managers encounter in the region?

What is the difficulty in accelerating decision-making for water management?

Henry









Supported by















Group Picture

Moderator: Laura

















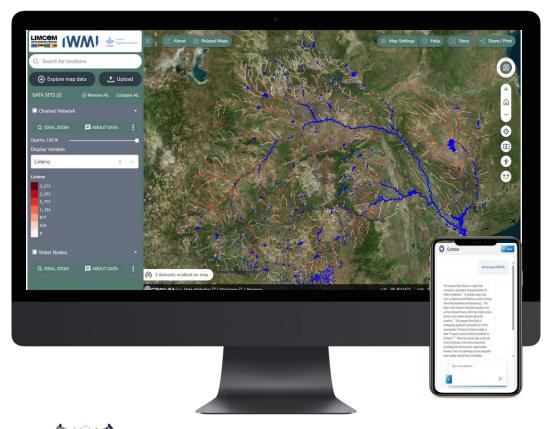
In collaboration with





Al driven Digital Twin for Water Management for Limpopo River Basin and Inclusive Integration with Citizen Science





Digital Twin Limpopo Recap

AWARD

Hugo



















Hands on into Digital Twin Applications

Case studies on Irrigated area mapping and drought monitoring

What is the Limpopo Digital Twin?

A cloud-based water management platform built on TerriaJS that attempts to create a replica of the Limpopo River Basin

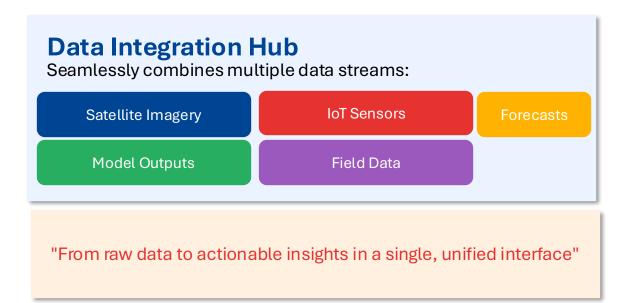
Core Platform Features

- 3D globe visualization with time-series animation
- Interactive chart pop-ups for any location
- Custom feature templates for data exploration
- Polygon drawing tools for spatial analysis
- Multi-layer overlay with transparency control

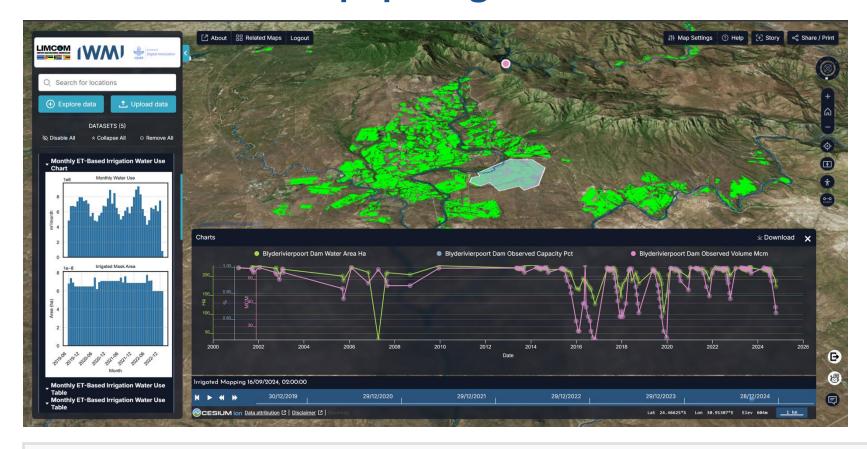
Built-in Analytics

- > WPS (Web Processing Service) for on-demand calculations
- CSV data export for any point or polygon





What does the Limpopo Digital Twin look like?



Key Interface Elements

Interactive 3D Globe

Pan, zoom, tilt to explore the entire basin from any angle

Layer Control Panel

Toggle 100+ data layers with transparency control

Time Slider

Navigate through historical data or view forecasts

Pop-up Charts

Click any feature for instant data visualization

Multiple Views for Different Needs

Basin Overview Full catchment view

Data Analytics

Charts & time-series



Real-time monitoring

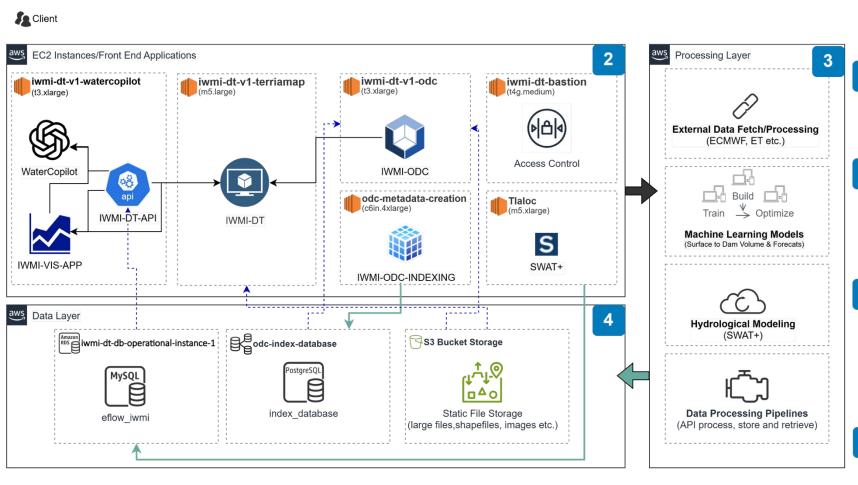
Alerts

Site Details



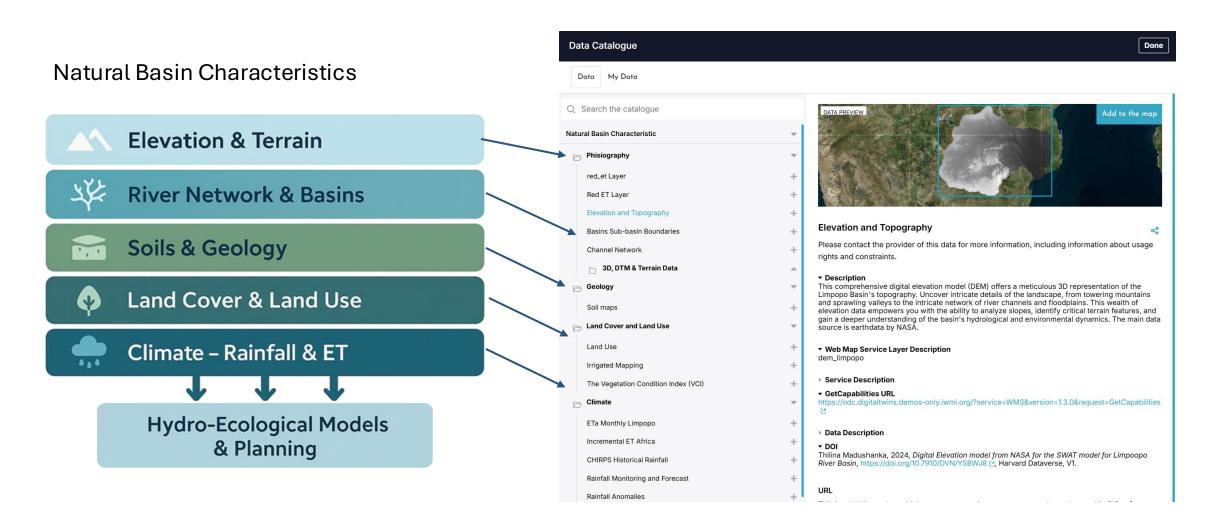
Location-specific data

How does it work?



- The LIMCOM Digital Twin Architecture integrates front-end applications, data management, and advanced processing layers to support hydrological modeling and decision-making. The system is built on AWS infrastructure, ensuring scalability and reliability for environmental data analysis.
- The Front-End Applications & EC2 Instances host various tools for data interaction and visualization. The WaterCopilot application connects to the IWMI-DT API for real-time data retrieval, while TerriaMap provides geospatial visualization. The IWMI Open Data Cube (ODC) facilitates large-scale environmental data analysis, and a secure bastion host ensures controlled access to system resources.
- The Processing Layer is responsible for data-driven analysis and decision support. It includes external data processing from ECMWF and evapotranspiration models, machine learning models for predicting surface-to-dam volume relationships, and hydrological modeling (SWAT+) for simulating water distribution and quality. Additionally, data processing pipelines automate API interactions, ensuring seamless data flow and integration.
- The **Data Layer** consists of a structured MySQL database (**eflow_iwmi**) for environmental flow data, a PostgreSQL database (**index_database**) supporting **ODC indexing**, and an **S3 bucket** for storing large datasets such as satellite imagery and hydrological model outputs. This layer enables efficient storage, retrieval, and management of spatial and temporal data.

Know the Landscape



Climate Signals in Real Time





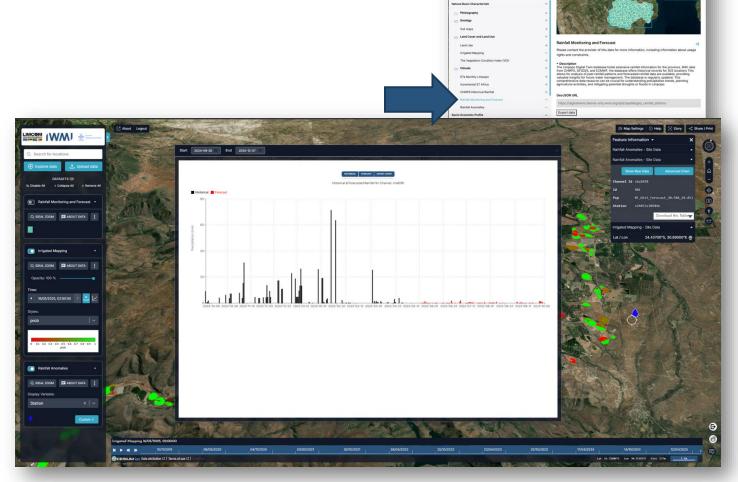




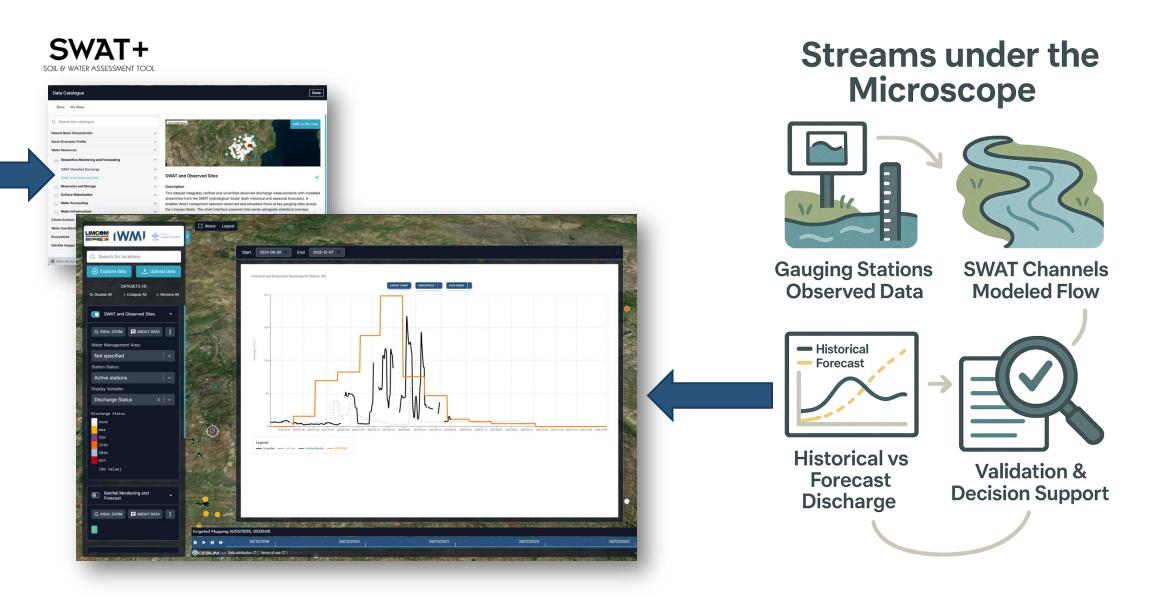




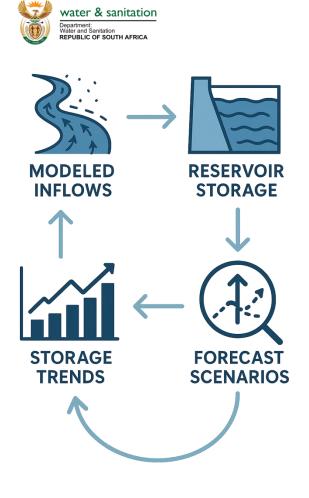


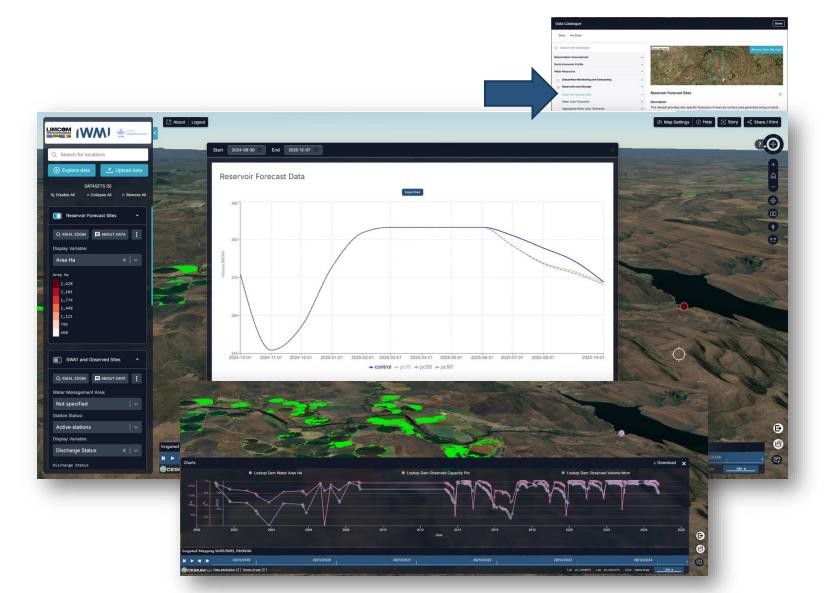


Observed vs Modelled Discharge

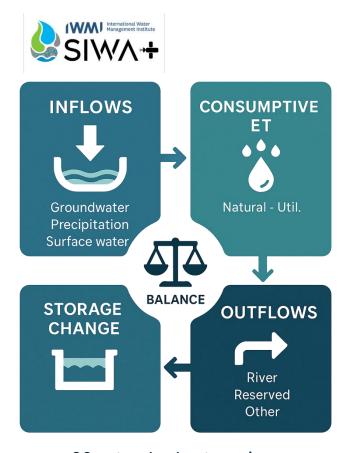


Reservoir Storage & Outlook

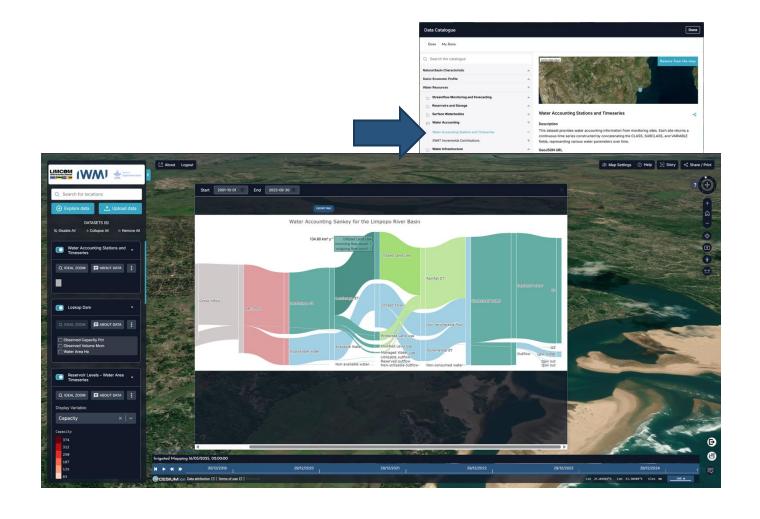




Basin Water Accounting



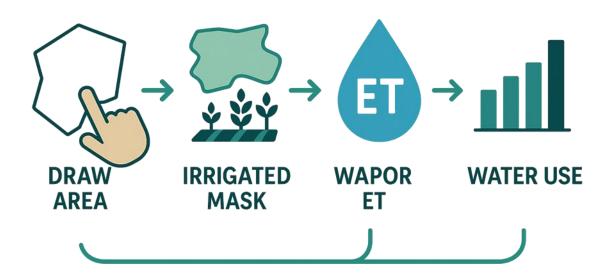
30+ standard categories

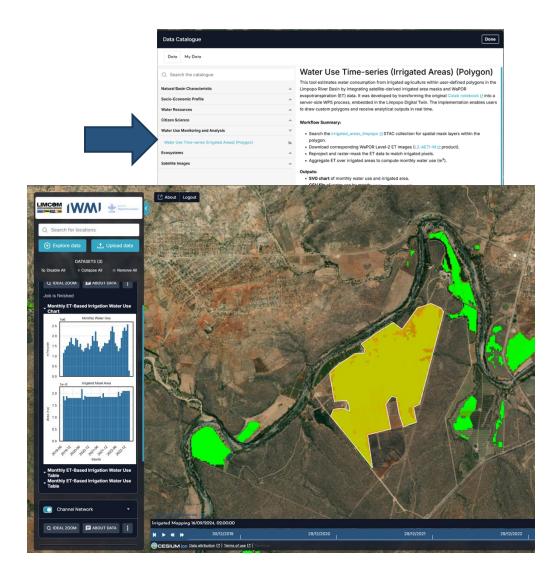


On-Demand Irrigation Water-Use Tool



HOW MUCH WATER DO CROPS DRINK?





Citizen Science Matters







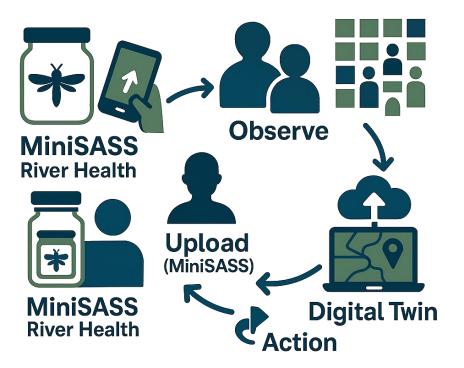


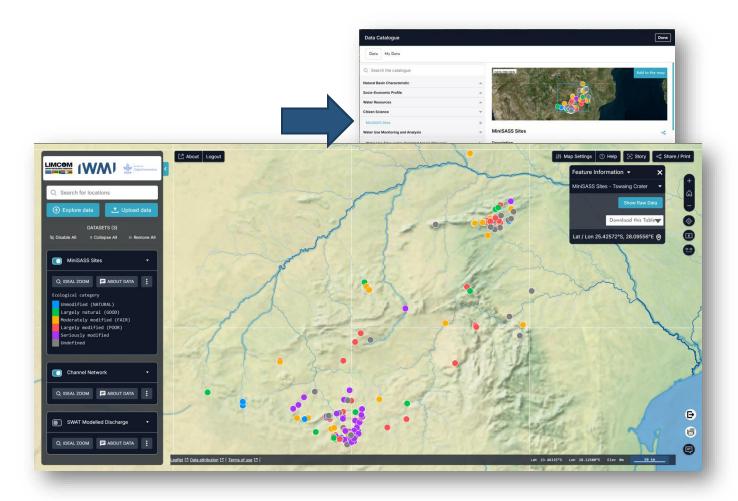






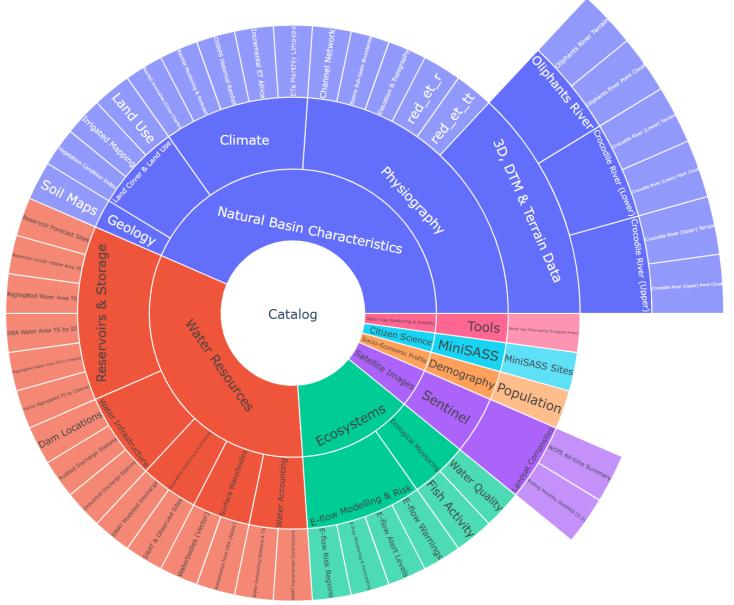






An ever growing

catalog!

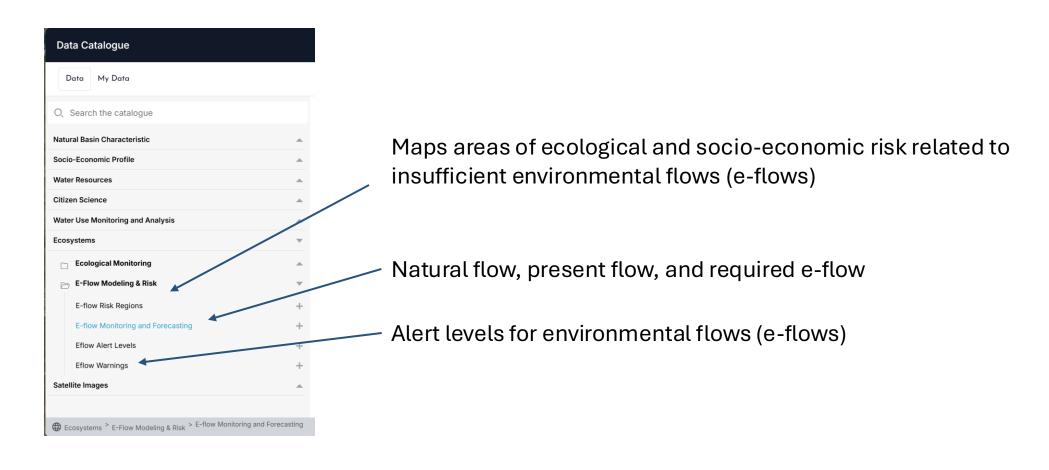




Let's get hands on with some case studies!

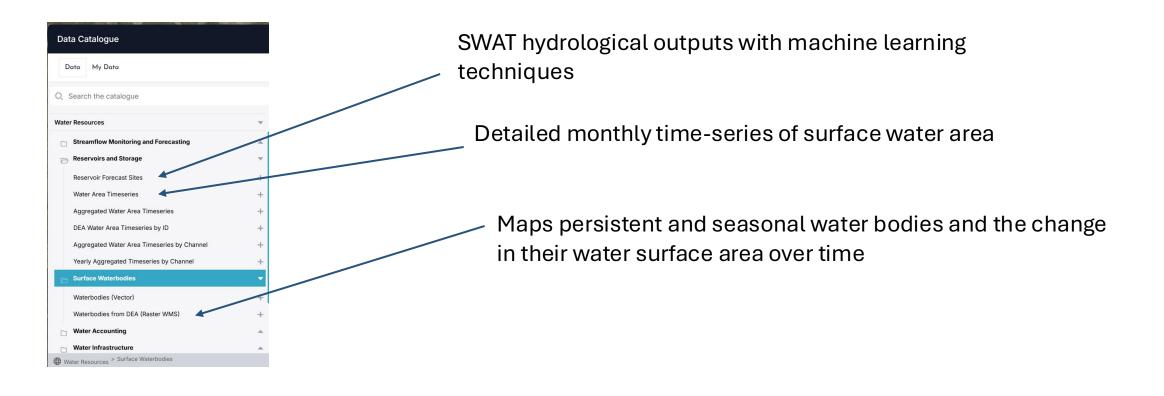
Use Case 1: Environmental-Flow Compliance and water availability

Use the Digital Twin to check whether present flows meet required e-flow targets at any one of the basins e-flow sites, in addition summarise the eflow alerts for the current hydrological year (2024-10-01 to today) across the basin.



Use Case 2 – Dams, Lakes and Surface Water Body Monitoring

Using the Digital Twin platform, analyze the surface water extent changes for Massingir Dam over the past 6 months. What are the rainfall projections for coming months? What do the rainfall Anomalies tell us for the current year in relation to last year?



Water Accounting

Using the Digital Twin platform, explore the water accounting framework implemented for the Limpopo Basin. Document the water accounting components and identify the areas of the basin that have the greatest negative balance (hint look at the incremental contributions).

