

# Presentation of the Water Museum of Burkina Faso



# Discovering Water in its holistic, and multidimensional dimension



# **A Water Museum in the Desert and the West African Sahel**

## **WHAT TO DISCOVER IN THIS ANNUAL AND NECESSARY OPEN-AIR SPACE TO BETTER UNDERSTAND WATER?**

The visitor will discover at the Burkina Faso Water Museum:

-Utensils, containers, gourds, canaries, old pumps, taps, pulleys with ropes that exude the sweat and pain of women and their little girls, barrels, cups... **A material heritage to be safeguarded!**

-Hymns, songs, myths, stories, proverbs, poetry, sounds, legends...

**An Intangible Heritage to be preserved!**

# The Water Museum of Burkina Faso: an atypical, educational, fun and participatory Museum

Water at the Burkina Faso Water Museum is cultural, anthropological, sacred, cosmogonic, sociological, political, linguistic, artistic, religious, philosophical...

**“Water is the Mother of Humanity”** G BACHELARD  
because it is the **Heritage and Treasure** of current and future generations who must imperatively preserve and safeguard it.

This is the slogan of the Water Museum!

In the Burkina Faso Water Museum the visitor can visit the following pavilions:

# The Pavilions of the Water Museum

- the pavilion of water corvee and water palaver;
- the Women and Girls Water pavilion;
- the Water Hygiene Water Sanitation pavilion;
- the Water and Climate Change pavilion;
- the park pavilion of pumps and taps:
- the Satirical Discourses of Aquatic Animals pavilion;
- the Water and Promotion of Human Rights pavilion;
- the Water and Children pavilion;
- the Water and Art pavilion...
- the Lampedusa pavilion

## Answers to questions

**Question 1: How to engage marginalized and vulnerable communities through water education projects?**

**Answer:** The Water Museum according to the **UNESCO Museumschool** concept which invites museums to relocate to schools to carry out exhibition and educational activities, holds **traveling museum exhibitions** in primary schools, secondary and university education in Burkina Faso.

The Water Museum during these traveling museum exhibitions in schools **detects schools without drilling and without latrines.**

From this serious observation, the Water Museum in complicity with the school Hygiene Club made up of i) students (equality of boys and girls); ii) the teacher responsible for promoting hygiene and sanitation in the school and iii) the parents' association of students in the school are invited to research solutions to achieve a borehole and two latrines (Boys' latrine and Girls' latrine) for the benefit of the school.

# **Impacts of the Water Museum's actions within communities in the creation of WASH infrastructure**

**In 2020, the Water Museum helped two primary schools to acquire (02) two boreholes, (10) ten Hand Washers and (02) two latrines.**

**The Water Museum contacted a project which helped 4 villages to build 35 family latrines.**

## Answer question 2

**Question 2: Do you integrate interdisciplinarity into your formal and non-formal education activities at the intersection of water and heritage? How?**

**Answer :**

The Water Museum collaborates with the Nakanbé Water Agency (AEN) which is responsible for the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

As part of this collaboration, the Water Museum is responsible for supporting rural communities in raising awareness and training on land disputes along water banks.

This awareness / search for appropriate solutions is done by mixing endogenous methods and tools on the **values and virtues of Water** such as the place of the symbolism of the Sacred, Respect for speech, Forgiveness with the water calabash , Reconciliation...





**Question 3: Can you present any learning resources that could be shared through the WAMUNET online repository on water sustainability education?**

Two learning resources can be shared online WAMUNET:

**First learning resource:** Football to accelerate the promotion of hygiene through the use of latrines and hand washing: **the WC World Cup and the longest hand washing line.**

**90%** of diseases in Burkina Faso are linked to lack of hygiene and water. **Urban and rural populations have more cell phones than latrines!**

In schools, the Water Museum is developing this fun, educational, educational and learning approach to using latrines.

A football (facies symbol) is placed at the penalty point in front of a football post (hole symbol) and the visitor raises his right hand promising to score in the hole. The visitor shooter says: "I Alassane SAMOURA, I always aim well at the latrine hole" at the referee's whistle and he shoots. Three possibilities:

**Possibility 1:** The shooter shoots and scores. He receives a green card from the referee. Good viewfinder of the latrine hole, so...

**Possibility 2:** The shooter shoots and misses. He receives a red card from the referee for open defecation.

**Possibility 3:** the shooter shoots and the ball hits the post. He receives a yellow card from the referee for dirtying the edges of the latrine hole.

Then the visitor is subjected to the exercise of washing their hands with soap and water. Also, the Water Museum guide suggests in case of lack of soap, **to use ash** and certain **species of local plants which are also detergents.**

# A latrine soccer match: Boys ≠ Girls



## Lessons and good practices

It is :

- develop reflexes and mechanisms for proper use and better maintenance of latrines in school and community settings;

highlight Gender (boy and girl equality) in the promotion of WASH in the family and in schools;

- encourage students to educate their parents about building latrines at home;

- make hand washing a habit to avoid disease transmission;

manufacture simplified and less expensive hand washing technologies;

- promote other alternatives to soap in hand washing such as ash and tree leaves.

**Second learning resource:** The valorization of the endogenous knowledge of the **Seeker ≠ of the Sorcerer** in search of the water table.

The Burkina Faso Water Museum has a collection of a dozen tools or techniques for researching the water table.

Among these techniques, the divining rod extracted from **diospyros mespiliformis** is the most used in the demonstration with the visitor.

In an arid country, plagued by climate change, the search for water is a major problem. Modern methods based on aerial photography are expensive.

The Burkina Faso Water Museum develops research into the water table with all visitors.

Knowledge or endogenous knowledge or ethnosciences are

are explained to visitors who also do the learning.

The Water Museum plans to create the **Seekers' Case** which will be a space for collecting the tools and techniques of rural and urban communities in the search for water.

**The Seekers'** space at the Water Museum is **a collection** of all the **tools** and all the **methods** and their different **knowledge and know-how** to **capitalize on, disseminate, make a documentary film, a comic strip (comic strip) for the primary schools (students and teachers).**

# Student visitors to the Water Museum become apprentice dowers





# The Burkina Faso Water Museum thanks you

