



6th International Conference Global Network of Water Museums

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The Role of Museums in Promoting
New Water Uses for Resilient Futures

Brasilia, 4-8 November 2025

Espaço Cultural Caesb, Av. Sibipiruna, Lotes 13/21



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Conference organisation team

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Rationale of the conference

Adaptation to climate change is not only about responding to crises but also about proactively shaping a more resilient future. It refers to the adjustments made by individuals, communities, and institutions to limit negative impacts while leveraging opportunities presented by new environmental conditions.

Adaptation can mean reducing vulnerability - through measures such as building flood defenses, restoring wetlands, or developing drought-resistant crops - or leveraging emerging opportunities, such as new agricultural possibilities in areas with increased rainfall or longer growing seasons. In all cases, effective adaptation requires both technical innovation and a **new mindset** in how societies understand, value, and govern water.

The **6th International Conference of the Global Network of Water Museums (WAMU-NET)** will explore adaptation strategies to climate change with a particular focus on the role of museums and cultural institutions in promoting a renewed 'culture of water', that is, a new mindset for cultural change. Faced with mounting water scarcity, extreme weather events, and increasingly fragile ecosystems, museums are uniquely placed to act as platforms for education, dialogue, and collective action. They safeguard natural and cultural water heritage, while also enabling communities to co-design future-oriented practices. By advancing **water education, participatory governance, indigenous knowledge, and ancient hydrotechnologies**, water museums can help build resilience and inspire more sustainable and inclusive behavior toward water resources.

This year's conference, hosted by **ADASA** in Brasília (the Regulatory Agency for Water, Energy and Sanitation of the Federal District), will highlight Brazil's water heritage and the creation of **MINA – the International Water Memorial** conceived by architect Oscar Niemeyer. Developed as a reference point for water education, MINA embodies how water heritage can inform innovative approaches to sustainability.

At a time when the **UN Climate Change Conference (COP30)** will take place in Belém, Brazil, this gathering of WAMU+NET offers a timely occasion to align cultural, educational, and scientific initiatives with global climate agendas. For this reason, particular attention will be given to the role of eco-museums and community-based museums, which, rooted in **local participation**, are increasingly active in **water governance** and **territorial enhancement**, working alongside public authorities, academia, civil society, utilities, and local communities.

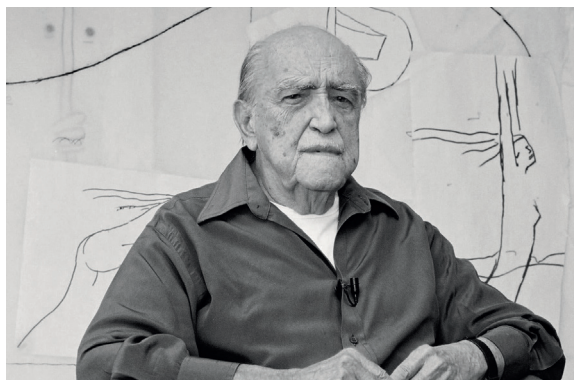


Rendering of MINA – the International Water Memorial of Brasília

Over three days, the program will feature keynote speeches, contributions from water museums, open discussions, roundtables, and posters presentations designed to exchange knowledge and generate new ideas for inspiring and advancing a new 'culture of water'. Among the different sessions, one will focus on participatory water governance, highlighting how museums and local communities can work together through innovative tools, educational programs, and shared stories. A specific session will explore the next steps to expand and enrich the '*Water Cloud*', [WAMU+NET's online repository of educational resources](#). Ultimately, the 6th International WAMU+NET Conference will promote new narratives and models for a changing water world. By recognizing the pivotal role of museums, eco-museums, and communities, it aims to support the ecological transition, foster sustainable water governance, and safeguard both the tangible and intangible heritage of water for future generations.

Conference objectives

- Foster international exchange and collaboration by bringing together researchers, stakeholders, museum professionals, and practitioners to share experiences and strengthen innovative networks in water sustainability education across the world
- Facilitate the exchange of projects and good practices among WAMU+NET members, contributing to water sustainability education and the second priority of UNESCO-IHP Phase IX (2022-2029)
- Recognize and strengthen the role of water museums and institutions in advancing participatory and equitable water governance in the context of climate change
- Recognize and integrate local and indigenous knowledge and ancient hydrotechnologies as valuable resources for addressing today's water challenges and inspiring innovative adaptation strategies
- Support the development of shared educational resources and innovative projects, including the further expansion of the '*Water Cloud*' and collaborative initiatives between museums, schools, research centers, and local communities
- Contribute with innovative contents and projects to MINA - the forthcoming International Water Memorial of Brasilia
- Facilitate face-to-face discussions to upgrade the Charter of WAMU+NET



The MINA International Water Memorial is a project designed by the notorious architect Oscar Niemeyer

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Tuesday 4 November: Pre-conference Tour and Award Ceremony 'Back to Our Future'

- 14.30 – 18.00** City Tour of Brasília. Place of Departure: TV Tower, Brasília
- 18.00 – 19.00** Welcome Cocktail. Venue: Cine Brasília, Brasília
- 19.00 – 20.25** Award Ceremony and Film Screening: 'Back to Our Future' Water Film Prize. Presented by Ellen Schultz, Reginaldo Pereira Miguel, Eriberto Eulisse and Irene Leonardelli
Organized by WAMU+NET, Let's Talk About Water and Adasa
- 20.25 – 22.00** Screening of 'Amazonas - The Largest River in the World' (1918) by Silvino Santos, with a soundtrack by Allison Michelle

Day 1 - Wednesday 5 November

- 9.00 – 10.00** Registrations. Venue: Espaço Cultural Caesb, Av. Sibi Piruna, Lotes 13/21
- 10.00 – 11.15** **OPENING SESSION – WELCOME SPEECHES**
- Ibaneis Rocha, Governor of the Federal District of Brasília
 - Abou Amani, Director of the Division of Water Sciences and Secretary UNESCO-IHP
 - H.E. Ambassador Santiago Irazabal Mourão, President of the Brazilian National Commission for UNESCO
 - Raimundo Ribeiro, President of Adasa
 - Luis Antonio Reis, President of Caesb
 - Rogério Rosso, Director of Adasa and Coordinator of the MINA Project
 - Eddy Moors, President of the Global Network of Water Museums
- 11.15 – 11.35** Coffee break
- 11.35 – 13.00** **SESSION 1**
Adapting to a Changing Climate
Chair: Glauco Kimura de Freitas (Water Resilience Tracker, Brazil)
- Ricardo Burg Mlynarz (UNESCO-IHP): *Adapting Water Management to Climate Change in LAC countries: from Local Community to Transboundary Cooperation*
- Screening of the video 'Voices of the Guarani', produced by MSP Guarani and UNESCO Montevideo (2024)
- Gutemberg Gomes (State Secretary for the Environment GDF): *The Federal District's Environmental Agenda in the Face of Climate Change*
 - Cássio Rampinelli (National Water and Sanitation Agency, Brazil): *Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources in Brazil*
 - Glênio da Luz Lima Junior (Superintendency of Environment and Water Resources of Caesb): *Challenges and Opportunities for Adapting to Climate Change in the Federal District*
 - Karl Matthias Wantzen (UNESCO Chair Rivers and Heritage), presented by Pia Parolin: *Pantanal: A Threatened Heritage of Brazil*
- 13.00 – 14.00** Lunch

14.00 – 15.00 SESSION 2

The Memorial Internacional da Agua - MINA: Oscar Niemeyer's Vision for the United Nations of Water Museums in Brasilia, Brazil

Chair: Ruben Fernandes (Aguas do Porto, Portugal)

• Rogerio Rosso, Félix Palazzo and Apolinário Rebêlo (Adasa):

The MINA International Water Memorial Designed by Oscar Niemeyer

• Eriberto Eulisse (Executive Director, Global Network of Water Museums): *WAMU+NET's proposal for MINA: Why an Educational Space for the United Nations of Water Museums?*

Q&A

15.00 – 16.30 SESSION 3

Promoting Education through the 'Water Cloud': An Open Access Digital Repository for Museums and Schools

Chair: Sara Ahmed (Living Waters Museum, India)

Presentation of the Project '*Water Cloud*': Resources for Inclusive Sustainable Futures. A Contribution of WAMU+NET to Water Sustainability Education and UNESCO-IHP Phase IX (2022-2029).

Open discussion with: Ellen Freedman Schultz (Fairmount Interpretive Center, Philadelphia, US), Margarida Filipe (Museu da Agua, Lisbon, Portugal), Shelly Johnson Mukwa Musayett (Thompson Rivers University, Canada), Bernard Combes (Senior Expert in Education), Alexander Otte (UNESCO-IHP), Irene Leonardelli and Lucrezia Gigante (WAMU+NET)

Q&A

16.30 - 16.50 Coffee break

16.50 - 17.50 POSTER SESSION

Water Sustainability Education

• Gabrielle Ribeiro and Miguel Sartori (Adasa): '*Adasa na Escola*': *Building a Water-Conscious Generation in the Federal District*

• Evelyn Arias Garriga and José Antonio Yanez Balbuena (Albear Aqueduct Museum, La Habana, Cuba), *Water Education Activities Promoted by the National Institute of Hydraulic Resources (INRH) in La Habana*

• Margarida Filipe (Lisbon Water Museum, Portugal), *Training Education for Teachers on Sustainability*

• Sukrit Sen and Sara Ahmed (Living Water Museum, India), *Voices from the Climate Wall*

• Chhavi Mathur and Sara Ahmed (Living Waters Museum, India), Faride Samoura and Alassane Samoura (Musée de l'Eau, Burkina Faso), *Fluidity in Water Education*

• Fatima Al Mesnad and Moza Al Mesef (Kharamaa Water Awareness Park), *Education Activities for Improved Sustainability*

• Gianfranco Brivio: '*Identità Fluenti*': *Participatory Practices in the 'Adda di Leonardo' Ecomuseum. Enhancing Tourism through Parish Maps and Interactive Experiences*

• Pia Parolin (Senior Researcher): *Water People Stories*

- Deirdre Crowe (Water Museum of Ireland), *Building Local and Global Connections. A Selection of Sustainability, Climate and Heritage Education Initiatives from Ireland*
- Olivia Jeffers (United States): *Sustainability Through Experience: Adventure Retreats that Inspire Understanding and Connection of Water in History and Our World Today*

17.50 Conclusion of Day 1

19.30 – 22.30 Networking Cocktail. Venue: Clube do Choro

Day 2 - Thursday 6 November

9.30 – 10.00 Registrations. Venue: Espaço Cultural Caesb, Av. Sibiruna, Lotes 13/21

10.00 – 13.30 **SESSION 4**

The Contribution of Museums to Water Governance in Tackling Climate Change. The Role of Local Communities to Foster Innovation through Traditional Knowledge and Ancient Hydro-Technologies (AHTs)

Chair: Farah Kabir (Action Aid and Community-based Museum of Kalapara, Bangladesh)

Keynote: Francesco Visentin and Anna Brusarosco (University of Udine, Italy): *From the Hydraulic Society to the Amphibious Culture: Re-Imaging Museums into the Aquacene*

Speakers:

- Anne Poelina, Mara Bun and Lachie Carracher (Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council and Notre Dame University, Australia): *The Fitzroy Martuwarra's Council Contribution to Face Climate Change Adaptation*
- Luisa Ambrosi and Paula Jácome (Yaku Parque Water Museum, Fundación Museos de la Ciudad, Quito, Ecuador): *Somos Pàramo: Sensory Storytelling for Climate Justice and Ancestral Water Governance*

11.15 – 11.35 Coffee break

- Rashad Salim and Hannah Lewis (Open Museum Initiative for Water Culture, Basra, Iraq): *From Remembering to Revitalising: Water Cultures as Active Heritage for a Future in Iraq*
- Liliana Pena Naval (Brazilian Water Museum and University of Tocantins, Brazil): *Waters of Belonging: Intercultural Dialogues on Water, Identity and Climate Justice*
- Javier Taks (University of the Republic, Montevideo): *Ancestral Hydro-Technologies in Latin America: Hope and Possibilities*
- Abdelkrim Boughoud (Douiret-Sbâa Association for Local Development, Morocco), Vladimiro Boselli, Edo Bricchetti and Irene Leonardelli (WAMU+NET): *Douiret-Sbâa, the first Eco-museum of the Oasis in Morocco: a Sustainable Model of Social Cohesion to Climate Change Adaptation*

Q&A

13.30 – 14.30 Lunch

14.30 – 16.00 **ROUNDTABLE**

Shaping the Transition towards More Resilient Futures with the Involvement of Local Communities and Indigenous People

Chair: Farah Kabir (Action Aid and Community-based Museum of Kalapara, Bangladesh), with:

- Darlene Sanderson (University of Northern British Columbia, Canada)
- Elham Raei (ICQHS, Yazd, Iran)
- Marco and Riccardo Iamiceli (Paese dell'Acqua, Sassinoro, Italy)
- Te Aturangi Nepia-Clamp (Māori Tribal Trust, New Zealand)
- Valdelice Veron Kaiowá (Terra Vida Justiça e Demarcação)

16.00 – 16.20 Coffee break

16.20 – 17.00 **BOOK PRESENTATIONS**

Indigenous Waterviews and Water Museums in Latin America

- Javier Taks (UNESCO Chair at the University of the Republic, Montevideo): *Water Museums in Latin America and the Caribbean. A Preliminary Guide*, in cooperation with UNESCO Montevideo Office
- Darlene Sanderson (University of Northern British Columbia, Canada), Shelly Johnson Mukwa Musayett (Thompson Rivers University, Canada) and Te Aturangi Nepia-Clamp (Māori Tribal Trust, New Zealand): *Indigenous Waterviews*, published by the Indigenous Environmental Network

17.00 – 17.50 **POSTER SESSION**

Water Heritage and Climate Change

- Ye Honglei and Lili Yumei, National Water Museum of China: *Chinese Hydraulic Heritages*
 - Farah Kabir, Community-based Museum of Kalapara, Bangladesh (in cooperation with ActionAid Bangladesh): *Water Heritage under Climate Threat: Community Voices from Bangladesh*
 - Leticia Ricevich and Giovanna Pereira (Adasa): *Water Heritage Conservation and Climate Action in the Cerrado: The Case of the Pipiripau Water Producer Project*
 - Elham Raei, ICQHS, UNESCO Cat.2 Centre, Yazd, Iran: *Preserving and Promoting Iran's Water Heritage*
 - Karin Wundsam, Marktgemeinde Engelhartzell, Austria: *Danube Water Heritage and Climate Change*
 - Debora Silva, Águas e Energia do Porto, Portugal: *Revitalizing the Parque Patrimonial das Águas in Porto*
 - Zhang Huaiji, Yellow River Museum, China: *The Water Heritages of the Yellow River*
 - Marco and Riccardo Iamiceli, Paese dell'Acqua, Italy: *Promoting the Extended Heritage of the Tammaro River: a new Interpretive Centre*
- 17.50 Conclusion of Day 2

19.30 – 22.00 Gala Dinner. Venue: Brasilia Palace Hotel

10.00 – 13.30 17th GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF WATER MUSEUMS

Venue: Espaço Cultural Caesb, Av. Sibipiruna, Lotes 13/21

Opening by Eddy Moors (President of WAMU+NET and Rector of IHE Delft, Netherlands)

Building Cultural Bridges and Peace in an Era of Growing Conflicts

Elham Raei (ICQHS, UNESCO Cat.2 Centre, Yazd, Iran): *Persian Qanats as Heritage for Peace and Resilience*

Toward a New Charter for WAMU+NET

Philippe Pypaert (Senior Expert in Hydrology): *Strengthening WAMU+NET's Contribution to Water Sustainability Education and IHP Phase 9: Proposal of new Roles for Members, Working Groups (WGs) and Thematic Networks (TNs)*

Ongoing Projects - Toward the New Management Board

Eriberto Eulisse (Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy):
Presentation of WAMU+NET's Ongoing Projects.
Enhancing Farsighted Water Management through Artistic Languages: 'Soil Art Tales' and 'Aqua Motion' Art Residencies.
Announcement of the New Management Board (2026-2027)
Election Procedure.

Collaborations with UNESCO Chairs

Carola Hein and Matteo D'Agostino (TU Delft, Netherlands):
Insights and Takeaways from Water Museum Leaders interviewed by the UNESCO Chair 'Water, Ports, and Historic Cities' at the 5th WAMU+NET Conference in Porto
Q&A

11.30 – 11.50 Coffee break

11.50 – 13.30 WORLD CAFÉ - Medium and Long-Term Prospects for WAMU+NET

Chair: Ian Kerr-Wilson (Global Network of Water Museums)

Thematic discussions:

- Improving Communications about Peace through the Network of Water Museums
- WAMU+NET's Participatory Governance: One Member, One Vote
- Proposals for Upgrading the Charter of WAMU+NET
- New Roles for Members, Governing Bodies, Thematic Networks (TNs) and Working Groups (WGs)
- Ongoing Projects on Water Sustainability Education (WSE) and Ancient Hydro-Technologies (AHTs)
- Toward a Community of Young Ambassador 'The Water We Want'
- Contributions to IHP Phase 9
- Proposals from the Members

Q&A

13.30 – 14.30 Lunch

14.30 – 15.00 Reporting to the Plenary

15.00 – 16.30 **Envisioning New Water Museums and Innovative Spaces to Educate, Exhibit and Engage Local Communities**

Chair: Mariana Castro Henriques (Museu da Agua, Lisbon, Portugal)

• Alioune Dème (Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal):

The case of the Musée des Peuples de l'Eau of Dakar: From the Proposal of WAMU+NET at the 9th World Water Forum to its Virtual Exhibition

• Manfredi Leone (University of Palermo, Italy): *Water Heritage, Landscape and the Extended Water Museum of Palermo, Sicily*

• Farah Kabir (ActionAid, Bangladesh): *Creating a New Water Museum with the Involvement of the Local People*

• Liliana Pena Naval (Brazilian Water Museum and University of Tocantins, Brazil): *Letters from the Future: Children and Teens Speak on Climate Change*

Discussion with:

Fernando Yavari (SAGUAPAC, Bolivia), Rashad Salim (Open Museum Initiative for Water Culture, Basra, Iraq), Sara Ahmed (Living Waters Museum, India), Alassane Samoura (Musée de l'Eau, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso)

16.30 Conference conclusions and next steps
Raimundo Ribeiro (President of Adasa), Rogerio Rosso (Director of Adasa) and Eddy Moors (President of WAMU+NET)

Day 4 - Saturday 8 November

9.30 – 14.30 **City tour of Brasilia**

Place of departure: TV Tower, Brasilia

Wednesday 12 November - Event in Belém in conjunction with COP 30

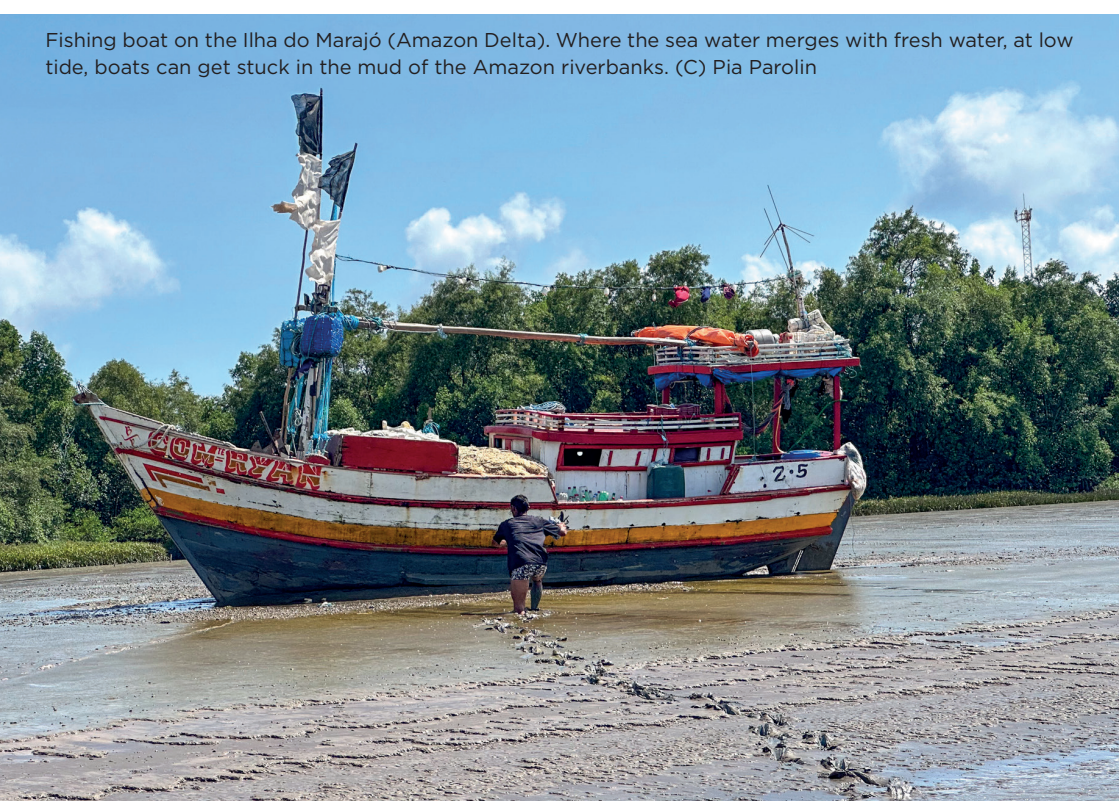
Screening of the Winners of the Film Prize 'Back to Our Future'

Venue: Museu de Arte de Belém. Praça Dom Pedro II, 2, Cidade Velha, Belém

16.00 – 17.30 Film Screening: Winners of the Prize 'Back to Our Future'.
Conversation with: Igor Amin (director of Instituto Mundos, Brazil) and Eriberto Eulisse (director of WAMU+NET).
Discussion with: Liliana Pena Naval (Brazilian Water Museum), Francesco Visentin and Anna Brusarosco (University of Udine, Italy).
In cooperation with: Let's Talk About Water (US), Instituto Mundos (Brazil) and University of Tocantins (Brazil).



Floodplain forest on the Amazon River near Belém, with local stilt houses and açaí palms. (C) Pia Parolin



Fishing boat on the Ilha do Marajó (Amazon Delta). Where the sea water merges with fresh water, at low tide, boats can get stuck in the mud of the Amazon riverbanks. (C) Pia Parolin



6TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF WAMU•NET IN BRASILIA

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