



The Proposal of WAMU+NET for MINA: A Symbolic and Material Space for the «United Nations of Water Museums»

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Global Network of Water Museums (WAMU-NET)



WHO WE ARE

The Global Network of Water Museums (WAMU-NET) is a non-profit NGO based in Venice and Trento (Italy).

It's managed by its members (+120 in +40 countries) with democratic principles. From 2018, it's a 'flagship initiative' of UNESCO-IHP.



WAMU-NET'S COMMITMENT TO BUILD A «NEW CULTURE OF WATER»

We must “reinstate a new relationship between humanity and water to reconnect people with the value of water in all its dimensions - including scientific, technical, social, cultural, artistic and spiritual”

Manifesto (2017) and Charter (2019)

H. Ljungh, Waterfall prayer, 2010

OUR MISSION



INSPIRE PEOPLE TO BUILD
A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH WATER

WHY MUSEUMS?



People learn science topics from classrooms, media and *personal interactions in informal settings* - such as museums - through **experiential learning**

MUSEUMS AS EXPERIENTIAL CENTRES

Museums are dynamic centers of learning and entertainment

They disseminate science in a language that is widely understandable and in a playful way: as such, they can raise public awareness to support the resolution of serious environmental issues

UNITED IN A NETWORK, MUSEUMS FOSTER PARADIGM SHIFT



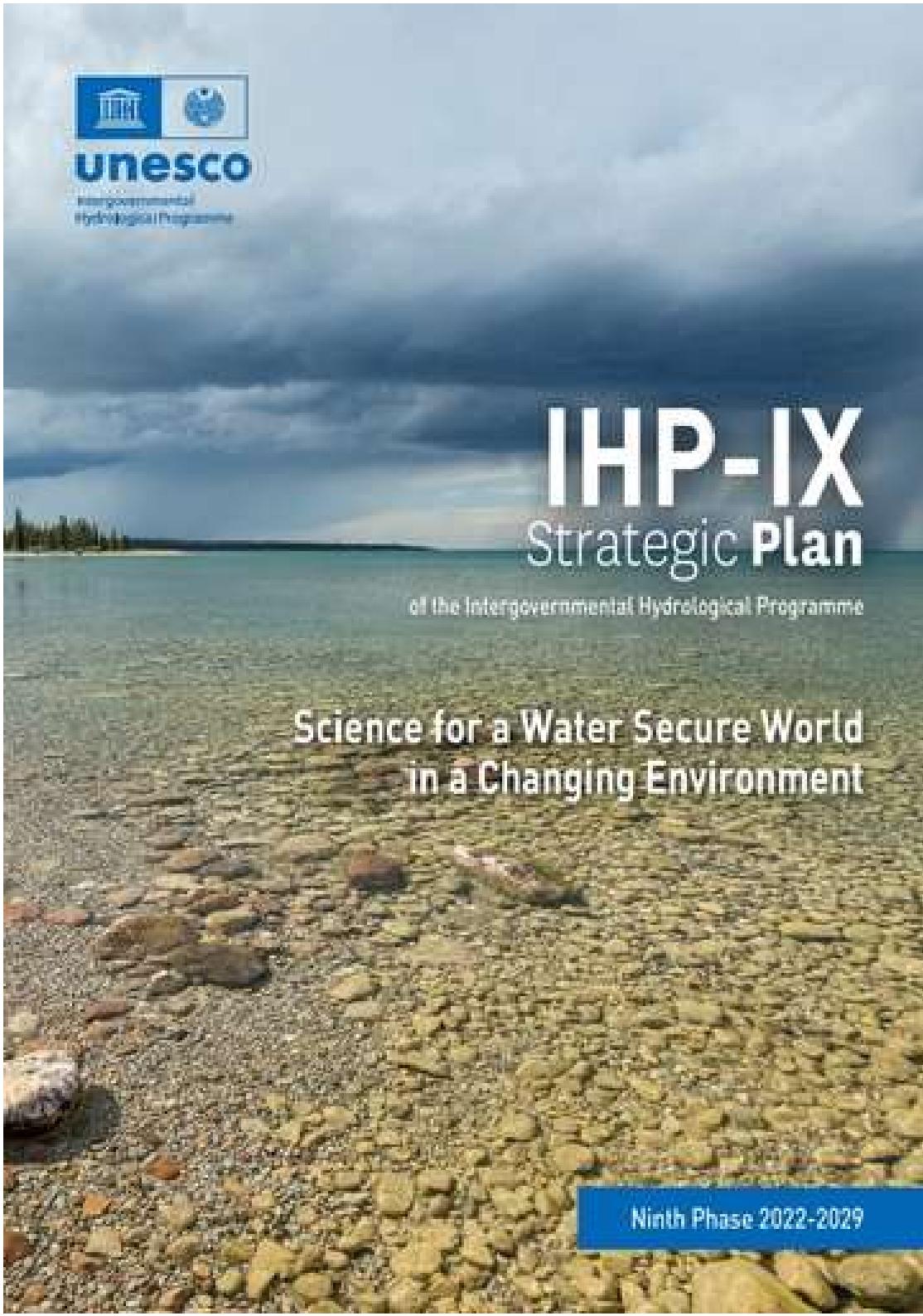
From the prevalent cultural paradigm of 'Domination over Nature' to one of 'Ecosystem Sustainability' and Biodiversity Preservation



UNESCO-IHP RESOLUTION N.5-XXIII (2018) UNESCO-IHP RESOLUTION N.7-XXIV (2021)

WAMU-NET is endorsed as a ‘flagship initiative’ of IHP
to promote Water Sustainability Education





Strategic Plan 2022-2029 (IHP Phase 9)

WAMU+NET is listed among the key institutions to promote the change of people's mindset 2.1.(119): ***"WAMU+NET will be mobilized in raising awareness and improving water culture of citizens ... to favour a change in behaviour towards a society with greater eco-social awareness"***



MINA: an opportunity for piloting projects
with innovative contents and exhibitions
and contributing to IHP Phase 9

The proposal of WAMU-NET for MINA

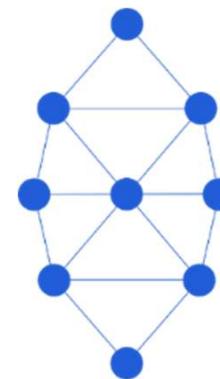
1. Creating a Symbolic and Material Space for the 'United Nations of Water Museums'
2. Building '*WATER CLOUD*': a new Tool for Water Sustainability Education & Capacity Building (IHP 9)
3. Promoting a New Water Civilization and Values by Bridging Past & Present Water Knowledge

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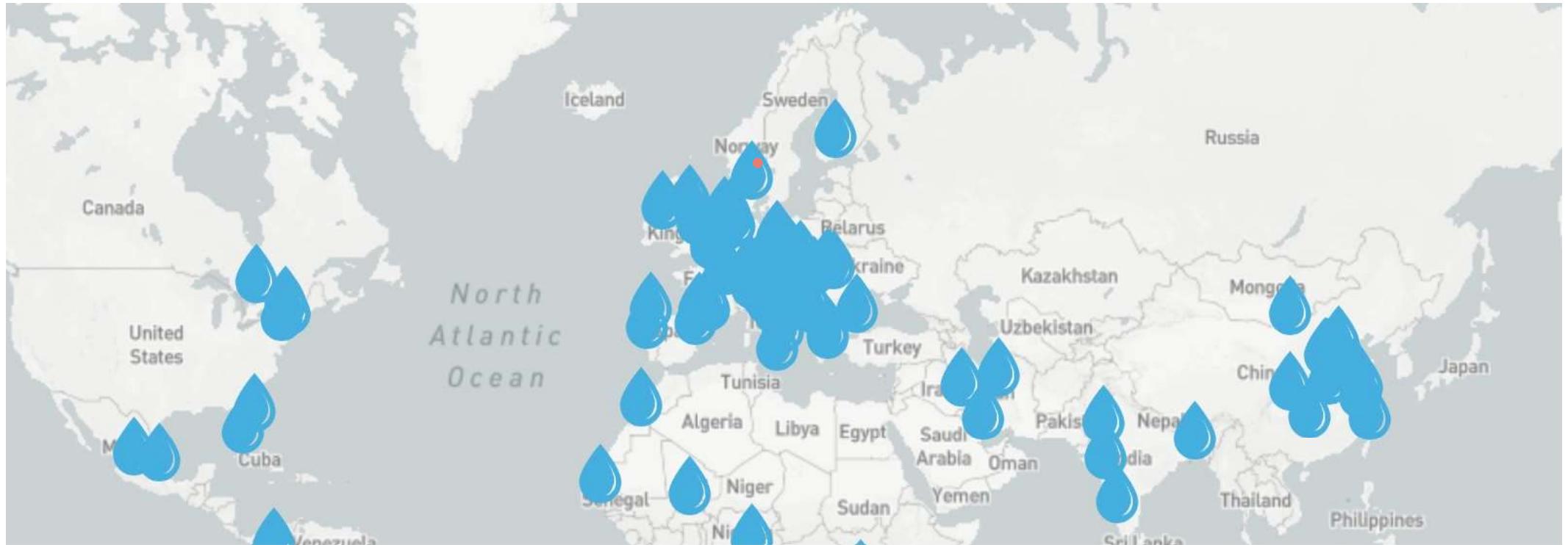
Creating a Symbolic and Material Space for the ‘United Nations of Water Museums’

MEMBERS

www.watermuseums.net/network



WATER
MUSEUMS
GLOBAL NETWORK



122 members in 42 countries

112 institutions + 10 individuals (2025)

+20.000.000 Visitors/ Year

● Water Awareness

● Natural Science

● Open air / Virtual

● History & Heritage

Each member protects and promotes a unique water heritage through unique storytelling

Who are these museums?

How do they engage the public?

How can they be represented as a Network?

The richness of different water values promoted by our members is not fully considered yet



+120 museums across the world

+40 countries

IMMERSIVE VIDEOINSTALLATION «UNITED NATIONS OF WATER MUSEUMS»
Selected features curated by WAMU+NET

MEMBERS (122) GROUPED BY COUNTRIES (42)

N. 112 INSTITUTIONS

+ 10 INDIVIDUALS

THE AMERICAS (n.18)

- BRASIL (2)
- CANADA (1)
- COLOMBIA (2)
- CUBA (1)
- ECUADOR (1)
- MÉXICO (3)
- URUGUAY (1)
- USA (7)

AFRICA (n.5)

- BURKINA FASO (1)
- MOROCCO (1)
- RWANDA (1)
- SENEGAL (1)
- CAMEROUN (1)

EUROPE (n.69)

- AUSTRIA (3)
- BELGIUM (3)
- CROATIA (1)
- DANMARK (1)
- FINLAND (1)
- FRANCE (2)
- GERMANY (2)
- GREECE (2)
- HUNGARY (1)
- IRELAND (1)
- ITALY (25)
- MACEDONIA (1)
- MALTA (1)
- PORTUGAL (2)
- ROMANIA (3)
- SLOVENIA (1)
- SPAIN (6)

- THE NETHERLANDS (11)

- UNITED KINGDOM (2)

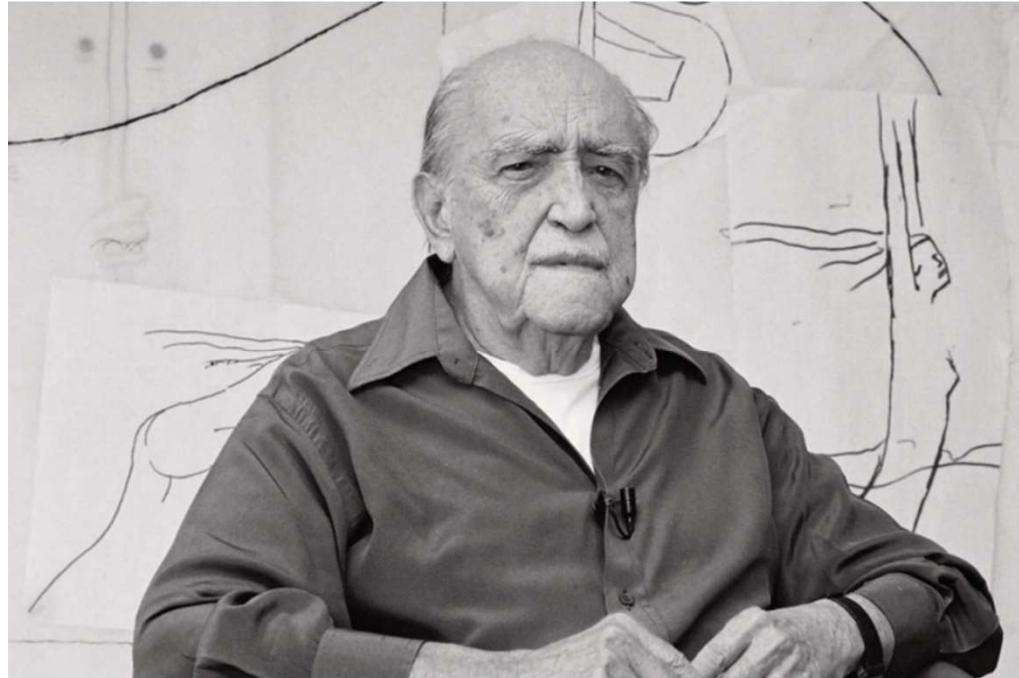
ASIA (n.16)

- AUSTRALIA (2)
- BANGLADESH (1)
- CHINA (9)
- INDIA (2)
- INDONESIA (1)
- SOUTH KOREA (1)

MIDDLE EAST (n.4)

- IRAN (1)
- IRAQ (1)
- QATAR (1)
- TURKEY (1)

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS (10)



Oscar Niemeyer's legacy to represent the UN
of Water Museums can be taken up by
WAMU+NET to feature MINA's Contribution
to UNESCO

A videoinstallation aimed at exploring the variety and richness of cultural approaches of different museums affiliated to WAMU+NET.

Once implemented by MINA, it can be replicated by all WAMU+NET members across the world, following the model of Brasilia.

Building ‘WATER CLOUD’: a new Tool for
Water Sustainability Education & Capacity
Building (IHP 9)

WATER CLOUD



**Open Access Repository
of Worldwide Educational Resources
for Inclusive and Sustainable Futures**

**‘Water Cloud’ is an Open Acces Repository
aimed at strengthenig capacity building of
schools and museums globally**

**The project, conceived at the 5th Conference
in Porto, now also includes an Immersive
video-installation and Interactive Space to
engage the public
at the Host Institution’s premises**

‘Water Cloud’ will collect educational resources from museums and communities all across the world to show the variety and richness of water cultures and values through different educational approaches

Once collected, they will be shared to disseminate new educational programs worldwide and support less advantaged museums in LICs

Activities

The project foresees the creation of:

1. A **Steering Committee** made by the UNESCO water family and museum staff (interacting with the Educational Group of IHP 9)
2. A **research team** committed to collect educational resources from various members across the world
3. An **Open-Source Repository** (the ‘Water Cloud’)
4. An innovative exhibition at a Host Institution where all materials will be showcased through:
 - (a) a **Video installation** and (b) an **Interactive Station**
5. **New curricula and educational materials** co-designed in various languages **for** at least **24 LICs museums**

3

Promoting a New Water Civilization and Values by Bridging Past & Present Water Knowledge



Tirta Empul Temple: the sacred waters of Bali, Indonesia, are then used for agriculture and community works

The ‘value of water’ derives from its history, that is, from the uses that communities have assigned to it over time. These uses include historical richness and symbolic dimensions

The different ‘cultural uses’ of water imply a universe of traditions that synthesize the variety of forms which define the concept of ‘water civilization(s)’

NATURAL & CULTURAL HERITAGE TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE ASSETTS

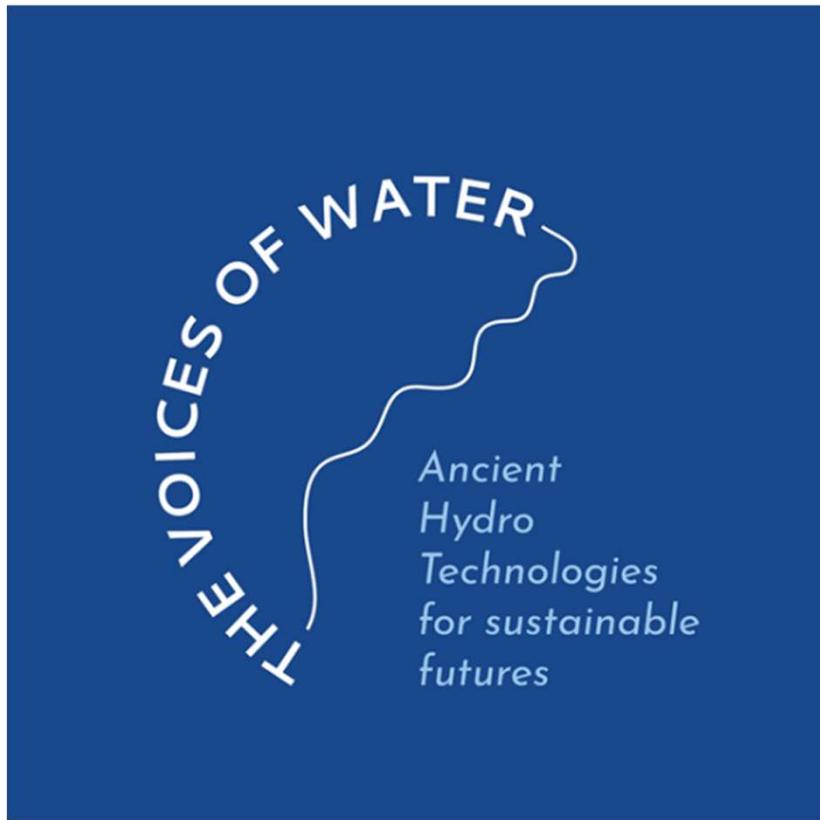




WATER
MUSEUMS
GLOBAL NETWORK

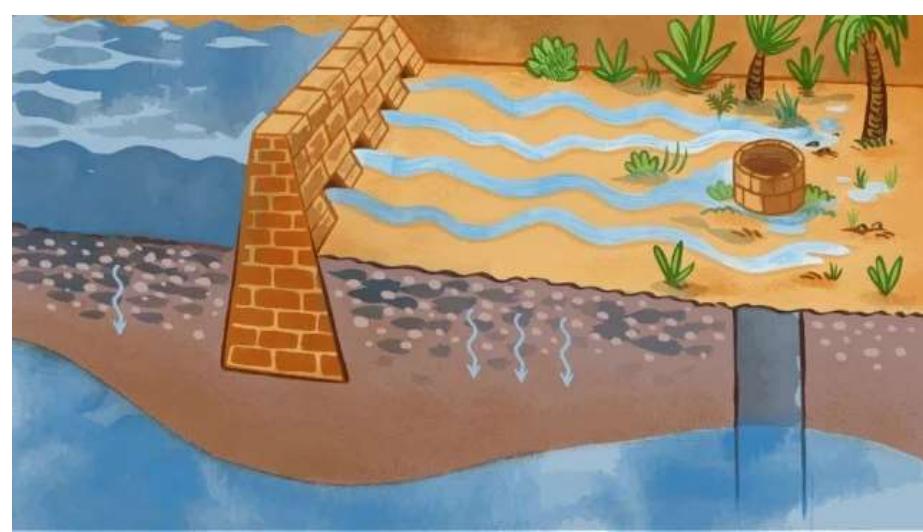
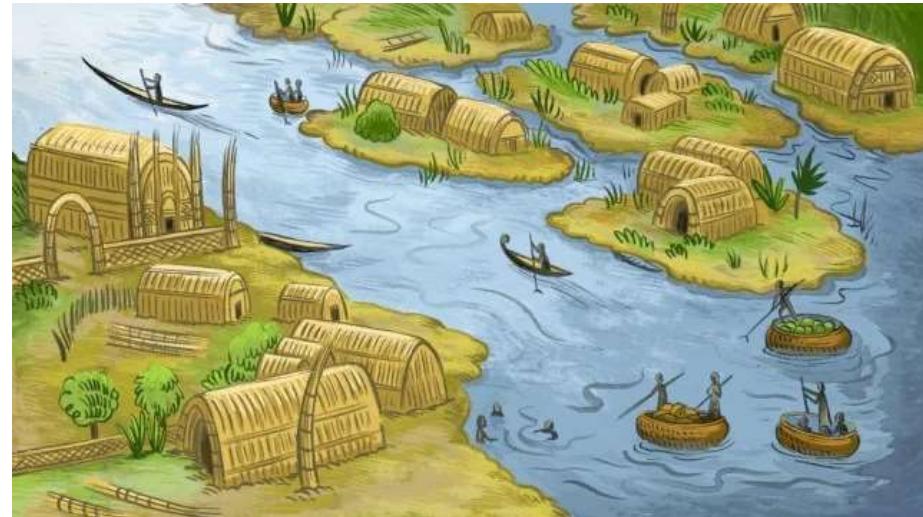


REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA



Multi-channel 'immersive' video installation
aiming to promote Ancient Hydro-Technologies as a
tool to mitigate climate change impacts

MOROCCO – ALGERIA – GHANA – IRAQ INDONESIA – AUSTRALIA – PERU - BRAZIL



WHY “THE VOICES OF WATER”?

Everywhere, water is widely recognized as a ‘natural resource’, while **its role as a common thread in cultural heritage and civilization is less obvious** and needs to be emphasized in all its dimensions

Only from this holistic perspective can water be thought of as a ‘key to human development’:

Inspiring adaptation to climate change and as an opportunity to promote local development

How local governments and museums can partner at best to maximize the impact of museums on local development ?



4 New Case Studies: WAMU+NET's contribution to UNESCO's Virtual Science Museum

CONCLUSION

A New strategic cooperation between WAMU+NET and its members can boost Water Sustainability Education and awareness-raising, thus contributing to IHP Phase 9

1. ‘UNITED NATIONS OF WATER MUSEUMS’ – Visualize the WAMU+NET network through interactive videoinstallations
2. ‘WATER CLOUD’ – An Open Repository and Exhibition Space designed for Water Education and Capacity Building
3. ‘THE VOICES OF WATER’ – Immersive videoinstallation to

TOGETHER AS A NETWORK



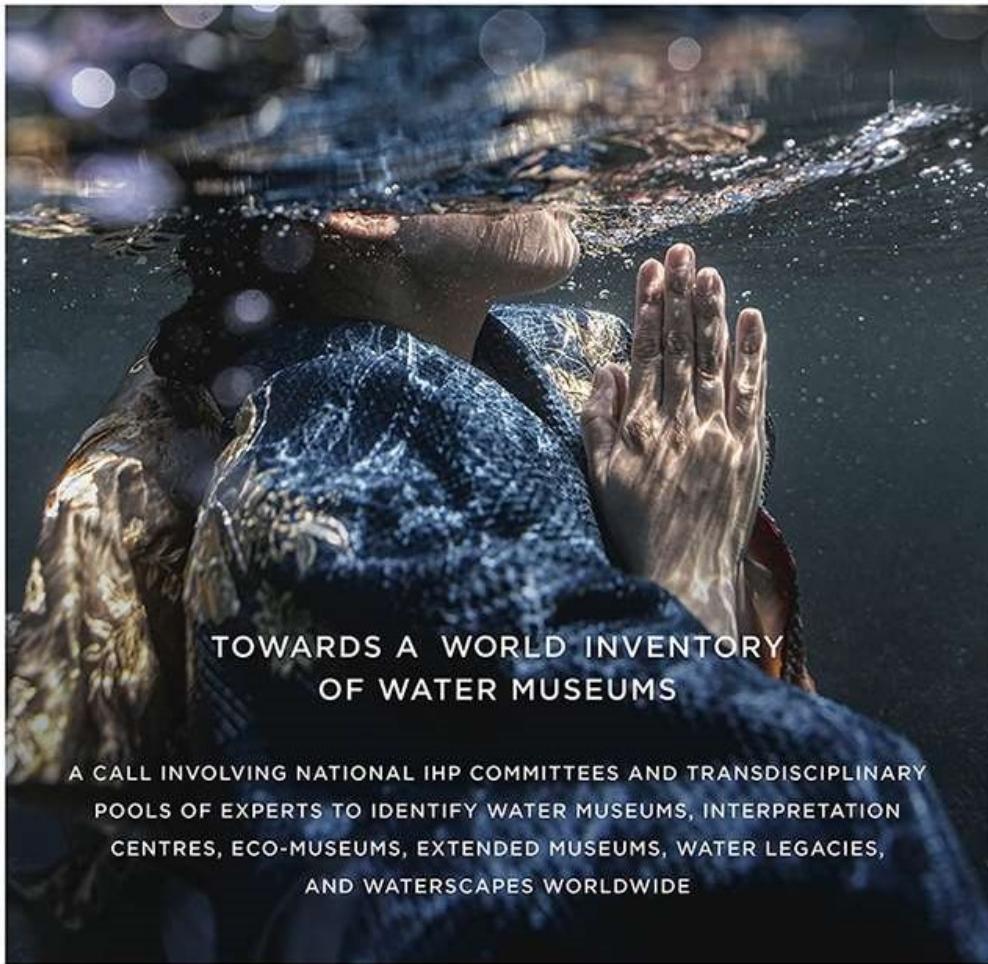
**LET'S PROTECT & PROMOTE
OUR COMMON HERITAGE**



WATER
MUSEUMS
GLOBAL NETWORK



unesco
Intergovernmental
Hydrological Programme



TOWARDS A WORLD INVENTORY
OF WATER MUSEUMS

A CALL INVOLVING NATIONAL IHP COMMITTEES AND TRANSDISCIPLINARY
POOLS OF EXPERTS TO IDENTIFY WATER MUSEUMS, INTERPRETATION
CENTRES, ECO-MUSEUMS, EXTENDED MUSEUMS, WATER LEGACIES,
AND WATERSCAPES WORLDWIDE

Resolution n. XXIV-7 of the Intergovernmental Council of UNESCO-IHP
titled "UNESCO-IHP in support of developing
the Global Network of Water Museums (WAMU-NET)"

DOWNLOAD THE TOOLKIT FOR THE TWO-STEP IMPLEMENTATION @



<https://www.watermuseums.net/world-inventory/>



WATER
MUSEUMS
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THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
ATTENTION

WWW.WATERMUSEUMS.NET

INFO@WATERMUSEUMS.NET