



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

Eriberto Eulisse, Executive Director
Global Network of Water Museums (WAMU-NET)



**WATER
MUSEUMS**
GLOBAL NETWORK



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 COMMITTMENT 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)

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





IHP-IX Strategic Plan

of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme

Science for a Water Secure World
in a Changing Environment

Ninth Phase 2022-2029

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

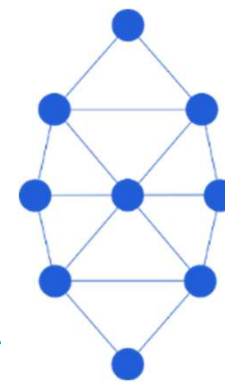
1. Creating a Symbolic and Material Space for the 'United Nations of Water Museums'
2. Building '*WATER CLOUD*': a new Tool for Water Sustainability Education & Capacity Building (IHP 9)
3. Promoting a New Water Civilization and Values by Bridging Past & Present Water Knowledge

1

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

MEMBERS

www.watermuseums.net/network



**WATER
MUSEUMS**
GLOBAL NETWORK



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.

2

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 strenghtening 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



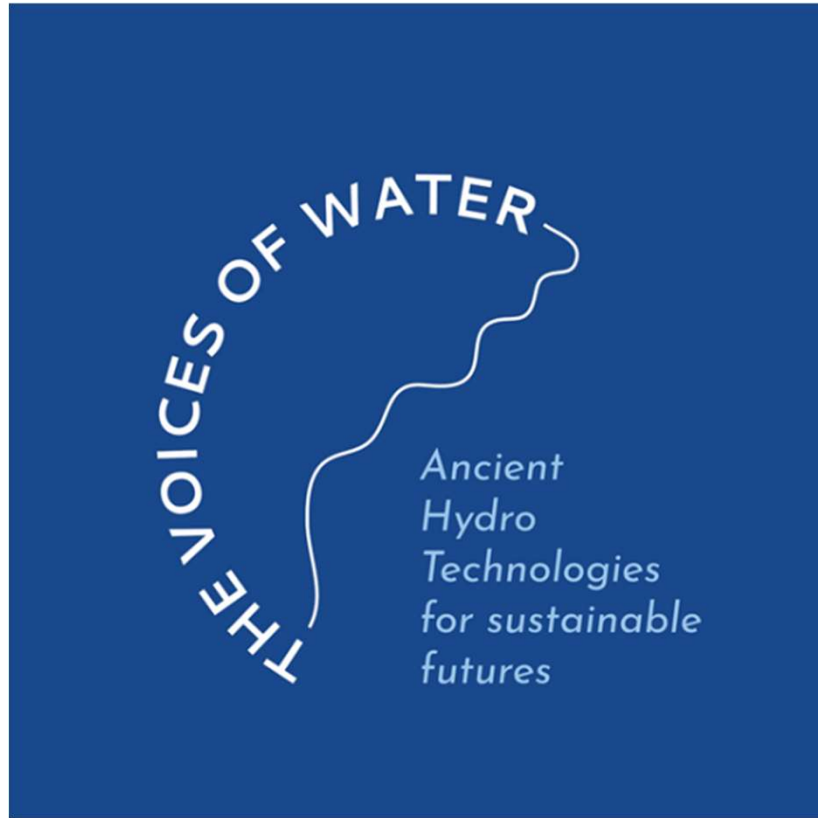
Tirta Empul Temple: the sacred waters of Bali, Indonesia, are then used for agriculture and community works

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





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

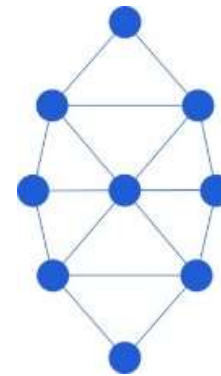
A New strategic cooperation between
WAMU+NET and its members can boost
Water Sustainability Education
and awareness-raising, thus contributing to
IHP Phase 9

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

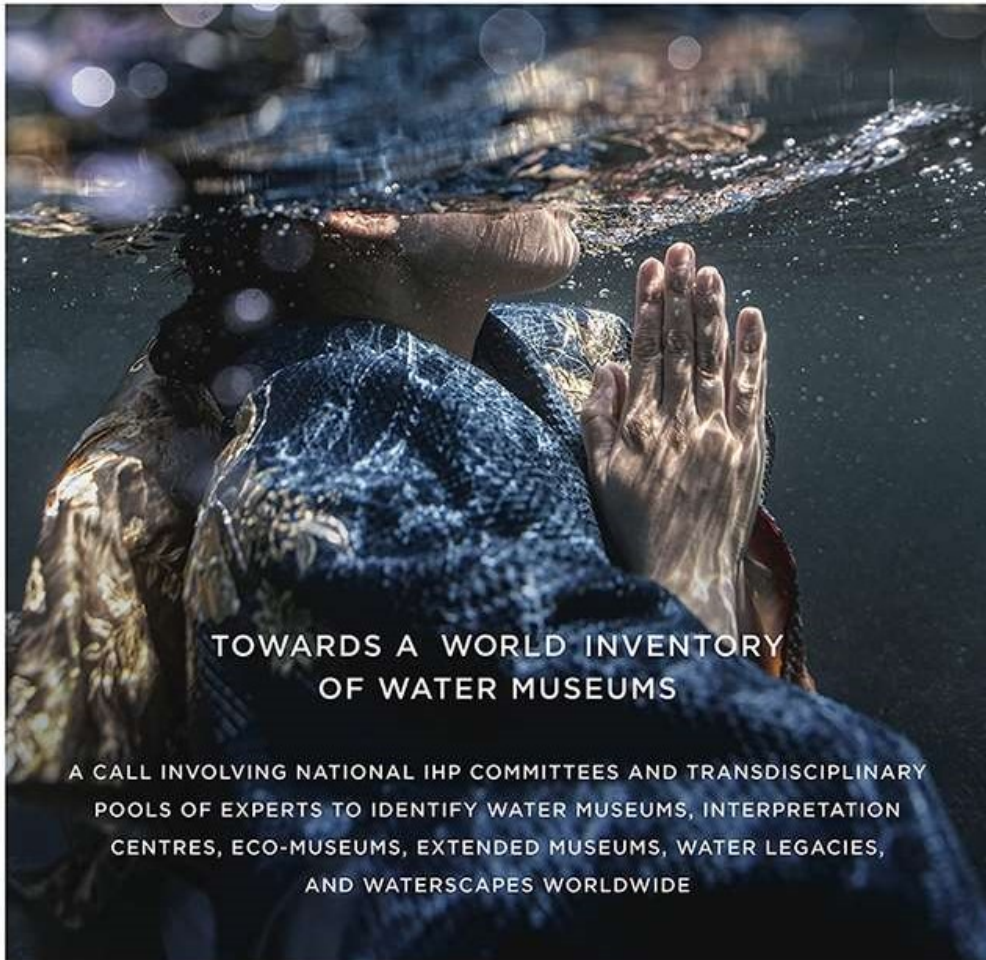
A group of people are standing in front of a large, curved digital display. The display shows a dramatic, high-contrast image of a storm or a massive wave crashing, with bright white foam against a dark, turbulent background. The people are silhouetted against the bright light of the screen. Some are looking at the screen, while others are interacting with it. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the screen itself.

LET'S PROTECT & PROMOTE OUR COMMON HERITAGE



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**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**



**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/>



WWW.WATERMUSEUMS.NET

INFO@WATERMUSEUMS.NET