



6th International Conference of the *Global Network of Water Museums*



ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The role of museums in promoting
new water uses for resilient futures

3 – 8 November 2025

National Theater, Brasilia, Brazil

Preliminary Conference Programme

Organized by



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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 cultural change 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.” 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, will also highlight Brazil’s water heritage and the creation of *MINA – the International Water Memorial*. Conceived by architect Oscar Niemeyer and 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.

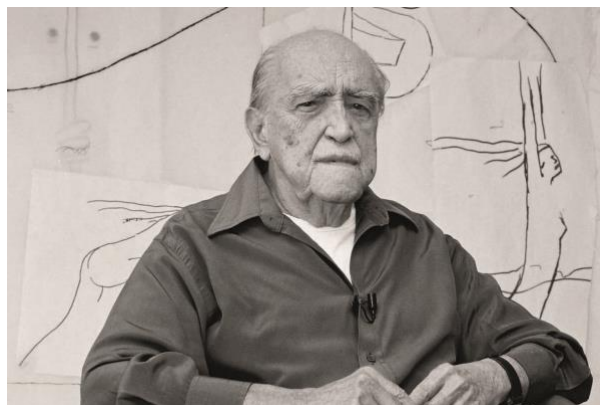
Over three days, the program will feature keynote speeches, contributions from water museums, open discussions, roundtables, and posters presentations designed to exchange knowledge and generate new ideas for inspiring and advancing a new “culture of water”. Among the different sessions, one will focus on participatory water governance, highlighting how museums and local communities can work together through innovative tools, educational programs, and shared stories. Another one 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 seeks to 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.



Render of MINA – the International Water Memorial of Brasilia

Conference objectives

1. Foster international exchange and collaboration by bringing together researchers, stakeholders, museum professionals, and practitioners to share experiences and strengthen global networks in water sustainability education.
2. Facilitate the exchange of projects and good practices among WAMU-NET members, contributing to the second priority of UNESCO-IHP Phase IX (2022–2029) on water sustainability education.
3. Recognize and strengthen the role of water museums and institutions, in advancing participatory and equitable water governance and sustainable development in the context of climate change.
4. Recognize and integrate indigenous knowledge and ancient hydrotechnologies as valuable resources for addressing today's water challenges and inspiring innovative adaptation strategies.
5. 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.
6. Contribute with innovative contents and proposal to the design of MINA – the forthcoming Water Memorial of Brasilia.



Oscar Niemeyer: “The MINA will be an architectural jewel of Brasilia located on the Paranoa lake”

Conference Program

Monday 3 November

15.00 – 18.00 Early Registration. Location: National Theater of Brasilia

Tuesday 4 November

10.00 – 18.00 Early Registration. Location: National Theater of Brasilia

15.00 – 18.00 City tour of Brasilia. Place of departure: National Theater of Brasilia

Day 1 - Wednesday 5 November

08.30 – 09.45 Registrations. Location: National Theater of Brasilia

09.45 – 10.00 Musical Welcome

10.00 – 11.00 **OPENING SESSION – WELCOME SPEECHES**

11.00 – 11.20 Coffee break

11.20 – 12.30 **SESSION 1: ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE. THREATS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

12.30 – 13.00 **GUIDED VISIT OF THE EXHIBITION ‘THE WATER WE WANT’**

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.00 **SESSION 2: THE MEMORIAL INTERNACIONAL DA AGUA ‘MINA’ – AN EDUCATIONAL PROJECT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS OF WATER MUSEUMS IN BRASILIA, BRAZIL**

15.00 – 16.30 **SESSION 3: WATER CLOUD: EDUCATIONAL ONLINE REPOSITORY FOR WATER MUSEUMS**

16.30 - 16.50 Coffee-Break

16.50 - 17.30 **POSTER SESSION 1 ‘WATER SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION’**

17.30 – 18.30 Networking Cocktail

Day 2 - Thursday 6 November

9.30 – 10.00 Registrations. Location: National Theater of Brasilia

10.00 – 13.00 **SESSION 4: THE CONTRIBUTION OF MUSEUMS TO WATER GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE. THE ROLE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO SAFEGUARD AND PROMOTE ANCIENT HYDRO-TECHNOLOGIES (AHTs) AND WATER CULTURES**

11.20 – 11.40 Coffee break

11.40 – 13.00 Continuation Session 4

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.30 **ROUNDTABLE “SHAPING THE TRANSITION TOWARDS MORE RESILIENT FUTURES WITH THE SUPPORT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES”**

15.30 – 15.50 Coffee break

15.50 – 16.30 **LET’S TALK ABOUT COP30 – LETTERS SENT BY WAMU-NET MEMBERS TO THE PRESIDENCY OF COP30**

16.30 – 17.00 **POSTER SESSION NO.2 “PRESERVING WATER HERITAGE IN RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE”**

17.00 – 17.15 Conclusion of Day 2

19.30 – 20.30 **AWARDING CEREMONY “BACK TO OUR FUTURE”** - In cooperation with Let’s Talk About Water, NY

20.30 – 23.00 Gala Dinner

Day 3 - Friday 7 November

10.00 – 13.30 – **GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF WATER MUSEUMS**

- Building Cultural Bridges and Peace through Water Heritage and Museums in an Era of Growing Conflicts
- Liquid evidences from the 5th WAMU-NET Conference in Porto

11.40 – 12.00 Coffee-Break

- Proposal for a new WAMU-NET Charter: designing the network ‘phase 2’
- Contributions from WAMU-NET members and presentation of new members

13.30 – 14.30 Lunch

14.30 – 15.45 **THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE REGIONAL NETWORK OF WATER MUSEUMS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN TO WAMU-NET**

15.45 – 16.00 Conference conclusions

16.00 – 18.00 Technical Cultural Visit to Brasilia

Day 4 - Saturday 8th November

10.00 – 15.00 City Tour of Brasilia

Place of departure: National Theater of Brasilia