

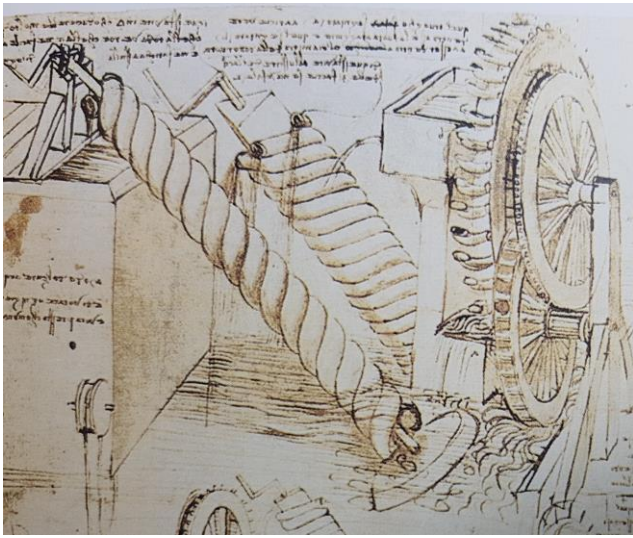


**WATER
MUSEUMS**
GLOBAL NETWORK



Understanding rivers through museums. Why is it important to regenerate human encounters with water?

Eriberto Eulisse, Executive Director
Global Network of Water Museums, a *flagship initiative* of IHP



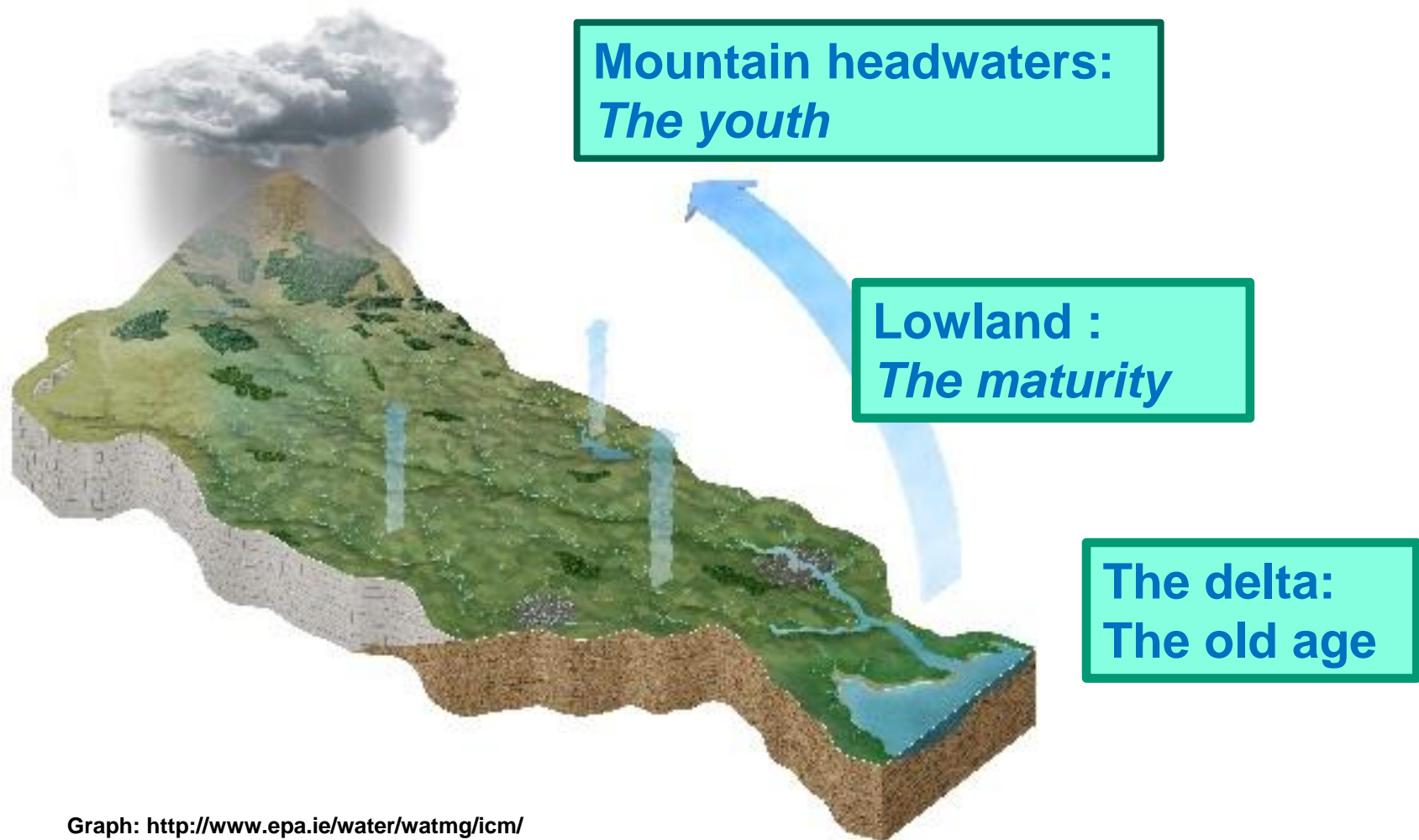
RIVERS THROUGH TIME

Leonardo da Vinci, the famous Italian Renaissance engineer, philosopher and painter - and genial researcher on water hydraulics - wrote in c. 1513:

“The water you touch
of rivers is the last
of that which went, and
simultaneously also the first
of that is to come...

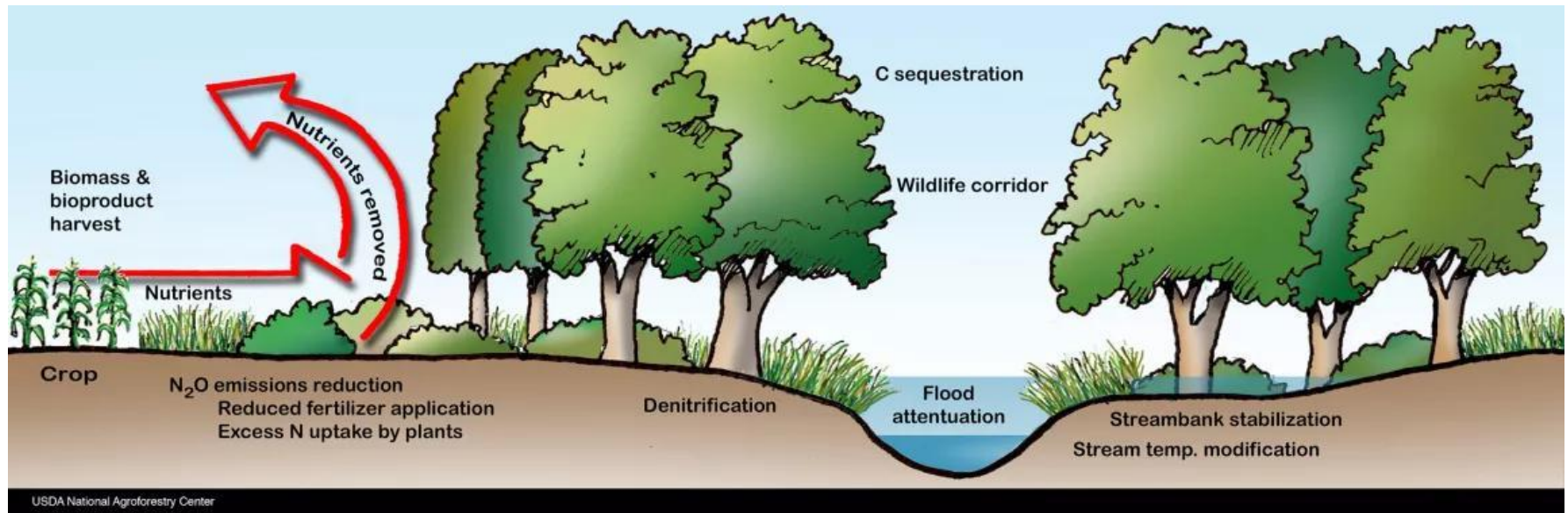
Thus, is the present time”

THE DIFFERENT AGES OF RIVERS THROUGH TIME : THE HORIZONTAL DIMENSION

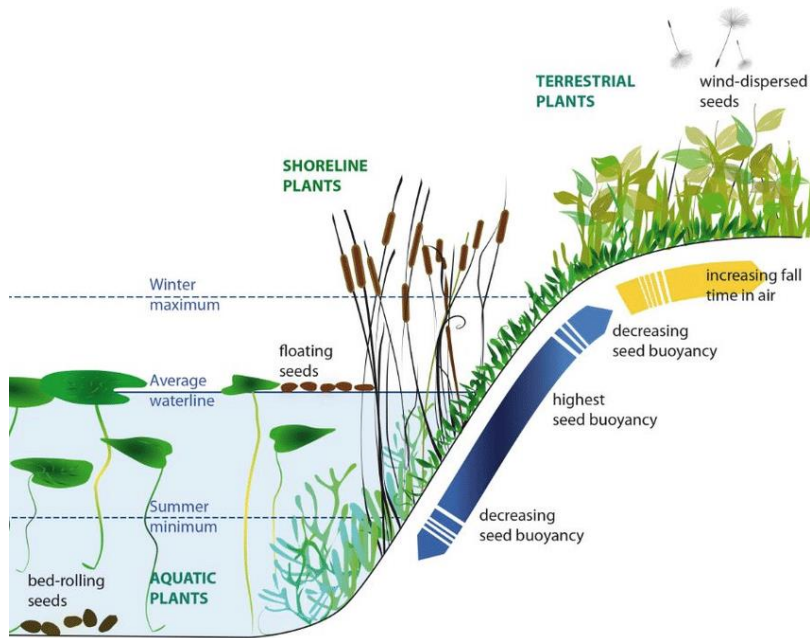


THE TRANSVERSAL DIMENSION

Each age of the river corresponds to a different riparian ecotone and ecosystem :



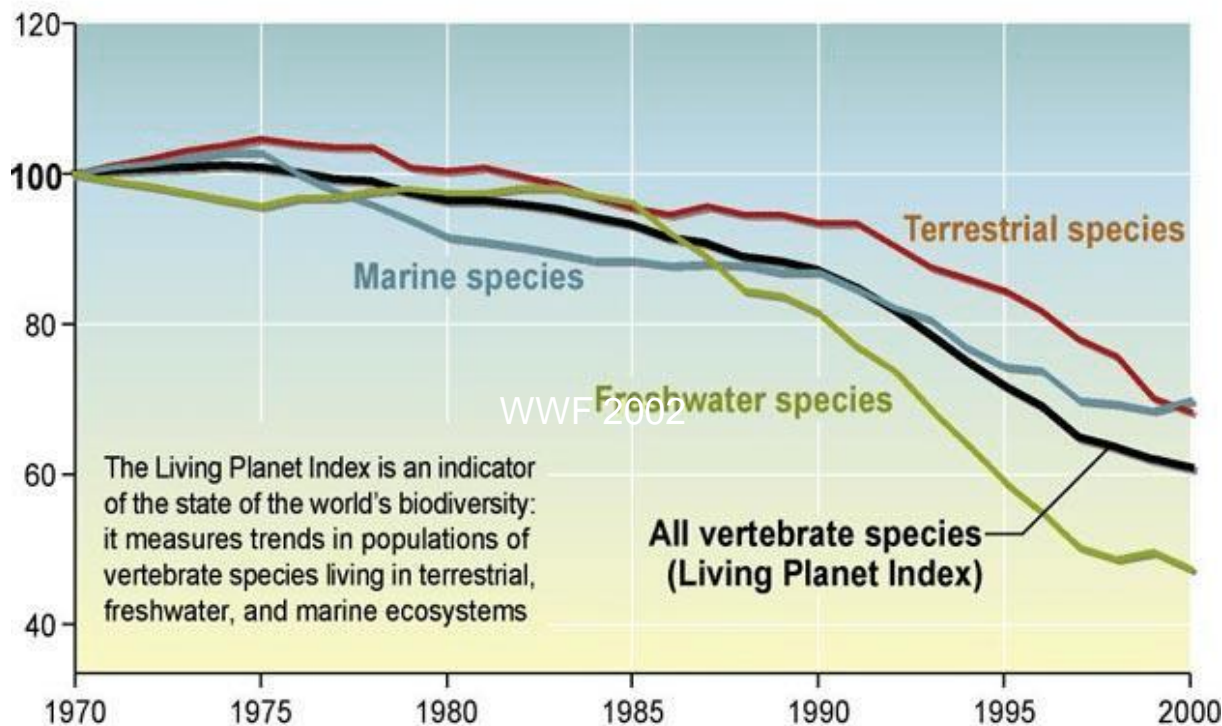
RIVERS FUNCTION AS ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS



In the Anthropocene, there is an urgent need to regenerate aquatic ecosystems and improve rivers' Good Ecological Status

FRESHWATER SHOWS THE HIGHEST RATE OF ECOSYSTEM DESTRUCTION AND BIODIVERSITY EXTINCTION

Population Index = 100 in 1970



Source: K.M. Wantzen, 2023 (UNESCO CHAIR River Culture)

LIFE IS INTERDEPENDENCE: NATURE AS A 'WEB' OF LIVING ELEMENTS

The world in which we live is inextricably interwoven and interdependent with all other living species: It's the web of life that connects us all.

The existence and well-being of all species depends on the cycles of nature.

Thus, since today we perfectly understand the life cycles of nature, we must now **learn new ways of coexisting with other life forms.**

PARADIGM SHIFT

From the prevalent cultural paradigm of 'Domination over Nature' to one of 'Ecosystem Sustainability',
where we take greater 'Care of Rivers'



RIVERS AS CULTURAL FLOWS & 'LIQUID ROADS'

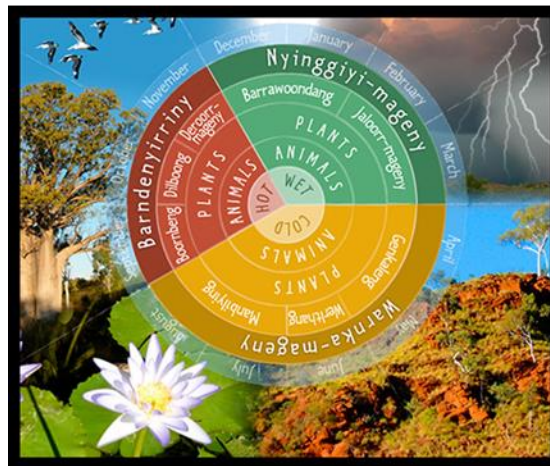
Culture is an adaptation to the **different ecologies of water**.

Each river creates specific both **biological & cultural** diversity.

Different civilisations flourished all over the world by using rivers for multiple purpose : irrigation, defence, transportation and trade ... fostering circulations of new ideas and cultural patterns.



白鶴梁水下博物館
THE UNDERWATER MUSEUM OF WHITE CRANE BRIDGE



Rhythm of water, rhythm of life: Hydrological calendars are present in all cultures

RIVER VALLEYS: CRADLES OF CIVILISATIONS



From the (great) Yangtze to the (small) Sile river (Venice)



WHY ARE MUSEUMS IMPORTANT?

Water museums exhibit and explain **the different ecosystems and the history of human uses** condensed along rivers, reflecting both **Nature's functions** - and the different '**water worlds' built by our predecessors** : they reflect both natural and cultural (tangible and intangible) heritages (incl. social practices, artistic representations, water-related worldviews..)

Museums are learning platforms for adults & children and are considered as a **reliable source of information** and knowledge (Sforzi et al, 2019).

Water museums transmit important **knowledge and values** from the past **to future generations**.

EVOLUTION OF MUSEUMS' FUNCTIONS

From the XIX century's function of 'exhibiting collections' (and classifying objects) to new functions:

- Promotion of the '**extended heritage**' in a vast territory (beyond museums)
- Greater involvement and active **engagement of local communities**
- Communication of global and local challenges related to **impacts of climate change on water**



**WATER
MUSEUMS**
GLOBAL NETWORK



WHO WE ARE

Resolution no. 5-XXIII of UNESCO-IHP (2018)
(Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme)
«The Global Network of Water Museums and UNESCO-IHP in support of Water Sustainability Education»



H. Ljungh, Waterfall prayer, 2010

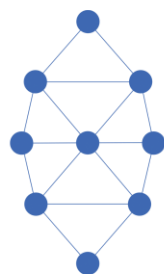
OUR MISSION



CREATING A NEW RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN HUMANITY AND WATER



**RISING AWARENESS OF FARSIGHTED USES
AND WATER VALUES FROM THE PAST**



**WATER
MUSEUMS**
GLOBAL NETWORK

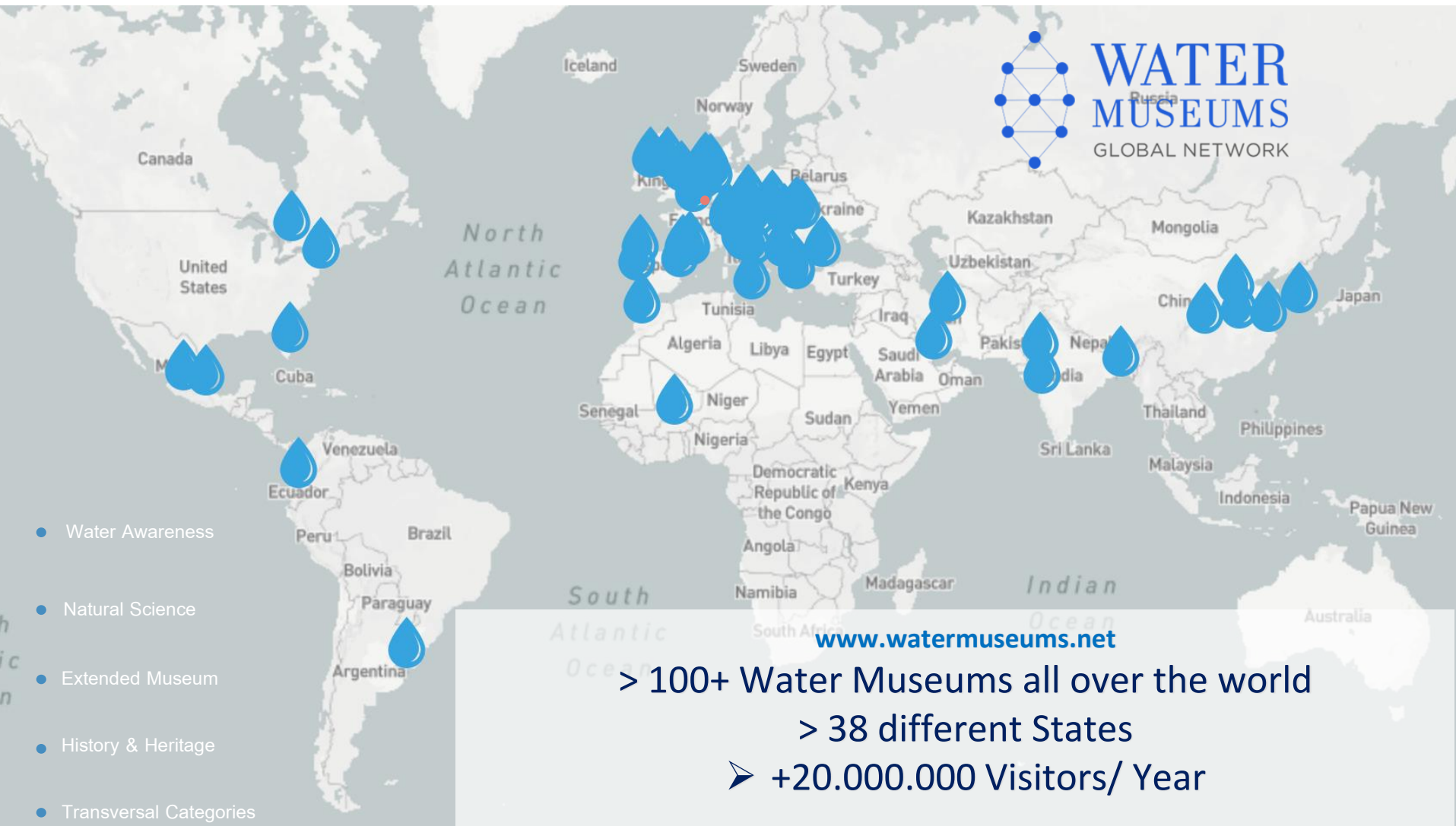


OUR COMMITTMENT TO BUILD A «NEW CULTURE OF WATER»

We must “reinstate a **new relationship between humanity and water:**
a new ‘sense of civilization’ which
can help to **reconnect people and water**
in all its dimensions - including scientific,
technical, social, cultural, artistic and spiritual”

«Manifesto” (ethical charter) of WAMU-NET, 2017

+100 MEMBERS IN 38 COUNTRIES



Network members



中國水利博物館
National Water Museum of China



NATIONAL WATER MUSEUM OF CHINA
HANGZHOU, CHINA

New Beginnings
at HHU

你好，
新同学
2023



HOHAI UNIVERSITY
NANJING, JIANGSU, CHINA



MANDALA MATHIKA SUBAK WATER MUSEUM BALI, INDONESIA



WATER CIVILISATION MUSEUM 'MOHAMED VI' MARRAKECH, MOROCCO



MUSEUM 'AGUA PARA SIEMPRE!'

PUEBLA, MEXICO

CONCLUSION: TOWARD A 'NEW WATER CULTURE'

- 1) Disseminate the **rich diversity of 'river cultures' from the past** to strengthen more farsighted water knowledge
- 2) Foster **new human-river encounters** and promote **renewed perceptions** of water-related aesthetic values and awareness of the ecological functions of waterscapes (river scenic spots)
- 3) Promote the new concept of **'taking care of' rivers** – rather than focusing only on technical notions of 'security' - through education, exhibitions, and events at international fairs, forums and UN-Water Summits

Museums are key players to promote a 'New Water Culture'

IHP-IX Strategic Plan

of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme

Science for a Water Secure World
in a Changing Environment

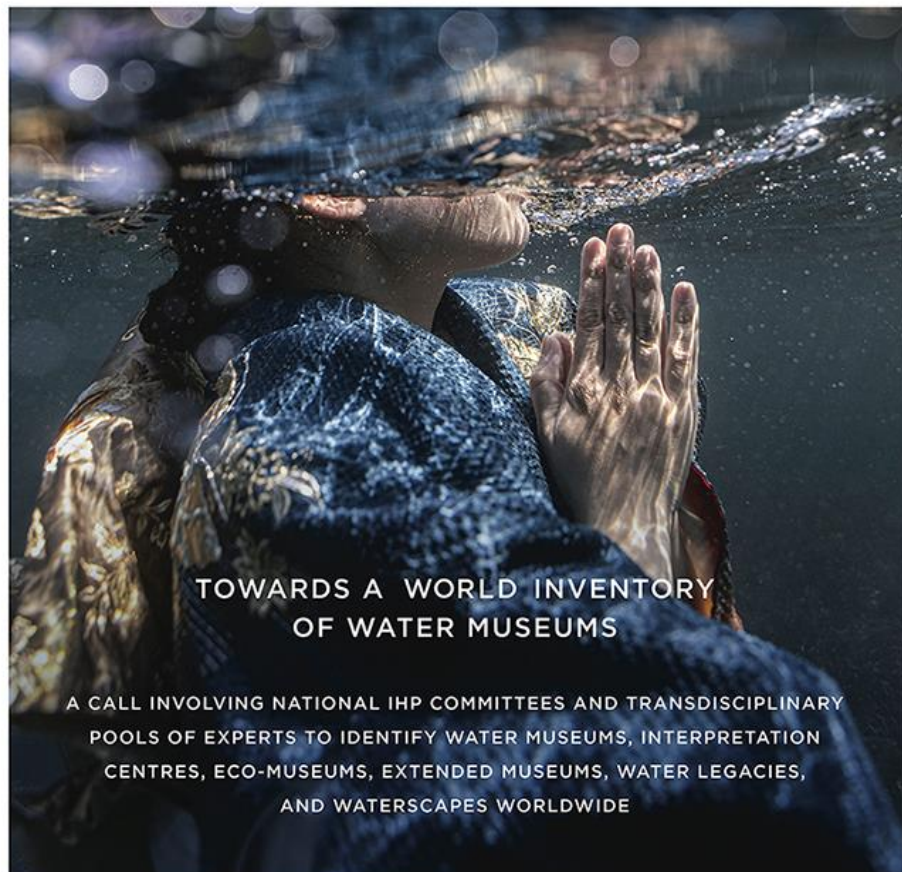
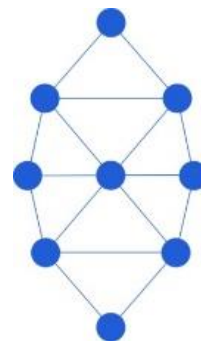
Ninth Phase 2022-2029

Strategic Plan 2022-2029 - Phase 9 of IHP -

WAMU-NET is included among the key institutions to promote «water sustainability education»

2.1.(119):

“The Global Network of Water Museums 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”



**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/>



**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**

WWW.WATERMUSEUMS.NET

INFO@WATERMUSEUMS.NET

LIFE IS INTERDEPENDENCE: NATURE IS A 'WEB' OF LIVING THINGS

The world in which we live is inextricably interwoven and interdependent with all other living species: It's the web of life that connects us all.

The existence and well-being of the human species depends on the cycles of nature. Thus, today we must understand the life cycles of nature and learn new ways of coexisting with other life forms.

*«I propose that the ethic of Earth undergoes a fundamental transformation, so that **the fauna and flora of a place are everywhere considered as part of the national heritage, as with art, language and religion**» (E. Wilson 1929 -)*



WATER
MUSEUMS
GLOBAL NETWORK



Intergovernmental
Hydrological Programme

IHP Resolution n.7-XXIV (2021)

TOWARDS A 'WORLD INVENTORY' OF WATER MUSEUMS, INTERPRETIVE CENTRES, AND WATER HERITAGE SITES

The Intergovernmental Council of IHP invites:
“the IHP Secretariat ***to compile an inventory of the different water museums (...) across the world***, and encourages Member States to support the Secretariat in this effort”

THE FUNCTION OF WATER MUSEUMS

Water museums exhibit and explain **the different ecosystems and the history of human uses** condensed along rivers, reflecting both **Nature's functions** - and the different '**water worlds**' **built by our predecessors** : that is, both natural and cultural (tangible and intangible) heritages (incl. monuments, social practices, artistic representations, etc).

Water museums transmit important **knowledge and values** from the past **to future generations**

WHY ARE MUSEUMS IMPORTANT?

- 1) Museums are considered as a **reliable source of information** and knowledge (Sforzi et al, 2019)
- 2) Museums are learning platforms for ***adults & children***
- 3) Many people learn science not so much from the media or classrooms, but from ***personal interactions in informal settings*** - such as museums