

**WATER
MUSEUMS**
GLOBAL NETWORK



Museo Multimediale
Cascata delle Marmore

L'acqua al centro degli ecomusei italiani

A cura di: Global Network of Water Museums
In collaborazione con: EMI (Eco-Musei Italiani)

www.watermuseums.net

UNESCO-IHP RESOLUTION N.5-XXIII (2018)

The Global Network of Water Museums (WAMU-NET)
is a ‘flagship initiative’ of UNESCO-IHP
(Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme)





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

We must “reinststate 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” or founding ethical charter, 2017

PROMOTING PARADIGM SHIFT



From the prevalent cultural paradigm of 'domination over Nature' to one of 'ecosystem sustainability' & biodiversity preservation

WHY MUSEUMS?

In common opinion, museums are considered as a ***reliable source of information*** and are well placed to act as a ***platform for citizen & science*** debate (Sforzi, 2019)

Museums address & explain complex problems in simple ways : they know how to ***communicate with the public***

Museums are learning platforms for ***adults & children***



Evolution of museums' functions

From the concept of 'collections' and classified objects to new functions related to heritage awareness promotion and communication of global challenges

Science museums, ecomuseums and 'extended museums' are more and more connected with people and communities: they look for greater involvement and engagement of locals and not only visitors

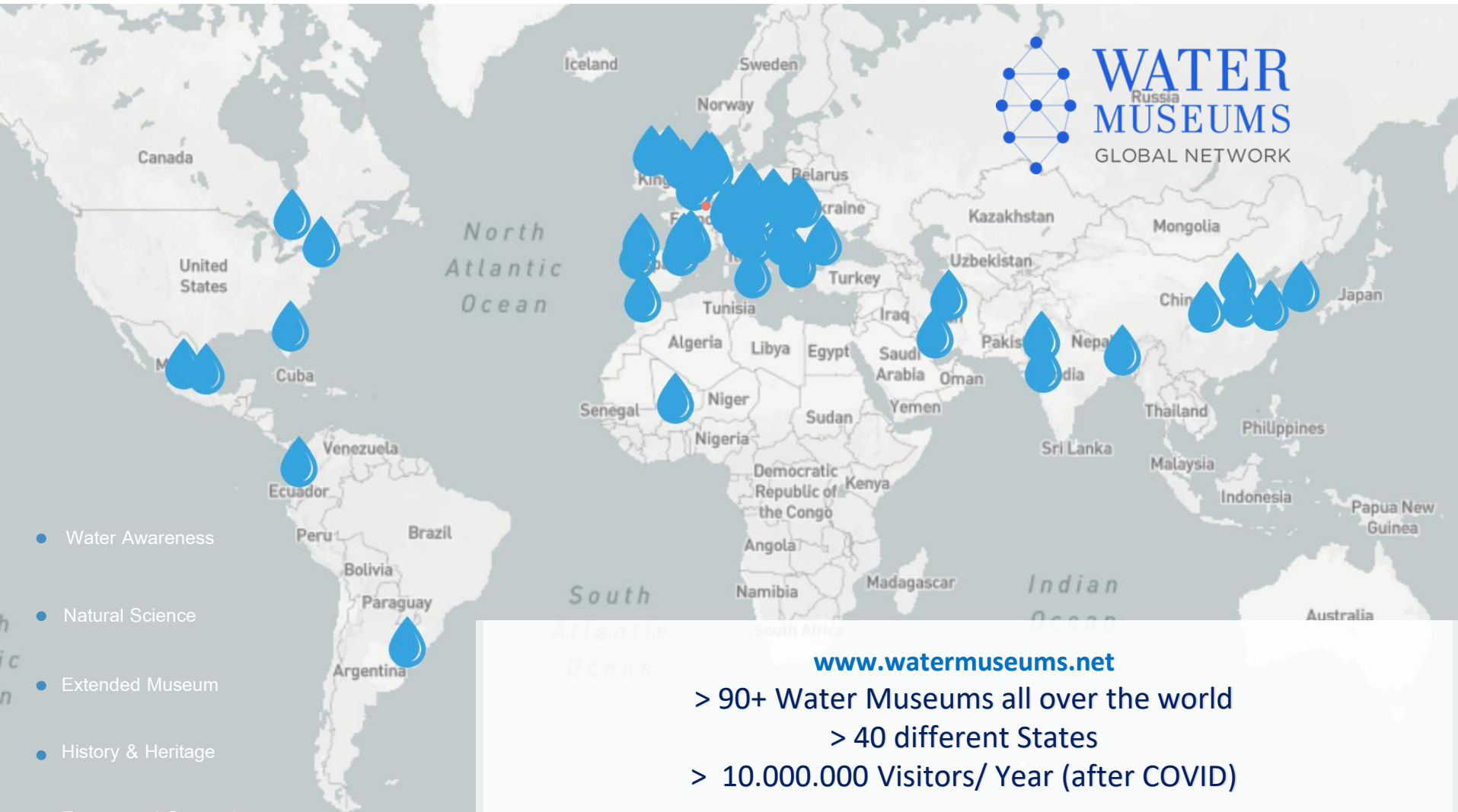
Museums & interpretive centres are platforms for networking & exchange - and agents of change

WATER SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION



**THE CHALLENGE: COMMUNICATING
THROUGH INFORMATION & EMOTIONS**

90+ MEMBERS IN 40 COUNTRIES



- Water Awareness
- Natural Science
- Extended Museum
- History & Heritage
- Transversal Categories

www.watermuseums.net
> 90+ Water Museums all over the world
> 40 different States
> 10.000.000 Visitors/ Year (after COVID)

MEMBERS GROUPED BY STATES

THE AMERICAS (n.11)

- BRASIL (1)
- CUBA (1)
- ECUADOR (1)
- MÉXICO (2)
- URUGUAY (1)
- USA (5)

AFRICA (n.3)

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

EUROPE (n.65)

- AUSTRIA (2)
- BELGIUM (3)
- CROATIA (1)
- FINLAND (1)
- FRANCE (1)
- GERMANY (2)
- GREECE (2)
- HUNGARY (1)
- IRELAND (1)
- ITALY (22)
- MACEDONIA (1)
- PORTUGAL (2)
- ROMANIA (3)
- SLOVENIA (1)
- SPAIN (8)
- THE NETHERLANDS (11)
- UNITED KINGDOM (2)

ASIA (n.13)

- BANGLADESH (1)
- CHINA (4)
- INDIA (3)
- INDONESIA (1)
- IRAN (1)
- QATAR (1)
- SOUTH KOREA (1)
- TURKEY (1)



ECOMUSEO MARTESANA

**Il patrimonio dei navigli lombardi come
identità comunitaria**



ECOMUSEO DELLE RISAIE, DEI FIUMI E DEL PAESAGGIO RURALE MANTOVANO



RISERVA NATURALE PIAN DI SPAGNA E LAGO DI MEZZOLA, COMO



WATER MUSEUM OF BANGLADESH KALAPARA, BANGLADESH Comunità di pescatori



MUSEE DE L'EAU DE OUAGADOUGOU BURKINA PHASO

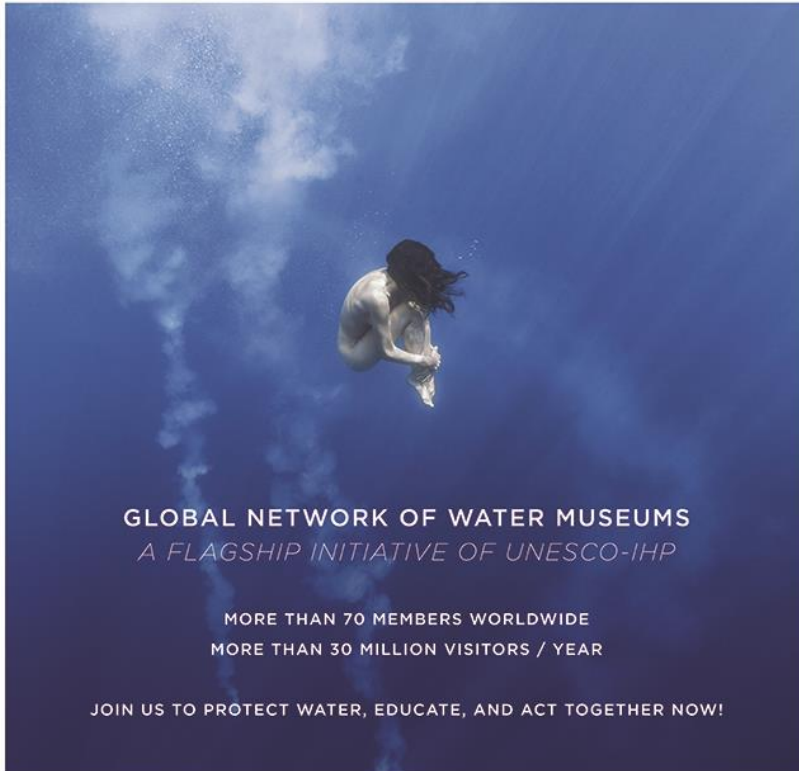
Coinvolgimento delle comunità locali



Kingdom of the Netherlands



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The Global Network is active to reconnect humanity to the tangible and intangible heritage of water, including its scientific, social, cultural, ecological, artistic, and spiritual dimensions.

Resolution n. XXIII-5 of the Intergovernmental Council of UNESCO-IHP titled "Global Network of Water Museums and UNESCO-IHP in support of water sustainability education and water awareness efforts"



<http://watermuseums.net/>



**IHP Resolution n.2-XXV
(2022): 25th Session of the
Intergovernmental
Hydrological Programme
«CONTINUATION OF FLAGSHIP
INITIATIVES DURING IHP-IX »:
The IC decides to continue, in
view of its compliance with the
IHP Flagship Initiative
Framework ... the Global
Network of Water Museums**

IHP-IX Strategic Plan

of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme

Science for a Water Secure World
in a Changing Environment

Ninth Phase 2022-2029

Phase 9 of IHP Strategic Plan (2022-2029)

Five priorities:

- Research
- Education
-

WAMU-NET è annoverato
fra le «Key activities &
Outputs of Priority Areas”
per promuovere e
monitorare le attività dei
musei dell’acqua

PRIORITY 2 OF IHP PHASE 9: «WATER SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION»

“UNESCO-designated sites and the Global Network of Water Museums will be mobilized in raising awareness and improving water culture of citizens.” (§ 119, p.25)

“IHP-IX encourages a broad conception of water education to favor a change in behaviors towards a society with greater eco-social awareness [...] supporting the development of interdisciplinary materials such as guidelines, briefing papers, and case studies on leading practices in water education for mass media contributing raising awareness of public at large.”

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381318>

IHP 9 - Key activities & Outputs of Priority Areas

- **2.1 Public's awareness at all levels raised towards better understanding their contribution to the important multi-functions of water in domestic life, ecosystems and productive development.**
- **2.1.4. Use of networks and partnerships to increase coverage in mass media and social media, including cooperation with journalists on water topics, using easy-to-understand facts, statistics, infographics, and video clips by public figures, also making use of the Global Water Museums Network (WAMU-NET)**

IHP 9 - Key activities & Outputs of Priority Areas

- **2.2 Development and implementation of transdisciplinary research collaborations and educational approaches by UNESCO Water Family promoted to enhance participatory holistic practices**
- **2.2.4. Elaboration of formal, non-formal and informal education at all levels towards a better understanding of the importance of water for livelihoods and communities, through the mobilization of WAMU-NET and others, and implementation of Transformative Experience in informal science learning programs.**



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IHP Resolution n.7-XXIV (2021)

TOWARDS A “WORLD INVENTORY” (WIN) OF WATER MUSEUMS, INTERPRETIVE & VISITORS’ CENTRES

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 by communicating information on existing water museums”

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

TAXONOMY FOR THE WORLD INVENTORY (1)

Six categories (grouped in three main types) are used to make systematic classification of existing water museums, interpretive centres etc - but also to enable identification of potential new ones :

a) TYPE 1: EXHISTING INSTITUTIONS

1.1 MUCD - Museums, Collections and Documentation Centers

1.2 IDEM – Interpretive and Visitors’ Centres, Digital Museums, Eco-Museums, Community-based Museums, Extended Museums

TAXONOMY FOR THE WORLD INVENTORY (2)

B) TYPE 2: POTENTIAL / FUTURE MUSEUMS AND INTERPRETATION CENTRES

2.1 WASH - Waterscapes (Cultural Landscapes), Sites, and water-related Heritage Assets

2.2 ANTE - **Ancestral Hydro-Technologies, Community-based practices,** and Citizens Observatories

2.3 INTL - Intangible Heritage and the Heritage of 'Living Waters'

C) TYPE 3: GOOD PRACTICES TO ACHIEVE THE SDGS

3.1 GOOD – Solutions that can potentially contribute to climate adaptation and good practices to manage resilience and scarce water resources

TWO PILOT CASE STUDIES : ITALY AND THE NETHERLANDS

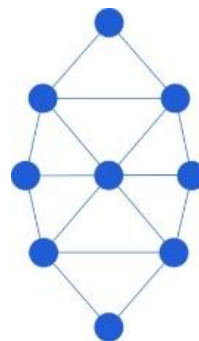


The toolkit provides 2 case studies implemented at regional level on the Po Delta (IT) and the Rhin Delta (NL)

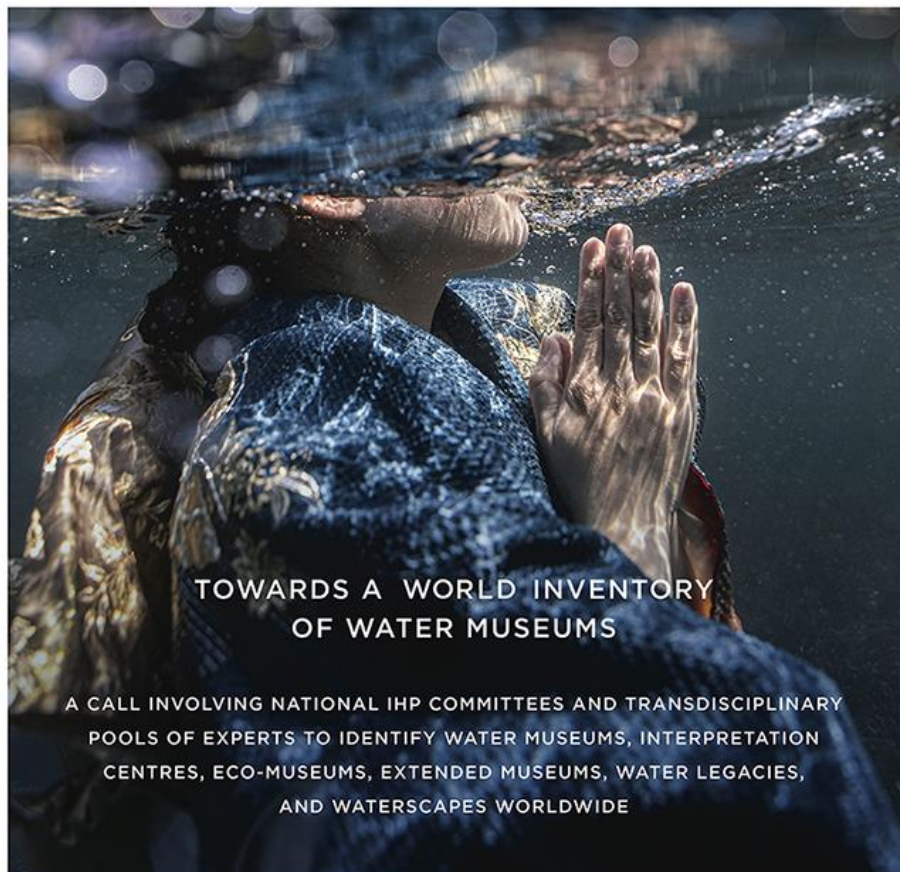
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**TOWARDS A WORLD INVENTORY
OF WATER MUSEUMS**

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

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**

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/>



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