

summit co-coordinated by



VALUING ANCIENT WATER CULTURES

Conclusions

Francesco Vallerani, UNESCO Chair on
'Water, Heritage and Sustainable Development'
University of Venice Ca' Foscari, Italy

CONCLUSION 1

Change of paradigm in groundwater management

The approach proposed by WAMU-NET represents a **critical cultural alternative** to large scale and energy-intensive hydraulic infrastructures in two ways: by promoting historical practices of groundwater management focusing on the **local and indigenous knowledge systems** - and by fostering an understanding of groundwater as a **limited and vulnerable resource**.



CONCLUSION 1 (II)

Change of paradigm in groundwater management

It promotes a change of paradigm in managing groundwater that has **fewer ecological footprints** and negative impacts on nature – when compared with modern current approaches practices that are based on increasingly powerful technologies. It targets the **SDGs** with particular reference to **developing countries and rural societies**, but it's not limited to them.



CONCLUSION 2

The role of water museums

Shifting from a cultural paradigm of ‘dominion over nature’ to one of ‘ecosystem sustainability’ for groundwater recharge requires a coherent educational approach [UNESCO-IHP Resolution n.XXIII-5 (2018)].

The history of water exhibited and interpreted by water museums is crucial to foster water awareness education at all levels. Museums must be recognized for the role they play in ‘making the invisible visible’ and raising awareness about groundwater vulnerability.



CONCLUSION 2 (II)

The role of water museums

Museums excel in fostering novel educational approaches aiming to reconnect people to values historically associated with water and to far-sighted practices of communities to monitor groundwater quantity and quality – a practice that also guarantees better coexistence with other non-human species and with nature.



CONCLUSION 3

Role and strategy of the Global Network of Water Museums

The Global Network of Water Museums seeks to foster a ‘new culture of water’ aimed at repairing our degraded relationship with groundwater through education and knowledge-sharing across national borders and sectoral boundaries.



CONCLUSION 3 (II)

Role and strategy of the Global Network of Water Museums

The Resolution of UNESCO-IHP n.XIV-7 (2021) calls on Member States to compile an inventory of the different water museums across to develop further WAMU-NET. It encourages Member States and the IHP National Committees to support the Secretariat in this effort.



summit co-coordinated by



Thank you