



50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IHP AND 60 YEARS OF WATER SCIENCES AT UNESCO

A LEGACY OF WATER SCIENCE INNOVATION

The year 2025 marks the 50th anniversary of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) and 60 years of UNESCO's dedication to water sciences. Almost since its inception, UNESCO has contributed to advancing water research and management, addressing global water challenges through international cooperation and scientific excellence. The IHP, as UNESCO's flagship water science programme, has played a pivotal role in fostering scientific knowledge, technical innovation, and education in water resources management. This double anniversary represents not just a celebration of past achievements, but also highlights UNESCO's ongoing commitment to ensuring water security for future generations in an era of unprecedented environmental change and growing water demands.

Through five decades of collaborative research, capacity development, and policy support, IHP has brought together scientists, policymakers, and communities worldwide to address pressing water-related challenges. This commemoration of significant IHP milestones reflects on the journey while looking ahead to tackle emerging water challenges in an increasingly complex world.

Kick-off celebration event 22 January 2025: Information Session for the Member States

Time	Session
11:00—11:10	Opening of the meeting and welcoming remarks by ADG/SC
11:10—11:20	Remarks by the Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Council of the IHP & Chairperson of the Celebration Task Force
11:20—11:30	Remarks by the Chairperson of the Communication and Outreach Committee of the Intergovernmental Council of the IHP & Secretary of the Celebration Task Force
11:30—12:00	Introduction of the celebration plan, activities, and publications by the IHP Secretary
12:00—12:45	Discussion and Q&A session
12:45—13:00	Closing remarks

WATER SCIENCE: ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE INTO ACTION

For half a century, UNESCO's water scientific programmes have advanced fundamental understanding of water systems while transforming this knowledge into practical solutions. This science-driven approach has been instrumental in promoting freshwater management as one of humanity's most important tools for planetary survival.

At the forefront of these efforts stands the UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme, which evolved from pioneering research on arid zones in the 1950s through the Major Project on Arid Lands (1956) and the International Hydrological Decade (1965). Today, IHP serves as the UN's only intergovernmental cooperation programme dedicated to water research, management, education, and capacity development. Through scientific expertise and evidence-based solutions, the Programme helps UNESCO Member States address their water challenges while promoting sustainable development.

The celebration's objectives reflect UNESCO's commitment to both honoring the Programme's legacy and shaping the future of water sciences. The goals include documenting the evolution of hydrological sciences over six decades, demonstrating the tangible impacts of the Programme at national, regional, and global levels, and showcasing how capacity building and strategic partnerships have strengthened Member States' abilities to address water challenges. These objectives will guide the anniversary activities, ensuring meaningful engagement and lasting impact for all stakeholders.



CELEBRATING THROUGH ACTION: ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Join us throughout 2025 as the UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme and Water Family leverage this momentous occasion to catalyze vital discussions on pressing water challenges. Together, we will showcase five decades of scientific work while charting an innovative course for the future of global water management.



WEBINAR SERIES: FRONTIERS OF GLOBAL WATER SCIENCE

The UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme announces a series of monthly webinars examining key aspects of water sciences. This lecture series convenes experts from the UNESCO Water Family and international partners to discuss current research, innovations, and solutions in water management.

Beginning 30 January 2025, with a focused session on **water quality and global sustainability goals**, the series will address fundamental topics in water science and management. Subsequent sessions will cover topics including **artificial intelligence applications in water management, land subsidence monitoring and mitigation, ecohydrological nature-based solutions, open science for water, integrated urban water management, gender and water, water-energy-food-ecosystem nexus, groundwater and transboundary water cooperation, glacier and mountain waters, water education and capacity development, and setting a global water agenda**. Each session aims to facilitate knowledge exchange and strengthen collaborative efforts within the global water science community.

We invite you to participate in this scientific dialogue. Registration details and the programme schedule will be available on the UNESCO IHP websites.

GLOBAL CELEBRATIONS FOR WATER SCIENCES

Throughout 2025, the UNESCO Water Family's extensive network of 170 IHP National Committees and Focal Points, 84 UNESCO water-related Chairs and UNITWIN Networks, 29 specialized category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO, the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) and the IHP Secretariat — will organize a comprehensive series of events to commemorate these milestones, including:

- The **Global Pivot Event at UNESCO Headquarters** in Paris (11 June 2025) with Side Events (12-13 June 2025) — featuring high-level panels, technical sessions, and strategic planning workshops
- **Regional scientific symposiums** showcasing local innovations and research in water management
- **International water science congress and conferences** focusing on "Science for a Water Secure World in a Changing Environment"
- **Community engagement activities** including youth water camps, public lectures, and educational outreach programmes
- **National celebration events**

These flagship events will be complemented by year-round activities.

EVENTS AROUND THE WORLD THROUGHOUT THE YEAR 2025

Preliminary Events



01

JANUARY 2025

- **Information Session**
- **Webinar:** Water Quality and the Global Sustainability Goals
- Indonesia: Water can't wait: Accelerating the adoption of innovations in water, energy, and food security nexus

FEBRUARY 2025

- **Webinar:** AI for Water Management
- France: **Hackathon** Water 4Future



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03

MARCH 2025

- **World Water Day**
- **Webinar:** Land Subsidence
- IHP Newsletter
- Japan: IHP 50th **Symposium**
- Greece: **Webinar** on Water and Net Zero

APRIL 2025

- **Webinar:** Ecohydrology
- USA: **Forum** on 50th years of Evolution of Water Sciences: The Contributions of UNESCO IHP
- UK: **HELP Symposium**
- Mexico: **Regional Meeting** of Water Museums



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05

MAY 2025

- **Webinar:** Open Science for Water
- China: ISI **Event** in Chengdu
- Africa Regional **IHP Meeting**

JUNE 2025

- **Global Pivot Event** and Side Events
- **Webinar:** Integrated Urban Water Management
- IHP Newsletter
- Belgium: Open Water Science **Symposium**
- Spain: Advances in Hydrological Sciences **Event**
- Singapore: 41st IAHR **World Congress**
- Hungary: Danube Day: River Basin Management and Transboundary Cooperation
- Portugal: **Workshop** on Applying Ecohydrology in Africa
- Italy: LaSII **Scientific Workshop**



06



07

JULY 2025

- **Webinar:** Gender and Water
- Netherlands: 7th **International Symposium** on Knowledge and Capacity Development for Water
- Malaysia: National Ecohydrology **Expedition** 2025
- Portugal: Ecohydrology for K-12 students

AUGUST 2025

08

- **World Water Week**
- **Webinar:** Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem Nexus
- China: 16th **International Symposium** on River Sedimentation in Omaha, USA
- Malaysia: Women and Water **Camp** 2025



09

SEPTEMBER 2025

- **Webinar:** Groundwater and Water Cooperation
- IHP Newsletter
- Malaysia: **International Conference** on Water Resources & **World River Day** Celebration
- Bolivia: Ecohydrology **Congress**
- Nigeria: **Conference** on Nature-based Solutions
- Italy: **Webinar** on Land Subsidence and Groundwater Management

OCTOBER 2025

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- **IAHS** 2025
- **Webinar:** Glacier and Mountain Waters
- USA: 2025 International Water Security **Conference**
- China: International **Symposium** on Water Science for IHP 50th Anniversary
- Malaysia: Water Resources **Forum** 2025
- Asia Pacific Regional **IHP Meeting**



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NOVEMBER 2025

- **COP 30**
- **Webinar:** Water Education and Capacity Development
- USA: Promotion and use of the existing product on rainfall trends over the last 40 years
- LAC **Regional Celebrations**

DECEMBER 2025

12

- **Webinar:** Setting a Global Water Agenda
- IHP Newsletter
- Poland: **Workshop** on Transdisciplinary Ecohydrology
- Republic of Korea: Contribution to 2025 Celebrations



THE GLOBAL PIVOT EVENT

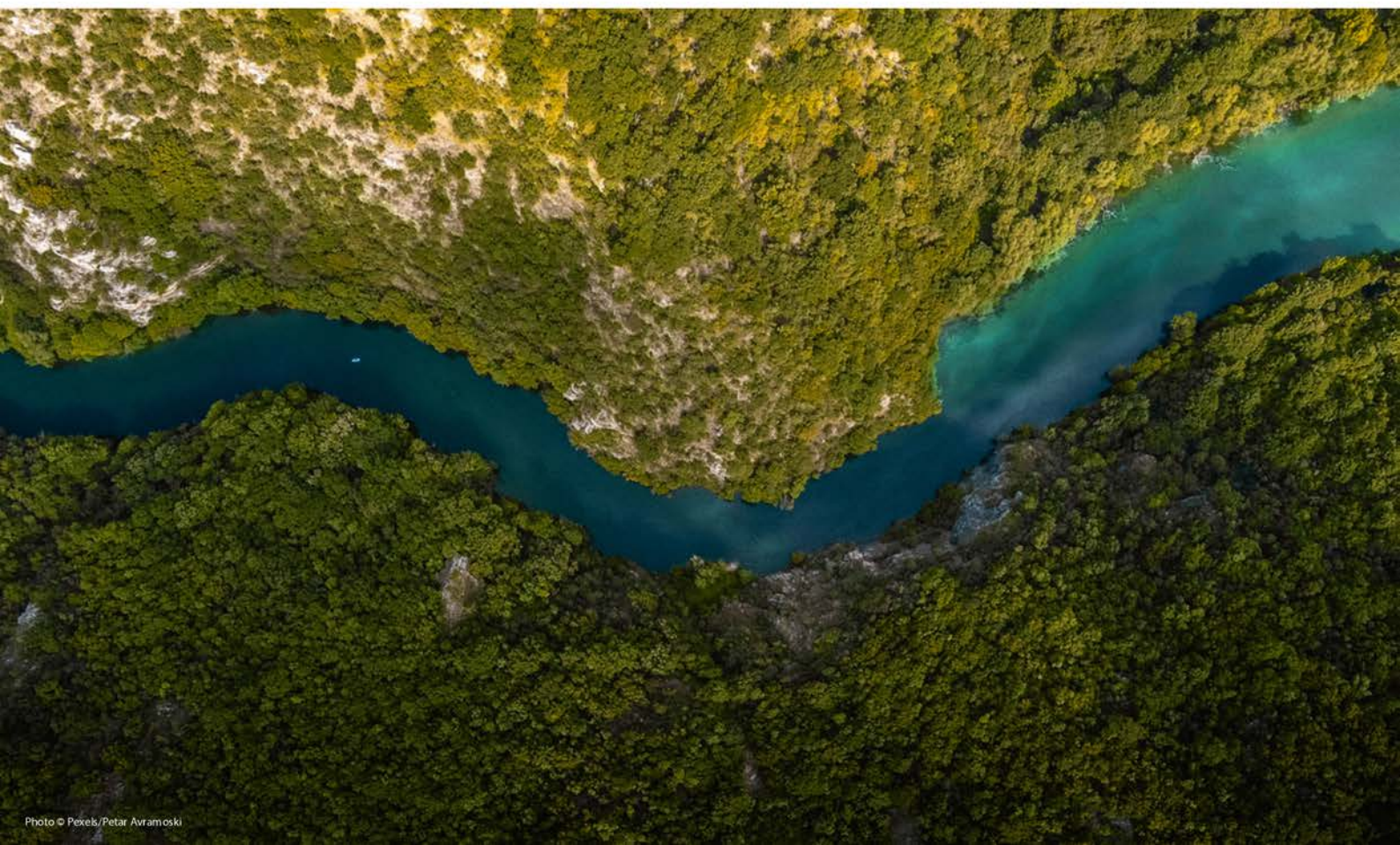
The Global Pivot Event of the celebration, **scheduled for 11 June 2025**, at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, marks a historic milestone in the world of water sciences and education. This landmark celebration commemorates two significant anniversaries: the 50th anniversary of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme and 60 years of Water Sciences at UNESCO.

This prestigious gathering will bring together over 1,000 participants, including ministers, scientists, educators, and young voices from around the globe. The event represents a unique opportunity to showcase UNESCO's leadership in water science and education while highlighting the critical importance of water resources management in addressing contemporary global challenges.

The celebration will feature plenary sessions, interactive forums, and presentations highlighting UNESCO-IHP's achievements. Special attention will be given to youth engagement, fostering the next generation of water professionals and scientists.

A highlight of the event will be recognizing outstanding contributions to water sciences and the IHP community. This recognition will honor the dedication and excellence of individuals and organizations who have shaped our work related to science-based water policy and water sciences.

As we face increasing global water challenges, the Global Pivot Event serves not only as a celebration of past achievements, but also as a platform to shape the future of water sciences and education. It represents UNESCO's continued commitment to fostering international cooperation and scientific excellence in water resource management for sustainable development.



Global Pivot Event Provisional Agenda



Date: 11 June 2025



Location: Room I, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

Time	Programme
10:00 – 11:00	High Level Opening Ceremony
11:00 – 11:30	Presentation of 50th Anniversary Major Publications and Dedicated Products
11:30 – 13:00	High Level Panel: Strategic Vision for the Next 50 Years of IHP
14:30 – 15:00	Artistic interlude
15:00 – 16:00	Introduction of the Goodwill Ambassador for Water
16:00 – 17:00	Recognition of specific and long-standing contributors to IHP
17:00 – 18:00	Concluding remarks and Musical Performance
18:00 – 20:00	Reception

Preliminary Side Events

12 JUNE EVENTS

Youth Water Dialogue
Water Museums Cinematic Screening
UN Water Dialogue on Future of Water
Open Hydrology Forum
Water Science Report
Ecohydrology Symposium
50yrs of UNESCO Water Activities in LAC

13 JUNE EVENTS

Youth Water Dialogue
Glacier and Cryosphere Forum
Water and Gender Equality Dialogue
Groundwater Forum
AI for Water Management Symposium
Closing session: The Future of Water

Call for Poster Submission

In preparation for the Global Pivot Event commemorating the 50th anniversary of IHP and 60 years of Water Sciences at UNESCO, members of the UNESCO Water Family are invited to submit posters with high-quality photographic documentation that illustrates their activities and accomplishments. A template will be provided by the Secretariat.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL
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