

## FINAL REPORT

### Meeting of the expert advisory group: UNESCO-IHP project on Water and Cultural Diversity

Paris, France (7 – 8 January 2008)

---

#### Introduction

The expert advisory group for the project on Water and Cultural Diversity had its first meeting in Paris, France, in January 2008. The meeting was organized as part of the work of UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) on "Strengthening Water Governance for Sustainability" for the biennium 2008 – 2009, in the broader context of the seventh phase of the IHP (IHP-VII: 2008 – 2013): "Water Dependencies: Systems under Stress and Societal Responses".

The advisory group was established in order to provide direction and guidance to the activities implemented under the project, which was launched in summer 2007. The objectives of the meeting were to: (1) finalize the focal areas of the project and set priorities; (2) set the long-term strategy and goals for the project; (3) agree on the next steps, including short-term outputs of the project; and (4) identify core actors, existing projects and initiatives, and additional partners for cooperation.

The meeting was opened by Mr András Szöllösi-Nagy, Secretary of the IHP, who placed the project in the wider context of global water issues and of the IHP, and reiterated the goal of the project: to mainstream cultural diversity into water resources management. Ms Fenda Akiwumi (University of South Florida, U.S.A.) chaired the meeting, and Mr Marcus Barber (James Cook University, Australia) was the rapporteur. Fourteen participants from 12 countries, who represent a variety of backgrounds and disciplines pertaining to water— anthropology, geography, philosophy, ethnobotany, forestry, hydrology, and indigenous knowledge—attended the meeting. The programme of the meeting and the full list of participants are attached to this report (Annex I and II, respectively).

#### Definition of Water and Project Vision

##### 1. Preamble and definition:<sup>1</sup>

What is water? The French call it *eau*, in Greek it is *hydros*, in Latin *aqua*, the Spanish name it *agua*, in Japanese *mizu* and the Nepalese refer to it as the *nectar of life*. Indigenous peoples such as the

---

<sup>1</sup> At the meeting, the expert advisory group initially spent time developing a draft definition of water and a vision for the project, as foundational work necessary to undertake the focus area and action plan discussions. The various definitions of water drafted by the meeting participants are attached to this report (Annex III), which reflects the diversity of ideas that eventually were interwoven, by consensus, into the statement on water mentioned in this section. These different definitions are presented to show how diversity can be acknowledged and that agreement on a definition can arise from diversity, to chronicle the progression of work by the group, and to demonstrate transparency.

Gitksan say *aks*, while the Yorta Yorta say *walla*, and the Guarani use *y* to describe water.<sup>2</sup> Peoples around the world have a rich diversity of definitions and opinions on this question; however, they all share a common understanding about the urgency of thirst. Water shapes Earth and its inhabitant cultures.<sup>3</sup> Rushing or meandering, water travels over and under ground; pools in lakes, oceans and seas; freezes into rigid ice; and flies, shape-shifting as clouds. The ancient Chinese pictograph for *shui* (water) indicates rain and groundwater in the ecosystem, while the modern character 水 expresses the winding flow of streams, for instance. This movement and relative ubiquity of water creates a common connection, a shared reliance on this unique basic unit of existence. Water is a primal human desire that spans boundaries, borders and beliefs. Perhaps, water's benevolent quality has the potential to inspire us in a global collaborative effort to ensure our children, and all beings will have certain and predicable access to water, fresh and salt. Water, the lifeblood of our planet, is meant to course and flow in a healthy rhythm, lubricating the pathways essential to life, and our *ways of life* (i.e., cultural diversity).<sup>4</sup>

Much preparatory homework is required, however, to crystallize the unifying potential of water, both on the governance and ecological fronts. Some people derive sacred powers from the spirit of water, and others harness secular and practical powers by accessing or controlling water's economic and ecological services. A particular body of water can simultaneously be viewed by some as a living spirit of nature to be respected, revered and shared; while others may view it as an economic good to be tapped or even owned.<sup>5</sup> Here lies a fundamental challenge because conflict can arise, especially when water becomes scarce, from differing perspectives. It would be hazardous to assume we all have the exact same definition of a seemingly small word: water.

A global crisis has arisen: *How do we collaborate on designing harmonious and balanced governance structures and ecological frameworks, which ensure a functional and healthy flow of water to all people: current and future generations?* Currently, some efforts are already underway to adjust our ecosystem management practices, sustainability policies, and human rights initiatives to elevate the importance of water. For instance, a growing number of countries and intergovernmental organizations are advocating for the notion that access to water is a basic human right. Additionally, wholistic indigenous

---

<sup>2</sup> The Gitksan First Nations people are situated along the Skeena, Bulkley and Kispiox rivers, in north-west British Columbia, Canada. The Yorta Yorta indigenous people are situated in mid-Murray River region of southern Australia. The Guarani indigenous people are situated in northeast South America. They are a people who value community participation on the topic of water: Paraguay is a Guarani word meaning "place of great water".

<sup>3</sup> Culture is meant to be inclusive of indigenous cultures, but not restricted to it, since ethnic, Western, urban, suburban, rural, academic, local and professional cultures are also important, as water touches us all. A short survey of definitions of culture are presented below to represent the diversity of thought on the notion:

- A complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, laws, custom, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society (Tylor 1958)
- A system of inherited conceptions expressed in symbolic forms by means of which people communicate, perpetuate, and develop their knowledge about and attitudes toward life (Geertz 1973)
- The values, beliefs and knowledge people use to generate and interpret social behaviour (Webster 2006).

<sup>4</sup> Cultural diversity is defined here as contained in article 1 of the UNESCO Declaration on Cultural Diversity: "Culture takes diverse forms across time and space. This diversity is embodied in the uniqueness and plurality of the identities of the group and societies making up humankind. As a source of exchange, innovation and creativity, cultural diversity is as necessary to humankind as biodiversity is for nature. In this sense, it is the common heritage of humanity and should be recognized and affirmed for the benefit of present and future generations" (UNESCO 2002).

<sup>5</sup> For examples of indigenous perspectives reflecting the sacred notion of water, see the UNESCO publication *Water and Indigenous Peoples* (2006). The United Nations Conference on Economic Development (UNCED)'s Dublin Statement on Water and Sustainable Development (1992), guiding principle number four is an example of an economic perspective: "Water has an economic value in all its competing uses and should be recognized as an economic good".

thinking and reverence for water is beginning to be interwoven with Western science-based ecological approaches.

Based on necessity, we need to adapt our thinking and policies related to water, so we can increase access to clean drinking water and also be resilient in the face of global challenges, such as the impacts of population growth and climate change. Water has the power to give and receive life; it has the soothing power to generate life, or a raw power to destroy life. Humans also construct geopolitical and institutional power structures related to water, which can either enable or destroy life. The human fear of thirst can manifest into either positive or negative behaviour. The exciting and comforting notion that water is the lifeblood which has the power unite, is the focus of the draft provisional statement on water, presented below, by UNESCO-IHP's expert advisory group on water and cultural diversity, for thoughtful and unrushed discussion:

*Water is the essential lifeblood of our planet, with the power to generate, sustain, receive and ultimately to unify life.*

A dialogue encouraging shared understanding of water, which respects cultural diversity, is a prerequisite step towards building trust between caretakers of water – all of us. A renaissance is dawning, where politicians, professionals (e.g., managers, engineers, foresters, and hydrologists) and artists are encouraged to elevate the beauty, purity and power of water in their practice. A global overarching vision can help guide collaboration and water management decisions at the community level, where people are best positioned as the local and knowledgeable caretakers. Since water is always moving and connecting, there is a need for a global discussion launched by the above provisional statement.

## 2. Vision and long-term goal:

Recognizing the need to develop a vision that expresses the core values of the project, the participants set the long-term goal of the Water and Cultural Diversity project as to:

*recognize and respect cultural diversity and interweave various perspectives towards collaborative and inclusive actions for the sustainability of water and cultures.*

### **Focal areas:**

The participants examined the draft focal areas of the project, as presented in the project concept paper, and then proposed revisions to them through consensus during the meeting. The revised focal areas are:

- i. Diversity of cultural meanings, values and perceptions of water;
- ii. Cultural practices and technologies that affect water;
- iii. Social, cultural, political and institutional aspects that govern water use; and
- iv. Collaboration and conflict related to uses, access and control over water.

Detailed proposed actions under each focal area, as well as designation of members of the expert advisory committee to each focal area, are noted in “3. List of Actions” under section “Next Steps” below.

It was agreed that the focal area on “water heritage” be kept not as a focal area but as a cross-cutting/background theme, especially for the purposes of collecting case studies for the database.

## Themes Discussed: <sup>6</sup>

### 1. Diversity:

- a) *Diverse perspectives of water:* Case studies were presented which documented diverse knowledges of and interactions with water from various locations across the globe. A number of presenters also suggested some implications their material might have for IWRM.
- b) *Approach to diversity:* On the basis of the presentation of various examples, the expert advisory group considered the nature of its own role: was the primary task of the group to promote the significance of Indigenous and/or Local perceptions of water within IWRM, or did its task also encompass the conceptualization and use of water by populations in urban areas and/or developed countries? The argument for emphasising Local and Indigenous contexts was primarily that they are historically marginalized in resources management discourse, and that these alternative perspectives were likely to be less familiar to managers and decision makers trained in Western academic traditions. The argument for the consideration of urban and first world examples relied upon on the ongoing rapid urbanization of the world’s population and the much larger consumption levels occurring in developed countries. Perceptions of water from these contexts are therefore critical to understanding human water usage into the future. The expert advisory group acknowledged that it was important to include a wide range of peoples—including urban and “Western cultures”—for the project to fully achieve its purposes.
- c) *Knowledge and disciplinary diversity:* The expert advisory group also considered the questions of knowledge communication and exchange between different disciplinary fields (e.g., engineering, forestry, urban planning, anthropology), and between people in such fields and the holders of other kinds of knowledge (Local, Traditional, Indigenous, etc). The fostering of cultural diversity requires an ongoing critique of the ways in which knowledge is produced and shared with others, linking to the theme 4 on justice below. The question of different disciplines or forms of knowledge also raises the question of scale, considered in theme 2 below.

### 2. Scale:

This theme draws together questions of methodology and the nature of knowledge. Some presenters emphasized the significance of the local scales on which the majority of human life is lived, and that this provides the basis for understanding the important components of human existence and human diversity. Other presenters emphasized the need for generalisation at wider scales, and that the classification and comparison of different forms of diversity is important in incorporating such diversity into IWRM, which is a major task for the project. Different presenters documented diversity at individual and familial levels, at the local community level, and on broader geographic or cultural scales. In discussions, this raised the question of what levels, categories, or units of measurement were the priorities for the expert advisory group in understanding the diversity it wished to advocate for. Different

---

<sup>6</sup> This section was written by the rapporteur of the meeting, reflecting on the discussions of Day 1. The invited experts made formal presentations during the first half of the day, and these presentations were then followed by a wide-ranging general discussion of some of the key themes related to water and cultural diversity. The primary emphasis of this rapporteur’s report is to identify some critical questions and themes emerging from that discussion, rather than providing a detailed summary of all that was discussed. Thus this section represents a conceptual summary rather than a chronological account of proceedings, as these themes were not explicitly formulated as motions or resolutions during the meeting but were revisited a number of times in different ways during general discussions. The group may wish to adopt more formal positions with respect to these questions at a future time.

kinds of knowledge are relevant at different scales, and so the scale on which diversity is being considered affects the range of skills and methodologies used to understand it. The group was clear about the importance of diversity at a range of scales. It did not reach a final position on the relative priorities it will give to different scales of understanding and analysis in its own work.

### 3. Time:

One aspect of this theme was a further dimension of the question of scale. IHP's History of Water and Civilization project (for which funds have yet to be secured) is an example of the time depth which can potentially be considered in documenting human diversity with respect to water. The emphasis of the majority of the presentations was on the present situation or on the recent past, but some presentations (such as those emerging from Indigenous contexts) emphasized the significance of long-term historical continuities and discontinuities in the contemporary relationships between people and water.

- a) The point was made that water may well be a potential source of conflict in the years to come, and trying to understand the origins of conflict once it is already underway can be difficult. Therefore undertaking groundwork and collecting baseline information from areas where conflict may occur is critical; a better understanding of the historical causes greatly facilitates successful resolution of conflict. The expert advisory group also discussed the question of future prediction: how does an understanding of the past and the present underpin the analysis of possible futures? The emphasis of the presentations was on contemporary or recent historical examples, and the need to focus on IWRM suggests an orientation towards the present and the future, but the group did not make a formal resolution about how it would engage with questions of past, present, or future and the relative priority it would accord to each in its future work. The participants agreed on the importance of historical lessons learned and on understanding future changes, which was included as a long-term output of the project.
- b) Based on the case studies, the issue of time in relation to research in cultural contexts was addressed. It was mentioned that time is a crucial aspect in gaining an appropriate understanding of cultures and cultural diversity, and in establishing trust. Many cases of mismanagement and conflict arise from lack of trust, and the causes of such mistrust is an issue that must be carefully examined. Understanding the development of such mistrust also facilitates the evaluation of any conflict resolution techniques which may be applied in that situation.

### 4. Justice:

A final set of issues can be grouped under the term justice.

- a) *Rights, ownership and control over water:* These were said to be critical issues, not just for the maintenance and management of the resource, but also for the way that ownership can underpin diverse human identities. In the discussions, it was identified that talking of rights and ownership sets up an adversarial relationship which can rapidly lead to a situation of intractable conflict. However the rights discourse was constructed to combat the situation where there is a major power imbalance between different parties, and a number of the case studies and presentations identified contexts in which the rights of certain peoples had been marginalized, often to facilitate greater extraction of water resources or intensification of its use. Whilst the extraction was sometimes successful in a technical sense, the suppression of rights and diversity often led to a poor development outcome for these projects. These new technologies are often owned by the state rather than local communities, creating further grounds for conflicts over ownership. The expert advisory group acknowledged the significance of human rights, but left open the question of the degree to which it will advocate a rights-based approach in its considerations of justice and ownership. The group also discussed the way that some case studies identified a gap between law and practice, with laws (customary, statutory, or

other kinds) not always being adhered to. Different forms of law may be incompatible with each other and/or incompatible with alternative technologies and practices. All of these issues have the potential to impact significantly on sustainability.

- b) *Conduct and process*: the group discussed the importance of processes for ensuring a diversity of voices were heard. This principle has implications for the conduct of the group itself as much as for the broader activities it supports, for it was argued that the group will be judged on its actions as much as the statements it makes, and poor processes are likely to lead to outcomes which make problems worse rather than better. In this context, the importance of ensuring a diversity of cultural backgrounds, disciplines and working areas within the CoP was emphasized.
- c) *Intellectual property*: As a primary goal in the initial stages is the construction of a web-based database documenting cultural diversity, questions of intellectual property and the ownership of any material are critical. This issue was raised in both the presentations and the discussions and the degree to which the group can deal with issues of intellectual property will be an important basis for judging the success of its work. The group discussed the importance of these issues but did not make any formal resolutions about issues of process and/or intellectual property.

### Next Steps:

#### 1. Short-term outputs: Website consisting of database and Community of Practice (CoP):

In order to move forward with the website, the following comments and feedback were received:

- technological limitations of the website that restrict respect for cultural diversity, such as the digital divide, limitation in languages, should be explained. Possible solutions include: distributing the database in CD-ROM; and translating main parts of the website into other languages.
- creation of links to other UN and civil society organizations was suggested, as well as cross-referencing to documents related to the topic published by such organizations.
- copyright status and rights need to be confirmed before documents are uploaded.

Comments on the database:

- including a search function of whole documents by words (via google, etc.) was recommended.

Feedback on CoP:

- the importance of ensuring diversity of cultural backgrounds, disciplines and working areas within the CoP was recognized. In particular, the necessity of ensuring participation of children and youth was acknowledged.

The target groups, namely potential user groups, for the database and the CoP were revised:

- End users (local)
- Indigenous Peoples
- Children/ Youth/ Elders
- Activist groups
- Industry/Private corporations
- Educational institutions
- Experts
- Governments
- Media
- Activists (e.g., biodiversity task force)

- 
- Practitioners (policy, institutional)

The following potential partners and additions to the core CoP were identified. It was agreed, however, that membership of the CoP should be based on people, not institutions.

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
- World Resources Institute (WRI)
- Global Water Partnership (GWP)
- The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)
- Experts on conflict resolution
- Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change (IHDP)
- Foundations, e.g., The Christensen Fund
- International NGOs, e.g., International Rivers
- Centre on Hydroinformatics in Brazil (UNESCO category 2 centre)

## 2. Long-term outputs:

In addition to the expected outputs of the project mentioned in the concept paper, the expert advisory group agreed on others that should also be included. The list of outputs of the project in the long-term is thus the following:

- guiding principles / checklist
- historical lessons learned with best practices and recommendations for future solutions
- policy recommendations and methodological guidelines on how to integrate cultural diversity into water resources management
- research methods on how to include cultural considerations into water sciences
- development of tool kits, educational & training material / curricula

3. List of actions:

| Action  | Focal area i  | Focal area ii   | Focal area iii   | Focal area iv   | Outputs  | Action by   |
|---|---------------|---|--|---|--|---|
|   | <i>Morgan</i> | <i>Barber, Benitez, Klaver, Qian, Webster</i>   | <i>Akiwumi, Chikozho, Kubota, Pradhan</i>  | <i>Akimichi, Blackstock, Johnston, Ramos</i>  |  |   |
| Collect, collate and inventory existing materials related to focal area                       | ✓             | ✓   | Focus on customary laws and local practices on water use and conservation                                  | Collect material by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- utilizing internal knowledge and networks</li> <li>- obtaining information from UN agencies and their networks</li> </ul> | Database on UNESCO's Water Portal  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNESCO-IHP</li> <li>- Members of Expert advisory group</li> <li>- Fellows (PhD or Post-Doc) to be recruited at UNU etc.</li> </ul> |
| Review, synthesize and analyse collected material   | ✓             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- categorize information into different water uses, e.g., domestic, agriculture</li> <li>- examine different practices, e.g., restoration</li> <li>- study evolution of technology use and its effects on cultures</li> <li>- document consequences and damages of inappropriate technologies</li> </ul> | Focus on analysis of policy and legislation: where cultural diversity can be incorporated and strengthened | Distil important points   | <p>Academic/ scientific articles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to demonstrate the importance of cultural diversity, i.e., that value of water goes beyond its value as economic good;</li> <li>- on the topic of "the meanings of water"</li> </ul> <p>Policy briefs on mainstreaming cultural diversity</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Members of expert advisory group</li> <li>- Fellows (PhD or Post-Doc) to be recruited</li> </ul>                                   |
| Explore alternative media for representing diversity: paintings, music, film, festivals, etc. | ✓             |   |  |   | Events to showcase diversity: exhibitions, Expos, etc.   |   |
| Recruit artists   | ✓             |   |  |   | Goodwill ambassadors to promote project  |   |

|   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| Explore possibility of non-academic fellowships for artists/ indigenous people          | ✓ |   |   |   | Water and cultural diversity fellowships/ artist fellowships                                  |  |
| Implement people exchange   | ✓ |   |   |   |   |  |
| Implement proactive experiments   |   | ✓   |   |   | Pilot projects for demonstration  |  |
| Implement educational and awareness-raising programmes                                  |   | to empower and encourage all people to be engaged | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to strengthen civil society advocacy for political will and social responsibility</li> <li>- to strengthen advocacy and educational role to civil society and educational institutions such as the UNESCO-IHE</li> </ul> | Work with partners on curriculum development  | Educational and awareness-raising programmes, especially at UNESCO-IHE                        |  |
| Assess and map cultural diversity, biodiversity, water management conflicts and threats |   |   |   | ✓   | GIS map   | Expert advisory group to work on proposals |
| Implement reparations and the right to remedy in water conflicts                        |   |   |   | Establish a space where parties involved in entrenched and very serious conflict could meet to resolve their disputes | A research/ negotiations/ healing centre near a sacred water site, e.g., Greenland or Iceland |  |

#### 4. Timeline and list of tasks

| Action   | Action by                                    | Due/ expected date   |
|--|--|--|
| Send detailed info on partners and additional members for CoP (see above <b>Next Steps Short-term outputs</b> for list)                        | Expert advisory group                        | 18 January 2008  |
| Send links/ information on “exemplary” databases   | Expert advisory group                        | ongoing  |
| Send resources that could be included in the database  | Expert advisory group                        | ongoing  |
| Explore funding for fellowships, post-docs, PhD, etc. (Note: in obtaining funds from the private sector, there is a need for “ethical filter”) | UNESCO with members of expert advisory group | ongoing  |
| Contact IHP National Committees and/or UNESCO National Commissions in each country, in order to create supportive environment                  | Expert advisory group                        | ongoing  |
| Next meeting of expert advisory group, with a session at the Expo Zaragoza   | UNESCO and expert advisory group             | Early July 2008 (TBD)  |
| Collect ideas, draft book proposal, assign group member tasks and find publisher for a book on water and cultural diversity                    | UNESCO with expert advisory group            | Book proposal to be drafted by the next meeting, for publication in September 2009 |
| Explore possibility of introducing a course at UNESCO-IHE  | UNESCO with expert advisory group            | for implementation in 2009   |
| Consider establishing a UNESCO Chairpersonship or category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO   | Expert advisory group                        | long-term  |

#### References:

- Tylor, Edward B (1958) *The Origins of Culture*. New York: Harper. (Modern edition of the first part of Primitive Culture, originally published 1871.)
- Geertz, C. (1973) *The Interpretation of Cultures: Selected Essays*. New York, Basic Books.
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (2002) *UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity*. Cultural Diversity Series No.1, Paris: UNESCO. <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0012/001271/127160m.pdf>
- UNESCO (2006) *Water and Indigenous Peoples*. Edited by R. Boelens, M. Chiba and D. Nakashima. Knowledges of Nature 2, UNESCO: Paris, 177 pp.
- Webster, J. (2006) *Culture's Influence: Towards Understanding Stakeholder Interactions in Rural Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion Projects*. PhD dissertation. Institute of Water and Environment. Cranfield, Silsoe College at Cranfield, U.K.



---

## FINAL AGENDA

Meeting of the expert advisory group:  
UNESCO-IHP project on Water and Cultural Diversity

Paris, France (7 – 8 January 2008)

---

### Day 1            Monday, 7 January (09:00 – 18:30)

09:00-09:45    Introduction I:  
Welcome by UNESCO (A. Szöllösi-Nagy, IHP)  
Introduction to context, goals and organisation of the workshop (L. Hiwasaki, IHP)  
Brief introduction of meeting participants  
Designation of chairperson and rapporteur

09:45-11:00    Introduction II:  
Presentations by experts (5 - 6 experts, 10 minutes each + 5 minutes questions).  
Experts will describe their work in relation to water and cultural diversity (own visions, focal areas, gaps, future needs)

11:00-11:15    *Coffee/tea break*

11:15-13:30    Expert presentations continued (8 - 9 experts, 10 + 5 minutes)

13:30-14:30    *Lunch*

14:30-16:30    Setting directions:  
Comments and brief conclusions drawn from the expert presentations, leading into the afternoon session (Chairperson)  
The participants will discuss the different angles and viewpoints that were presented in the expert presentations. The aim is to finalize the focal areas for the project on Water & Cultural Diversity and to set priorities, as necessary.

16:30-16:45    *Coffee/tea break*

16:45-18:30    Setting long-term strategy and goals:  
Discussions will focus on setting the long-term strategy for the project, in particular towards the development of methodological guidelines and policy recommendations. Main requirements and content of the guidelines and policy recommendations will be specified, and target groups identified. How they can be introduced into practice will also be discussed.

At the end of Day 1, the participants are asked to note down 5 most relevant points that were agreed/ conclusions drawn from the discussions, for reporting on Day 2.

19:30            *Dinner*

---

**Day 2      Tuesday, 8 January (09:15 – 18:30)**

- 09:15-10:00    Reflections:  
Summary of Day 1 by chairperson and rapporteur  
Reflections from Day 1 by participants
- 10:00-11:15    Short-term goals I:  
Presentation of the webpage, database and links (N. Dietrich, IHP))  
The participants will be asked to give feedback and discuss the draft database (experts' role in the project, content, structure, access, etc.)
- 11:15-11:30    *Coffee/tea break*
- 11:30-12:15    Short-term goals II:  
Presentation of the concept of Community of Practice (CoP) (N. Dietrich, IHP)  
The participants will be asked to give feedback and discuss UNESCO's concept for the CoP (experts' role in the project, members, functions, meetings, etc.)
- 12:15-13:30    Brainstorming in small groups on how the CoP and the knowledge/information on Water & Cultural Diversity can be managed. Tools and strategies should be identified.
- 13:30-14:30    *Lunch*
- 14:30-16:00    Partners and cooperation:  
Following the previous discussions, the participants will identify relations with and within the topic of Water & Cultural Diversity. The aim is to identify core actors, existing projects and initiatives. Additional partners for cooperation should be listed, and effective ways to deal with transdisciplinarity will be discussed.
- 16:00-16:15    *Coffee/tea break*
- 16:15-17:30    Discussion about next steps:  
a)      Timeline  
b)      Possibilities (where are we and where can we go in what time?)  
c)      Responsibilities (Papers & Reports / who can do what and by when?)
- 17:30-18:00    Summary and conclusions from the workshop (Chairperson and Rapporteur).  
Comments and critiques from the participants.
- 18:00-18:30    Wrap-up and closing
- 

*Meeting documents*

- Agenda
- List of participants
- Compilation of bionotes and presentation summaries
- Concept paper for the project on Water and Cultural Diversity
- Database design
- Concept for the CoP
- Draft timeline 2008 – 2009

*Information documents*

- List of resources and other relevant material
- Seven Principles for Cultivating Communities of Practice

## Annex II



---

### FINAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Meeting of the expert advisory group:  
UNESCO-IHP project on Water and Cultural Diversity

Paris, France (7 – 8 January 2008)

---

#### **AKIWUMI Fenda**

Geographer, Hydrogeologist  
Department of Geography  
University of South Florida  
4202 E. Fowler Ave., NES107  
Tampa, FL 33620  
USA  
Phone: +1 813 974 6887  
Fax: +1 813 974 4808  
E-mail: fakiwumi@cas.usf.edu

#### **BARBER Marcus**

Anthropologist  
School of Arts and Social Sciences,  
James Cook University,  
Townsville, 4811,  
Australia  
Phone: + 61 07 4781 4714  
Fax: +61 07 4781 6047  
E-mail: Marcus.Barber@jcu.edu.au

#### **BENITEZ Elena**

President of the IHP National Committee of Paraguay  
Dirección General de Protección y Conservación de los  
Recursos Hídricos, Secretaría del Ambiente  
Madame Linch, 3500  
Central- Asuncion,  
Paraguay  
Phone: + 595 21 586089  
Fax: + 595 21 615811  
E-mail: dgpcrhy001@yahoo.com  
elenajefe@gmail.com

#### **BLACKSTOCK Michael**

Independent scholar  
173 Odin Court  
Kamloops BC  
V2E 1E4  
Canada  
Phone: + 1 250 374 6824  
Fax: + 1 250 374 6824  
E-mail: pioneer@telus.net

#### **CHIKOZHO Claudious**

Applied Social Scientist  
Urban Management Masters Program,  
Ethiopian Civil Service College,  
P. O. Box 5648  
Addis Ababa  
Ethiopia  
Phone: +251 11 651 9231 OR +251 11 647 0992  
Mobile : +251 913 052293  
Fax: +251 11 646 3016  
E-mail: claudiouschikozho@yahoo.co.uk

#### **JOHNSTON Barbara Rose**

Environmental Anthropologist  
Centre for Political Ecology  
P.O. Box 8467  
Santa Cruz, CA 95061  
USA  
Phone: + 1 831 295 1509  
Fax : + 1 831 423 3489  
E-mail: bjohnston@igc.org

#### **KLAVER Irene**

Philosopher  
University of North Texas  
Department of Philosophy  
P.O. Box 310920  
Denton, TX 76203, USA  
Or/and:  
1821 Scripture Str.  
Denton, TX 76201, USA  
Phone: +1 940 591 1805  
Fax: +1 940 565 4448  
E-mail: klaver@unt.edu

#### **MORGAN Monica Maude**

Indigenous Rights Activist  
76 Crossen Street,  
ECHUCA 3564  
Victoria,  
Australia  
Phone: + 61 3 5480 2836  
E-mail: monica-morgan@hotmail.com

**OSORIO Israel Sandre**

Archivo Histórico del Agua  
Balderas 94, Centro Histórico  
Delegación Cuahutémoc  
Distrito Federal  
México  
Tel. +52 55 5521 1939  
E-mail: isreal.sandre@cna.gob.mx

**PRADHAN Prachanda**

Social Scientist  
Farmer Managed Irrigation Systems Promotion Trust  
St Mary Road, Adarsha Tole,  
House No 9, Jawalakhel  
Lalitpur  
Nepal  
Phone: + 977 1 493664  
Mobile : + 66 870054586  
Fax: +977 1 482008  
E-mail: pradhanp@mos.com.np;  
pradhanpp@hotmail.com

**QIAN Jie**

Ethnobotanist  
Kunming Institute of Botany,  
Chinese Academy of Sciences  
No.132 Lan-Hei Road,  
Kunming 650204,  
Yunnan, P.R.China  
Tel: +86 871 5223080  
Fax: +86 871 5223094  
Email: qianjie@mail.kib.ac.cn

**WEBSTER James**

Water and Sanitation Engineer, Anthropologist  
Cranfield University  
School of Applied Sciences  
Cranfield  
Bedfordshire MK43 0AL  
United Kingdom  
Phone: +44 1234 750111 ext. 2781  
E-mail: r.j.webster@cranfield.ac.uk

**RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUMANITY AND NATURE****AKIMICHI Tomoya**

Ecological Anthropologist  
Deputy Director-General  
Research Institute for Humanity and Nature,  
457-4 Motoyama, Kamigamo,  
Kita-ku, Kyoto 603-8047, Japan  
Phone : +81 75 707 2410  
Fax: +81 75 707 2509  
E-mail: akimichi@chikyu.ac.jp

**KUBOTA Jumpei**

Hydrologist  
Research Institute for Humanity and Nature,  
457-4 Motoyama, Kamigamo,  
Kita-ku, Kyoto 603-8047, Japan  
Phone: +81 75 707 2391  
Fax: +81 75 707 2509  
E-mail: jkubota@chikyu.ac.jp

**UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY****RAMOS CASTILLO Ameyali**

UNU-IAS consultant  
c/o Ian Nigh  
La Casa del Pan  
Real de Guadalupe #55  
Centro Historico, San Cristobal de las Casas,  
Chiapas CP 29230, Mexico  
E-mail: ramos@ias.unu.edu

**UNESCO****SZÖLLÖSI-NAGY Andras**

Deputy Assistant Director General  
Secretary, International Hydrological Programme  
UNESCO  
1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15  
France  
Phone: +33 1 45 68 40 02  
Fax : + 33 1 45 68 58 11  
E-mail: a.szollosi-nagy@unesco.org

**HIWASAKI Lisa**

International Hydrological Programme (IHP)  
Phone: +33 1 45 68 40 29  
E-mail: l.hiwasaki@unesco.org

**DIETRICH Nora**

IHP  
Phone: +33 1 45 68 41 72  
E-mail: n.dietrich@unesco.org

**OTTE Alexander**

IHP  
Phone: +33 1 45 68 40 05  
E-mail: a.otte@unesco.org

**SALAME Lena**

IHP  
Phone: +33 1 45 68 41 80  
E-mail: l.salame@unesco.org

**NAKASHIMA Douglas**

Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems Programme  
(LINKS)  
Phone: +33 1 45 68 39 69  
E-mail: d.nakashima@unesco.org

**BATES Peter**

LINKS Programme

Phone: +33 1 45 68 40 60

E-mail: [p.bates@unesco.org](mailto:p.bates@unesco.org)**GAINES Sarah**

Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)

Phone: +33 1 45 68 40 71

E-mail: [s.gaines@unesco.org](mailto:s.gaines@unesco.org)**PERSIC Ana**

MAB Programme

Phone: +33 1 45 68 40 47

E-mail: [a.persic@unesco.org](mailto:a.persic@unesco.org)**ZIOGAS Paloma**

Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue

Phone: +33 1 45 68 46 05

E-mail: [p.ziogas@unesco.org](mailto:p.ziogas@unesco.org)

## Annex III

### What is Water? – definitions of water by meeting participants

*Tomoya Akimichi*

Water is cultural goods in biological, evolutionary terms, water has apparently been the substance indispensable for the survival of any biological organism, including human beings. In this sense “water is life” sounds pandemic. Also, cultural connotations invested on water are associated with identity, spirituality and reality of human existence, namely life. (unifying, comprehensive, life goods, explicit & implicit)

*Marcus Barber*

Water is a substance, H<sub>2</sub>O, an agent and an idea. Through constant movement and endless transformations it sustains life. Human beings share experiences of its basic forms, and from them create a multiplicity of meanings and interpretations.

*Elena Benitez*

Water is life and it sustains biodiversity in nature. In order to sustainability, we have to define the principles, take into account the vulnerability and the potential that it has for the nature and for human and cultural action.

*Michael Blackstock*

Water is the life-blood of Earth; furthermore this ever-moving and transforming liquid connects all beings to each other, and thus water is a global unifier. Water has a spirit. We have a natural relationship with water.

*Barbara Rose Johnston*

Water sustains and nurtures life: it is a basic human need and a fundamental human right. Water is key force in shaping cultures, traditions, and ways of life. It is valued, used and managed in culturally diverse ways. Water is life. Water is also power: the power to move mountains, generate energy, and fuel the rise and demise of individual fortunes, societies, ways of life, indeed - entire civilizations.

Water is an inherent and intrinsic element of cultural diversity.

The means, value, use of water reflects cultural construct. But water in itself is fundamental natural force and entity.

Vulnerability.

*Irene Klaver*

Water gives rhythm and pulse to life. In ebb and flow—rain and drought—it comes and goes, powerful and vulnerable, calming and dangerous, quiet and violent, it connects, transports and transforms. It changes by moving through our bodies, the land, the atmosphere, and our cultures, at the same time shaping and being shaped.

*Jumpei Kubota*

Water is the source of all life on earth. Water is an integral part of nature on earth, the root of the living beings, for both embedded in our mind providing (??) power.

---

*Monica Morgan*

Water is the lifeblood of our world/earth.

Water is vital for life. It fills us spiritually, culturally, ecologically, economically, physically and socially.

Water gives life.

Water is the lifeblood of our world/earth (it is) vital for our spiritual, cultural, ecological, economical, physical and social well being.

Water connects all life.

*Prachanda Pradhan*

Earth planet without water which is finite nature will be without human, biological and botanical life, hence water is life. Water has both, creative and destructive, forces. Therefore people have created values, norms, institutions, beliefs, customary practices and attitude to utilize water resources of all types at present and conserve for future to sustain life of all types.

*Qian Jie*

Water is substantial for life. No matter what state the water is, it just makes the world alive. Water isn't deadly chemical elements, but is living to shape the Nature and support life forms with its unusual ability, as well as be vivid in the legend and many kinds of cultural believes,

Water goes with the power to change the nature naturally as well as artificially. Water is kind of power which might make people powerless or empowered. As water is a universal element shared by everything living, it also plays important roles in the entire development process of human society from social, cultural, economic and political perspectives.

*Ameyali Ramos Castillo*

Water is a tangible manifestation of the spirit that sustains us in this life. Because it is life giving and life embodying, it is constructed, understood, appropriated, managed and controlled in diverse ways.

*James Webster*

Water unifies and sustains all life forms. Generator, sustainer, unifier of all life forms/ generates, sustains, unifies all life forms.

- building block of life
- basic human need
- fundamental human right

Water is...

- ... essential for life
- ... power
- ... life blood (human, ecosystem, land)
- ... generates, sustains, unifies all life forms
- ... substance, agent, idea
- ... flowing, movement through us, land, atmosphere
- ... constructed
- ... human right
- ... transforming
- ... life and death
- ... indispensable... irreplaceable
- ... cultural good (substance) – economic?
- ... creative & destructive
- ... global unifier
- ... given by nature
- ... shaping culture
- ... intrinsic for cultural and biological diversity
- ... commodity
- ... part of what we are
- ... purifier, cleanser
- ... safe <-> conflict/danger
- ... explicit & implicit
- ... life force
- ... alive
- ... beautiful, calming, soothing
- ... many things
- ... nature
- ... energy