Experience shows that a multidisciplinary approach is essential to tackle the management of transboundary systems. Scientists, academics, civil servants, social scientists, development economists, managers, decision-makers and governmental officers dealing with transboundary aquifers issues, wishing to make a presentation at the Conference, are invited to participate and submit abstracts. The abstracts should be in English, one page in length and include author’s name, affiliation, address and keywords. It should address a subject on one of the topics of the Conference.

The Scientific Advisory Committee will select from the abstracts a number of authors, who will be requested to prepare full-length papers. The Proceedings will include keynote lectures and accepted papers and will be published by UNESCO-IHP.

Authors of accepted contributions will be notified by end of May 2010. There is a limit of 6 pages for each paper, and 3 pages for each poster, including figures, tables and references.

The participants are kindly requested to submit their abstracts by 30 March 2010 to the following e-mail address:

ISARM2010@unesco.org

The Second Circular will be issued in June 2010 and will contain details concerning the programme.

### Important dates
- Submission deadline for abstracts: 30 March 2010
- Letters of acceptance: 30 May 2010
- Second announcement: 30 June 2010
- Final registration: 5 September 2010

More information will soon be available at

http://www.isarm.net
Background

In June 2000, in recognition of the importance of transboundary aquifer systems as a source of freshwater in certain regions of the world, particularly those located in arid and semi-arid zones, the 14th Session of the Intergovernmental Council of UNESCO’s International Hydrological Programme (IHP) adopted Resolution N° XIV-12. By this Resolution, the Council decided to launch an initiative, entitled the Internationally Shared Aquifer Resources Management (ISARM), to promote studies into transboundary aquifers and enhance cooperation between regional and international institutions. The first phase of the programme was dedicated to compiling a global inventory of transboundary aquifers.

Since December 2008, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the Resolution (A/RES/63/124) on the ‘Law of Transboundary Aquifers’. Every three years, the UNGA debated on the topic of transboundary aquifers until November 2019 when the last resolution was adopted by the assembly (A/C.6/74/L.11), 2023 to consider the study and management of transboundary aquifers.

ISARM was established by the IHP of UNESCO, substantial efforts have been made to identify transboundary aquifers or aquifer systems (TBAs) in world regions, and to raise awareness of their societal and environmental importance.

UNESCO organized the 1st ISARM conference in 2010 under the theme of ‘Transboundary Aquifers Management’. As a follow up in 2015, UNESCO & its C2C IGRAC centre published the world map of transboundary aquifers. The ISARM 2021 conference will evaluate the progress made in the past 10 years by the international communities and countries, by looking at new challenges and debating about lessons learned, as well as the best practices and successful policies to compile effective recommendations for practical and operational actions.

The debates taking place during the conference are expected to guide stakeholders in the management of the ‘invisible’, but essential, groundwater resources and to meet the expectations of groundwater users in terms of water security.

This event considers the challenges and required for the sustainable management of transboundary aquifers.

More information on ISARM Programme: https://en.unesco.org/conference/isarm2021


Objectives

ISARM 2021 is devoted to relating work of groundwater and transboundary aquifers. The conference objectives are:

- Provide the opportunity to present an updated overview of the world inventory of transboundary aquifers, since the 2015 world map of transboundary aquifers published by UNESCO.
- Bring together transboundary aquifer management experts to discuss concepts and approaches for sound management within various contexts, in both developed and developing countries.
- Exchange of ideas for new directions in transboundary aquifer management, as well as to extract recommendations for the formulation of new strategies and implementation elements such as guidelines and educational tools;
- Consider the contribution of international law principles to the sustainable management of transboundary aquifers and dependent ecosystems, as well as to evaluate the legal and institutional advances/issues arising from modern practices of formal/informal agreements between countries.
- Emphasize the efforts exerted and show the progress with monitoring the transboundary aquifers cooperation within the framework of tracking SDG 6 indicator 6.5.2 through its first and second reporting cycles.
- Support development of educational initiatives on transboundary water cooperation and develop sustainable practices and guidance tools on shared water resources management and negotiations.

Topics

### The Science/Policy interface of TBA: the role of science in the management of TBA

1. The contribution of TBA to Sustainable Development in the framework of Global and Regional Agendas
   
   Agenda 2030 and SDGs (Including Indicator 6.5.2); Paris Agreement; Sendai Framework; Agenda 2063; SDG 6 Accelerator; etc.

2. Advances in the assessment and mapping of TBA and hydrogeological methods

3. Governance of TBA: strengthening cooperation

4. Education, capacity development and raising awareness

5. Regional and International Practices and Guidance tools on shared water resources management and negotiation

Objectives

- Support development of educational initiatives on transboundary water cooperation and develop sustainable practices and guidance tools on shared water resources management and negotiations.

TBA's: Challenges, Opportunities and Into a Way Forward

1. Summary of TBA's challenges, opportunities, and into a way forward

2. The Science/Policy interface of TBA: the role of science in the management of TBA

3. Advances in the assessment and mapping of TBA and hydrogeological methods

4. Governance of TBA: strengthening cooperation

5. Education, capacity development and raising awareness

Conference Chairpersons

A. Tejada-Guibert (Director, IHP, UNESCO)
B. Kante (Director, UNEP-DELLC)
S. Puri (Secretary, General IAH)

Organizing Committee

A. Tejada-Guibert (Secretary, IHP)
A. Aureli (UNESCO-IHP)
A. Kreilhuber (UNEP)
P. Letitre (IGRAC)
M. Milteo (UN-WWAP)
R. Missotten (UNESCO-IGBP)
S. Puri (Secretary General, IAH)
L. Salame (UNESCO-IIHP)

Scientific Advisory Committees

- Building capacity, strengthening cooperation (Topic 3 and Topic 4)
  - R. Ardakanian (UNW-OPC)
  - B. Barraqué (LATTS-ENPC, Université Paris-Est)
  - F. Bernardini (UNESCO)
  - P.K. Bjørnsen (UNEP-DHI)
  - S. Burchi (AIDA)
  - M. Daoudy (University of Geneva)
  - A. Dellos (University of Geneva)
  - L. del Castillo-Laborde (Ministry of Agriculture, Namibia)
  - G. de Marsily (Universidad de Buenos Aires)
  - G. Eckstein (Texas Tech University)
  - A. W. González (Embassy of Argentina, UN, Vienna)
  - T. Jarvis (Oregon State University)
  - B. Kante (UNEP)
  - J. F. Donzier (Univ. Paris VI, French Acad. of Sciences)
  - J. Lundqvist (IAH, BRGM)
  - J. Pypaert (Venice)
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  - B. Braga (ANA, Brazil)
  - E. Braune (University of Western Cape)
  - M. Campana (Oregon State University)
  - G. Christelis (Ministry of Agriculture, Namibia)
  - G. de Marsilly (Univ. Paris VI, French Acad. of Sciences)
  - J. Ramasamy (IAH, BRGM)
  - P. Hubert (IAH)
  - A. Khatir (NWRC, Egypt)
  - R. Klingbeil (UN-ESCA)
  - N. Kulkurk (UNESCO-IHIG)
  - G. Arduino (Accra)
  - L. del Castillo-Laborde (Ministry of Agriculture, Namibia)
  - D. Pennequin (Univ. Complutense de Madrid)
  - R. Llamas (Univ. Complutense de Madrid)
  - P. Hubert (IAH)
  - F. Bernardini (UNESCO)
  - M. Daoudy (University of Geneva)
  - L. Salamé (Secretary General, IAH)
  - A. Khatir (NWRC, Egypt)
  - R. Llamas (University of Western Cape)
  - A. Makarigakis (UNESCO-WMO)
  - A. Tejada-Guibert (Secretary General, IAH)
  - A. Aureli (UNESCO-IHP)
  - A. Kreilhuber (UNEP)
  - P. Letitre (IGRAC)
  - M. Milteo (UN-WWAP)
  - R. Missotten (UNESCO-IGBP)
  - S. Puri (Secretary General, IAH)

High Level Panel

- UNESCO-IHP Regional Offices
  - R. Al-Wechah (Cario)
  - A. Amani (Accra)
  - G. Ardino (Jakarta)
  - M.C. Donose (Montevideo)
  - E. Fernandez-Pulcoch (Windhoek)
  - Y. Filali-Meknassi (Rabat)
  - A. Makarigakis (Addis Ababba)
  - B. Neupane (New Delhi)
  - P. Pypaert (Venice)
  - J. Ramasamy (Beijing)

“One Water”, directed by Ali Habashi, will be projected during the Conference
Background

In June 2000, in recognition of the importance of transboundary aquifer systems as a source of freshwater in certain regions of the world, particularly those located in arid and semi-arid zones, the 14th Session of the Intergovernmental Council of UNESCO’s International Hydrological Programme (IHP) adopted Resolution N° XV-12. By this Resolution, the Council decided to launch an initiative, entitled the Internationally Shared Aquifer Resources Management programme (ISARM), to promote studies into transboundary aquifers. Close cooperation with the ISARM Programme was also established with IAH, UNECE, OAS, UNESCO/FAO as well as other regional and international institutions.

The first phase of the programme was dedicated to compiling a global inventory of transboundary aquifers. In December 2008, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the Resolution (A/RES/63/124) on the ‘Law of Transboundary Aquifers’. Through this resolution the UNGA encourages aquifer states to make appropriate bilateral or regional arrangements for the proper management of their transboundary aquifers, taking into account the provisions contained in the annexed draft articles. The draft articles were prepared by the United Nations International Law Commission (UNILC) with technical support of UNESCO-IHP. Considering the importance of the UNGA Resolution and capitalizing on the growing body of inter-state experience related to the management and development of transboundary aquifers, the International Conference, Transboundary Aquifers: Challenges and new directions, aims to provide a platform for discussion to consider ways to promote cooperation amongst States in the management and development of transboundary aquifers. This Conference will also consider the various steps to be taken to achieve this - from the adoption of such policies, to their implementation into practical, operational actions.

This event marks the end of the first phase of the ISARM Programme and the start of the second. It aims to consider the challenges and new directions required for the sustainable development and management of transboundary aquifers.

Objectives

- Presentation of the results and outputs of Phase I of the ISARM programme. These results will inform the design of the ISARM-II Programme.
- Bringing together leading transboundary aquifer management experts to discuss concepts and approaches for sound management within various contexts, in both developed and developing countries.
- Exchange of ideas for new directions in transboundary aquifer management, as well as the drawing of recommendations for the formulation of new strategies and implementation elements such as guidelines and educational tools.
- Consideration of the contribution of international law principles to the sustainable management of transboundary aquifers and the dependent ecosystems.
- Consideration of legal and institutional advances and issues arising from contemporary practices of States crystallized in treaty agreements and other legal instruments of cooperation.

Conference Chairperson

A. Amani (Director, a.i., UNESCO Division of Water Sciences)

Organizing Committee

Chair of the Organizing Committee

A. Aureli (UNESCO-IHP)

Co-Chairs of the Organizing Committee

J. Ellis de Luca (Education for Collaboration)
R. Gift (PCCP)
S. Grego (Groundwater)

Topics

1. Global overview of transboundary aquifer systems
   Regional inventories and case studies – Sharing data and information.

2. Managing transboundary aquifers: Challenges and opportunities
   Lessons learned and best practices – Assessing the impacts of global changes to groundwater resources and managing aquifer system’s response

3. Building capacities and strengthening institutions
   Legal and institutional advances – Regional agencies and organizations – Multilateral agreements, interstate cooperation – Training, education and technical assistance needs – Water law and environmental concerns – Globalization and virtual water flow.

4. Strengthening cooperation
   Benefits of cooperation and impact of conflicts: techniques for conflict anticipation, prevention, mediation, negotiation and resolution.

Main Conference Partners: GEF IW-LEARN and IAH

The conference is a contribution to the UN Global Accelerator Framework and it is organized in coordination with UNECE as a contribution to the achievement of SDG6 indicator 6.5.2

With the technical and scientific contribution of the UNESCO IGRAC Centre

High Level Panel

The UN General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/63/124) on the ‘Law of Transboundary Aquifers’
General Principles, Recommendations – The way forward.
Technical Programme Committee

A. Aureli (UNESCO-IHP)
A. Rivera (IAH TBA Commission)
G. Eckstein (IWRA President)
K. Pietersen (IAH TBA Commission)
K. Villholth (IWMI, South Africa)
N. Kukuric (UN-IGRAC President)
R. Sanchez (IAH TBA Commission)
R. Stephan (IWRA)
S. Burchi (Chairman of the Executive Council (AIDA))
S. Puri (IAH Former Executive Secretary)

Scientific Committee

Co-Chair of the Scientific Committee
A. Rivera (Chair of IAH, Transboundary Aquifers Commission)

A. Dodo (OSS)
A. Hillers (GEF)
A. Jagerskog (World Bank)
A. Lipponen (UNECE)
A. Manganelli (CeReGAS)
A. Merla (International Expert, Italy)
A. Wolf (Oregon State University)
B. Missteer (IAH)
B. Scanlon (University of Texas, USA)
B. Swartz (Ministry of Agriculture and Water, Namibia)
C. Fraser (University of Strathclyde)
C. Kanangire (AMCOW Executive Secretary)
C. Leb (World Bank)
C. Pahl-Wostl (University of Osnabrück, Germany)
C. Severin (GEF)
C. Simmons (Flinders University, Australia)
D. Kreamer (IAH President)
E. López Gunn (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)
E. Tardieu (INBO)
F. Bertone (World Bank)
F. Munger (Geneva Water Hub)
F. Sindico (University of Strathclyde, UK)
G. Alexis (IBIGEM)
G. de Los Cobos (GESDEC, Canton of Geneva)

Co-Chair of the Scientific Committee
S. Puri (Former Secretary General of IAH)

H. Zaisheng (University of Geosciences, China)
J. Fried (University of California, Irvine)
J. Ganoulis (UNESCO Chair/INWEB)
L. Araguas (International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA))
L. del Castillo-Laborde (Universidad de Buenos Aires)
L. Lytton (World Bank)
M. Campana (Oregon State University)
M. Campos (OAS)
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O. McIntyre (University College Cork, Ireland)
O. Unver (UNWATER)
P. Ramoel (SADC - OAS)
P. Van der Zag (UNESCO-IHE)
Q. Grafton (Australian National University)
R. Klingbeil (IAH Vice President)
R. Martin-Nagle (IWRA)
R. Varady (University of Arizona)
S. de Vermont (Ministry of Environment of Switzerland)
S. Kebede (University of KwaZulu-Natal)
S. Koeppe (UNECE)
S. McCaffrey (University of the Pacific, USA)
S. Megdal (University of Arizona)
S. Schmeier (UNESCO-IHE)
T. Jarvis (Oregon State University)
T. Stiger (UNESCO-IHE)
Call for Participation and Submission of Abstracts

Experience shows that a multidisciplinary approach is essential to tackle the management of transboundary systems. Scientists, academics, civil servants, social scientists, development economists, managers, decision-makers and governmental officers dealing with transboundary aquifers issues, wishing to make a presentation at the Conference, are invited to participate and submit abstracts. The abstracts should be in English only (less than 400 words) and include author’s name, affiliation, address and keywords. It should address a subject on one of the topics of the Conference.

The Scientific Committee will select the abstracts. The selected author will be requested to prepare full-length papers. The proceedings will include keynote lectures and accepted papers and will be published online by UNESCO-IHP.

Authors of accepted contributions will be notified by end of March 2021. There is a limit of 6 pages (320 words each page) for each paper, and 3 pages for each poster, including figures, tables and references. The participants are kindly requested to submit their abstracts by 30 December 2020 to the following Link:

https://en.unesco.org/conference/isarm2021

Venue

- The Conference will be held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (France), 6–8 December 2021
- The language of the Conference will be English and French

Important dates

- Submission deadline for abstracts: 30 Dec 2020
- Abstract acceptance: 30 March 2021
- Second announcement: 30 June 2021
- Full Papers Submission: 1 October 2021
- Final Program: 28 October 2021

All measures and precautions have been taken for ISARM 2021 to remain operational in the context of COVID-19 situation
More information
will soon be available at
UNESCO-IHP website:
https://en.unesco.org/conference/isarm2021

Contact information

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