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Educational, Scientific and  
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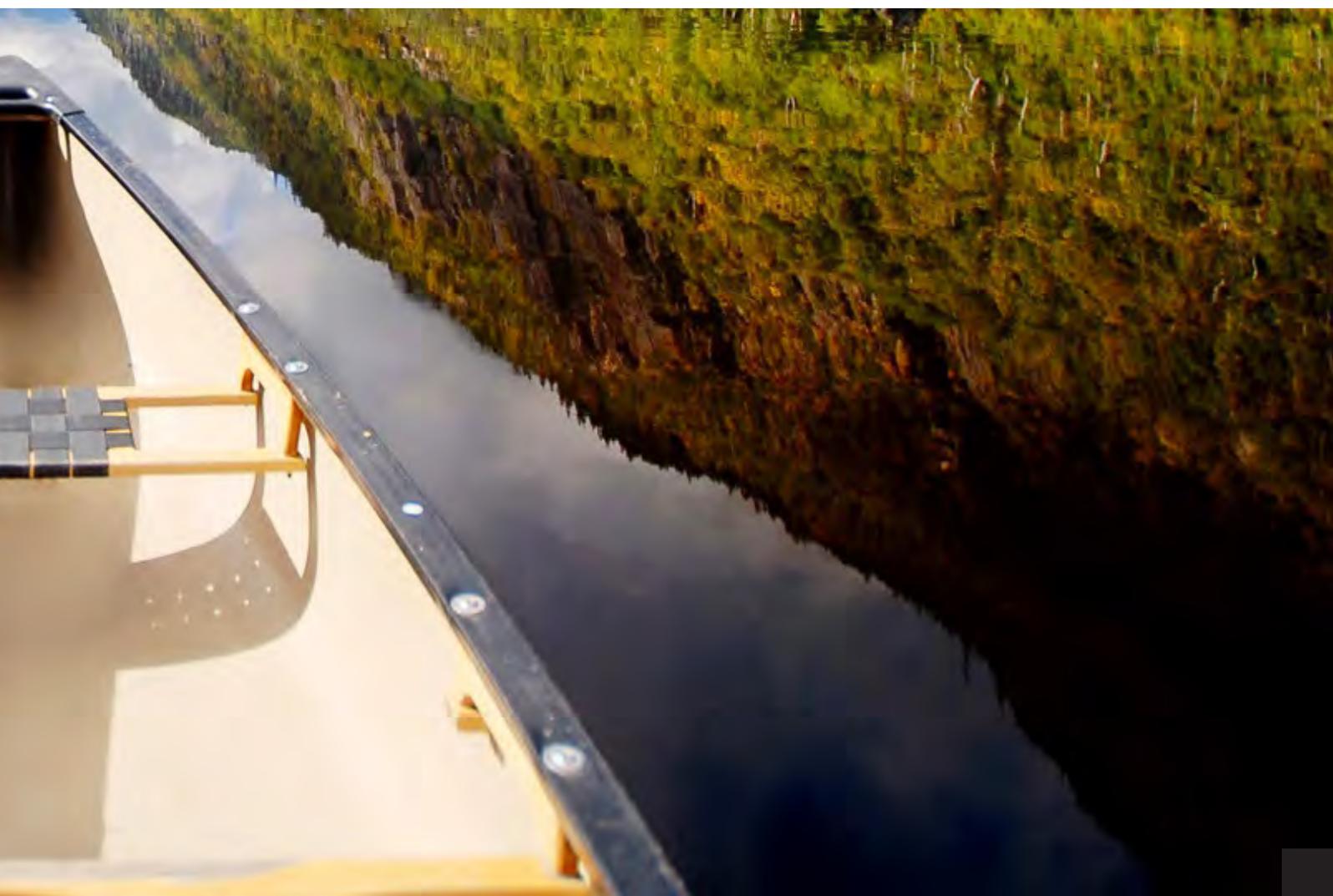


World Water  
Assessment Programme



# UN WORLD WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME (WWAP) HIGHLIGHTS

REPORTING PERIOD **JANUARY 2015 – MAY 2016**



# Message from the Coordinator

Dear Reader,

The UN World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) has seen some exciting developments during the last year aiming to reinforce its global impact. The implementation of the recommendations of an Independent External Evaluation (conducted in 2015) and the appointment of professor Stefan Uhlenbrook as the third coordinator of the programme since 2000 has steered our Programme into a new era. Therefore, we are eager to share with you a comprehensive overview of our recent activities and newest developments.

WWAP continues to strengthen its outreach activities, as witnessed by the dissemination of the World Water Development Report 2016 on the topic Water and Jobs with more than 30 events taking place all over the world often in collaboration with Member States, UN agencies and the UNESCO water family. We are reinforcing our capacity to ensure proper data collection and analysis, as well as to translate scientific knowledge in an effective way to suit decision-making. This therefore improves our ability to provide support to Member States in undertaking water resources assessments at all levels and formulate appropriate policies. To ensure the high quality, high-impact and scientific basis of our products, we are strengthening our existing networks while reaching out to new stakeholders as to forge new partnerships, for instance, with academia and the knowledge and development sector.

Our efforts in bridging the gender data gap and promoting gender equality in the water resources realm have taken a new leap with the broad dissemination of the indicators and methodology for sex-disaggregated data on water. WWAP is actively participating in the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and related SDGs. Therefore, the development of an indicator framework is supported with the eye on monitoring and reporting of progress related to the achievement of these goals, particularly of the water goal SDG 6, which the international community has ambitiously pledged to commit.

Our future strategy encompasses a steady increase of the programme activities in order to meet the demand of Member States for: comprehensive water assessments; sound monitoring and informed policy making related to the SDGs; and improved capacity at local, national and regional level. In view of these developments, WWAP is planning to diversify its funding sources and establish a multi-donor platform.

We look forward to enhanced collaborations and hope you will enjoy reading these highlights.



Professor Stefan Uhlenbrook, WWAP Coordinator  
(October 2015 – onwards)



Michela Miletto, WWAP Coordinator a.i.  
(September 2013 – September 2015)



#### The WWAP Secretariat:

**FRONT ROW** - Divyata Hunziker (Publications Officer), Lucia Chiodini (Administrative Clerk), Barbara Bracaglia (Senior Programme Assistant), Lucilla Minelli (Programme and Advocacy Officer), Stefan Uhlenbrook (Coordinator, Director), Michela Miletto (Deputy Coordinator), Ilaria Marini (Intern), Lisa Gastaldin (Administrative Assistant), Angela Renata Cordeiro Ortigara (Programme Officer), Marco Tonsini (Video and Graphic Designer).  
**BACK ROW** - Michele Brensacchi (Security and IT Clerk), Susan Schneegans (Editor, Sabbatical Leave Visitor), Arturo Frascani (Office Assistant), Tiziano Agabini (Consultant), Fabio Bianchi (Security), Laurens Thuy (Junior Programme Officer), Simona Gallese (Communications Assistant), Annette Green (Intern).  
Colleagues missing in the picture:  
Engin Koncagul (Programme Specialist), Lena Salame (Project Coordinator PCCP), Valentina Abete (Junior Publications Officer), Francesca Greco (Programme Officer Water and Gender), Richard Connor (Lead Editor WWDR), Francesco Gioffredi (Security).

# About WWAP

The UN World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) is a UN-wide programme led and administered by UNESCO. WWAP was founded in 2000 in response to a call from the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development for a United Nations System-wide effort to provide a periodic overview of the status (quantity and quality), use and management of freshwater resources, and present a global picture of the state of freshwater resources and major challenges.

WWAP's overall objective is: *"meeting the growing requirements of UN Member States and the international community for a wider range of policy-relevant information, timely and reliable information in various fields of water resources development and management, in particular through the production of the World Water Development Report (WWDR)"* (MoU from 2012 between the Republic of Italy and the UNESCO)

This is achieved, inter alia, through

- **Helping** Member States to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of their water policy decisions and programmes, and monitor the implementation of various internationally agreed water related goals;
- **Synthesizing and reporting** the progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 by considering the important inter-linkages between the goals and related indicators, including policy recommendations to assist Member States in the implementation of SDG 6;
- **Assisting** Member States to build and improve their capacities to collect and analyse data of relevance to their water policy initiatives;
- **Developing** conceptual and methodological frameworks for internationally comparable data and indicators for water resources;
- **Analysing** data in partnership with policy-makers and researchers, and promoting wider and more informed use of data for policy purposes at different scales;
- **Disseminating** WWAP messages and results by producing various means of effective communication tools and public education material; and

- **Compiling** regional, sub-regional and national case studies.

Given its **extrabudgetary nature** since its beginning in 2000, the World Water Assessment Programme has been funded by the Government of Japan until 2006. The Government of Italy took over in 2007 and has been the main donor up to now, with a total contribution of USD 22.2 millions up to 2016. In 2008, WWAP Secretariat moved from UNESCO Headquarters in Paris to the premises of Villa La Colombella in Perugia (Italy), which are generously provided by Regione Umbria. Over the years, the Programme has received additional financial and in-kind support from a number of donor countries (Andorra, Denmark, France, Germany, Mexico, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, The United Kingdom).

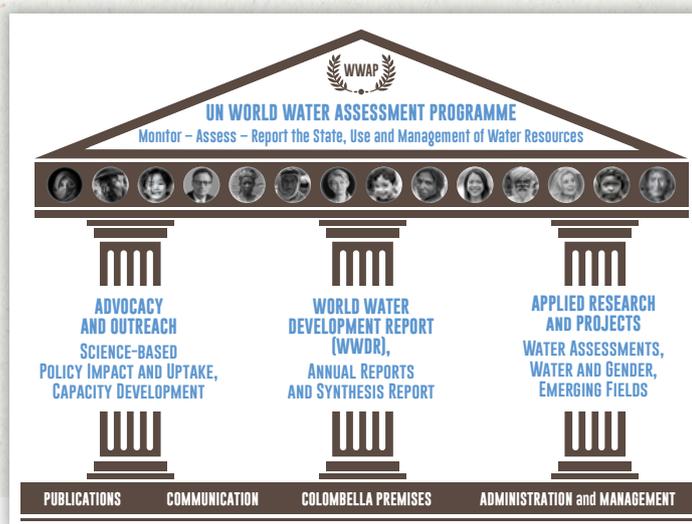
In 2015, in addition to the Italian annual base contribution, WWAP has leveraged US\$535,326 for projects and activities.

With respect to the original amount agreed in the ratified Memorandum of Understanding in 2012 between WWAP and the Republic of Italy, the base contribution has been declining in recent years while the demand for activities has significantly increased in the new era of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and through the annual publication of the WWDR (since 2014).

A **multi-donor platform** is currently being designed to support the functioning of the Programme in line with Member States' expectations and the recommendations provided by the Independent External Evaluation of WWAP in 2015.

## Independent External Evaluation of WWAP

An independent external evaluation was conducted in 2015 to assess the performance of WWAP for the 2007-2013 period. The evaluation produced recommendations regarding the strategic orientation of the Programme, noted the significance of the WWDR as one of the most visible publications of UNESCO and an authoritative source of information on freshwater. The capacity and experience to manage and coordinate the production of the WWDR were identified as important assets of the WWAP Secretariat that should be utilised in the era of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. The recommendations paved the way for a critical reflection on the future ambitions of WWAP and a new strategy was outlined, including the appointment of a new Coordinator, professor Stefan Uhlenbrook, who assumed office in November 2015.



# MILESTONES

A selection of events and milestones that have marked WWAP's activities during the reporting period. WWAP organized and contributed to several meetings globally in order to positively impact policy and decision-making in water management and reach out to a wide range of stakeholders with its findings.



2015

**15-17 JANUARY**  
UN-Water Annual International Zaragoza Conference, Spain. Preview presentation of WWDR 2015

**21-23 JANUARY**  
Write-shop on "The Water Rooms" Project, WWAP HQ, Perugia, Italy

**7 FEBRUARY**  
Consultation Meeting on the "Milan Charter" of EXPO 2015, Hangar Bicocca, Milan, Italy

**2-6 MARCH**  
Series of webinars on "The Water Rooms" Project

**9-10 MARCH**  
Partner Consultation Meeting for the GEF IW:LEARN Project, Vienna, Austria

**22 MARCH**  
World Water Day – Launch of the WWDR 2015, New Delhi, India (>15 regional events worldwide)  
*see page 8*

**13 APRIL**  
Special session on WWDR 2015 at 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, Daegu, South Korea

**4 MAY**  
Conference on "Water Management in the Alps", organized by the Swiss Pavilion at EXPO 2015, Milan, Italy

**9 MAY**  
Conference on "La meravigliosa storia dell'acqua", organized by several Italian Regions, including Umbria, at EXPO 2015, Milan, Italy

**21-22 MAY**  
WWAP High-level Conference on "Water for a Sustainable World" at Aquae Venezia, Venice, Italy  
*see page 14*

**11 JUNE**  
Intersectoral panel, 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Coordinating Council of the Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme, UNESCO HQ, Paris, France

**23 - 27 AUGUST**  
World Water Week Stockholm, Sweden, 'Water for a Sustainable World' and 'Gender sensitive indicators in sanitation and wastewater planning and implementation'

**12 SEPTEMBER**  
"Le Idee di EXPO", Round table preparatory discussion on water for the Milan Charter, Milan, Italy

**14 SEPTEMBER**  
Congress of the International Association of Hydrogeologists, Rome, Italy

**16-17 SEPTEMBER**  
Inception meeting for WWDR 2017 on "Wastewater: the untapped resource", WWAP HQ, Perugia, Italy

**21 SEPTEMBER**  
Launch of "The Water Rooms" Project, Italian Pavilion, EXPO 2015, Milan, Italy  
*see page 15*

<p><b>10 OCTOBER</b> Presentation of the “Milan Charter”, the legacy of EXPO 2015, Milan, Italy</p>	<p><b>15 OCTOBER</b> High-level event of the “River Contracts” organized by the Italian Ministry of Environment, EXPO 2015, Milan, Italy</p>	<p><b>19-23 OCTOBER</b> WWAP Capacity Building Training on “Water and Sustainable Development” (with AGFUND), WWAP HQ, Perugia, Italy <i>see page 11</i></p>	<p><b>28-30 OCTOBER</b> International Conference on “Greening the Islands”, Malta</p>
<p><b>10 NOVEMBER</b> Launch of the Technical Paper on ‘Sex-disaggregated indicators on water’ at the UNESCO General Conference, Paris, France <i>see page 12</i></p>	<p><b>30 NOV - 1 DEC</b> Regional IHP meeting on Smart Monitoring of SDGs, House of Regional Government Maastricht, the Netherlands</p>	<p><b>2 DECEMBER</b> Launch of publication on “Transboundary water governance and climate change adaptation”, UN Climate Change Conference (COP 21), Paris, France</p>	<p><b>15 DECEMBER</b> Presentation on the Water Decade and WWDR 2015, Vitoria, Brazil</p>
<p><b>15 FEBRUARY</b> WWAP High-level Symposium on “Achieving the SDGs through Education, Science and Culture around Water”, with UNESCO DG, Perugia, Italy</p>	<p><b>10 MARCH</b> Press Conference on WWDR 2016, UNESCO HQ, Paris, France</p>	<p><b>15-18 MARCH</b> Launch of Portuguese and Spanish versions of “Facing the Challenges” 2015, Itaipu, Brazil</p>	<p><b>18 MARCH</b> WWAP event on gender at the 60th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60), New York, USA <i>see page 12</i></p>
<p><b>22 MARCH</b> World Water Day Launch of the World WWDR 2016 (&gt;30 regional events worldwide) <i>see page 8</i></p>	<p><b>29 MAR - 1 APR</b> Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDGs (IAEG-SDG) meeting, Mexico City, Mexico</p>	<p><b>14 APRIL</b> Presentation of the WWDR 2016 at the UN Headquarters, New York, USA</p>	<p><b>9-14 MAY</b> 8<sup>th</sup> GEF International Waters Conference, Workshop on Gender within the IW:LEARN project, Negombo, Sri Lanka <i>see page 11</i></p>
<p><b>10 MAY</b> Presentation of WWDR 2016 to UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors, UNESCO, HQ, Paris, France</p>	<p><b>12 MAY</b> High-level event on Water and Jobs, Peking University, Beijing, China</p>	<p><b>26 MAY</b> International Conference Climatters 2016, Budapest, Hungary</p>	<p><b>1 JUNE</b> Seminar on Water and Jobs, World’s Leading Trade Fair for Water, Sewage, Waste and Raw Materials Management (IFAT), Munich, Germany</p>

2015

2016

# Informing Policy-makers

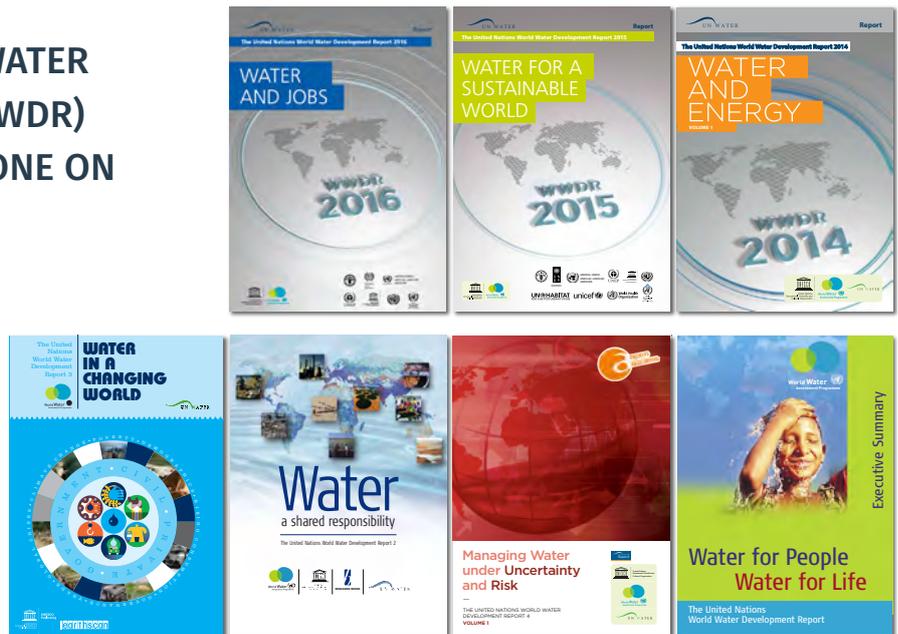
WWAP seeks to equip water managers and key decision-makers with information, knowledge and skills necessary to effectively contribute to the development and implementation of water-related policies. Water is essential for all aspects of sustainable development; therefore, it is important that the leaders in government, private sector and civil society base their decisions on science-based and up-to-date information.

## UNITED NATIONS WORLD WATER DEVELOPMENT REPORT (WWDR) – THE UN DELIVERING AS ONE ON WATER ISSUES

The WWDR is the UN-Water flagship report on water. It is a comprehensive review that gives an overall picture of the state of the world's freshwater resources and aims to provide decision-makers with the tools to implement sustainable use of water.

From 2003 till 2012, the WWDR was produced and released every three years taking a holistic approach. Following a Global Stakeholder Survey in 2012, UN-Water decided to change the periodicity of the WWDR into an annual production with a thematic focus on different strategic water issues. **This authoritative publication is the result of a highly concerted process among the 31 members and 38 partners comprising UN-Water under the coordination of WWAP.** Since 2003, seven reports have been launched: Water for People, Water for Life (2003); Water, a Shared Responsibility (2006); Water in a Changing World (2009); Managing Water under Uncertainty and Risk (2012); Water and Energy (2014); Water for a Sustainable World (2015) and Water and Jobs (2016). The WWDR is one of the most downloaded publications of UNESCO.

**For more information:**  
[www.unesco.org/water/wwap/wwdr](http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/wwdr)



## WWDR 2015: WATER FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

The year 2015 marked a critical milestone on the road to Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development - as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) came to a close, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were proclaimed to guide national governments and the international community in the quest to achieve sustainable development.

**WWDR 2015 was especially positioned to highlight the central role of water in every dimension of sustainable development:** economic growth, social equity and environmental sustainability. Major challenges and drivers of change, such as population growth, increasing demand for food, energy and goods, as well as climate

change, will affect – and can be affected by – water resources, services and related benefits. An inspiring chapter opened the 2015 edition of the WWDR, looking ahead and imagining how the world would look like if humanity was able to achieve a water-secure and fair development: a Vision of 2050.



A short and compelling animated video was produced by WWAP to illustrate the "The future of water – a Vision to 2050"

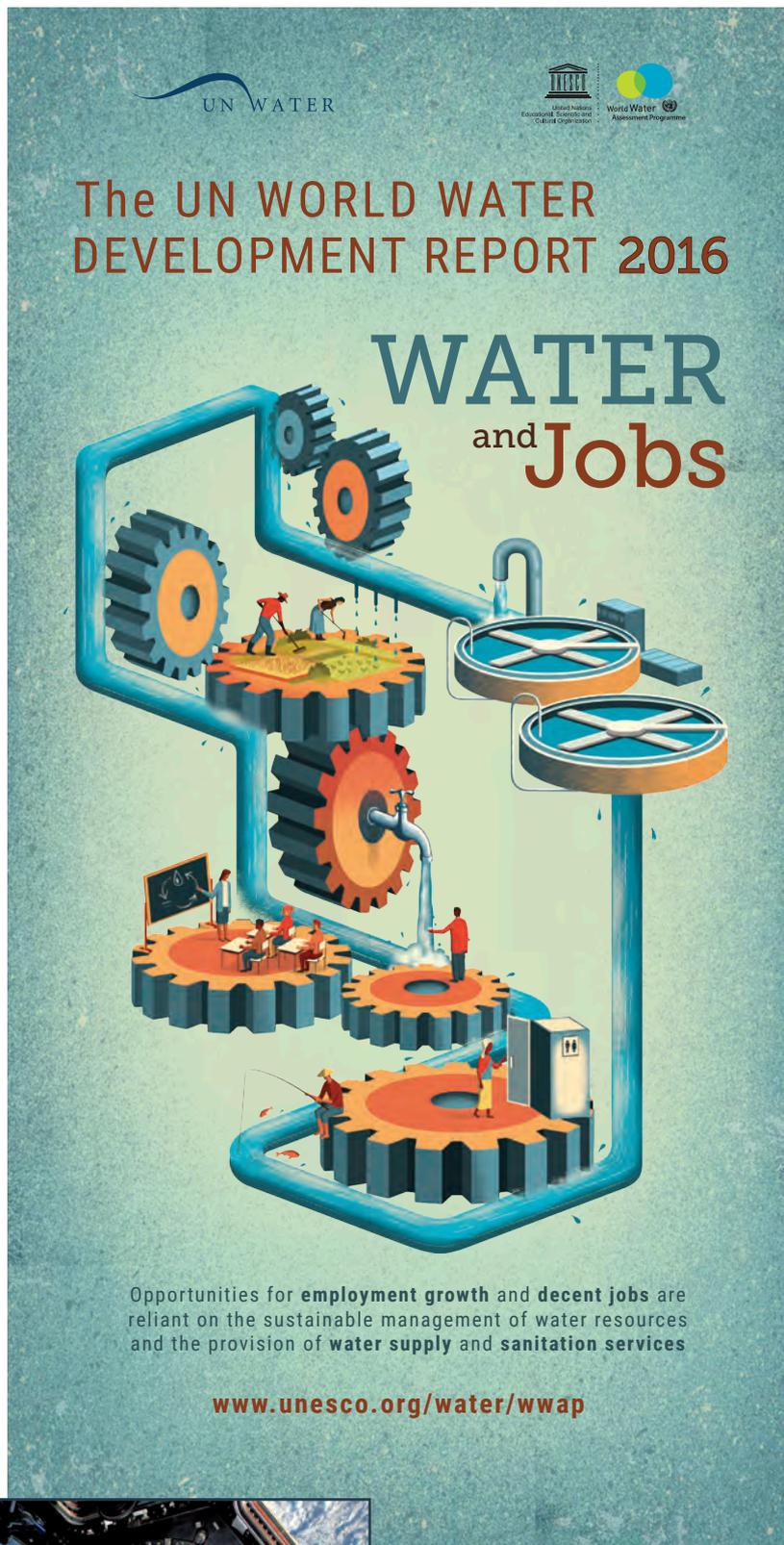


Illustration by Davide Bonazzi © UNESCO

## WWDR 2016: WATER AND JOBS

Today, **three out of four jobs depend on water** and one billion people are employed in three heavily water-dependent sectors (agriculture, fishery and forestry). The theme of WWDR 2016 — Water and Jobs — focuses on how adequate quantity and quality of water supports sustainable economic development and can help attain a healthy, productive workforce and support the needed transformation to resilient societies and economies.

In order to achieve a sustainable development based on a healthy environment, including good governance of water resources, a sound economy as well as opportunities for decent jobs, countries need to plan, regulate and invest. In this respect, WWDR 2016 presents policy recommendations related to the impact of investments in sustainable water resources and ecosystem management and the development of infrastructures to ensure access to safe and reliable WASH services. The large multiplier effect for investments in water is also demonstrated.

### Nuevo/Neuf/新!

For the first time, the WWDR 2016 has been translated in French and Spanish, thanks to the financial contribution of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and UN-Water/International Labour Organization, respectively. Chinese translation of both 2015 and 2016 editions of the WWDR are ongoing (as of June 2016), thanks to the support of China Water & Power Press.



### WWAP IN SPACE

*“On Earth, like on ISS, water is limited: let’s use it wisely. We’re all crew of spaceship Earth”,* tweeted the Italian astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti from the International Space Station on 20 March 2015. Her message echoed the findings of the WWDR 2015, which was being launched at the same time in New Delhi to mark World Water Day celebrations.

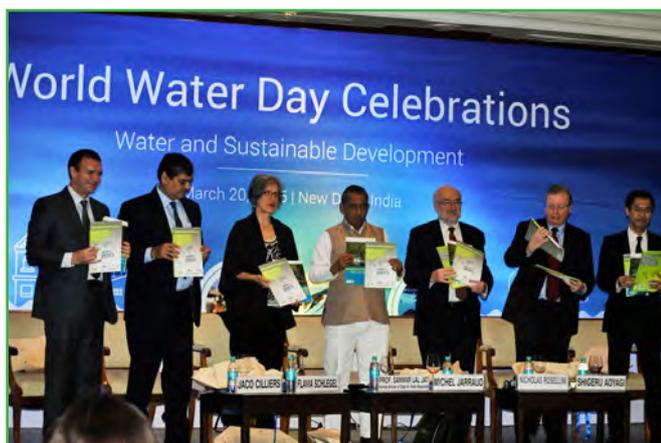


## WWDR OUT INTO THE WORLD

# 2015

The main launch of WWDR 2015 was held in **New Delhi** (India) during the UN Celebrations for World Water Day. It was followed by regional launches in **Brazil** (Brasilia), **Egypt** (Cairo), **France** (Paris), **Germany** (Bonn), **Indonesia** (Jakarta), **Italy** (Perugia and Rome), **Jamaica** (Kingston), **Kenya** (Nairobi), **Kazakhstan** (Almaty), **Mongolia** (Ulaanbaatar), **Thailand** (Bangkok), **United States of America** (New York) and **Uruguay** (Montevideo).

The WWDR 2015:	EN
Facing the Challenges:	EN, PT, ES
Executive Summary:	ARA, CH, EN, ES, DE, FR, IT, KOR, PT and RU
Facts and Figures:	EN, ES, FR, IT and PT



### WHAT'S NEXT?

2017 is the year to showcase the critical role of water in a circular economy. The next edition of the WWDR focuses on 'Wastewater: an Untapped Resource'.

2018 WWDR will focus on 'Nature-based Solutions for Water'.

# 2016

The main launch of the WWDR 2016 was held at ILO Headquarters in **Geneva**, Switzerland, during the UN Celebrations for World Water Day (22 March). Regional events on "Water and Jobs" were held in more than 30 countries: **Argentina** (Buenos Aires), **Austria** (Vienna), **Belgium** (EU Parliament Brussels), **Botswana** (Gaborone), **Brazil** (Brasilia), **Cape Verde** (Praia), **China** (Beijing), **Dominican Republic** (Santo Domingo), **Egypt** (Alexandria, Cairo), **Ethiopia** (Addis Ababa, Bahir Dar), **Finland** (Helsinki), **France** (Paris), **Germany** (Munich), **Ghana** (Accra), **Italy** (Firenze, Perugia, Rome, Trento, Venice), **India** (New Delhi), **Indonesia** (Jakarta), **Jordan** (Amman), **Kazakhstan** (Almaty), **Kenya** (Nairobi), **Kyrgyzstan** (Bishkek), **Mongolia** (Ulaanbaatar), **Mozambique** (Maputo), **Nigeria** (Abuja, Kaduna), **South Sudan** (Juba), **Swaziland** (Mbabane), **Tajikistan** (Dushanbe), **Thailand** (Bangkok), **The Netherlands** (Delft, The Hague), **Uruguay** (Montevideo) and **Uzbekistan** (Tashkent), **the USA** (United Nations Headquarters, New York).

The WWDR 2016:	EN, FR, ES
Executive Summary:	ARA, CH, EN, ES, DE, FR, IT, KOR, PT and RU
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# Addressing the Policy-Science Interface

Policy-making processes related to water resources need to be rooted in solid scientific information. However, the exchange among policy-makers and scientists/researchers is not always effective. WWAP is engaged to bridge this gap through the production of targeted science-based material for effective policy advice and recommendations.

## WWAP and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



*"This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. (...) All countries and all stakeholders,*

*acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want to heal and secure our planet. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind."* (A/RES/70/1 - Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development).

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and 169 targets make up an ambitious and universal agenda which balances the three dimensions of sustainable development: economy, society and environment. In particular, SDG 6 aims to achieve the unfinished business of the MDGs related to water and sanitation as well as address crucial additional aspects, such as water resources, wastewater/reducing pollution, water efficiency, integrated water resource management (IWRM), transboundary water resources, protection of water-related ecosystems, capacity building and water governance, among others.

WWAP is in a unique position to assess and report on the world's freshwater resources as well as address the policy/science interface in the efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Programme plans to publish a 'Synthesis Report on SDG 6' under the umbrella of UN-Water which will inform Member States about the progress made and key policy recommendations to achieve SDG 6. The report will present a synthesis of targets and indicators as well as the important inter-linkages between SDG 6-goal related indicators and targets.

### WWAP@COP21

In December 2015, WWAP launched the publication "Transboundary water governance and climate change adaptation: International law, policy guidelines and best practice application" at the UN Climate Conference (COP21) in Paris. The publication, prepared by IUCN Environmental Law Centre, IHP-HELP Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science University of Dundee and Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, explores the role of international law and water governance for the formulation of sound climate change adaptation strategies in a transboundary context.

### WWAP Symposium on "Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Education, Science and Culture around Water", Perugia, Italy

On 15 February 2016, UNESCO Director-General Ms Irina Bokova was conferred *Laurea honoris causa* by the University for Foreigners of Perugia. The ceremony was followed by a high-level symposium at WWAP office at Villa La Colombella, which was participated by: Ms Bokova; Mario Giro, Deputy Minister of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; Barbara Degani, Undersecretary, Italian Ministry of the Environment and the Protection of Land and Sea; Enzo Fortunato, Director, Press Office of the Sacred Convent of Assisi, Italy; Professor Huub Savenije, President, International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS); and other high-level representatives of Italy, Regione Umbria, University for Foreigners of Perugia and the University of Perugia. The speakers highlighted their commitment to enhance the policy-science interface and the importance of investing in modern water assessment as key factors for long-lasting peace and sustainable development. Ms Bokova thanked the Italian government and Regione Umbria for their longstanding support to WWAP: "Italy and UNESCO share the same vision that water is not just a technical matter, water is about human dignity, it is about gender equality, it is about peace and science diplomacy."



# Monitoring Regional Trends

Challenges, interlinkages and opportunities in the water realm can vary considerably from one region to another. In close cooperation with relevant UN regional agencies and economic commissions, WWAP contributes to reporting on regional trends through in-depth analyses featured in the WWDR series on the most relevant challenges and opportunities in Africa, the Arab Region, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

In this endeavour, close collaborations with UNESCO Permanent Delegations, national commissions and field offices are crucial. As an integral part of the UNESCO Water Sciences Division, WWAP can count on an exceptional network comprising IHP (International Hydrological Programme) National Committees, the Institute for Water Education (UNESCO-IHE), water-related Category II Centres and Chairs and many other affiliated partners that contribute to the collection and dissemination of regional findings and best practices.

## FACING THE CHALLENGES: WWAP CASE STUDIES

Since its inception, the development of case studies has been an integral part of WWAP's work to which various partners have significantly provided inputs to bolster the contents of the WWDR and to support its applicability in real world cases. This prompted WWAP Secretariat to allocate more space in the report to present findings of the case studies through a series of separate, stand-alone publication. The "Facing the Challenges" (Case Studies and Indicators Report) was first produced in 2009 and accompanied four WWDR editions. In 2015, WWAP concluded the period of producing case studies related to the MDGs and temporarily stopped producing the "Facing the challenges" volume to review its approach, methodology and presentation of snapshots from the field in line with the new Sustainable Development agenda. Overall, since 2003, **78 case studies at basin, national and regional levels** were published by WWAP.

**"Furthering case studies on examples both within the developing and developed world to showcase best regional practices will provide some benchmarking and direction for policy setting in the water arena". (UN-Water Global Stakeholder Survey, 2012).**



### WHAT'S NEXT?

WWAP has developed a new concept to **showcase progress and successful stories from around the world** to continue the legacy of case studies through the use of innovative and compelling means for reaching out to the policy level and the large public. A fundraising strategy to support the implementation of this proposal is being presented to interested Member States and other potential partners. This approach is aligned with the recommendations of the independent evaluation of WWAP (2015), which suggested to "pursue innovative approaches to collecting and reporting on case studies ... relying more on videos and narratives, and reporting on hotspots across a variety of scales (from the river basin to the national or regional levels)".

# Building and Improving Capacity

Water professionals need a better understanding of the broader social, economic and political context, and politicians need to be better informed about water issues. WWAP provides knowledge-based workshops, tools and policy recommendations at the national and regional levels in order to develop capacity of both, water professionals and policy-makers on sustainable water resources management.

## Capacity Development on Water and Sustainable Development (in partnership with AGFUND)



With the financial support of the Arab Gulf Programme for Development (AGFUND), WWAP organized the first edition of the Training Workshop on Water and Sustainable

Development in October 2015. The workshop sessions focused on: data and information, sustainable and integrated water management under a scenario of competition between sectors and increasing extreme water-related events (e.g. floods and droughts), and planning of water infrastructures. The topics were intensively discussed by representatives from 10 African countries, including Botswana, Cabo Verde, Ghana, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Sudan, Swaziland and Tanzania. In order to support South-South knowledge-sharing, the participants shared their experiences by presenting case studies. Participants from 16 African countries will attend the second training in July 2016.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

**Development of an online capacity development tool.** Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are online free tools of capacity development which can be used everywhere and by everyone. WWAP has developed a proposal for MOOCs based on the annual themes of the WWDR series and is seeking financial support for its implementation starting with the topic of wastewater in 2017. The MOOCs would also build on other relevant UNESCO and UN-Water findings to develop capacity of individuals and governments, particularly from developing countries.



“There is no doubt, I am going to alter a lot of things in our operational manual and the way we conduct our own capacity development programmes. This training has really empowered me.”

Adeyinka Sobowale,  
Nigeria

“It was a wonderful experience being in Perugia. Personally, I gained a lot from WWAP team, trainers and my colleagues, this was one of the best training I have ever attended”

David Bevin Munkya,  
Tanzania

## Capacity Development on Gender Equality for Improved Water Resources Management (with GEF and WWF)

In 2014, WWAP and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) have joined forces to design and execute the gender component of the IW:LEARN Project (2015-2019) financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by UNDP and UNEP. The component aims at improving the efficiency of the International Waters portfolio through an enhanced consideration of gender equality in water resources management. The gender toolkit developed by WWAP will be at the centre of targeted training to improve capacity of project managers and concerned communities on the methodology to collect sex-disaggregated data on water. This intervention will review and condense gender strategies from main GEF implementing agencies and analyse existing literature to inform the capacity modules, in light of the monitoring the SDGs, particularly Goal 5 on women's empowerment and Goal 6 on water.

At the 8<sup>th</sup> biennial conference of GEF International Waters projects (8-14 May 2016, Sri Lanka), WWAP and WWF jointly organized the first workshop on “Gender Equality for Improved Water Resources Management: connecting SDG 5 and 6”.

Presentations and interventions

from GEF Agencies and project/countries representatives allowed for a constructive debate which paved the way for upcoming capacity development efforts in this project.



# Developing Indicators and Methodologies

Regular and reliable monitoring of the availability, quality and use of freshwater is essential for socio-economic development and poverty alleviation. Since the first edition of the WWDR, WWAP has compiled an array of key indicators that link global and regional databases to assist countries in the assessment of their water resources. These sector-specific indicators presented general trends with respect to demographics, state of water resources, water demand, state of environment, human well-being, progress towards MDGs, etc. Updated depending on data availability, WWAP reported on these selected indicators initially via WWDR and later as a part of the 'Facing the Challenges' Report. However, in this quest, findings have revealed poor data availability and underlined that "data on almost every subject related to water issues is usually lacking, unreliable, incomplete or inconsistent". Furthermore, it has been "learned that merely collecting data is not enough; it must be brought together, analysed and converted into sound information and knowledge."

## Water and Gender

Evidence-based data trace a direct relation between women's active involvement and training in water management and consequent improvement of livelihoods. Women are primary stakeholders in the water and sanitation sectors; and men and women typically express different priorities, uses and needs for water and sanitation. **Water assessments cannot be realistic without a gender perspective:** gender analysis is an essential lens for understanding the provision, management and conservation of the world's water resources. The WWAP Gender Toolkit for the collection of sex-disaggregated water data provides a first step towards a transformative process in the way water should be managed in the future.



### The 60<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60) recognizes the importance of sex-disaggregated data



In March 2016 UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova voiced support for gender-sensitive water data at the event organized by WWAP at the CSW60. Ms Bokova called for urgent action on the collection of sex-disaggregated water data as a means to the full achievement of the SDGs, which should "leave no one behind". The implication is that both women and men must be empowered to equitably access and manage water, and participate in decision-making

related to water resources. Pamela Tswete, South Africa's Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, called on Member States to take collective action to ensure the availability of clean water for all, stating that "it is our moral obligation; access to water is a human right". H. E. Katalin Bogyay, Ambassador of Hungary to the United Nations, further highlighted the important role of women as "agents of change for sustainable water management". The importance of sex-disaggregated data and gendered differences in relation to water has been acknowledged in the Agreed Conclusions from CSW60.

### AMCOW Task Force for the African Water and Sanitation M&E

Since 2012, WWAP has participated in the Task Force for the African Water and Sanitation Monitoring and Evaluation and Reporting to the African Union Assembly on Sharm El Sheikh Declaration, which is under the umbrella of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW). WWAP's major role in this Task Force is to promote the use of sex-disaggregated indicators for the SDGs. In November 2014, AMCOW recognized the gender indicators proposed by WWAP and formally committed to utilize them for the water assessment in the Africa Region through country-based surveys.



## WWAP Gender-Sensitive Water Monitoring Assessment and Reporting

Since 2014, WWAP has been leading a ground-breaking initiative on Gender-Sensitive Water Monitoring Assessment and Reporting. Together with its Advisory Group on Water and Gender, WWAP has developed a comprehensive toolkit for the collection of sex-disaggregated data on water. The toolkit is comprised of i) a list of high-priority gender-sensitive water indicators, ii) a proposed methodology for collecting sex-disaggregated data; iii) a guideline manual for data gathering in the field and iv) a questionnaire for practitioners to collect sex-disaggregated freshwater data and information.

The comprehensive list of priority gender-sensitive indicators fall under five broad topics: i) water

governance; ii) safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene; iii) decision-making and knowledge production; iv) transboundary water resources management; and v) water for income generation for industry and agriculture. Although the term “indicators” connotes a quantitative approach, many of the gendered aspects of water and sanitation cannot be reduced sensibly to only quantitative indicators. Therefore, the methodological bases followed by WWAP Advisory Group on Water and Gender combined different sets of quantitative and qualitative information.

In 2015 the Toolkit has been tested in selected pilot areas to verify the feasibility, applicability, impact and transformative potential, and effective

support to countries.

WWAP is currently searching to leverage funds to fulfil its commitment to contribute in closing the gender data gap on water resources, through a broad dissemination and application of sex-disaggregated data methodology and gender-sensitive water indicators in different regions of the world, in cooperation with national authorities, research institutes, NGOs and international organizations. Activities with the countries will particularly focus on capacity development of technical staff of national institutions, local practitioners and researchers to collect sex-disaggregated data by use of the WWAP questionnaires and guidelines.

*“The implementation and monitoring of the post-2015 development agenda call for the production and sharing of reliable, comparable, statistical data at the global level. The fact that effective public policies cannot exist without robust statistical data poses an unprecedented challenge for the entire world.”* The fundamental role of reliable and accurate data was stressed by Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO, on the International Day of Statistics 2015, recalling that *“The 17 new Sustainable Development Goals and their 169 targets call for the development of hundreds of indicators for the more accurate measurement of education quality, gender inequalities and a particular economic sector’s contribution to poverty eradication.”*

### Testing the methodology on the ground: the GGRETA Project

The Groundwater Governance of Resources in Transboundary Aquifers Project (GGRETA, phase one 2013-2015) is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and executed by UNESCO-IHP, with the technical support of WWAP for the gender component (toolkit). The objective of the project is to promote tools for improving the management of transboundary groundwater resources through detailed indicator-based assessment of the current conditions of three transboundary aquifers (TBAs). Tailored field surveys were undertaken in three regions in 2015, after the selection of core-set of indicators using WWAP gender methodology. GGRETA project is the first ever multi-country and multi-regional water-monitoring project with comparable sex-disaggregated data. The second phase (2016- 2018) of the project will develop a domestic level capacity-building component on water and gender focused on the pilot TBAs, and applicable to all water resources in the GGRETA countries.



# Raising Awareness and Promoting Environmental Education

A targeted and smart scientific dissemination is essential to raise awareness and promote water sustainability. WWAP is investing cutting-edge and innovative means to reach out to its target audience (policy-makers and water professionals) as well as to the public at large. Better awareness contributes to the improvement of the livelihoods of people, particularly in developing countries. Through these efforts, WWAP and its partners support societal transformation by explaining the urgency to minimize water footprint, optimize freshwater use efficiency and promote sustainable water management in a circular economy.

## The Universal Exposition 2015: “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life”

The Universal Exposition (EXPO) took place in Milan, Italy, from May till October 2015. This global platform provided an opportunity to reflect on the profound interconnections between food production, energy security and water management. WWAP contributed to the scientific debates through presentations at events organized by partners (such as Edison, UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Energy, Italian Ministry of Environment and many others) and actively participated in the formulation of Carta di Milano, the manifesto that carries the legacy of the Exposition.



### WWAP Conference at Aquee Venezia on WWDR 2015

In May 2015, WWAP organized a two-day conference at Aquee Venezia (parallel Expo site dedicated to water) with the financial support of Expo Venice. The Conference was fully devoted to the topics of WWDR 2015 on “Water for a Sustainable World” and saw the participation of high-level representatives from UNESCO, Italian Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Finance, Regione Umbria, academia, media and private sector, among others.

## WATER FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

### WHAT'S NEXT?

**Translating science into visual storytelling.** A graphic visualization of the water challenges faced by societies living in hotspot regions can overcome potential language, cultural and educational barriers. In developing countries and rural communities, the literacy rate is often low. Thus, the visualization of conceptual dynamics can grant easier access to sound scientific information and complex matters. WWAP developed a pilot proposal for a “graphic novel” to translate WWDR’s technical findings through the use of comics and poignant texts and is currently seeking financial support to implement this project as of 2017.



## The Water Rooms Project



The Water Rooms consists of an inspirational itinerary of five short animated movies intertwined with five monologues that trigger interest and encourage learning about freshwater resources in the context of sustainable development. The initiative inaugurates a new outreach approach in WWP's strategy aiming to enhance the dissemination of the messages of the WWDR series and exemplify the complex interlinkages

between water, food, energy, environment and development, and the competing uses – and users – of this precious resource. The project was coordinated by WWP and the Italian Ministry of Environment, together with Unilever and the support of Edison. More than 100 organizations and individuals were engaged in the preparatory process including representatives of academia, donor organizations, NGOs, UN Agencies, private sector, scientists, youth and women networks, renowned movie studios, animators, journalists and authors. The project was launched at the Italian Pavilion of Expo 2015 on International Day of Peace (21 September) in the framework of the UN Zero Hunger Challenge and UNESCO's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations, in the presence of high-level representatives of project partners. Since then, the videos have been shown all around the world and more screenings are on schedule. Videos and related resources are freely available at: [www.thewaterrooms.org](http://www.thewaterrooms.org)



In collaboration with

MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE  
ENERGIA E TERRA

In the framework of

UNESCO  
EXPO MILANO 2015

Main partner

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EDISON

1. Movie "Where is water?" by Steve Cutts
2. Movie "The Water Nexus Games" by Bitmama
3. Movie "The Good Water Governance Recipe" by Francesca Ferrario
4. Prof. Tony Allan, monologue writer
5. Dr Vandana Shiva, monologue writer
6. Movie "War or Peace?" by Studio Bozzetto
7. Movie "The Hydrological Cycle" by Codesign



## CONTACTS

UNESCO Programme Office on Global Water Assessment

Villa La Colombella, Loc. Colombella Alta  
06134 Perugia (PG) - ITALY

[www.unesco.org/water/wwap](http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap)

[wwap@unesco.org](mailto:wwap@unesco.org)

(+39) 075 591 1001



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