

International Hydrological Programme

55th session of the IHP Bureau
(Paris, 20-22 June 2017)

UNESCO's WATER FAMILY

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

SUMMARY

The number of category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO centres and of UNESCO Chairs related to water expanded during the reporting period. Proposals for the establishment of 3 new category 2 centres will be submitted to the 202nd Session of the UNESCO Executive Board in October 2017. Some of the Agreements of category 2 centres are in the process of renewal and will be aligned with the new strategy for category 2 centres (37/C/18 Part 1 Annex 1). Following the expiration of the Agreement for the operation of UNESCO-IHE as a category 1 institute on 31 December 2016, UNESCO and IHE in The Netherlands entered into a Partnership Agreement running from 1st January 2017 and until 30 June 2018. In the meantime, procedures to establish IHE as a category 2 institute under the auspices of UNESCO were initiated, and a special consultation of the IHP Intergovernmental Council was launched on 15 February 2017 to evaluate the proposals concerning the International Centre on Water and Transdisciplinarity (CIRAT) in Brazil and the Institute for Water Education (IHE) as category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO.

The Bureau may wish to:

- 5.1 Take note of the IHP Information Kit.
- 5.2 Take note of the status of the UNESCO Water Family.
- 5.3 Take note of the Special Consultation of the IHP Intergovernmental Council on IHE and CIRAT and other proposed centres.
- 5.4 Take note of the operation of the UNESCO Water Family.
- 5.5 Take note of the cooperation with WWAP.
- 5.6 Take note of the new status of IHE in the transition period after its expiration as a category 1 institute, and before its proposed establishment as a category 2 institute under the auspices of UNESCO.

IHP Information Kit (agenda sub-item 5.1)

1. The IHP Secretariat has prepared and is disseminating an IHP Information Kit. The kit provides general information on the functioning, governance and objectives of IHP, contact coordinates at the IHP Secretariat at UNESCO Headquarters and in the Field Offices, as well as reference documents about IHP-VIII and its initiatives. It provides elements to deepen knowledge about the Programme, support active participation and contribute to enhancing IHP's visibility and recognition of its achievements, in line with the Council Resolution XXII-3 and the IHP Communication and Outreach Strategy (cf. IHP/BUR-LV/6 and 7, respectively). The kit is also available online: <http://en.unesco.org/themes/water-security/hydrology/resources>. This kit shall help introducing new IHP focal points into their role and familiarizing new UNESCO water related Chairs and category 2 centres as well as Permanent Delegations with IHP.

Status of UNESCO's Water Family (agenda sub-item 5.2)

2. UNESCO works to build the scientific knowledge base to help countries in the sustainable management of their water resources. This is done through its UNESCO Water Family comprising the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), water centres under the auspices of UNESCO and water related Chairs and UNITWIN Networks. UNESCO's Water Family operates as a global network that works together to implement the organization's strategic goals.

3. The Institute for Water Education (IHE, formerly UNESCO-IHE) does no longer exist as a category 1 Institute and as an integral part of UNESCO since the expiration of its Agreement on 31 December 2016, but is operating and contributing to the network within a Partnership Agreement with UNESCO, valid until 30 June 2018.

4. The network of 36 established water-related centres under the auspices of UNESCO category 2 institutes and centres) contributes to the implementation of IHP at the international and regional level. Up to the date, amongst the 6 new centres approved during the 38th Session of the General Conference in November 2015, only the Integrated and Multi-Disciplinary Water Resources Management Centre at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece was signed. The Central Laboratory for Environmental Monitoring (CLEQM), El-Qanater, Egypt is still pending signature of its finalized draft Agreement. The Agreements for the African Regional Centre for Ecohydrology (ARCE), in Ethiopia; the Water Research Centre at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, in Kuwait; the International Centre for the Integrated Management of Watershed and Bio-resources in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions, in the Islamic Republic of Iran; and the Regional Water Research Centre (RWRC) at the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, in Pakistan are still in the drafting process. The International Groundwater Resources Assessment Center (IGRAC) was renewed on 6 December last, and the International Centre for Water Security and Sustainable Management in the Republic of Korea (i-WSSM) was realigned with the new integrated strategy for category 2 centres and institutes under the auspices of UNESCO (37 C/18), and signed on 7 December. Finally, 3 proposals for the establishment of category 2 centres will be submitted to the 202nd Session of the UNESCO Executive Board in October 2017:

- the Regional Centre on Water Security (CERSHI), Mexico
- the International Centre on Water and Transdisciplinarity (CIRAT), Brazil
- the Institute for Water Education (IHE), The Netherlands

Regional Centre on Water Security (CERSHI), Mexico

5. In accordance with the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes/Centres under the auspices of UNESCO (37 C/18 Part 1, Attachment 1, Article 3. (ii).(c)) approved by the 37th session of the UNESCO General Conference (37/C Resolution 93), the IHP Intergovernmental Council was invited to examine whether the proposal fits within the relevant strategic programme framework. By Resolution XXII-9, the IHP Council considered and endorsed the proposal at its 22nd session (13-17 June 2016). The Director-General authorized the feasibility study for the proposed centre on 29 July 2016, it was then conducted in Mexico from 16 to 20 January 2017.

6. The UNESCO Water Family currently includes 48 water-related UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN networks. The 6 proposals for water related chairs approved in the second half of 2016 include the: UNESCO Chair in Water Resources Management (Mekelle University, Ethiopia); UNESCO Chair in Water Resources Management (German-Kazakh University, Kazakhstan); UNESCO Chair in the Sustainable Water Research for Climate adaptation in Arid Environment (University of Namibia, Namibia); UNESCO Chair in International Water Cooperation (Uppsala University, Sweden); UNESCO Chair in Water Sciences (University of Birmingham, United Kingdom), and the UNESCO Chair in Ecohydrology Water for Ecosystems and Societies (University of Algarve, Portugal).

7. As of the date of the writing of this document, the status of pending signature and/or renewals and entry into force of existing agreements for category 2 centres is as follows:

Centre name	General Conference	Action
African Regional Centre for Ecohydrology (ARCE), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	38 C (2015)	Agreement in drafting process
African Centre for Global Change and Water Research (ACGCWR)	37 C (2013)	Awaiting for communication on draft Agreement since previous officials have been replaced
Central Laboratory for Environmental Quality Monitoring at El Qanater, (CLEQM), Egypt	38 C (2015)	Finalized draft Agreement. Pending signature
Water Research Centre at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (WRC), Kuwait	38 C (2015)	Agreement in drafting process
Regional Centre for Shared Aquifer Resources Management (RCSARM), Libya	34 C (2007)	The Agreement signed in 2007 did not enter into force. No action can be pursued due to the political situation in the country
International Research and Training Centre on Erosion and Sedimentation, (IRTCES), Beijing, China	22 C (1983) Agreement expired in 2011	The agreement was aligned with the new model agreement but is still in drafting process
Asia-Pacific Centre for Ecohydrology (APCE), Cibinong, Indonesia	35 C (2009)	The Agreement signed in 2011 did not enter into force

Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (RCUWM), Tehran, Iran	31 C (2001) Agreement expired in 2016	Evaluation has been performed, renewal proposal to be submitted at the 202 nd session of UNESCO's Executive Board
International centre for the Integrated Management of Watershed and Bio-resources in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions (IMWBRA), Tehran, Iran	38 C (2015)	Agreement in drafting process
Regional Humid Tropics Hydrology and Water Resources Centre for South-East Asia and the Pacific, (HTC) Kuala Lumpur	26 C (1991) Agreement expired in 2012	The Regional Bureau in Jakarta is in discussion with the Government for the renewal. Review completed in 2013, to be submitted to the Executive Board
Regional centre for Water Management Research in Arid Zones, Pakistan (RCWMRIAZ)	34 C (2007)	Agreement in drafting process
Regional Water Research Centre, Pakistan (RWRC-COMSATS)	38 C (2015)	Finalized draft Agreement. Pending signature
International Centre on Hydroinformatics for Integrated Water Resources Management (CIH), Parque Tecnológico Itaipu Binacional, Brazil and Paraguay	34C (2007)	Tripartite Agreement signed in June 2016 with Itaipu Binacional, but not with the Governments of Brazil and Paraguay.
International Centre for Education, Capacity Building and Applied Research in Water (HIDROEX), Minas Gerais, Brazil	34 C (2007)	The centre is in transformation and discussions are open concerning its possible future status
Water Centre for Arid and Semi-Arid Zones of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAZALAC), Chile	33 C (2005), Agreement expired in 2016	Process of renewal was initiated, awaiting for approval of draft agreement by Chile
Regional Centre on Urban Water Management for Latin America and the Caribbean, (RCUWM-LAC), Colombia	33 C (2005)	The Agreement signed in 2007 did not enter into force. Awaiting information from the Government on the status of the Centre
Centre for the Sustainable Management of Water Resources in the Caribbean Island States (CEHICA)	35 C (2009)	The Agreement signed in 2010 did not enter into force
Regional centre for groundwater management for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEREGAS)	37 C (2013)	The Agreement signed in 2014 did not enter into force
Centre on Integrated and Multi-disciplinary Water	38 C (2015)	The Agreement signed in 2016 did not enter into force

Resources Management (AUTH)		
International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC)	36 C (2011)	The Agreement signed in 2016 did not enter into force
European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology (ERCE), Lodz, Poland	33 C (2005) Agreement expired in 2012	Agreement negotiation continues. Tripartite agreement is being drafted to resolve legal issues. Review completed in 2012; not introduced yet to the Executive Board
International Centre on Coastal Ecohydrology, Portugal (ICCE)	35 C (2009)	The Agreement signed in 2010 did not enter into force
International Research and Training Centre on Urban Drainage (IRTCUD), Belgrade, Serbia	24 C (1987) Agreement was valid only for a year in 1989	Awaiting response from the Government on the status of the Centre

Out of the 36 centres:

- 13 were signed and entered into force;
- 8 were signed but did not yet enter into force;
- 8 are in process of drafting the Agreement or pending signature;
- 6 are under renewal;
- 1 is in transformation.

Report on the Special Consultation of the IHP Intergovernmental Council on IHE and CIRAT and proposed centres under the auspices of UNESCO (agenda sub-item 5.3)

8. Following the 22nd session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council (IGC), held in Paris on June 13-17 2016, the IHP Secretariat has followed up the consultations between the Director-General of UNESCO and the Government of the Netherlands regarding the status of UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, on 16 November 2016, UNESCO received a proposal for the establishment of an 'Institute for Water Education IHE Delft, The Netherlands, as a category 2 institute under the auspices of UNESCO. The Secretariat further received on 6 December 2016 a revised proposal for the establishment of an International Centre on Water and Transdisciplinarity (CIRAT) in the Federative Republic of Brazil, as a category 2 institute under the auspices of UNESCO.

9. After consultation with the IHP Bureau members on 6 December 2016, and in compliance with Article XII paragraph 28 of the Rules of Procedure of the IHP IGC on special consultation by correspondence, on 15 February 2017 the IHP Council Members were invited to review both aforementioned proposals in order to determine if they fit within the relevant framework and sectoral strategy of UNESCO, and provide a recommendation as to whether a feasibility study for each of the proposed centres should be conducted.

10. Regarding IHE, the IHP Bureau Members had suggested that the Institute's name should remain "UNESCO-IHE" (as of December 2016). In the aforementioned special consultation, IHP Council Members were invited to provide a recommendation concerning the name of IHE, noting that "Category II' Institutes and Centres are authorized to use the UNESCO logo block provided that it is always linked to the name and logo of such bodies,

together with the wording ‘under the auspices of UNESCO’ (reference in [ENG](#), [SPA](#), [FRE](#), bottom of the webpage).

11. The IHP IGC Members were asked to give their responses on the following three points, first: “Do you approve the IHE proposal?”; second: “if granted the status of category 2 institute, do you approve that the Institute keeps its name “UNESCO-IHE”?”; and third: “Do you approve the CIRAT proposal?”.

Operation of the UNESCO Water Family (agenda sub-item 5.4)

12. The first UNESCO Water Chairs Meeting was organized by the UNESCO Chair on Water Resources Management and Culture at the University for Foreigners in Perugia and the IHP Secretariat from 24 to 26 October 2016, and was attended by 13 water chairs amongst the 44 established at that time. The aim of the meeting was to discuss and identify contributions of the Chairs to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through their independent and joint projects, and identify how the Chairs can increase their contribution to the implementation of IHP for the current biennium (2016-2017), as well as the entire IHP-VIII phase (2014-2021). The meeting facilitated the definition of mechanisms to increase the cooperation between regional/similarly-themed Chairs, e.g. the possible establishment of an information sharing system among all Water Chairs. Additionally, the meeting enabled dialogue on the concept of the “New Humanism for the XXI Century” in Education, Culture and Science, using interdisciplinarity as a holistic approach to address many of the current issues, including the achievement of water security and peace.

13. The Secretariat also took part in the inaugural meeting for the UNESCO Chair on the prevention and sustainable management of geo-hydrological hazards in Firenze, Italy, 27 October 2016. The mission of the Chair is to promote research and development (R&D) for the prevention and management of geo-hydrological hazards, in order to support policies and actions of risk reduction.

14. With the implementation of the IHP-WINS platform, IHP aims to improve its network and visibility. The tool will assist Member States in improving their institutional capacities, human resources and to provide a sound basis for science-based decision-making. It facilitates the sharing of knowledge through the discussion groups. It was developed to serve as a global reference in the design and support of operations, management, and decision support functions for sound water resources governance. It consists of a user-friendly, interactive tool can be used by a wide variety of stakeholders, to explore the data and generate customized maps. One of the main objectives of the platform is to strengthen exchange and collaboration within the UNESCO network, and its interaction with other groups and institutions.

15. An audit conducted by the UNESCO Internal Oversight Service (IOS) is currently ongoing on the status of the 115 category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO. The water related category 2 centres database created by the IHP Secretariat on the UNESCO-internal server, is contributing to the finalization of the audit report with reliable information and contacts.

United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (agenda sub-item 5.5)

16. The United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) of UNESCO coordinates the efforts of 31 members (UN Agencies, Organizations, Funds and Programmes) and 38 partners constituting UN-Water (the coordination mechanism of the UN system on freshwater) to produce the United Nations World Water Development Report

(WWDR). WWAP is structurally a part of the Division of Water Sciences, and it is housed in the Programme Office for the Global Water Assessment in Perugia, Italy.

17. The FIT agreement with the Italian Ministry of Land, Environment and Sea provided necessary funding for WWAP to function from 2007 until 2012. This yielded the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Italian Government and UNESCO on WWAP. The MoU was ratified by the Italian Parliament in August 2013 and became a national law. This law defines that the funding (1.65 million Euros per year) required for WWAP core activities will be provided from the Italian national budget for an undetermined period thus guaranteeing its continuity. Due to the Italian “Stability Law” (Law no. 190 dated 23 December 2014), in force since 1 January 2015, the yearly contribution was reduced of approximately 9%. While the Italian Government paid its contribution in full in 2016, the agreed amount has been declining since the adoption of the Stability Law, corresponding to a reduction of over 20%. This significant reduction has caused financial problems and prevented WWAP from fully delivering on what was defined in the MoU as its mandate.

18. An external evaluation was conducted on WWAP in 2015. Evidence based results registered the flagship status of the WWDR and concluded that the Report is one of the most visible publications of UNESCO and it continues to be an authoritative source of information on freshwater. The capacity and experience to manage and coordinate the production of WWDR are identified as important assets of the WWAP Secretariat.

19. Data and indicators form the science basis of the WWDR and WWAP has always been an active participant of UN-Water task forces on these matters. Since 2014, the Secretariat has been participating in interagency working groups of the UN-Water’s Integrated Monitoring Initiative (GEMI) to contribute to the significant discussions on SDG 6, among others, related to assessing the degree of monitoring IWRM and disaggregation of SDG 6 indicators by sex.

20. WWAP plays a central role in SDG 6 progress reporting by building on its 16 years of experience in reporting on water-related challenges and best practices through the WWDR series.

21. Reporting for each of the eight targets and 11 indicators of SDG 6 is led by the respective custodian United Nations agencies. As the overall policy impact of the specific target/indicator oriented reports is likely limited, WWAP introduced the idea to produce a SDG 6 Synthesis Report that will add value by evaluating and synthesizing the detailed target/indicator reports, examining the interlinkages between SDG 6 in light of the whole 2030 Agenda, and generating main policy recommendations to accelerate achieving SDG 6.

22. Currently, a UN-Water task force, chaired by the WWAP Coordinator (and attended by CEO Water Mandate, FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN-Water TAU, WHO and WMO) is developing the Synthesis Report. This Report is scheduled for May 2018, in time to be UN-Water’s main input for the meeting of High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in mid-2018 during which HLPF will be conducting its first in-depth review of SDG 6. The Report will enable the United Nations to speak with one voice on SDG 6. The financial support for the Synthesis Report is provided by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment of The Netherlands.

23. WWAP's toolkit on gender mainstreaming for sex-disaggregated data collection was successfully tested as a part of the Groundwater Resources Governance in Transboundary Aquifers (GGRETA) project implemented by IHP in the Esquipulas-Ocotepeque-Citalá (Trifinio) Aquifer (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras), the Stampriet-Kalahari/Karoo Aquifer (Namibia, Botswana, South Africa) and the Pretashkent Aquifer (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan).

UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education (agenda sub-item 5.6)

24. On 31 December 2016, the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education has ceased to exist. UNESCO and the IHE Delft Foundation have signed a Partnership Agreement in December 2016, to formalize the intention of UNESCO and the Foundation to continue closely cooperating on water education and to agree on the terms and conditions under which the IHE Delft Foundation can work within the transition period after category 1 status and while waiting for the approval of its proposal for a category 2 status. The Partnership Agreement remains in force until 30 June 2018, unless the establishment of the category 2 centre is approved by the General Conference of UNESCO and ratified by the Dutch Parliament before that date. The Foundation is working hard in order to ensure full compliance with the Partnership Agreement. The Institute's new name is "IHE Delft Institute for Water Education" and a logo has been approved by its Board and UNESCO.

25. On 24 and 25 November 2016, the last session of the UNESCO-IHE Governing Board meeting took place. After having been updated on the Institute's progress under several activities like the UNESCO-IHE Programmatic Cooperation with the Directorate General for International Cooperation (DGIS, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands), its work under Water Accounting and Water Diplomacy and the Graduate School, the Governing Board members pledged to remain committed to the Institute and made a number of concrete recommendation on how the Institute can ensure it remains strongly linked with the UNESCO water family.

26. On 21 November 2016, the IHE Delft Foundation, through the Government of the Netherlands, has submitted a proposal for the creation of a category 2 centre (C2C) for water education. The proposal is now following the normal processes of approval aiming at a decision by the UNESCO General Conference in November 2017.

27. The Institute is now working under its Strategy 2015-2020. A number of activities have been identified as priority activities under five main areas: education, research, capacity development, institutional resilience and enabling factors. For example, the Institute is piloting a 12 months MSc programme on Sanitation, is investing in recruitment of staff and quality control in order to increase its online education and is making a plan on how to strengthen relations with a few selected donors.

Governance

28. Mr. Fritz Holzwarth continued in his function as Rector a.i. of UNESCO-IHE until 31 December 2016 and also agreed with the IHE Delft Foundation to remain as Rector a.i. until Spring 2017.

Cooperation with the UNESCO water family

29. IHE, the University for Peace in Costa Rica, and Oregon State University, continue to implement a Master's programme on "Water Cooperation and Peace" in collaboration with UNESCO's "From Potential Conflict to Cooperation Potential, PCCP" project. The goal of this new initiative is to broaden the scope of approach to conflict and peace, provide a more

theoretical dimension to conflict resolution, engage multi-level scales of conflict dimensions and strengthen skills through highly experiential learning opportunities.

30. IHE has entered into a partnership with the UNESCO Tashkent office in order to respond to a UNDP call for Sustainable Management of Water Resources in rural areas in Uzbekistan. Among others, IHE will be responsible for carrying out a baseline assessment to help identify and recommend improvements to education and outreach for water sector professionals and technicians, stronger water sector research and development programmes.

31. IHE is actively contributing to the 2017 World Water Development Report "Wastewater: the Untapped Resource," particularly on Chapter 2, "Technical aspects of wastewater." IHE is also contributing to the 2018 report "Nature based solutions" and in particular, Chapter 3, "Nature based solutions for managing water quality" and to Chapter 6, "Responding to challenges to implementation." Next to this, IHE is also participating in activities related to surveys about the report in consultation with potential report users to collect their perspectives and needs when using the report.

32. Ongoing agreements of IHE with UNESCO C2C for capacity development, research and/or education related activities include:

- Collaboration agreement with the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM, Japan). An associated partner in the EU-sponsored Erasmus Mundus Flood Risk Management MSc programme.
- Education collaboration with the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management for Latin America and the Caribbean (CINARA, Colombia). Ongoing joint Water Science and Engineering programme, specialization Hydroinformatics.
- Hosting of the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC), Delft, Netherlands. Joint tailor made training implementation, among others. The UNESCO-IHE Business Director a.i. of the former UNESCO-IHE was appointed as a member of the IGRAC Governing Board.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Tehran, UNESCO and the Ministry of Energy in Iran for setting up a regional water education institute for west and central Asia.