

INTRODUCTION

The World Water Quality Alliance (WWQA) is delighted to announce the dates of The WWQA Conference 2023, which this year will be held at the United Nations in Nairobi from 18th - 20th September 2023. The WWQA has organised this event to promote local dialogue, engagement, and exchange; to highlight how the water quality data can be transformed into practical local action and how, as a result, all members of society can maintain a permanent dialogue with decision-makers at a supranational level to advance issues relating to water quality.

Development aid experts, scientists and water experts are invited to actively observe, learn from, and engage with the members of the WWQA and its workstreams. As was the case in the WWQA 2022 Conference held in Konstanz, Germany, Local Water Forums will be a key element of the event. They are composed of local politicians, businesspeople, and researchers, but most importantly of all, ordinary citizens representing all genders, ethnic groups, low-income sectors, and the full social reality of where they live, who have become engaged in the issue of water quality together with neighbourhood cultural actors capable of communicating the importance of water quality and stimulating an emotional response. They will be joined by Youth organisations who have recognised the need to not only become engaged but, more importantly, to initiate and lead actions that address issues that will directly affect the future of their generation and the future of their respective communities. Technical workstreams of the Alliance will also present on water quality data, modelling, status, and how this feeds into the Pathway to the World Water Quality Assessment.

The conference will be organized as an in-person event given the nature of engagement and discussions that form the basis to the agenda. Some sessions will be streamed.

For those wish to attend please register at: https://forms.office.com/e/pXJn8XPgws

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

Over three days, the onsite event will discuss the results and achievements of the WWQA as a whole, the outcomes of the UN Water Conference in New York and the relevance of water quality to the UN Agenda 2030 and the Water Action Agenda, the work of Local Water Forums and WWQA Youth Platform, the role of citizen science for water quality data, the Pathway to the World Water Quality Assessment and role of technical workstreams and experts, and how these initiatives come together to facilitate access to data for action. Above all, the conference will seek to establish permanent ties between the high-level strategist and the local stakeholder, between youth and society as a whole. It will promote and support the transformation of scientific knowledge into practical actions, and it will enhance the role of the local community as the means of resolving one of the most important global challenges of our times, water quality. Furthermore, the future direction of the WWQA will be discussed.

The WWQA Conference 2023 has the following objectives:

Objective Importance

Advocating for policies and investments to improve water quality: Continued and effective engagement with policymakers and other stakeholders to raise awareness about the importance of water quality and to advocate for investments in water quality management.

Many regions of the world suffer from inadequate water quality, which can have significant negative impacts on public health, economic development, and the environment. Advocating for policies and investments to improve water quality can help to address these issues and ensure that people have access to safe and clean water. This can involve advocating for regulations and standards that limit pollution and protect water resources, investing in infrastructure and technologies that improve water treatment and distribution, and promoting conservation and sustainable use of water resources. By advocating for such policies and investments, the WWQA can help to ensure that all people have access to safe and clean water, which is essential for public health and wellbeing, economic development, and environmental sustainability.

Promoting knowledge-sharing and innovation: Development and good communication of resources, such as reports, case studies, and best practices, to help address water quality challenges. Furthermore, to increase focus on fostering collaboration and partnerships among stakeholders to encourage innovation and knowledge-sharing.

By sharing information and best practices, the Alliance can help to build capacity and expertise in water quality management and ensure that stakeholders are equipped with the tools and knowledge needed to make informed decisions about water resources. In addition, promoting innovation and information exchange through the creation and dissemination of these tools can help to identify new approaches and solutions to water quality issues. By encouraging collaboration and partnerships among stakeholders, the Alliance can facilitate the exchange of ideas and expertise and help to foster a culture of innovation and continuous improvement in water quality management. Effective dissemination of these tools can help to ensure that they reach a wide audience, including policymakers, researchers, and practitioners, and promote the adoption of best practices and innovative solutions to water quality challenges. By promoting collaboration and information exchange, the Alliance can help to build a global community of water quality experts and stakeholders who are committed to addressing water quality issues and achieving sustainable water management practices.

Supporting capacity-building efforts: Capacity-building efforts need to be catapulted to improve knowledge and skills related to water quality management via the WWQA Capacity Development Consortium. Collaboration with partners for providing training and educational resources to individuals and organizations involved in water quality management is key.

Building capacity in water quality management is critical to addressing the global water quality crisis. By enhancing the knowledge and skills of water quality managers, policymakers, and other stakeholders, the Alliance can help to promote sustainable water management practices and improve the quality of water resources. Working together with other partners to offer training and instructional materials can help to ensure that people and organizations engaged in water quality management have access to the tools and resources they need to effectively manage water resources. This can include training on best practices in water quality management, the use of new technologies and approaches, and the development of policies and regulations that protect water quality. In addition, by working with other partners, the Alliance can leverage the expertise and resources of multiple organizations to address complex water quality challenges. This can include collaborating on research and development projects, sharing information and best practices, and coordinating efforts to promote sustainable water management practices. Overall, by boosting the Capacity Development Consortium's efforts and working with other partners to offer training and instructional materials, the World Water Quality Alliance can help to build capacity and expertise in water quality management and promote the adoption of sustainable water management practices worldwide.

Addressing emerging water quality challenges: Focus on addressing emerging water quality challenges, such as those related to emerging contaminants, climate change, and other environmental stressors to enable monitoring of pollutants and promoting these stressors as an issue

Climate change and other environmental stresses can also have significant impacts on water quality, affecting factors such as water availability, temperature, and nutrient levels. These impacts can have significant implications for public health, agriculture, and ecosystems. By focusing on these issues, the Alliance can help to develop strategies for adapting to changing environmental conditions, mitigating the impacts of climate change on water quality, and promoting the sustainable management of water resources in the face of environmental stresses. Overall, by focusing on resolving issues with newly developing pollutants, climate change, and

	other environmental stresses, the World Water Quality Alliance can help to ensure that water resources are managed in a way that protects public health, promotes sustainable development, and supports the health of ecosystems worldwide.
Strengthening the WWQA network: Continued focus on strengthening the WWQA network of partners and stakeholders to enhance collaboration and knowledge- sharing. This could include expanding its membership, developing new partnerships, and engaging with stakeholders from different sectors and regions.	By strengthening its network and fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing, the World Water Quality Alliance can help to build a global community of water quality experts and stakeholders who are committed to addressing water quality challenges and achieving sustainable water management practices.

THE WORLD WATER QUALITY ALLIANCE CONFERENCE 2023

PROGRAMME

Venue: United Nations, Nairobi, Kenya

Date: 18 September 2023 – 20 September 2023

All sessions will take place in Conference Room 1 and will be streamed online (hybrid

format for the conference is not confirmed)

MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2023 – THEME: SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM & YOUTH

08.00 - 08.30: ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION

MAIN GATE → CONFERENCE ROOM 1

08.30 - 08.45: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE WWQA

The World Water Quality Alliance (WWQA) was created in 2018 and represents a voluntary and flexible global multi-stakeholders network that advocates the central role of freshwater quality in achieving prosperity and sustainability; it explores and communicates water quality risks by means of the World Water Quality Assessment in global regional, national and local contexts with the aim of pointing towards solutions for maintaining and restoring ecosystem and human health and well-being, with an aim to serve countries throughout the lifetime of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and beyond. The WWQA aims to provide a participatory platform for water quality assessments and the co-design of tailored and demand-driven services.

 08.30 – 08.45: Welcome by Nina Raasakka to all participants, welcome remarks from UNEP and SDC

08.45 - 09.00: INTRODUCTION TO THE SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM AND YOUTH WORKFLOWS OF THE WWQA

The global environmental situation and the issue of water quality in particular demands a transformational change in which the needs and opinions, the capabilities, and the experience, can be gauged and used to address the challenges identified by a correct appreciation of the situation. By working through local entities and by involving all stakeholders, young and old, all genders, local councillors, scientists, businesspeople, artists, and ecologists, both those experienced and those who to date have had no access to information concerning the realities of water, good governance can be achieved. By creating a permanent dialogue between the scientist and the rest of society, by breaking down the apparently complex language of the

specialist into accessible, comprehensible information, innovative technology can be better prepared to answer the real needs of situations in regions around the Globe. The Social Engagement Platform and Youth Workflow have been created to bridge the gap between the water sector and society in general, between the supranational strategy and regional or local policy, between the decision maker and the end-user. The workstreams are capable of promoting a far more transparent and beneficial multi-stakeholder process, capable of engendering mutual trust, broader awareness, and an enhanced capacity for collaboration between all sectors and social actors.

 08.45 – 09.00: Welcome remarks by workstream lead and co-lead: Lesha Witmer (WfWP) and Ruth Spencer (MEPA)

09.00 – 13.00: SHARING EXPERIENCE OF LOCAL WATER FORUM USE CASES, INITIAL RESULTS, EXPERIENCES AND FEEDBACK. ROLE OF YOUTH AND HOW YOUTH CAN BE MORE INVOLVED. THE ROLE OF CITIZEN SCIENCE AND ENGAGEMENT, GEMS OF WATER. (Moderator – Richard Elelman, EURECAT)

'What does one do with the data collated and examined by the more technical work streams of the WWQA?' The Social Engagement Platform through the creation of Local Water Forums provides a socio-political answer to that question. It transforms the work of the Alliance into the basis for relevant policy co-creation, and the same data into a source of unrivalled information with which to provide the population, with a clear objective picture of water-based issues. It is capable of addressing the needs of a broad social community or those of a specific group, be they youth, women, different gender groups, SMEs, including farmers and often ignored members of small rural communities.

Sustainable inter-sectoral collaboration, the fostering of local solutions for global issues, the transformation of knowledge into action and the translation of complex data into simple accessible knowledge will not only enlighten the hitherto disinterested citizen but will constitute an important step towards enabling stakeholders of being more capable of mitigating the effects of the mistakes of the past. Furthermore, Local Water Forums create highly motivated citizen scientists willing to undertake long-term observation and monitoring within their local communities whilst being fully involved in the transition of such data into practical public measures.

How can the WWQA ensure that Youth can both initiate and lead water-quality activities round the World will be created. Emphasis will be placed on the capacity of the Youth workflow to support more opportunities for the youth.

Session 1: Local Water Forums and the work they do -9:00 - 10:15 - 5 min videos from each of the panel speakers: (Moderator – Richard Elelman, EURECAT)

- Ruth Spencer (MEPA)
- Christopher Waithaka (Komb Green)
- Mogaka Benson Oganga (Wetlands Conservation Organisation)
- Damaris Auma Opillu (GOAL)
- Tharwh Ali Qotaish (Jordan Engineering Society)
- Dennis Juma (Mtaa Safi)

Session 2: The importance of education toward clean water - 10:15 - 11:30 - 5 min videos from each of the panel speaker: (Moderator - Richard Elelman, EURECAT)

- Jamlick Mumo Mutie (SHOFCO)
- Fongoh Eric (ICENECDEV)
- Muthu Nandhivarman (APSCC India)
- Faith Nangila (Green Generation Initiative)
- Ariana Rossen (National Water Institute, Buenos Aires, Argentina)
- Osorio Belo Da Piedade (Water Resource and Water Supply Management at Timor Leste)

COFFEE BREAK BETWEEN 11.30 – 12:00

Session 3: The role of citizen science and youth – 12:00 – 13:15 – 5 min videos from each panel speaker: (Moderator – Richard Elelman, EURECAT)

- Caterina Cacciatori (EC)
- Odwa Ntsika Mtembu (World Merit South Africa)
- Hellena Sailas (Tanzania Chapter -World Youth Parliament For Water)
- Hannah Wangui Mathenge (Youth Pawa)
- Ishmail Kamara (National Water Resources Management Agency)
- Ashu Guni (Bagmati UNESCO Club)

13.15 - 14.15: LUNCH

Session 4: Citizen engagement within the WWQA – 14:15 – 15:30 – 5 min videos from each panel speaker (Moderator – Richard Elelman, EURECAT)

- Adenike Akinsemolu (The Green Institute)
- Abdulrahman Mohamud Dirie (Somalia Water Partnership)
- Odwa Ntsika Mtembu (Africa Youth Parliament for Water)
- Brandon Okoth (Kibera Local Water Forum)
- Kagiso Pooe & Sharon Setshedi (Department of Water and Sanitation)
- António Pedro Said Aly Pina (National Water and Sanitation Agency)

15.30 – 15.50: COFFEE BREAK AND NETWORKING

Session 5: Citizen engagement within the WWQA - 15:50 - 16:40 - 5 min videos from each panel speaker (Moderator - Richard Elelman, EURECAT)

- Riptoya Elema Kanano (Move Northern Kenya)
- Pradeep Mahapatra (UDYAMA)
- Newton Clive Oduor (Enkare Oltau)
- Brenda Akinyi Migada (University of Nairobi)
- Abdisamad Mohamed Ali (Somali Hydro Met and Monitoring Service)

16.40 – 17.15: NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS FOR LOCAL WATER FORUMS (Moderator: Ken Irvine, IHE-DELFT)

Nature-based solutions offer some solutions to water quality problems that could be enhanced through local water forums and implemented in many countries. Therefore, with experts in the room, it would be interesting for local water forums to begin the discussion on success stories of nature-based solutions as well as share their experience on any nature-based solutions.

Presentations as current nature-based solutions:

- Davis Thuo Watiri (Easy Urban Green Grower)
- Ndolezi Petro (Vijana Think Tank)

17.15-17.30 CONCLUSIONS OF DAY 1 AND INTRODUCTION TO DAY 2 (Richard Elelman – EURECAT)



TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2023

THEME: WWQA WORKSTREAMS

08.30 - 09.30: THE PATHWAY TO A WORLD WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT (Nynke Hofstra - Wageningen University, Richard Elelman - EURECAT, Nina Raasakka - UNEP)

09.30 - 17.00: WORLD WATER QUALITY ALLIANCE WORKSTREAMS (Moderator: Loïc Charpentier – Water Europe)

As has been recognised, not only by numerous agencies of the United Nations, but also by such intergovernmental and supranational organizations as the European Union, the OECD, the World Bank and the World Economic Forum, the environmental challenges which the planet is facing can only be resolved by the uniting of diversified expertise. The chemist, the physicist, the biologist, and the engineer must work with the sociologist, the political scientist, and the anthropologist. They must all collaborate with the writer, the photographer, the decision-maker and above all, the citizen. The WWQA actively promotes such a union. Therefore, it is essential that its different workstreams are capable of working hand in hand in a way that specific expertise from several workflows can be brought together, when required, to overcome specific challenges.

Session 6: Progress of the workstreams (Part 1) – 09:30 – 10:30 – 5 min videos from each panel speaker (Moderator: Loïc Charpentier – Water Europe)

- Social Engagement Platform (Lesha Witmer WfWP, Ruth Spencer MEPA)
- In-situ Water Quality Monitoring (Phillip Saile BAFG, Melchior Elsler UNEP)
- Youth (Noémie Plumier Human Right 2 Water, Odwa Ntsika Mtembu World Merit South Africa)
- GlobeWQ (Christian Schmidt UFZ)

Session 7: Progress of the workstreams (Part 2) -10:30-11:30-5 min videos from each panel speaker

- Capacity Development Consortium (Timothy Sullivan and Debbie Chapman UCC)
- Citizen Science (Stuart Warner UNEP and Steven Loiselle Freshwater Watch Europe)
- Use Cases (Andrew Gemmel UMVOTO Foundation and SLR Consulting)
- Plastics (Christian Schmidt UFZ)

11.30-12.00: COFFEE BREAK AND NETWORKING

Session 8: Progress of the workstreams (Part 3) – 12:00 – 13:00 – 5 min videos from each panel speaker (Moderator: Loïc Charpentier – Water Europe)

- Wastewater (Riccardo Zennaro UNEP)
- Earth Observation (Harriet Wilson U. Stirling)
- Ecosystems (Sandra Poikane EC, Kenneth Irvine IHE-DELFT)

13.00 - 14.00: LUNCH

Session 9: Inter – institutional collaboration – 14:00 – 14:50 – 5 min videos from each panel speaker (Moderator: Loïc Charpentier – Water Europe)

- Min Yang, Hongyan Li, Yaohui Bai (RCEES)
- Chen Shuang (NUIST)
- Jean N Namugize (Nile Basin Initiative)
- Ted Lawrence (ACARE)

Session 10: Inter – institutional collaboration – 14:55 – 15:45 – 5 min videos from each panel speaker (Moderator: Loïc Charpentier – Water Europe)

- Esmee Mulder (MetaMeta)
- Marijn Korndewal (OECD)
- Jodie Miller (IAEA)
- Alexandros K. Makarigakis (UNESCO)

15.45-16.00: COFFEE BREAK AND NETWORKING

16:00 – 16:20: Digital tools (Hartwig Kremer – UN – HABITAT)

16.20 - 17.00: WWQA Workstream recruitment and inclusivity

• All attendees of the conference

17.00-17.30 CONCLUSIONS OF DAY 2 AND INTRODUCTION TO DAY 3 (Nina Raasakka – UNEP)



WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2023

THEME: THE FUTURE OF THE WWQA

09.00 - 10.00: KONSTANZ TO NAIROBI – THE JOURNEY OF THE WWQA (WWQA Coordination team)

Progress and shortfalls of the year 2022 - 2023

10.00 - 11.00: DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED THEMATIC CLUSTERS FOR THE WWQA WORKSTREAMS (Required – Members of SAC, TAC and Workstream leaders) (Moderator: Jodie Miller)

The following proposed thematic clusters for the WWQA cover a diverse range of topics related to water resources management and offer a proposal for a more coherent approach for grouping activities under the WWQA in the longer term. Here is a brief of each of these themes for discussion:

- Data to Action: This thematic cluster will be focused on using data and information to
 drive action and decision-making in water resources management including developing
 tools for collecting and analysing data, as well as using data to inform policies and
 management strategies.
- Digitalisation: The digitalisation thematic cluster will be focused on the use of digital
 technologies to improve water resources management. This could include using sensors
 and other monitoring technologies to collect data, developing digital platforms for
 communication and collaboration, and using artificial intelligence and machine learning
 to analyse data and make predictions.
- Capacity Development: This thematic cluster will be focused on building the capacity of
 individuals and organizations involved in water resources management. This could
 include developing training programs, providing technical assistance, and fostering
 collaboration between different stakeholders.

- Science Diplomacy (transboundary waters): This thematic cluster will be focused on
 using science to promote cooperation and collaboration in the management of
 transboundary water resources. This could include developing shared monitoring and
 assessment protocols, promoting the exchange of data and information, and developing
 joint management strategies.
- Socio-political actions including the promotion of the role of youth (citizen engagement and science): This thematic cluster will be focused on engaging citizens and young people, in water resources management. This includes promoting awareness and education about water resources issues, developing participatory decision-making processes, and engaging citizens in scientific research and monitoring.
- Source to Sea: This thematic cluster is focused on managing water resources from the source to the sea, with a particular focus on managing water quality and ecosystem health. This could include developing integrated management plans, promoting best practices for agricultural and industrial water use, and managing wastewater and other sources of pollution.
- The Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem-Health Nexus (WEFE+H): This thematic cluster is
 focused on understanding the interconnections between water, energy, food,
 ecosystems, and human health, and developing integrated strategies for managing
 these resources. This could include developing innovative technologies and
 management practices, promoting sustainable resource use, and improving
 coordination between different sectors.

Overall, these thematic clusters cover a broad range of topics related to water resources management and could help to promote collaboration and cooperation.

11.00 -11.30: COFFEE BREAK AND NETWORKING

11.30 - 13.00: INTERCONNECTIVITY OF WORLD WATER QUALITY ALLIANCE WORKSTREAMS (Required – Members of SAC, TAC and Workstream leaders) (Moderator: Jodie Miller)

The WWQA workstreams themes are interconnected and interdependent, as they address different aspects of water quality management that are closely linked. A holistic and integrated approach to water quality management under the thematic clusters included above that addresses the interconnections between these different aspects is essential for achieving the WWQA's goals of improving water quality around the world.

13.00 - 14.00: LUNCH

14.00 – 15:30: DIRECTION AND GOAL SETTING FOR THE WWQA (Required – Members of SAC, TAC and Workstream leaders) (Moderator: Jodie Miller)

The WWQA addresses water quality challenges through collaborative action, knowledge-sharing, and innovation. The WWQA is developing a longer term vision in order to play a role in the implementation of the Water Action Agenda which will help orientate its work in the longer term. This session will benefit from the feedback of the WWQA members attending to receive inputs on Some of the goals and priorities that the WWQA could focus on in the next years could include:

Advocating for policies and investments to improve water quality: Maintaining a
productive dialogue with decision-makers and other stakeholders to lobby for funding

- for water quality management and to improve public awareness of the significance of water quality.
- 2. Promoting knowledge-sharing and innovation: Fostering innovation and knowledge sharing through the creation and effective dissemination of tools including reports, case studies, and best practices to aid with water quality issues. In order to promote innovation and information exchange, it is also important to put more emphasis on encouraging partnerships and collaboration among stakeholders.
- 3. Supporting capacity-building efforts: Boost the Capacity Development Consortium's efforts to enhance capacity through enhancing knowledge and abilities linked to managing water quality. Work together with other partners to offer training and instructional materials to people and organizations engaged in water quality management.
- Addressing emerging water quality challenges: Focus on resolving issues with newly developing pollutants, climate change, and other environmental stresses that may affect water quality.
- 5. **Strengthening the WWQA network:** The WWQA network of partners and stakeholders will continue to be strengthened with the goal of fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing. This can entail growing its membership, creating new alliances, and interacting with stakeholders from other industries and areas.

15.30 -16.00: COFFEE BREAK AND NETWORKING

16.00 – 17.00: CONCLUSIONS OF THE DIRECTION AND GOAL SETTING OF THE WWQA IN THE NEXT YEAR (Required – Members of SAC, TAC and Workstream leaders) (Moderator: Jodie Miller)



Welcome to Nairobi

Nairobi is a vibrant city with a rich cultural heritage and a bustling atmosphere that never fails to excite visitors. It is known as the "Green City in the Sun" because of its beautiful parks, gardens, and wildlife reserves. Nairobi is also a hub for art, music, and literature, with numerous galleries, concert venues, and bookstores to explore.

One of the city's most famous attractions is the Nairobi National Park, which offers visitors the opportunity to see lions, zebras, giraffes, and other African wildlife in their natural habitats. Additionally, the city boasts a thriving food scene with a diverse range of restaurants serving delicious cuisine from all over the world.

Nairobi is also home to a growing tech industry, with numerous startups and tech hubs emerging in recent years. This has made Nairobi a popular destination for digital nomads and entrepreneurs looking to work in a dynamic and innovative environment.

Another notable feature of Nairobi is the presence of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) and serves as the headquarters for the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and has played a vital role in promoting global cooperation and awareness of key issues affecting the world today, and Nairobi is proud to be the home of such an important international organization.

Overall, Nairobi is a city full of energy and opportunity, with a unique blend of natural beauty, cultural richness, and modern innovation that makes it a truly special place to visit and live.



Hotels

Around the United Nations (Gigiri, United Nations Avenue), Nairobi

Trademark Hotel – Village Market

The Premier Suites – Gigiri Road

Numerous are also available on Booking.com and Airbnb.com – please do have a look at their reviews.

There are hotels that are slightly further away

The Concord Hotel & Suites – Parklands

Holiday Inn - Two Rivers

Golden Tulip – Westlands

Lotos Inn & Suites – Westlands

Best Western Plus – Westlands

Mövenpick Hotel & Residences – Westlands

Numerous are also available on booking.com and Airbnb.com – please do have a look at their reviews.