



## THE WORLD WATER QUALITY ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

**March 2024**

The World Water Quality Alliance is convened by the United Nations Environment Programme and supported by the Swiss Confederation. It proudly presents its monthly newsletter, YEMAYA, named after the ancient African goddess of the ocean and motherhood. She is associated with fertility, femininity, protection, healing, and childbirth. Her domains are symbolized as water creatures: the seas, rivers, and lakes. She is honoured and revered in the African diaspora, particularly in Cuba, Haiti, Brazil, and the United States.

We, the World Water Quality Alliance Coordination Team, welcome articles about water quality. Tell us about your experiences. Describe the challenges you and your people face. Talk to our global community; talk to people from around the World. Send your articles to [wwqa-coordination@un.org](mailto:wwqa-coordination@un.org).

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## HAPPY WORLD WATER DAY 2024



Today, 22nd March, the WWQA wishes all its partners and members a very happy World Water Day 2024. YEMAYA this month has kept to this year's World Water Day theme "Water and Peace" as will be seen with the articles below :) while still also paying homage to World Wildlife Day (which took place on 3rd March).

### Key messages:

- **Water can create peace or spark conflict.** When water is scarce or polluted, or when people struggle for access, tensions can rise. By cooperating on water, we can balance everyone's water needs and help stabilize the world.
- **Prosperity and peace rely on water.** As nations manage climate change, mass migration and political unrest, they must put water cooperation at the heart of their plans.
- **Water can lead us out of crisis.** We can foster harmony between communities and countries by uniting around the fair and sustainable use of water – from United Nations conventions at the international level, to actions at the local level.

For more information about World Water Day and materials, please visit the dedicated [UN-Water World Water Day page](#) and [Trello board](#) with promotional materials.



## Sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA6): Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution



Between 26 February to 1 March 2024 the sixth session of [United Nations Environment Assembly](#) (UNEA6) took place at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, with over 7,000 delegates from 182 countries in attendance. UNEA is the world's highest-level decision-making body for matters related to the environment, with a universal membership of all 193 Member States. UNEA sets the global environmental agenda, provides overarching policy guidance, and fosters partnerships for achieving environmental goals and resource mobilization, among others. This year's theme was *effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution*.

Water, and in particular water quality, was one of the spotlights at this UNEA6, which adopted the resolution on "[Effective and inclusive solutions for strengthening water policies](#)" (the document is only available in English).

This resolution explicitly recognizes the interlinkages of water, ecosystems, energy, food security and nutrition, with their social, economic and environmental impacts that need to be taken into account for effective water policies. It calls upon Member States and members of specialized agencies to implement integrated water resources management at all levels; adopt coherent responses across sectors, mainstream the protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable management of aquatic ecosystems into policies; enhance water quality and quantity data collection and monitoring for

evidence-based decision making and implement disaster-risk-informed water resource management; and promote integrated water resources management in areas of agriculture and large water-consuming industries and encourage investment to address the water crisis. These themes align directly with the WWQA's focus on partnerships, capacity building, improved monitoring solutions for water quality data and support of local communities and member states.

In addition the UNEA6 Ministerial Declaration recognizes "...the need to strengthen international cooperation on water, at all levels, and we highlight the need for an integrated United Nations approach to water in line with the forthcoming United Nations system-wide strategy for water and sanitation."

The full UNEA 6 outcomes document can be found [here](#).

**The WWQA engaged in UNEA6 in various ways**, from engaging with member states directly to making sure that WWQA local water forum members also had "a seat at the table" (ironically, that was also the key art sculpture of UNEA6 at the entrance to the UN conference centre).

With many thanks to UNEP-accredited organisations and WWQA partners, Women for Water Partnership (Leshia Witmer) and Marine Ecosystems Protected Areas (MEPA) Trust (Ruth Spencer), for supporting letters so that some of our locally based local water forums were able to participate at UNEA 6. WWQA was also very happy to see other local water forum members engaging at UNEA 6. Their reflections will be shared in next months Yemaya.

Furthermore, the WWQA took the opportunity of taking Mina Gulli, Water Advocate and Ultra Runner together with the colleagues from [Accion Andina](#), one of seven UN World Restoration flagship awardees this year, to visit the Local Water forums in the informal settlements of Korogocho and Dandora.

On the final day of UNEA, the WWQA participated in the UNEA side event "Shaping a water resilient world, with water security for all" with two youth speakers. Faith Nangila, a trained citizen scientist and communications specialist for Green Generation Initiative, taking a moderation role for engagement with the audience and Marc Watum, speaking about education and incubation of localised innovations that can revolutionise the regions (Africa) relationship with its water, alongside speakers from the European Commission's DG Environment, the European Investment Bank. Key issues discussed included restoring and protecting the global water cycle, governance through Integrated Water Resources Management and stakeholder engagement, balancing water supply and demand, implementing water-smart management practices, adopting Water-Oriented Living Labs, and promoting transboundary cooperation on water issues, with an aim to catalyze action and collaboration across sectors to address global water resilience and security, acknowledging the vital role of various stakeholders, including indigenous communities and the private sector, in building a sustainable future.

Data and digitalization as an enabler of multilateral actions to address global environmental challenges in support of just and inclusive socioeconomic was a core topic at UNEA including the topic of a dedicated Leadership Dialogue. WWQA's work supporting citizen science monitoring of the Rokel River basin in Sierra Leone was showcased at [a TED talk](#) at the UNEA6 Digital Accelerator Lab given by Dr. Richard Munang, the Head of Global Environment Monitoring Systems for Early Warning for the Environment (GEMS4EWE) Unit in the margins of UNEA6. The Pathway to the World Water Quality Assessment and World Water Quality Hub were showcased at the UNEA6 Digital Accelerator for visitors to try them out.

*“In today's world, data is king, and nowhere is this truer than in our efforts to preserve the environment. The UN Environment Programme Global Environment Monitoring Systems unit has long led the charge in scrutinizing the state of our planet across three crucial domains: air quality, freshwater quality, and ocean & coastal health through GEMS Air, GEMS Water & [WWQA World Water Quality Alliance](#), and GEMS Oceans. These initiatives have been instrumental in delivering essential data, scenarios, and capacity-building efforts that drive transformational change globally.”*

**The WWQA calls upon all its stakeholders to have a look at the resolution and bring forward suggestions of how they, together with the WWQA, can best engage with and support implementation of the resolution.**



1 - Visit to Korogocho and Dandora. This location is the Dandora water falls. Image credit: Anham Salyani



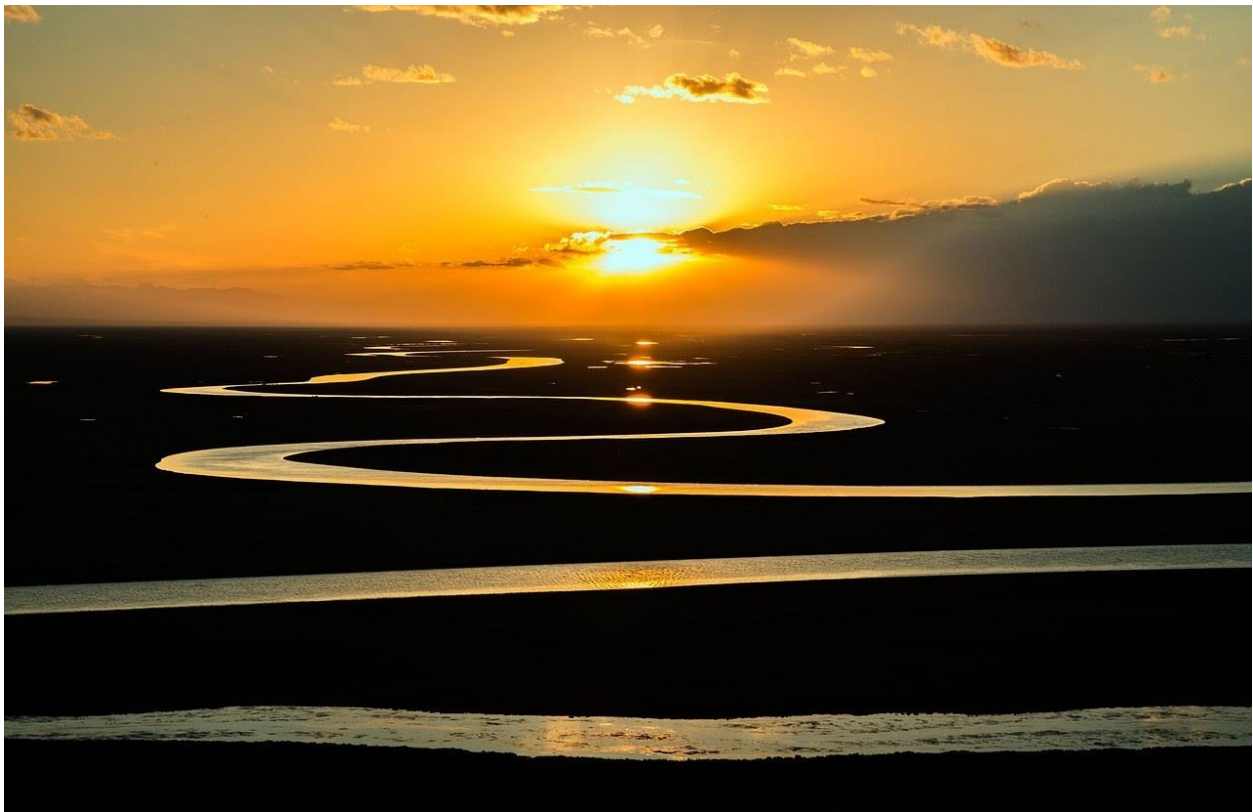
2 - Side event: Shaping a water resilient world, with water security for all. Image credit: Anham Salyani





3 - Side event: Shaping a water resilient world, with water security for all. Image credit: Anham Salyani

## The peacebuilding potential of transboundary water quality cooperation



Water quality degradation stresses the world's 310 transboundary river basins. With over 80% of transboundary rivers considered "severely affected" by nutrients and pathogens alone,[\[1\]](#) ongoing impairment and emerging contaminants challenge dynamics between basin states and provide a source of potential contestation. While transboundary basins are not immune to tensions over water quality,[\[2\]](#)

this degradation also presents opportunities for peace. Water quality interactions between countries have been growing and are predominantly cooperative.<sup>[3]</sup> These joint efforts, including international treaties, basin organizations, and collaborative approaches, can contribute to positive state dynamics and regional stability.<sup>[4]</sup> Such arrangements also provide opportunities to share expertise, information, and resources to address water quality impacts and the harm they cause on a basin scale.

This cooperation can also have positive spillover effects for basin communities. Collaborative efforts to manage water quality degradation and basin-wide early warning systems for pollution events can reduce chronic and acute risks to all water users' health, livelihoods, and quality of life. Cooperative and inclusive governance frameworks can create civil society representation and advocacy spaces.<sup>[5]</sup> These processes help mitigate the impacts of water quality degradation that have contributed to local conflict and displacement,<sup>[6]</sup> supporting peaceful dynamics at all scales.

While water quality shows promise as a catalyst for transboundary cooperation and its related beneficial outcomes, more work is needed. Cooperative agreements are still limited in geographic scope and often lack substantive means to address impacts.<sup>[7]</sup> Simultaneously, limited public awareness and available data can impair political will to address concerns. Networks like the World Water Quality Alliance can play an essential role in supporting cooperative processes by generating science and best practices to inform state interactions and by mobilizing a community of practice that can promote peacebuilding over transboundary water quality.

#### **Case studies of countries where getting more information on water quality has led to increased cooperation and outcomes for peace:**

- In general, water quality data can help to identify problems and generate public support and political will to cooperate. This data can further enable joint problem solving and cooperative efforts to reduce water quality impacts (and impacts to basin communities), increasing the intensity of cooperation. I believe that there are countless examples of these processes, although they are not always explicit in linking data to cooperation.
- While all water quality data is useful, it may not necessarily be accepted by all basin countries or openly shared. Therefore, the process of jointly collecting data or data sharing can also help to build trust/transparency between countries, facilitating future cooperation. I have not necessarily found instances where the collection of water quality data was the entry point to transboundary cooperation, but there are cases where joint monitoring/fact finding has supported increased cooperation and conflict resolution. I've added a couple below.
- Joint monitoring is often implemented in the Danube basin through a Transnational Monitoring Network and regular Joint Danube Surveys that are conducted by a team of scientists from all of the Danube countries. These processes help to develop trusted and comparable datasets to support water quality management, while also building capacity and trust amongst the basin countries ([Schmeier and Vogel, 2018](#)). As an aside, joint water quality monitoring was also established in the Lower Mekong Basin and Lake Victoria, although recent publications suggest that impacts were limited or are in need of renewed implementation.
- Joint studies are often conducted by the International Joint Commission of Canada and the United States to address water-related concerns. These studies often help the countries to



approach complex issues in a manner that generates critical information, builds consensus with multiple stakeholders, and recommends solutions, ultimately reducing potential sources of tension and supporting continued cooperation. Many of these studies address water quality, including a recent reference to study transboundary pollution in the Elk-Kootenai/y watershed in partnership with the Ktunaxa Nation (more information can be found [here](#)).

- Finally, additional fact-finding efforts can support emergency response in a cooperative manner. Examples include a European Commission investigation of water quality impacts from the Solotvyno salt mine along the Tisza River that supported mobilization of basin funding to assess water quality impacts (see [Kocsis-Kupper, 2015](#)).

[1] UNEP-DHI, & UNEP (2016). *Transboundary River Basins: Status and Trends, Volume 3 River Basins (DEW/1953/NA; p. 342)*. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

[2] International Court of Justice (2024). *Pulp Mills on the River Uruguay (Argentina v. Uruguay): Overview of the Case*. International Court of Justice. Available from: <https://www.icj-cij.org/case/135>

[3] De Stefano, L., Edwards, P., de Silva, L., & Wolf, A.T. (2010). *Tracking cooperation and conflict in international basins: Historic and recent trends*. *Water Policy*, 12(6), 871–884. <https://doi.org/10.2166/wp.2010.137>

[4] Sadoff, C.W., & Grey, D. (2002). *Beyond the river: The benefits of cooperation on international rivers*. *Water Policy*, 4(5), 389–403. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1366-7017\(02\)00035-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1366-7017(02)00035-1)

[5] Offutt, A. (2022). *Mixing waters: stakeholder influence in transboundary water conflict and cooperation*, *Water International*, 47(4), 583–609. DOI: 10.1080/02508060.2022.2059322

[6] Von Lossow, T., Patrahau, I., Kock, K., Yassin, M., Birkman, L., Schmeier, S., & Offutt, A. (2022). *Action Needed: Three Priorities for Iraq's Water Sector*. *Water, Peace and Security and Clingendael*. Available from: <https://waterpeacesecurity.org/files/229>

[7] Petersen-Perlman, J.D. & Feitelson, E. (2022). *The environment comes later: when and how are environmental considerations included in transboundary water agreements*. *Water International*, 27(8), 1197–1216. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02508060.2022.2072663>

Article contribution by Alyssa Offut - IHE-Delft.

## Safeguarding Serenity: Friends of Nairobi National Park's Water Quality Journey



Contemporary challenges facing wildlife today are highly related to climate change and dynamics around water. Water is such a crucial resource required by all forms of life to meet their daily needs. The dynamics of this resource revolves around scarcity, quality, and availability. In recent years Kenya has experienced extreme droughts leading to a greater loss of wildlife numbers in such ecosystems as Tsavo, Amboseli, Nairobi and the Northern part. The loss results in unbalanced ecosystems and it's a big blow to already made conservation efforts.

Water scarcity continues to appear as an emerging issue that requires organized urgent interventions to preserve water towers and enhanced partnerships. It has severe impacts on wildlife with animals struggling to find water for drinking, bathing, and other essential activities. Additionally, the scarcity of water has resulted in unmanageable competition between different species for limited water resources, leading to conflicts and changes in animal behavior and migration patterns.

Maintaining good water quality is crucial for sustaining healthy aquatic ecosystems and supporting diverse wildlife populations. This is because each species has specific water quality requirements. A slight deviation from these optimal conditions will lead to detrimental ecological effects. A good example, low dissolved oxygen levels leads to stress, reduced growth, and increased susceptibility to disease in aquatic organisms. Increased levels of pollutants with heavy metals and pesticides accumulate in animal tissues and leads to chronic health problems.

In the case of Nairobi National Park, Friends of Nairobi National Park (FoNNaP) has coordinated with the WWQA Citizen Science workstream to participate in citizen science water quality testing and analysis within the Nairobi National Park, located just within the city of Nairobi, capital of Kenya (and only around 20km away from UNEP's headquarters) to determine whether the water is suitable for wildlife living

there (which includes black rhinoceros, lions, buffalo, Masai giraffe, zebras and over 500 bird species, to name a few) and other domestic uses. The results were shocking: with a high concentration of Phosphates, translating into a high untreated sewage presence, the water is surely unfit for wildlife use. This is a big threat to the future of wildlife within this unique urban protected area. Increased sewage pollution is as a result of inadequate sewerage infrastructure and resulting sewage waste passing through Mbagathi River and Kandisi rivers. The study, based on citizen science measurements of water quality with the support of Earthwatch Europe, facilitated by the World Water Quality Alliance (WWQA) continues and we are hopeful it can help generate data over time that can be used for a successful advocacy actions against the pollutants and for restoring water quality along the Nairobi River.

Overall, water quality for wildlife is a complex and interdisciplinary field that encompasses science, socio- economic and environmental management. By understanding and managing water quality, we can help ensure the health and sustainability of aquatic ecosystems and the wildlife that depend on them for we are in an interdependent ecosystem. By appreciating wildlife as our heritage we recognize that we share our water resources with wildlife and that poor water quality affects them adversely, in the same way it affects us as humans.

*Article contribution by Mutwiri Felix - Friends of Nairobi National Park (FoNNaP)*

## **Ayewew Tessera Fenta- Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at Nile Basin Discourse (NBD)**

**Could you share about yourself and how your journey led you to work as the Regional Monitoring and Evaluation officer at Nile Basin Discourse (NBD), focusing on water issues?**

My name is Ayewew Tessera Fenta. I am an Ethiopian by citizenship, and currently working with the Nile Basin Discourse in the capacity of Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Officer.

My journey towards this position was conceived 20 years ago when I was at Addis Ababa University doing my master's degree in international relations. Water Politics (hydro politics) in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa was one of the courses that struck my mind to explore more about water and water-related issues. My master's Thesis on "Environmental Challenges Demanding Cooperation in the Eastern Nile Basin Countries", has given me further insights into water, environment, and their implications on transboundary peace and stability. Most of the waters (rivers and lakes) in Ethiopia are transboundary which necessitates the government and stakeholders in Ethiopia to engage in one way or another with downstream countries to manage the water resources.

In 2006, I joined the Ethiopian Nile National Discourse Forum (network of CSOs/NGOs) in the capacity of Country Programme Coordinator where I was given the responsibility of coordinating programme implementation of the Discourse Forum in Ethiopia. The job provided me with opportunities to interact with various CSOs/NGOs, CBOs, and government line Ministries working on water and water-related issues within Ethiopia and outside.

From August 2013 to December 2014, I worked with Helvetas Swiss Inter cooperation (Development INGO with its headquarters in Switzerland) in the capacity of Country Programme Officer where I was

given the responsibility to lead the overall program development, planning, coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Ethiopia Country Program with thematic working areas on Natural Resources Management and Climate Change, Water & Infrastructure, Rural Economy, Governance & Peace & Education. I was thematically responsible for WASH, Governance, and support of Civil Society projects.

Finally, in December 2014, I joined the Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) Secretariat in Ethiopia where I am currently stationed, with the responsibility of coordinating and overseeing NBD's programme activities in the 10 country offices located in Burundi, D. R. Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.



4 - Image provided by Ayenew Tessera Fenta- Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at Nile Basin Discourse (NBD)

**As the Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at Nile Basin Discourse, how do you see the connection between good water quality, water management, and peace in transboundary regions? Could you provide some examples from your experience that highlight this relationship?**

As we all know, water is life. It is everything (food, energy, clothing, etc.). Water is the source of all life on earth, and for that reason, plants, insects, animals, and human beings cannot survive without it.

Life on earth, especially human beings needs quality water in its adequate quantity. When people lack clean water in adequate quantities, their health and quality of life will be adversely affected. Children can't go to school, and food and energy security will be at risk. This will lead to hopelessness, and loss of



trust in their institutions, and will finally lead to violence and destabilization of the state system that can cause conflict and migration.

Water quality is the function of water management. If there is no proper management of water, it is not possible to maintain the quality of water and improve its availability/quantity. Good water management in the face of climate variability is critically important as it helps to balance consumption and wastage as well as protect surface and groundwater pollution. Water quality management ensures the supply of clean and safe drinking water to human beings and all other lives (livestock, fish in rivers, and lakes); it also reduces water-borne diseases and finally enhances the quality and satisfaction of lives of human beings. This would contribute to the peace and stability of countries and regions having shared transboundary river/lake basins.

For instance, some regions in my country Ethiopia experience period communal conflicts especially during the dry season which is often further complicated by periods of drought. Communal conflicts in the Somali, Afar, and other regions of Ethiopia are caused by issues of grazing and water scarcity, declining water quality, and dysfunctional boreholes. As a result, communities from one area migrate to another area and that causes and exacerbates communal conflict. I believe, that if there is not proper transboundary management, poor water quality may reduce water quantity which would finally lead to water scarcity leading to water tensions and conflicts among the countries sharing transboundary rivers and lakes.

***Thus, proper water management – leads – to improved water quality – leads to enhanced satisfaction and quality of life – leads to peace and stability.***

**How do local communities play a role in promoting good water quality and peace along transboundary rivers? Can you share any successful community-led initiatives or projects that have made a difference, particularly in monitoring /assessing water quality?**

One can raise the question: “What affects water quality?” The answer is that most of the factors that affect water quality include: sedimentation that comes due to the loss of topsoil that is washed from agricultural fields; the improper disposal of solid waste such as garbage, rubbish, electronic waste, trash, etc.; pesticides and fertilizers from agricultural operations; lack of proper domestic sewage system, including lack of toilets. These factors can be managed through regular community engagement in catchment management, waste management, and improvement of agricultural practices. This tells us that communities are at the heart of combating water pollution.

Earlier, I said that proper water management leads to improved water quality which in turn leads to enhanced satisfaction and quality of life of human beings that ultimately leads to peace and stability in a country and region.

Local communities in the Nile Basin countries are making tremendous efforts to improve water quality through catchment management, waste management, and proper handling of domestic sewerage systems.

In Mirango River in Mwanza-Tanzania, for instance, local communities are engaged in planting trees and grasses on riverbanks and protecting wetlands. Mirango River drains into Lake Victoria, which is a transboundary lake.



5 - In Mirango River in Mwanza-Tanzania, for instance, local communities are engaged in planting trees and grasses on riverbanks and protecting wetlands. Mirango River drains into Lake Victoria, which is a transboundary lake. Photo by Ayenew Tessera Fenta



6 - Local communities are engaged in cleaning the river from sands and other debris to maintain water quality. Photo by Ayenew Tessera Fenta



7 - Photo by Ayenew Tessera Fenta

In Rwanda, communities are involved in protecting Akagera River from pollution. Communities are engaged in monitoring water quality through control of sedimentation, avoiding open defecation, and clearing of the river from wastes including water hyacinth Akagera River is a transboundary river where Rusumo Hydroelectric power is constructed that benefits the 3 countries of Burundi, Rwanda, and Tanzania.

These few examples in Tanzania and Rwanda show that if communities are properly trained and effectively engaged in water quality monitoring, they can bring desired changes in the fight against water pollution, contributing towards improvements in water quality which is a cornerstone for sustainable development, peace and stability in each region.



8 - Photo by AyenewTessera Fenta



9 - Photo by Ayenew Tessera Fenta



10 - Photo by Ayenew Tessera Fenta

### **How do you envision the World Water Quality Alliance collaborating with organizations like Nile Basin Discourse to address water-related challenges and promote peace globally?**

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) is uniquely positioned on the ground with grassroots communities in the 10 Nile Basin countries, and the Nile River is one of the most polluted rivers in the world. NBD can directly engage local communities for real-time data and information collection on water pollution hotspots, on impacts of water pollution on human and animal health and ecosystems, and follow-up implementation of mitigation measures.

On the other hand, the World Water Quality Alliance can analyze and synthesize the data and information collected from the grassroots via NBD and communicate water-quality risks and mitigation measures at global, regional, and national levels. WWQA can also support organizations like NBD in providing scientific methodologies, techniques, and tools for citizen science-based water quality monitoring.

Thus, the collaborative work between WWQA and NBD will contribute towards improving water quality in the Nile River basin, which would enhance water quantity and ultimately help reduce tensions and potential conflicts in the Nile River basin.

### **As we focus on the theme of water and peace for this month's newsletter in alignment with the [2024 World Water Day theme](#), what key messages or insights would you like to convey to our readers, particularly regarding the importance of collective action and community involvement in ensuring water security and fostering peaceful relations?**

Water management is not the duty of governments only. State-centric approaches to the management and governance of international/transboundary waters have been proven ineffective. The emerging



approach is towards integrated water resources management that largely depends on public involvement. Multistakeholder collaboration that involves individuals, scientists, researchers, politicians, water professionals, artists, and citizens of all genders, ethnic groups, ages, and social sectors and groups is fundamental for ensuring water security at all levels. I believe that multi-stakeholder collaboration is the solution for a better water-secure future. Particularly the involvement of communities is key for local level water management in an integrated manner with land management. Local communities are closer to water and land and thus their role in ensuring a water-secure future is essential. People-to-people interactions across transboundary rivers for cultural, experience and best practice sharing and peer-to-peer capacity building help build trust and confidence among countries/societies sharing transboundary waters and would ease potential tension and foster peaceful relations.

## The WWQA BULLETIN BOARD

### Invitation to the uPcycle Project Virtual Inception Meeting (March 27th)

The “Towards Sustainable Phosphorus Cycles in Lake Catchments” (uPcycle) project is two-year project (2024-2026) that will bring together global communities to deliver a sustainable phosphorus future to protect our freshwater and coastal ecosystems. Phosphorus is an essential component of fertilisers and therefore critical for the global food system. However, unsustainable use of phosphorus can lead to water pollution. Food security and healthy freshwater ecosystems are placed at jeopardy by [poor phosphorus management](#).

The overarching mission of the uPcycle project is to widen the scope and accelerate the development of phosphorus emissions reduction programmes [globally](#). Lakes are at the front line of phosphorus pollution yet clarity on impacts and solutions is urgently needed.

Please join the [uPcycle Inception Meeting](#) to discover how the project will develop tools and resources to implement sustainable phosphorus management for lake catchments globally. Learn about the project's demonstration catchment in Chile, meet the project team and discover opportunities to get involved.

The WWQA looks forward to supporting the uPcycle project through facilitation of global experts on lake restoration in particular through its Ecosystems Workstream, which is co-led by UKCEH, executing agency of uPcycle.

The inception meeting will be held virtually on the 27th March 2024 (13:30-16:30 GMT).

Learn more about uPcycle project [here](#), and register for the meeting online [here](#).



11 - Inception meeting flyer

### Global Lake Ecological Observatory Network (GLEON) virtual meeting

Join the GLEON (Global Lake Ecological Observatory Network) virtual meeting from April 8th to 12th, 2024.

The event is being hosted by the Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI). **Free registration for anyone who is from and currently working in Africa.**

Registration closes on the 29th March.

See more: <https://www.caryinstitute.org/science/research-projects/global-lake-ecological-observatory-network/gleon-2024-virtual-meeting>

### Nature in Action for Peace: Challenges and Opportunities to Address Environmental Dimensions of Conflict through Nature-based Solutions

The publication emphasizes the emerging concept of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and its potential link to water quality, security, and societal challenges. NbS leverages healthy ecosystems to enhance human well-being, aiming for sustainable development and improved livelihoods. As NbS gained traction globally, they have been integrated into various sectors, including urban planning, climate change mitigation, disaster risk reduction, and poverty alleviation.

Water quality is intricately linked to NbS, especially concerning peace and security. In conflict-affected areas, competition over natural resources like water can escalate tensions among different groups. Implementing NbS focused on improved resource management and equitable access to water can mitigate these tensions and reduce the risk of conflict. Moreover, NbS can enhance access to clean water sources for vulnerable communities during and after conflicts, contributing to their resilience and well-being. By fostering community participation in natural resource management, NbS can facilitate dialogue, mediation, and trust-building among conflicting parties, thereby promoting peace and stability.

Overall, integrating NbS into water management strategies not only improves water quality but also contributes to conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts. As we explore the potential of NbS in addressing complex challenges, it becomes evident that sustainable water management is fundamental to fostering peace and security in conflict-affected regions.

Download the report [here](#)

### Applications open: Young Champions of the Earth

UNEP's flagship youth engagement initiative [Young Champions of the Earth](#) has been re-launched and [applications for the 2024 cycle are now open](#) until 5 April. The award is bestowed annually to ambitious young people from around the world with outstanding ideas to protect and restore the environment. [Help spread the word!](#) Aimed at improving environmental education and fostering meaningful youth engagement and action.



<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/ezvJvmRHTFLbDKkh#content=2I5JQeff3T1Wld>

### Job Openings

**Join UNEP's Freshwater Ecosystem Unit: Programme Manager (P3) position open, deadline 27th March**

Passionate about water conservation? Want to make a difference in watershed management?

UNEP's Freshwater Ecosystem Unit is hiring for a Programme Manager (P3 level) position in our European Commission-funded Watersheds Project! Work with us and our partners at the European Commission to develop sustainable watershed plans in India and Brazil.

If you have strong project management skills and a commitment to environmental resilience, apply now at the link below. Deadline: March 27th.

Apply here: <https://lnkd.in/ew8tiuBq>

## WWQA Membership Application Form

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*The WWQA coordination team has set up a WWQA Membership Application Form to keep our growing membership organized.*

*We kindly request all members to fill out the form :)*

<https://forms.office.com/e/BeF5iRuaP3>

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## In the April Issue of YEMAYA

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- *World Health Day*
  - *International Mother Earth Day*
  - *World Intellectual Property Day*
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*Please follow our social media handles at:*

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile>

**Twitter:** [https://twitter.com/UN\\_WWQA](https://twitter.com/UN_WWQA)

**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/wwqa>

**Visit our website at:** [www.wwqa.info](http://www.wwqa.info)

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\*Unless otherwise indicated, all contributions are by the WWQA coordination team.

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YEMAYA welcomes articles, opinions and audio-visual material related to the issue of water quality. Please send any contribution to [wwqa-coordination@un.org](mailto:wwqa-coordination@un.org) with a short 100-word biography, the name of your organisation and a phone number where you can be contacted.