



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Intergovernmental  
Hydrological  
Programme

UNESCO-IHP (ISARM – PCCP) initiatives  
in Partnership with: GEF IW-Learn & IAH

**DEADLINE  
EXTENDED**

**31st January 2021**

ISARM 2021 International Conference

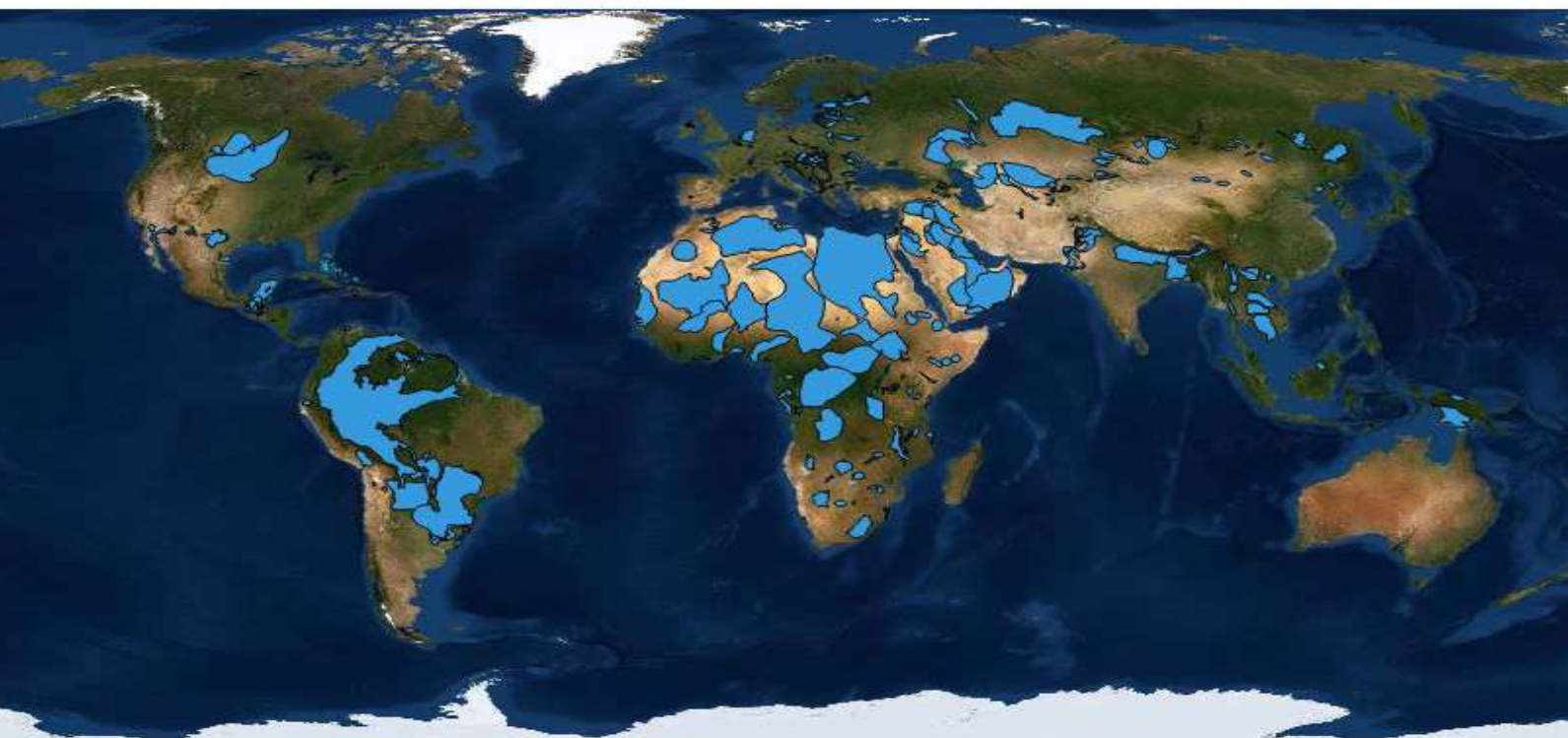
# TRANSBOUNDARY AQUIFERS

Challenges and Way Forward

First Announcement and Call for Abstracts

6-8 December 2021  
UNESCO HQ, Paris (France)

Eighth Phase of the UNESCO  
Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme  
(IHP 2014 – 2021)



## Background

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

Since December 2008, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the Resolution (A/RES/63/124)<sup>1</sup> on the 'Law of Transboundary Aquifers'. Every three years, the UNGA debated on the topic of transboundary aquifers until November 2019 when the last resolution was adopted by the assembly (A/C.6/74/L.11)<sup>2</sup>, 2023 to consider the study and management of transboundary aquifers.

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

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

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

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

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

Text of UNGA Resolution 2008<sup>1</sup>: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/63/124>

Text of UNGA Resolution 2019<sup>2</sup>: <https://undocs.org/en/A/C.6/74/L.11>

## Objectives

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

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



## Topics

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

- 1 TBA contributions to Sustainable Development related to Global and Regional Agendas**
- 2 Science/Policy interface: Focus on the Management of TBA**
- 3 Advances in the assessment and mapping of TBA and hydrogeological methods**
- 4 Governance of TBA: strengthening cooperation**
- 5 Education, capacity development and raising awareness**



# Conference Chairperson

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

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**H. Thulstrup** (Jakarta)

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## Main Conference Partners: GEF IW-LEARN and IAH

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



With the technical and scientific contribution of the UNESCO IGRAC centre



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**G. Zaisheng** (University of Geosciences, China)

**M. Zeitoun** (University of East Anglia)



# Submission of Abstracts

**Deadline Extended: 31 January 2021**

Participants should register **Filling the form** at

**<https://en.unesco.org/conference/isarm2021>**

## Information to be provided in the registration form

Title	<input type="checkbox"/> I plan to present under topic number...
Author(s) Name	<input type="checkbox"/> I plan to attend the Conference
Affiliation	<input type="checkbox"/> I wish to submit a poster that will also be available as an electronic file (for inclusion in the Conference Proceedings)
E-mail Address	
Telephone	
Abstracts in English only (Less than 400 words)	

**No registration fees are required to participate in this Conference**

## Call for Participation and Submission of Abstracts

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

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

Authors of accepted contributions will be notified by end of March 2021. There is a limit of 6 pages (320 words each page) for each paper, and 3 pages for each poster, including figures, tables and references.

The participants are kindly requested to submit their abstracts by 30 December 2020 to the following Link:

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

## Venue

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

## Important dates

- Submission deadline for abstracts: **31 Jan 2021**
- Abstract acceptance: **30 March 2021**
- Second announcement: **30 June 2021**
- Final attendance registration **1 September 2021**
- Full Papers Submission: **1 October 2021**
- Final Program: **28 October 2021**

**All measures and precautions have been taken for ISARM 2021 to remain operational in the context of COVID-19 situation**

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More information  
is available at  
UNESCO-IHP website:  
<https://en.unesco.org/conference/isarm2021>

### Contact information

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