

WORLD WATER SYSTEM HERITAGE PROGRAMME

1. Background

- 1.1 International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) brought forward the idea of recognizing World Water System Heritage (WSH) at the 50th Board of Governors (BoG) meeting of World Water Council (WWC) in Budapest, Hungary in October 2013. The proposal was developed by a Task Force set up by President WWC and chaired by President ICID where a number of members of WWC participated. At the 54th BoG meeting of WWC in April 2015 in Gwangju, Korea, the Task Force submitted the institutional design, communication strategy, financial aspects and timeline for the launch of the Program. During the 58th BoG meeting of WWC held in Jodhpur, India on 17-18 March 2016, the program was approved in principle and is proposed to be launched in November 2016 at Marseilles, during the 20th Anniversary Celebrations of WWC.
- 1.2 The WSH program is initiated as a members' collaborative program. The institutional design to manage the Program has been put in place with an International Committee (IC) managing the overall program and a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) guiding it from technical perspective. The membership of IC and TAC are given in [Appendix](#).

2. Aims and Objective

- 2.1 The WSH program aims at identifying and preserving the people-centred water management systems, organizations, regimes and rules as intangible water heritage considered to be of outstanding value to humanity that creates coexistent social system for humanity and sound environment and giving them recognition
- 2.2 The objectives of the program are to:
 - (i) Gain/learn lessons from water heritage systems,
 - (ii) Disseminate the age-old wisdom gathered through them,
 - (iii) Extract new ideas from the wisdom aggregated from the past, and
 - (iv) Adapt the knowledge suitably in the present context.

3. Scope

- 3.1 The scope encompasses all water management systems as intangible social heritages that serve mankind as well as natural environment systems related to water management regardless of regions and sectors. Institutions managing water for drinking, agriculture, industries, electricity generation, navigation, preserving ecosystems and fisheries; dealing with flood management; measures of defence from storm surge; and institutions controlling waste water from drainage and sanitation will be eligible for inclusion in the register of WSH. The system need not be necessarily related to any particular infrastructure or facility. At the same time the physical facilities and hardware related to the nominated system, might have been renovated for fulfilling necessary functions they serve.

4. Criterion

- 4.1 The system recognized as a WSH should fulfil all the primary criteria and at least one of the secondary criteria which are given below.

4.2 **Primary criteria** that demonstrates its essential characteristics.

- (a) The system should have served for over generations but at least a hundred years,
- (b) The system should have been created by bringing together local community's wisdom; coordinating community's efforts; and developing customs, rules and practices,
- (c) The system should have involved various stakeholders, and
- (d) The system should have contributed to the socio-economic development in the region of its operation.

4.3 **Secondary criteria** that marks its purpose and resilience:

- (a) The system has an outstanding historical background, or
- (b) It has been indispensable for evolving cultural values, generating socio-economic activities and sustaining bio-diversity, or
- (c) It has effectively overcome at least one of the adverse natural hazards such as droughts, flooding, or social conditions such as water quality degradation, waterborne diseases or conflicts, or
- (d) It has an outstanding universal value being common to humanity,

5. What does listing as a WSH mean?

- 5.1 A water management system fulfilling the criterion laid down under section 4, is recognized as "**World Water System Heritage**" for inscription in the "**Register of WSH**" and would be presented a *Plaque* citing its salient features. The Register of WSH maintained on the web pages of WWC and WSH Secretariat.
- 5.2 WSH Secretariat may provide technical guidance to the institution through a team of experts for drawing lessons from the crystals of wisdom. The lessons would be disseminated through various kinds of published material (Coffee table publications, web pages etc.) to bring these WSH into the public knowledge and the role they have played as heritage because the wisdom derived from these Systems.
- 5.3 The WSH Secretariat would maintain and publish the Register of WSH and provide support to the institution by mobilizing WWC resources, invitation to hold special sessions at World Water Forums, technical consultations, information deliveries, and participation to political process.
- 5.4 The process of identification and recognition of WSH will benefit the water fraternity, as well as the society in general, to protect the people-centred practices, institutions, organizations, regimes and rules serving as soft components of sustainable water management systems across all sectors and geographical areas around the world as intangible water heritages to consider their outstanding value.

6. Procedure

6.1 Call for Nominations

- 6.1.1 The nomination process for recognition under WSH Program is open ended and any National Committee/Committee of ICID, ICOLD, UNESCO-IHP or Members of WWC and other stakeholders in Water Sector desirous of submitting a nomination can fill in the required information prescribed in the nomination form as given in [Annex](#) and send it to WSH Secretariat. The nominations form meeting the stipulated criteria will be processed and presented to the Jury every year in the month of



July-August for evaluation. The application shall be accompanied by a 'letter of support' from the relevant authority (ies).

6.2 Jury

6.2.1 Technical Advisory Committee for WSH, comprising of experts representing international organizations, who have technical knowledge and expertise on water management, with high level special knowledge on institutional and technical matters in order to properly make an assessment to the value of water management systems run by people-centred institutions and organizations, acts as Jury for the Program.

6.3 Contact

6.3.1 WSH Secretariat located at ICID Central Office may be contacted for further information on the WSH Program.

Secretary General, ICID
Secretary, IC for WSH and Member-Secretary, TAC for WSH
WSH Secretariat, ICID Central Office
48 Nyaya Marg, Chanakyapuri
New Delhi 110021 INDIA

Tel: +91-11-2611 6836, +91-11-2611 6837
Fax: +91-11-2611 5962; E-mail: icid@icid.org





WORLD WATER SYSTEM HERITAGE PROGRAM

NOMINATION FORM

A. General Information

1. Water Systems under this program are defined as software used to run the water infrastructure that meets the irrigation, drainage, drinking water, sanitation, water quality requirements and would include: Organizations; Rules; Procedures; Mechanism; Management Tools; but NOT the infrastructures.
2. The major objective of the program is to give recognition to the historically established and proven management practices/ organizations (soft tools) and in the process study these practices in order to unearth, establish and compile the reasons for their success (Please refer to the Scheme).
3. The objectives can be met through comprehensive compilation and thorough analysis of these practices/systems in details by the water management practicing and research agencies through an inter-disciplinary team of experts. The nomination form should be filled keeping these objectives in view.
4. The Register of water systems of heritage value will be a web based catalogue, where information on the recognized systems is proposed to be compiled. The information sought herein is the minimal that is required to be maintained in the Register.
5. The information provided herein can be used by WWC and ICID to inform, market and give publicity to the Register of World Water System Heritage (WSH) through various dissemination mechanism, giving due acknowledgement to the National Committee/ Committee/ WWC Members and the owner organization.
6. Each water system proposed to be included in the Register requires a separate form for submitting the required information.
7. The blank space provided in the nomination form is not indicative of the information required. Format of the Nomination Form should be adopted for guidance.
8. The nomination form has to be filled in by a national committee established for the purpose of WSH; or a member organization of WWC; or any of the national bodies of the professional organizations such as ICID, ICOLD, UNESCO-IHP etc.

B Details of the System

1. Location Details of the System

- (a) Name of the Water System
 - (i) In local language (written in roman alphabets) _____
 - (ii) Translated into English _____
- (b) Year of its Establishment (approx.) _____
- (c) Geographical (Attach a map)
 - (i) River Basin/Sub-Basin where System is in operation _____
 - (ii) Approximate Boundaries in Latitude and Longitude _____
 - (iii) Approximate Area (sq. km) _____

2. Objectives served by the System



(i) Objectives of the System: (May tick one or more objectives)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maintaining Infrastructure | <input type="checkbox"/> Managing and Distributing Water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maintaining Bio-Diversity | <input type="checkbox"/> Collecting Cess/Funds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organizing Collective Response | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory Functions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flood Control | |

(ii) Have the Objectives changed over the years? _____

3. Description of the System

(Provide a write up in a separate sheet in about 500 words. The description should be crisp so that it can be included in the Register of WSH. Additional information should be provided in a separate Annex)

(i) List the various stakeholders involved in management: _____

(ii) Are there written Rules of Operation/Management? Yes No

(a) If yes, attach the evidence.

(b) If No, how are the rules communicated

(iii) Present Source of Fund for Management of the System _____

(iv) How has the System performed over the years? _____

(Is the System fulfilling its objectives and how it is? As on date vis-a-vis its designed utility. Has the extent of its jurisdiction changed over time? Enumerate and describe factors that are affecting or have affected the utility of the System in the past in about 500 words. Additional information should be provided in a separate Annex)

4. Justification for Nomination: Criteria which the nominated structure fulfils

(Please provide a write up of about 1000 words how the following primary criteria the system fulfils. Additional information should be provided in a separate Annex)

Primary

- (a) The system should have served for over generations but at least a hundred years,
- (b) The system should have involved various stakeholders,
- (c) The system should have been created by bringing together local community's wisdom, coordinating and developing customs, rules and practices, and
- (d) The system should have contributed to the socio-economic development in the region of its operation.

Secondary

*(Please provide a write up of about 500 words **how one** or more of the secondary criteria the system fulfils. Additional information should be provided in a separate Annex)*



5. Documents to be attached

- (a) Documentary evidence in support of the above (Essential).
- (b) Document describing the complete System.
- (c) A map showing the location of the region where the system is operational
- (d) Documents/Reports enumerating benefits accrued from the System.
- (e) Photographs, old as well as the latest, helping to establish a visual impression.
- (f) Audio visual materials describing the System in operation.
- (g) Bibliography etc.

(In case the documents are too bulky, please provide electronic versions (scanned))

C Information about the Nominating Organization

- (i) Name of the Nominating Committee _____
- (ii) Authentication:
 - (a) It is certified that the above information is correct to the best of our knowledge and the relevant institutions/departments have been contacted or informed about this nomination.
 - (b) Nominating Member/Organization will undertake the actions required to disseminate the information befitting the listed WSH.

(ii) No Objection:

We have no objection to WSH Secretariat/WWC using the information provided with this nomination form for marketing and to give publicity to the Water System Heritage (WSH) nominated.

- (a) Signatures _____
Chairman / Secretary of the
Nominating Member / NC/ Organization
- (b) Name _____
- (c) Address _____

- (d) Seal _____



**Membership of International Committee and
Technical Advisory Committee for
WORLD WATER SYSTEM HERITAGE PROGRAM**

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE (IC) MEMBERSHIP

- (i) President, ICID, Chair of IC
- (ii) Representative of FAO (Dr Yoshihide Endo, GIAHS Coordinator)
- (iii) Representative of UNESCO (Ms Bianca Jimenez-Cisneros)
- (iv) Representative of ICOMOS (Mr. Henk van Schaick)
- (v) Member of BoG of WWC Mr. Dale Jacobson
- (vi) Member of BoG of WWC Mr. Jin Hai
- (vii) Member of BoG of WWC Prof. Dr. Dogan Altinbilek
- (viii) Member of BoG of WWC Dr. A. Szöllösi-Nagy
- (ix) Secretary General, ICID, Member Secretary

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEMBERSHIP

- (i) Dr. Mark Smith, Expert Representative from International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- (ii) Mr. Emmanuel Grenier, International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD)
- (iii) Dr. ir. Maurits W. Ertsen, President, International Water History Association (IWHA)
- (iv) Dr Alexander Otte, UNESCO-IHP
- (v) Dr Pierre-Alain Roche, President, Association Scientifique et Technique pour l'Eau et l'Environnement (ASTEE), France
- (vi) Dato' Ir. Hj. Keizrul bin Abdullah, Chairperson, Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO), Malaysia
- (vii) Mr. Ali Reza Salamat, Deputy Director, UNESCO Regional Centre on Urban Water Management- Tehran, Iran
- (viii) Dr. Kazumi Yamaoka, Commissioner, JNCID, Overseas Land Improvement Cooperation Office, MAFF, Japan
- (ix) Dr. Kuang Shangfu, President, China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (IWHR), China
- (x) Mr Zhang Zhirong, (Alt: Li Yumei) Curator, the China Water Museum of China
- (xi) Mr. Kevin Chrétien, Project Officer, World Water Council (WWC)
- (xii) Expert Representative from International Water Resources Association (IWRA) - tbc
- (xiii) Expert Representative from International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) - tbc
- (xiv) Expert Representative from International Water Association (IWA) - tbc
- (xv) Mr. Avinash Chand Tyagi, Secretary General, ICID - Secretary

