

IAHS Bureau: Working Group (WG) and Committees

Chair Name: Okke Batelaan is taking over from Keith Beven, who did establish this WG. We would like to thank Keith for his excellent and sustained efforts for this WG and the topic of 'History of Hydrology'.

Name of Working group or Committee: History of Hydrology

Names of participants and role(s) of each officer:

Role	Name of person	Activities/Responsibilities (e.g. communication)
Chair	Okke Batelaan	Coordination
Task 1 leader	Keith Beven, Okke Batelaan	To provide a central repository for information on the History of Hydrology with liaison, links and metadata on the existing initiatives and copies or links to important historical papers from multiple countries.
Task 2 leaders	Changchun Chen, Pradeep Mujumdar	To encourage more international contributions from countries that are not currently well represented in the existing resources, including the identification of important historical papers from those countries.
Task 3 Leaders	Chantal Gascuel, Lucy Marshall	To encourage the recording of the contributions of female hydrologists (including interviews with late career female hydrologists).
Task 4 Leader	Jeff McDonnell	To encourage the recording of the histories of experimental catchments where important advances in understanding of hydrological processes have been made.
Task 5 Leaders	Fabrizio Fenicia, Cristina Prieto	To encourage the recording of the histories of hydrological models and the people who worked with them.
Task 6 Leader	Mario Mendiondo	To provide a mechanism for the recording of the history of projects representing good practice in sustainable hydrology for societies under change, building on the Case Studies in Panta Rhei.

What is the main scientific challenge your WG will focus on during the next-coming year?

Broadening the base of involvement, activating and reaching out to the hydrological community to enhance a better historical awareness of the hydrological sciences.

Which UPH(s) does the Working Group/Committee contribute to? (No 1-23: check <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02626667.2019.1620507>)

Number 23: What is the role of water in migration, urbanisation and the dynamics of human civilisations, and what are the implications for contemporary water management? As in learning from ancient civilisations and historical perspectives.

Which Theme and WG of HELPING Decade do the WG/Committee contribute to? (See current status here <https://iahs.info/Initiatives/Topic-for-the-Next-IAHS-decade/helping-working-groups/>)

1.1 REHYDRATE - REtrieve historical HYDRologic dATa & Estimates

3.2 Outreach, Communication & Promoting the Digital Water Globe

Our working group might contribute to many more of the HELPING working groups as it is able to contribute an historical perspective to many hydrological topics.

How – in which form will the results be presented? (collaborative paper, workshop, etc)
Collaborative manuscript, report, summer courses and workshops

History of Hydrology Task Leader 6, Mario Mendiondo, is specifically focusing on contributing output from the History of Hydrology Working Group to the Digital Water Globe.

Work plan for 2025

PERIODICAL WG/Committee WORKSHOP	A very successful workshop "From the History of Hydrology to the Future of Education" was organised at Eawag, Zurich, 18 June 2025. There are plans to continue this workshop or to extend this to a larger workshop in 2025/2026.
COMMUNITY PAPER	<p>A paper has been published in the HSI Special Issue on 'History of Hydrology': Beven, K., Archfield, S., Batelaan, O., Chen, C., Fenicia, F., Gascuel-Odoux, C., Marshall, L., McDonnell, J., Mendiondo, E.M., Prieto, C. and Vimal, S., On the value of a history of hydrology and the establishment of a History of Hydrology Working Group. Hydrological Sciences Journal 70 (5): 717-729. https://doi.org/10.1080/02626667.2025.2452357.</p> <p>By the end of September, this Special Issue will be closed, and an Editorial will be highlighting the contribution of the published historical hydrological research.</p>
DIGITAL WATER GLOBE	There are ongoing discussions on how part of the 'History of Hydrology Wiki' can be connected to the Digital Water Globe or can become a standalone part of the IAHS Digital Water Globe.
OTHER INITIATIVES	- 'History of Hydrology Interviews' will continue in 2025/2026. Beginning of July 2025 two new interviews have been made (Andras Bardossy and Petra Döll). Recently, the interview with Wolfgang Kinzelbach has been published on the Youtube Channel. The goal for 2025/2026 is to interview more female hydrologists, contacts have been established to identify suitable candidates.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the coming months of 2025 we will publish a weekly podcast 'History of Hydrology Interview'. Pau Wiersma, PhD student of the University of Lausanne is preparing these podcasts based on the video interviews. - We would like to establish a number of undergrad/postgrad 'History of Hydrology' research projects. - We would like to establish a 'Calendar of birth/death dates of influential hydrologists' to promote the historical awareness in the community through regular social media posts. - Solomon Vimal is continuing his 'Horton' project. Multiple papers will appear based on discoveries made from the Horton archives.
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Guidelines for filling the Workplan:

"PERIODIC WG/Committee WORKSHOP"

This workshop should be organized by the WG/Committee. It should be an IAHS event, not a session during a conference. It can be co-organized with other Commissions or other organizations. In the latter case the role of IAHS should be clearly identifiable in the organization.

Typically, such workshops have an annual frequency, have a relatively small number of participants (in the range of 40-100), and are particularly precious for collecting the community and focusing on common and emerging research topics.

In the work plan table are expected information about the WG/Committee Workshop.

If the WG/Committee has already finalized the organization, the webpage link of the workshop and the date and the venue should be specified. If the WG/Committee has just started to plan and organize, the date and venue or the available information should be specified. If the Commission recently held the workshop, few summary information should be included in the table and the report link or the pdf should be provided.

The report format is simple and described below:

First page: WG/Committee name, title of the workshop, date, venue, Group Picture of the event

Second page: Statistical summary of the workshop: number of participants, Countries, number of oral presentations, number of posters (if they were present).

From the third page: Scientific Program

Last page: list of participants (EDI?)

"COMMUNITY PAPER"

The final aim of the WG/Committee is to shed light on research topics related to the WG/Committee. Collecting the community and working together the expected outcome is to provide a community paper that summarizes milestones or crucial emerging topics.

In the work plan table, some information on the community paper status is expected. For instance, it would be useful to know if the WG/Committee has been planning the community paper, the topic, authors, the percentage of development, and when it is expected to be submitted. This information is crucial for coordinating such activity with the HSJ Editors.

You can find some examples here:

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CANDHY

UPH

"DIGITAL WATER GLOBE"

As you know the DWG is finally active: <https://dwg.smhi.se/dwg/> and we are looking forward to receiving the contribution from the IAHS community on case-studies and links to data and IAHS publications.

Since our community is shaped by the Commissions, Committees and Working Groups we invite you to advertise the DWG and include all the officers' Personal profiles in the visualisation tool (linked to other items).

The information requested in the table is the number of items that you plan to include in the DWG during the next months and the number you did in the last period.