



Science for Solutions decade: **HELPING**
Hydrology **E**ngaging **L**ocal **P**eople **I**N one **G**lobal world
IAHS Scientific Decade 2023-2032
[IAHS Scientific Decade](#)

Details of the Working Group – Decolonisation and Hydrology

Describe the work and how your suggested working group will contribute to the goal(s): Our group aims to address the intersection of decolonisation and hydrological research. It will focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion within the field of hydrology. By examining hydrological practices through a decolonial lens, the group seeks to challenge existing power dynamics and colonial legacies. Themes include equity, co-creation, communication strategies, and leveraging UN frameworks along with other IAHS' cross-cutting work group goals. The group will explore knowledge generation and transfer related to water research and education, engaging local communities while acknowledging our colonial past and global interconnectedness. Practical initiatives include staff education, targeted cataloguing, and embedding decolonisation practices in collection development policies.

Describe the methods you will use to achieve the goal(s): Review institutional water policies and the hydrological curriculum to identify effective local practices that promote diversity and inclusion. This can be achieved by actively involving underrepresented groups, drawing from an understanding of our colonial past. Organise workshops, seminars, and conferences that address issues of equity. Encourage collaboration with indigenous communities and local experts to ensure a more inclusive and equitable approach, acknowledging the effects of our colonial past. Identify practical approaches to incorporate diverse perspectives, indigenous knowledge, and decolonial methodologies into teaching materials. Ensure that hydrology education reflects both global contexts and local realities, fostering a more holistic understanding of water systems. Engage local communities in discussions related to water research. Co-decide options with community members, respecting traditional wisdom and incorporating it into hydrological practices. By involving diverse voices and perspectives, a more decolonised and sustainable approach to water management will emerge.

Describe the (a) short-term, (b) the long-term and (c) the ultimate results you hope to achieve:

- (a) In the short term, the review of institutional water policies and the hydrological curriculum would raise awareness about the importance of diversity and inclusion and engage underrepresented groups.
- (b) Over time, these efforts would lead to policy changes, the establishment of long-term partnerships with indigenous communities and local experts, and a more inclusive approach to water education and research.
- (c) Ultimately, this would foster a more holistic understanding of water systems, promote equitable water management practices, and lead to more sustainable outcomes. These changes would respect and value diversity and inclusion, contributing to a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable approach to water management and hydrology education.

[Click here to sign up to this Working Group](#)