



**International Environment Forum** A Baha'i inspired organization addressing  
the environment and sustainable development

27 October 2022

**Input to the Preparatory Meeting  
UN 2023 Water Conference**

The International Environment Forum proposes to the UN 2023 Water Conference to consider more strongly the manifold values of water to local populations and ecosystems to ensure its effective management.

Water is more than a resource. The aquatic environment is a habitat for many species and provides many ecosystem services. Water also has other values beyond its practical uses. In many cultures, water has social, symbolic and spiritual meanings. The Maori sacred rivers in Aotearoa-New Zealand, and many Pacific Islanders' unity with water and oceans are some examples.

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) recent *Assessment of the Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature* shows how a broader perspective on natural resources can improve management. Such an approach, with more consultation and participation in decision-making, can lead to better outcomes for water in general.

A black and white image of a handwritten signature, which appears to be 'Arthur Lyon Dahl', written in a cursive style.

Arthur Lyon Dahl  
President  
International Environment Forum



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