



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

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UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

"Conserving Water, Preserving Culture: Co-Creating Tools with Indigenous Communities in Water Management"

March 23rd 2023 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM EST | Zoom

Organized by: Hecho por Nosotros & animaná

Background on the event

For over a decade, Animaná and Hecho por Nosotros (HxN) have been at the forefront of promoting sustainable practices in the textile and fashion industry, with a focus on regenerating fashion behaviour through circularity and sustainability while respecting the environment, artisans, and their unique culture. Their efforts have involved connecting micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with global markets through digital channels, and they have been instrumental in fostering sustainable practices in the textile value chain.

Water Action Agenda

The event aligns with the UN 2023 Water Conference and the 2030 Agenda, promoting water management tools that integrate indigenous knowledge and practices with modern western science and technology. Animaná and HxN reinforce their commitment to working with local Indigenous communities to promote Indigenous understandings and practices related to water, and to create opportunities for collaboration in advancing water stewardship and sustainable practices in the creative industries. They also commit to advocating, promoting, and seeking solutions that incorporate the priorities and principles of the 2030 Water Agenda to their transdisciplinary community, including students, professionals, scientists, leaders, local voices, and representatives of government and non-governmental organizations.

Key Issues discussed

- Importance of indigenous knowledge and practices in water management: recognizing and respecting the cultural and spiritual significance of water in indigenous

communities, incorporating traditional ecological knowledge in water management practices, and involving indigenous communities in decision-making processes.

- Cross-sectoral partnerships for water management: emphasizing the need for collaboration among different stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, academia, local communities, and private sector, to ensure access to clean and safe drinking water for all, and exploring the role of technology in empowering vulnerable populations and reinforcing local value chains.
- Regenerative and resilient models for water management: reflecting on the need to develop regenerative and resilient models for water management that consider ecological firmness perspective and incorporate sustainable practices in various sectors, such as fashion, agriculture, and industry, and addressing the gaps in current models.
- Rights of water and ownership: questioning the current understanding of water ownership in a colonial world, advocating for the recognition of the rights of water as a living entity and its intrinsic value beyond its economic value, and promoting legal frameworks that protect and preserve water resources for current and future generations.
- Empowerment of vulnerable populations: highlighting the importance of empowering vulnerable populations, including women, indigenous people, and artisans, in decision-making processes related to water management, and promoting inclusive and equitable approaches that consider their unique perspectives and needs, and protect their cultural heritage.

Key recommendations for action

- Foster cross-sectoral partnerships: Encouraging collaboration among governments, NGOs, academia, local communities, and the private sector to promote sustainable water management practices that respect indigenous knowledge and values.
- Incorporate traditional ecological knowledge: Recognizing and incorporating traditional ecological knowledge of indigenous communities in water management policies, plans, and practices to ensure more sustainable and culturally sensitive approaches to water management.
- Develop regenerative and resilient models: Investing in the development of regenerative and resilient models for water management that consider ecological firmness perspective and incorporate sustainable practices in various sectors, such as fashion, agriculture, and industry.
- Recognize the rights of water: Advocating for the recognition of the rights of water as a living entity and its intrinsic value beyond its economic value, and promoting legal frameworks that protect and preserve water resources for current and future generations.
- Raise awareness among stakeholders about sustainable water management practices involving indigenous communities and promote actions at all levels of society, including individual actions, to contribute to water conservation efforts.