





THE **OVERARCHING GOAL** OF THE **WOMENS WATER DIPLOMACY NETWORK** IS:

**WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND LEADERSHIP  
IN HIGH-LEVEL DECISION MAKING IN  
TRANSBOUNDARY BASINS**

Which will be achieved through **objectives** and **activities**,  
defined within **five strategic pillars**.



# Strategic Pillars:

## WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND LEADERSHIP IN HIGH-LEVEL DECISION-MAKING IN TRANSBOUNDARY BASINS

### PILLAR 1



#### GENDER AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

In transboundary  
water decision making

### PILLAR 2



#### PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING

Capacity development &  
experience exchange

### PILLAR 3



#### RESEARCH COOPERATION

Supporting network  
members & institutions

### PILLAR 4



#### LINKAGES TO BASIN

Regional and  
global processes

### PILLAR 5



#### PROCESS SUPPORT

Strategic analysis; Design, monitoring & evaluation; Communications; Partnership development



**The pilot Woman in Water  
Diplomacy Network Forum  
in Uganda, October 2017**



**‘Increasing womens' participation and influence in water governance processes is critical to improve services, reduce inequalities, and mitigate conflicts. Addressing the embedded inequalities requires an enhanced awareness and understanding of the underlying power dynamics and structural barriers that reinforce gender inequalities.’**

Excerpt from Klimes, Martina; Michel, David; Koch, Elizabeth; Restiani, Phillia. 2019. *Water diplomacy: The intersect of science, policy and practice*. In *Journal of Hydrology Special Issue Water Diplomacy*.



**The second Network Forum in Ethiopia, Dec 2018**



**‘The Women in Water Diplomacy Network provides women with a space where we can learn and share experience about water governance and transboundary cooperation issues. It is very empowering to be part of this Network.’**

**Yodit Balcha** | founding member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and serves on the Network Leadership Council



**The third Network Forum in Kenya, January 2020**





**‘To get ahead and to innovate in our work, professionals and experts need to be surrounded by a network of supporters for inspiration and sharing. This is an important value of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network.’**

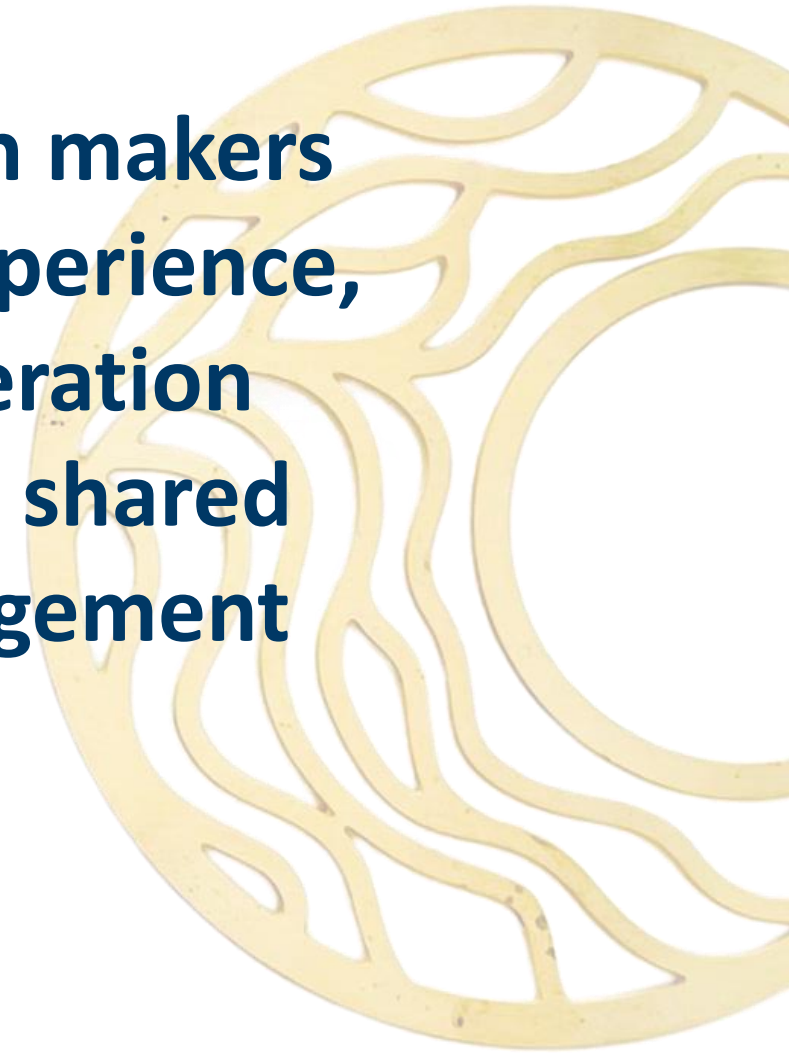
**Dr Muna Musnad** | founding Member of Women in Water Diplomacy Network, serves on the Network Leadership Council, member of Board of the UNESCO Category II International Centre for Water Cooperation.

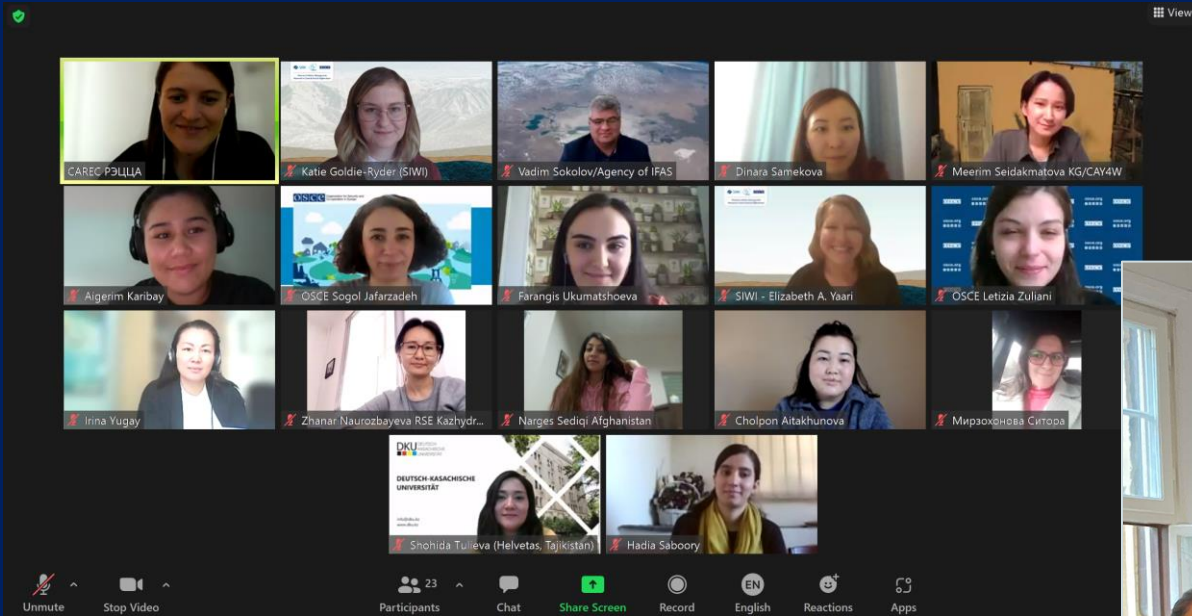


**2020 Nile Network Forum Participants**

**‘We call upon our fellow decision makers to leverage all available skills, experience, and leadership to improve cooperation across the Basin and achieve our shared goals of sustainable water management and development.’**

Excerpt from the 2020 Network Joint Statement





# 2021 Central Asia- Afghanistan Network Launched



***'I would like to thank our sisters from the Nile Basin and other Basins in the Network for having our backs, helping us and making us feel so strong. We have a long way to go to achieve our goals in Central Asia and Afghanistan, but we have confidence with your help.'***

**Tais Reznikova, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) | founding member, Central Asia and Afghanistan Network**

# Women in Water Diplomacy Leadership Council Established



**Yodit Balcha**  
Sen. Climate Change Adaptation Advisor, Ministry of Water and Energy (Ethiopia)



**Jacqueline Nyirakamana**  
Transboundary Water Resources Cooperation Specialist, Min of Environment (Rwanda)



**Theresa Khakasa Wasike**  
Director of Administration, Ministry of Water (Kenya)



**Dr Tahani Sileet**  
Head, Central Depart. for Ext Cooperation in the Nile Water Sector, Min. of Water Res. & Irr. (Egypt)



**Tumaini Mwamyalla**  
National Desk/ Focal Officer for the Nile Basin Initiative, Min. of Water (Tanzania)



**Dr Muna Musnad**  
UNESCO Chair in Water Res., Omdurman Islamic University (Sudan)



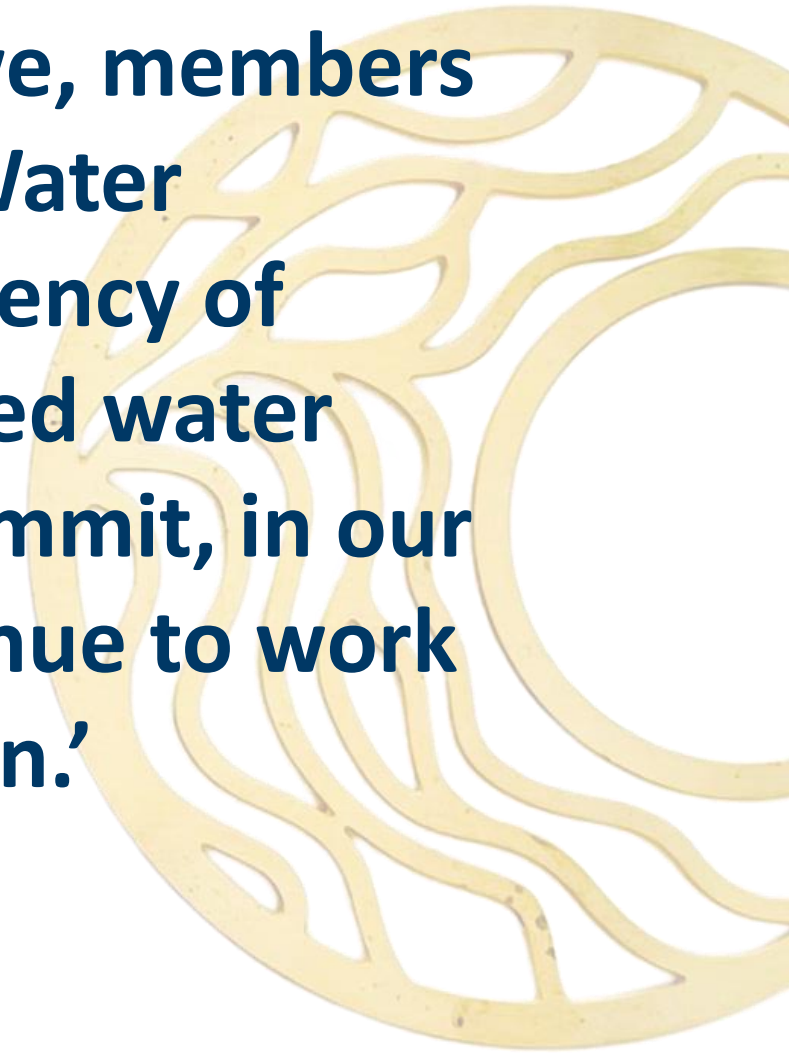
**Dr Zodwa Dlamini**  
Independent Consultant and Former Chief Del. and Per. Rep. on the Lesotho Highlands Water Com. (South Africa)



**Nompumelelo Ntshalintshali-Motsa**  
Africa Regional Coordinator, Sanitation and Water for All (Eswatini)

**‘As decision makers and experts, we, members and supporters of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network, stress the urgency of action needed to address our shared water and climate challenges and, we commit, in our capacity as water leaders, to continue to work together to further this cooperation.’**

Excerpt from the 2022 Network Joint Statement






**‘We must all do everything possible to ensure women are at the table, our voices heard, and our contributions valued.’**

**Amina Mohammed** | UN Deputy Secretary-General  
As UNGA adopts resolution declaring June 24, 2022 the first-ever International Women In Diplomacy Day.



# Learn more with our #Herstory Resource Series



**POLICY PAPER**  
**Tapping our Potential: Women's Water Leadership in the Nile Basin**

Women Have a Critical Role to Play in Inclusive and Effective Transboundary Water Governance

Cooperation over the shared water resources of the Nile Basin is essential to water security and development in the region. To mitigate and manage potential and actual drivers of water-related conflict in the region, improved and more inclusive resource decision-making is critical. Engaging a diverse cross-section of stakeholders in decisions around shared waters broadens the set of environmental and social impacts that are considered and the knowledge and skills employed to address them, thus increasing the likelihood of developing sustainable and equitable solutions. In the Nile Basin, NWI and partners initiated a growing network of women water professionals active in transboundary water management under the 'Women and Water Diplomacy in the Nile (WIN)' platform to enhance the collective capacity of women throughout the basin and to support the engagement of these women water leaders in decision-making and peace-building processes in the Basin.

**From Policy to Action: Balancing Gender for Stronger Water Diplomacy**

The critical role of women in water resources management and protection has been recognized and emphasized at the highest policy levels for over 25 years. The Dublin Statement on Water and Sustainable Development (see box) was only the first of countless national, basin-level and international policy statements and guidance documents that stress the need for more gender-inclusive water governance processes at all levels'. Yet, despite repeated, high-level commitments to engaging women in water governance, evidence reveals a persistent gender gap in the water sector. This gap is particularly evident at the transboundary level, where water governance processes continue to be dominated by men (Baill and Earle, 2013; ILCN, 2017).

Similarly, the transformative role of women in conflict prevention and peacebuilding has been repeatedly demonstrated.


1

INCEPTION AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

## Laying the Bedrock of Transformation

### Women in Water Diplomacy Network 2013-2021


The story so far; how the Network came to be and how it has developed through the years.



GLOBAL STRATEGY | AUGUST 2022

## A Path Forward for Women, Water, Peace, and Security

The Women in Water Diplomacy Network Nile and Beyond Global Strategy 2022-2027



# Women in Water Diplomacy Network's first-ever Global Network Forum; August 2022



# Women in Water Diplomacy Global Strategy Launch at the 2022 Stockholm World Water Week



# Orange-Senqu River Commission Commitment

*'The Orange Senqu River Commission pledges to support the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Global Strategy and its objectives that emphasise peace and security.'*

- Commissioner Bogadi Mathangwane, Orange-Senqu River Commission | founding member of the Orange-Senqu Network



# Call to Establish North American Network



*'There has never been a more important time for a Network like this to exist. The challenges we are facing are so significant – while we all face them – the impacts are most severely on those that are marginalized and vulnerable.'*

**- Commissioner Merrell-Ann Phare,  
International Joint Commission**




# Women in Water Diplomacy Network at the 2023 UN Water Conference




# Women in Water Diplomacy Network Official Side Event at the 2023 UN Water Conference

WEDNESDAY MARCH 22, 2023 | 15:30-16:45 ET  
UN SIDE EVENT ROOM A | UN HEADQUARTERS | NYC




**Elevating Critical Voices  
in Water Diplomacy**

This event highlights the critical importance of inclusive water diplomacy processes with a focus on linkages between women, water, peace, and security, and the value of water for peace and human security.










**CO-CONVENORS:**





WOMEN IN WATER DIPLOMACY NETWORK & PARTNERS

**WWDN CO-CONVENING PARTNERS:**



**WITH THE SUPPORT OF:**



# Women in Water Diplomacy Network at the 2023 UN Water Conference







*“When water is a shared resource between two nations, challenges and objectives are also shared. In this sense, this network of women in water diplomacy gives us the opportunity to share their experiences with a common goal of improving water management.”*

- Commissioner Adriana Resendez,  
International Boundary and Water  
Commission, Mexico



*“The US International Boundary and Water Commission is appreciative of the great work of the North American Women in Water Diplomacy Network and supports the efforts to advance women as leaders in transboundary water decision-making. Both our organizations share a common mission of improving the health and welfare of vulnerable border communities through innovative and bold solutions associated with access to clean and reliable water.”*

- Dr. Maria-Elena Giner, P.E; Commissioner  
International Boundary and Water  
Commission, U.S. Section

# Women in Water Diplomacy Network Special Event with the United States Institute of Peace



Celebrating the International Day of Women in Diplomacy; June 2023



***“Walking alone is often lonely, unpredictable and long. In the company of our Women in Water Diplomacy Network sisters and brothers all around the world – and the collaboration, partnership, mentorship and support that binds us - we are stronger together and can achieve much. On behalf of the Network’s Leadership Council – warm welcome to our sisters in North America!”***

**- Dr Zodwa Dlamini on behalf of the Women in Water Diplomacy Leadership Council**



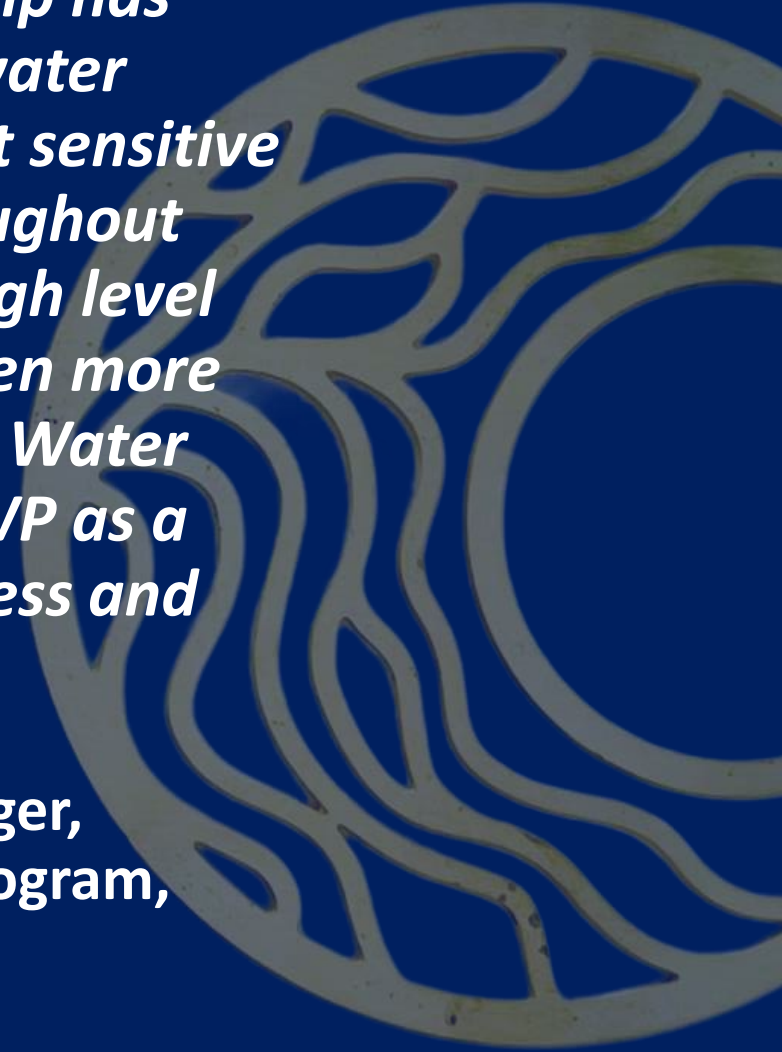
**WOMEN IN  
WATER DIPLOMACY  
NETWORK & PARTNERS**



*“The Shared Waters Partnership has had the honor of supporting water diplomacy processes in conflict sensitive basins for over 10 years. Throughout this time, the gender gap in high level water decision making has been more than apparent. The Women in Water Diplomacy was initiated by SWP as a targeted engagement to address and transform this dynamic.”*



- Kerry Schneider, Senior Manager, Shared Waters Partnership Program, SIWI





*“Since 2017 we've seen the Women in Water Diplomacy Network grow as the world increasingly recognizes the critical role of women water leaders around the world. The launch of WWDN in North America is an important and natural expansion of these efforts to foster networks at the intersection of women's rights, resilience, and water. The Environmental Law Institute is honored and excited to support this work.”*

- Jordan Diamond, President,  
Environmental Law Institute (ELI)



ENVIRONMENTAL  
LAW • INSTITUTE®



***“The Women in Water Diplomacy Network has been a consistent and tremendous source of inspiration for my career development. Through this Network, I have connected with numerous exceptional women dedicated to the fields of water and environmental conservation.”***

**- Lyazzat Syrlybayeva, Project analyst,  
UNDP Kazakhstan | Member of the  
Women in Water Diplomacy Network**



**WOMEN IN  
WATER DIPLOMACY  
NETWORK & PARTNERS**



*“A key take-away for me in our partnerships with indigenous women leaders is a reminder on the importance of respect and listening to learn, along with the importance of building relationships.”*

- Dr Sharon Megdal, Director of the Water Resources Research Center at the University of Arizona



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

**WATER RESOURCES  
RESEARCH CENTER**





***“The Women in Water Diplomacy Network provides a much-needed network and community building space for women working in and around shared waters.”***

- **Dr Andrea Kristen Gerlak, Director,  
Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy**



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
**UDALL CENTER**  
for Studies in Public Policy



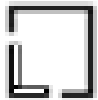
*“As women, we understand the importance of supporting other women. Women take on many roles - mother, daughter, leader, teacher, and so on – all in one day. As leaders, we must bring other women along with us and help them be better than we are. The Indigenous Women Leadership Network supports Indigenous women, particularly in the Colorado River Basin, to bridge the knowledge gap, support women in leadership, and help them succeed in their careers. When one woman succeeds, we all succeed.”*

- Lorelei Cloud, Vice Chair, Southern Ute Tribal Council and co-chair of the Indigenous Women Leadership Network



***“By elevating the voice of indigenous women leaders and decision-makers in water diplomacy, I believe our lands and waters will be cleaner, more resilient, safer, and more productive and we in turn will learn to be better stewards. We all win.”***

**- Dr Faith Sternlieb, Associate Director of Engagement for the Internet of Water, Center for Geospatial Solutions**



**LINCOLN INSTITUTE  
OF LAND POLICY**



WOMEN IN  
WATER DIPLOMACY  
NETWORK & PARTNERS

***“As a member of the Network I have had tremendous opportunities to get actively engaged in local to global multi-sector water processes such as national water talks in Kyrgyzstan, Dushanbe Water Process, World Water Week, and the UN 2023 Water Conference. To be part of these processes, one not only needs to be in them, but also have relevant preparation and support, and the Network was exactly about such an environment for me in this journey.”***

**- Cholpon Aitakhunova, Project Manager,  
Collective Leadership Institute, Member of  
the Women in Water Diplomacy Network**



*“Network members have helped me reach out to potential partners in the region, allowed me to brainstorm and test ideas for new initiatives with them and mentored me when I have needed guidance. The Network inspires me every day and gives the feeling that we are all on a learning journey together.”*

- Sogol Jafarzadeh, Governance and Gender Coordinator for East and Southern Africa, Member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network



WOMEN IN  
WATER DIPLOMACY  
NETWORK & PARTNERS



***“The Network has helped me identify gaps in the water sector, particularly in transboundary water management through engaging and sharing experiences with network members.”***

**- Nompumelelo Ntshalintshali, GlobeCare Executive Director, Member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network’s Leadership Council**



**WOMEN IN  
WATER DIPLOMACY  
NETWORK & PARTNERS**



*“I have learned much from the Women in Water Diplomacy Network about the role and importance of involving women in water diplomacy. As member of Nile/NEL Technical Advisory Committee, I was able demonstrate the importance of gender equality and social inclusion in Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) /Nile Equatorial Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP) and projects and this will be taken into consideration during the NBI/NELSAP Project cycle.”*



WOMEN IN  
WATER DIPLOMACY  
NETWORK & PARTNERS

- Jacqueline Nyirakamana, Transboundary Water Resources Cooperation Specialist and Nile Equatorial Lakes Technical Committee Chair in Ministry of Environment, Rwanda; Member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network’s Leadership Council



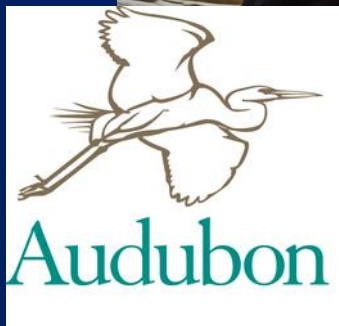
***“Being a member of the Network and engaging in different activities of the Network has increased my self-confidence, my knowledge, and my skills to address transboundary water issues.”***

**- Dr Muna Mohammed Musnad Farah, Water Resources Modeler, ENTRO: Member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network’s Leadership Council**



**WOMEN IN  
WATER DIPLOMACY  
NETWORK & PARTNERS**





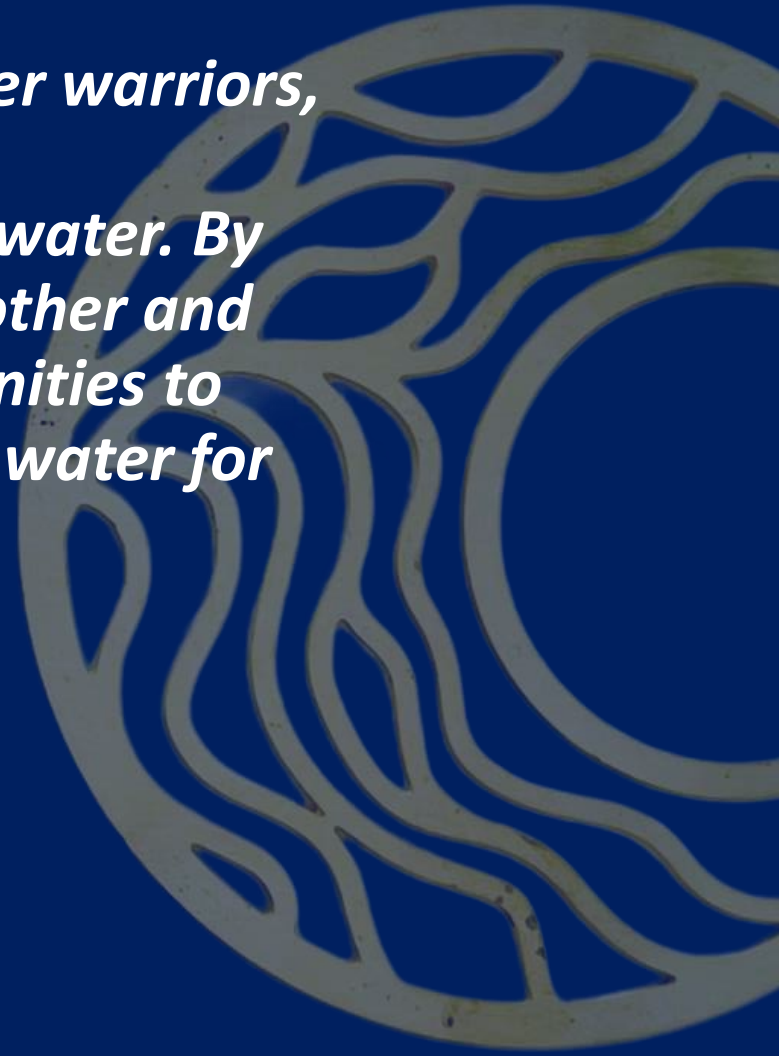
***“Empowering women in water diplomacy not only unlocks our potential, but also through our perspectives - and abilities to listen and connect - opens the floodgates to more sustainable solutions.”***

- Jennifer Pitt, Director, Colorado River Program, National Audubon Society



***“Indigenous women, as water warriors, have an important role and responsibility to protect the water. By coming together with each other and our allies we create opportunities to further protect the land and water for future generations.”***

- Chairwoman Amelia Flores,  
Colorado River Indian Tribes





WALTON FAMILY  
FOUNDATION

***“To meet the challenges facing the Colorado River Basin, we need leadership from diverse voices. The Women in Water Diplomacy Network helps ensure women are in decision-making roles where they can drive solutions that help people and nature thrive together.”***

**- Ted Kowalski, Colorado River Initiative Lead and Senior Program Officer, Environment Program, Walton Family Foundation**



***“CAP is honored to be part of the Women in Water Diplomacy effort and to contribute to fostering inclusive, cooperative dialogue and decision-making around water resources.”***

**- Brenda Burman, Central Arizona Project General Manager**





*“I have the incredible honor to lead SRP’s landscape-scale watershed initiatives that are creating resilient communities and water supplies.”*

- Elvy Barton, Manager Water and Forest Sustainability at the Salt River Project





*“Water is fundamental to life and the prosperity of communities across the globe. Empowering the voices of women and integrating the diverse perspectives of marginalized community members is critical to sustainably and equitably managing our precious water resources. Stantec is proud to support the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in creating this important forum where ideas, understanding, and dialogue can flow.”*

- Kari Shively, Senior Vice President and Water Business Leader, Stantec





**Stanford**  
University

***“The energy and humanity generated by the Women in Water Diplomacy Network is phenomenal and inspiring no matter where in the world one goes. This fellowship, this sisterhood, gives life to all who touch it, giving us the energy needed to bring people together to find solutions to help both people and planet.”***

**- Felicia Marcus, William C. Landreth  
Visiting Fellow, Stanford University,  
Water in the West Program**



***“Women provide diverse, strategic, and healthy perspectives to decision-making, and through mentorship, training, shared experience, and skills transfer, the Women in Water Diplomacy Network helps to broaden inclusion within the water industry today and into the future.”***

**- Colby Pellegrino, Deputy General Manager, Southern Nevada Water Authority**





***“Mentoring women in science and policy helps promote collaboration in water management and decision making. It is exciting to support the mission of the North American Women in Water Diplomacy Network and share our experience in the western United States with a diverse group of women leaders.”***

- Juliet McKenna,  
Principal Hydrogeologist,  
Montgomery & Associates



**MONTGOMERY**  
& ASSOCIATES



*“To deal with - and overcome - today's climate and water challenges, we need to break down silos and build cross-functional collaborations. Harnessing the power of women to support one another, join forces and rethink old paradigms is the key to achieving this goal.”*

- Tamar (Tami) Shor, COO, N-Drip  
#Bringthemhomenow





***“In this era of conflict and war, water scarcity poses a great threat to society. The diplomacy of women working across multiple boundaries is the best approach, perhaps the only viable approach, to ensure we equitably and peacefully find ways to share this precious resource. I am honored to be a part of the North American Women In Water Diplomacy Network launch.”***

**- Meena Westford, Executive Policy Advisor,  
Colorado River, Metropolitan Water District  
of Southern California**



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA