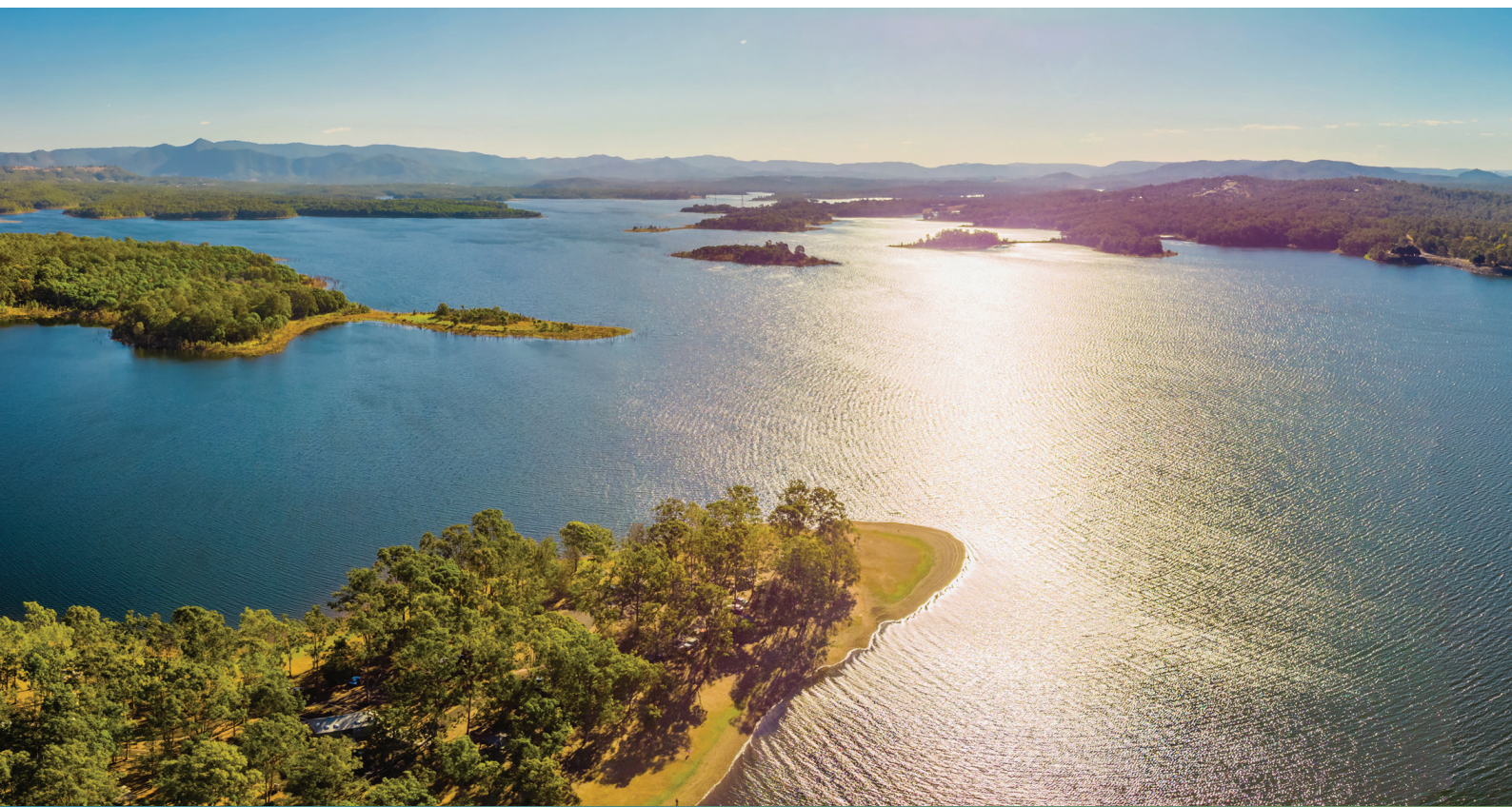




WATER  
**CHANGEMAKER**  
AWARDS

# Water Changers 2023



SCALING UP INNOVATIVE CLIMATE FINANCE AND  
TECHNOLOGIES FOR A WATER-SECURE WORLD

# 1. Background

An estimated 3.6 billion people, nearly half the global population, live in areas that are potentially water-scarce at least one month per year. As the world's population reaches 9 billion, demand will require a 50 percent increase in agricultural production and a 15 percent increase in already-strained water withdrawals. Poor water quality means that much of the available water is not suitable for use. Climate change is disrupting weather patterns, leading to extreme weather events (both droughts and floods), unpredictable water availability, exacerbating water scarcity and further contaminating water supplies.

The world faces multiple, interrelated, and simultaneous transitions in food; cities; and energy. Energy and water are more interconnected than ever - significant amounts of water are needed in almost all energy generation processes. Conversely, the water sector needs energy to extract, treat and transport water. Both energy and water are used in the production of crops, including those used to generate energy through biofuels.

Water scarcity has enormous knock-on impacts throughout the economy. Managing water is clearly a development and growth priority for countries. However, currently the progress on SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation is badly off track. Progress needs to quadruple in order to meet the Global Goals. Governments are working hard to ensure water access to all the diverse stakeholders, public and private; however, quadrupling of momentum cannot happen from governments alone. Innovations that involve all stakeholders, public, private, and communities must be identified and scaled up to drive a momentum change for a water secure and climate resilient world. Promising climate innovations must be identified and nurtured to have significant impact on today's water challenges and lead to tomorrow's water-secure world.

# 2. Water Changemakers 2023

## What is it?

Water Changemakers 2023 is a global challenge to recognise high-level commitment and leadership for climate resilient water investments and showcase the most promising climate resilient innovations with the greatest potential for scale, replication, and further investment to support a water-secure world. Changemaker Awards includes: (a) Presidential Global Changemaker Award - for demonstrated leadership and commitment (b) Innovation challenge Award- for the most promising climate innovations.

## Every USD \$1 invested returns at least USD \$7

A paradigm shift in water investments is required to access new sources of innovative finance. Investment in climate-resilient water security and sanitation has an economic return of USD \$7 for every USD \$ 1 invested. Investing in a water secure future now will realise human security, a healthy environment, amplify gender equality, health, energy, education, food security, and many other societal gains for this generation – and those to come.

Promising climate innovations exist, but many of them fail before reaching the scale at which they can make significant impact. Water Changemakers 2023 seeks proposals from those innovations that have already proven their business model by operating for at least 1 year.

## Matchmaking 'supply and demand' of climate resilient innovations

Water Changemakers will bring together the supply and demand for innovative finance with a special focus on climate resilient, blended public-private finance, and gender transformative approaches. Changemakers promotes the most promising climate resilient innovations to enable them to access new and innovative finance sources from institutional investors, debt, equity, and others from private and public sources, to enable them to scale up.

## Enhance investment opportunity for scaling up

Selected Water Changemakers will receive technical assistance and seed funding to scale up their innovations, and strengthen their business and investment case for investors to provide funding for replication and scale up.

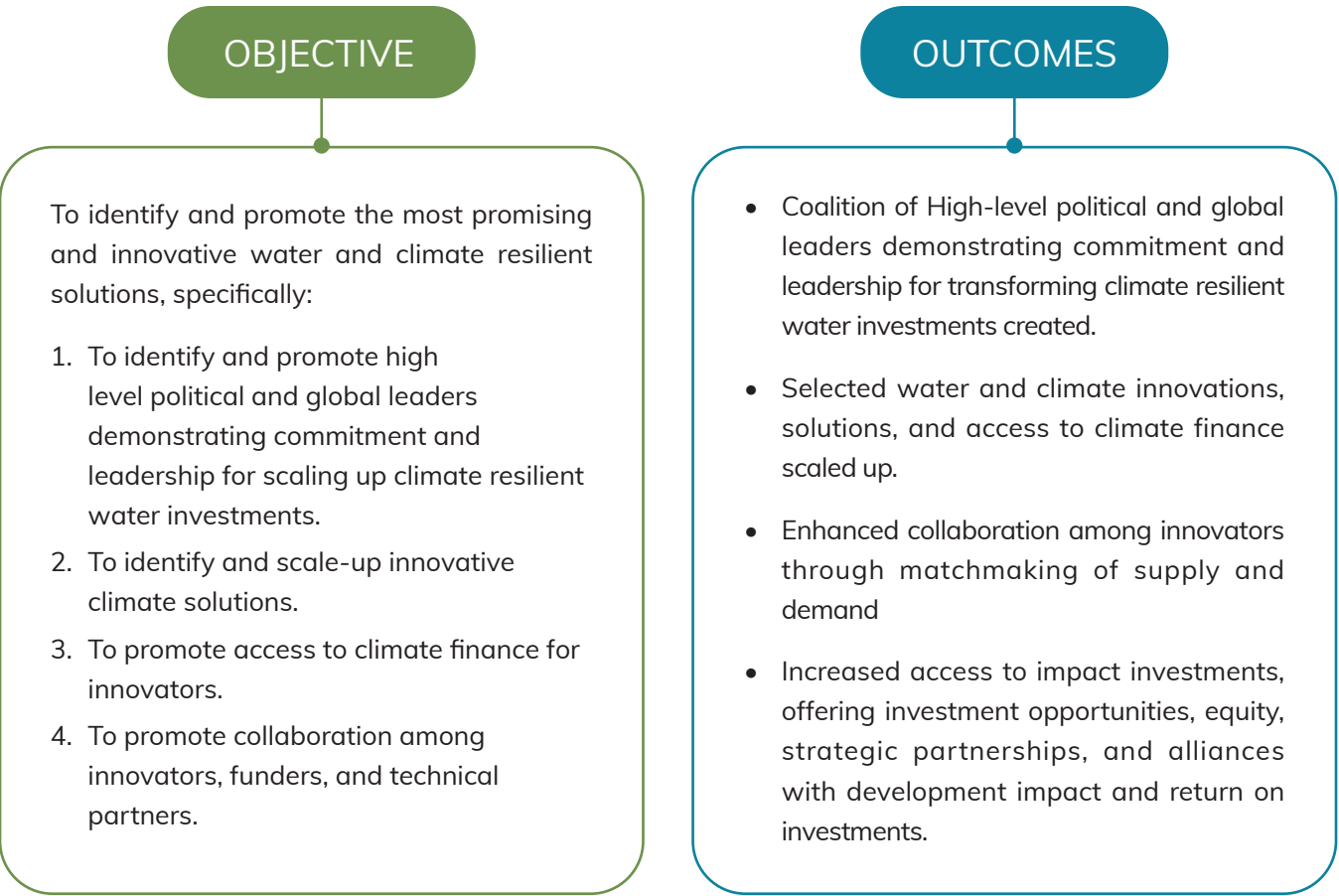
## Contribution to the UNFCCC's Resilience Frontiers<sup>1</sup>

The Water Changemakers contributes to Resilient Frontiers, an initiative of the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC) that 'reimagines our world beyond its current horizons, where in harmony with nature and each other, we harness the power of frontier technologies to enrich, rather than deplete, our environment and overall wellbeing'.

## Mobilise high level political commitment and global leaders

The 2023 Changemakers will recognise global leaders demonstrating high level political commitment and leadership for climate resilient water security. In Africa, Changemakers will contribute to the Mind the Gap – Invest in Water Campaign of the International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa<sup>2</sup>. Comprising current and former Heads of States and global leaders, the panel is developing actionable pathways for mobilising USD \$30 billion annually by 2030, to close the existing water investment gap in Africa through the implementation of the Continental Africa Water Investment Programmes, that was adopted by the African Union Heads of States in February 2021. Collaboration with other high level related water investment initiatives at Heads of States level will be pursued in South Asia, South East Asia, Middle East, Central and Eastern Europe, as well as Latin America and the Caribbean.

# 3. Objectives and outcomes



<sup>1</sup><https://resiliencefrontiers.org/about/>  
<sup>2</sup><https://aipwater.org/high-level-panel/>



## 4. How it works?

Recipients of the Presidential Global Changemaker Awards are identified by the Changemakers jury and awarded at a global UN event. The recipients of the innovation challenge award are identified through a global competitive challenge and should submit their innovation between 1 June - 31 July 2023.

### CATEGORY

- (a) Presidential Global Changemakers Award
- (b) Innovative climate Finance Award

### THEMES

Changemakers will contribute to:

- Water solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals
- Climate resilience through water
- Transboundary water cooperation
- Private sector, gender equality, and youth empowerment.

### PROPOSED TIMELINE

- **22 March 2023:** Launch competition at UN Water Conference, New York
- **June 2023:** Call for climate innovations opens. Hosted by K-Water, in Korea
- **August 2023:** Bootcamp, announcement of top 30 entrants at World Water Week, Stockholm
- **November 2023:** Winners announced during COP 28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Water Changemakers 2023 is envisioned as an engagement that will take place over the course of 9 months, in various locations throughout the year. It is not only the ultimate winners that receive recognition, but the participation of the entrants to showcase the innovation developed around the world.

### AWARDS

The Water Changemakers Awards contributes to GWP's climate resilience strategy (2020-2025) that aims to support more than 30 countries access climate finance and influence investments of more than €1 billion for climate-resilient water management and infrastructure founded on robust, inclusive, and effective water governance systems. Selected winners will be considered for the following categories:

- (i) **Global Leadership and commitment** – Special Presidential Recognition Award at a global event
- (ii) **Innovation on climate finance for water security:** Investment, finance, and technical assistance of at least Euros 100,000 for acceleration of innovative business models and preparation for successful scaling up and replication.

## 5. Who can submit?

Entities are eligible to enter the Innovation Water Changemakers Challenge if they have been operating for at least one year and are seeking to scale up on a successful business model.

- **What:** Innovative changemaker initiative should be about a business model involving water which has contributed to building resilience to climate change.
- **Who:** All organisations, entities, and individuals associated with the private and non-profit sector are eligible to submit their innovative changemaker initiative. Submitters need to be involved in the initiative described or have the agreement of those that are involved to submit. If you have more than one experience to share, you may - multiple submissions are welcome.
- **Where:** Innovations can be from anywhere in the world. Applicants are invited to join the GWP network, if they are not already a member.
- **When:** Innovation must have been in operation for at least one year.
- **Verification:** When a candidate submits their application, they must provide a contact in their country who can verify the existence of their organisation or group. The entrant will also need to provide proof of project impact, audited financial statements, team member profiles, Intellectual Property License (if available), and entity track record from previous ventures.

- **Exclusion:** Staff employed by GWPO or any of the GWP Regional Secretariats, or their direct relatives (partners, children, parents) are not eligible to submit a Water Changemakers experience, nor are members of GWP's Global Steering Committee or Global Technical Committee.
- **Languages:** Submissions are accepted in English, French, and Spanish. We do work, however, in English and we will therefore use publicly available online translation tools to convert non-English submissions into English.

## 6. Our partners

Any or all of the partnership options can be met through a financial contribution to GWPO or in-kind contribution by the partner. The following partnerships opportunities are available:

- Sponsorship of 1 or more winners
- Sponsorship of 1 or more winners in an accelerator/incubator in the company/organisation to prepare it for investment
- Participation in Jury to evaluate applications
- Participation in outreach campaign to publicize the competition

## 7. Core partners

- Global Water Partnership
- Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-Water)
- The World Bank Group
- Continental Africa Water Investment Programme





## 8. Changemakers Governance and Leadership

### Chair:



**H.E. Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi**  
President of Botswana  
Chair - Presidential Global Changemakers Award



**Mr. Wooseok Lee**  
Vice President and Chief Global Officer of K-water  
Honorary Chair of the Innovation Changemakers Award

### Jury: Technical Committee:



#### Ms. Jaehyang So - Chair

Jaehyang So is currently the chair of the technical committee. Jae had an extensive career at the World Bank Group, working on sustainable development and finance, including infrastructure, water, urban development, gender, and public-private partnerships.



#### Dr. Dustin E. Garrick

A research fellow at Oxford University, associate professor of global water policy at the University of Waterloo - school of environment and sustainability. He co-founded a global initiative on water markets with World Bank, and is an expert advisor to the OECD, corporations, governments and non-profits. He has expertise in environmental governance.

than twenty developing countries as an engineer or advisor for 30 years in the water resources sector.



#### Mr. Tom Williams

Tom Williams is a Senior Director, Nature Action at the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, and leads WBCSD's work on accelerating the adoption of nature targets, strategies, and actions by business



#### Dr. Barbara Janusz-Pawletta

Barbara Janusz-Pawletta is Head of the regional MA Program on Integrated Water resource Management in Central Asia, at the German-Kazakh University in Almaty, Kazakstan. She is also UNESCO Chair on water resources management in Central Asia at the German-Kazakh University, and lecturer and long-term fellow of German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) at the German-Kazakh University.



#### Dr. Thomas Panella

Thomas Panella is the Asian Development Bank's (ADB's) Country Director for Afghanistan (November 2014) and leads project/portfolio development and management; government policy dialogue; development partner coordination; security; and mission and staff management.



#### Dr. Winston Yu

Winston Yu holds a PhD from Harvard University and is a Senior Water Resources Specialist at the World Bank. His experience covers technical and institutional problems in the water sector with a focus on Eastern Europe and Central Asia. He is also an Adjunct Professor at Johns Hopkins University.



#### Dr. Kenji Nagata

Kenji Nagata is a Senior Advisor on Water Resources and Disaster at the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). He has been extending assistance to more

## Secretariat:



**Mr. Alex Simalabwi**

Alex Simalabwi is a Graduate of Harvard University with expertise in public policy, business, water resources, climate change. Currently,

Executive Secretary, Global Head - Climate Resilience, and Head of High Level Panel Secretariat at GWPSA - Africa.



**Ms. Anjali Lohani**

Anjali Lohani is a Graduate of Harvard University Kennedy School in Public Administration, served at the World Bank global water practice and is GWP

Senior Water & Climate Resilience Specialist.



**Ms. Gergana Majercakova**

Gergana Majercakova is a Senior Learning Specialist. She is also serving as an Acting Lead for Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Knowledge.



**Dr. Kelly Ann Naylor**

Kelly Ann Naylor served as UNICEF Director-Water Sanitation Hygiene at UN HQ and Deputy for UN Water. She is Special Advisor to the

secretariat of the International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa and leads liaison for AIP with Permanent missions at the UN.



**Ms. Svetlana Doneva**

Svetlana Doneva is a Senior Communications Advisor to the AIP International High Level Panel on Water Investment for Africa.



**Valentin Aich**

Valentin Aich is a Senior Water & Climate Specialist. He is also a Network Specialist for Central Asia and Caucasus.



**Rene Schieritz**

Rene Schieritz is a Water and Climate Change Programme Development Specialist.



**Ms. Andiswa Nyongwana**

Andiswa Nyongwana is a Water and Climate Specialist and Assistant Coordinator of the global Changemakers Awards.

## Partners involved in Water Changemakers 2020



Global Water Partnership (GWP), Global Secretariat, PO Box 24177, 104 51 Stockholm, SWEDEN.  
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