

FRIEND-Water Programme

Call for Regional Coordinators



CALL FOR REGIONAL COORDINATORS OF THE UNESCO IHP FRIEND-WATER PROGRAMME

BACKGROUND

FRIEND-Water (Flow Regimes from International Experimental and Network Data) is a flagship initiative of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) of UNESCO, founded in 1985. FRIEND-Water seeks to facilitate, promote and foster collaborations across borders between scientists (hydrologists and related disciplines) to conduct studies on shared river basins. As a cross-cutting theme of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Hydrological Program (IHP), FRIEND-Water contributes to research on regional water resources, water-related disasters (such as flood and droughts), global change and the water cycle, and water education and capacity building. The FRIEND-Water programme complements and interacts with many national projects and international initiatives.

Activities focus on i) stimulating research and training activities carried out by regional researchers in hydrology, related topics and shared databases and ii) promoting dialogue between scientists, local communities and policy makers. Every four years, FRIEND-Water holds an international conference in partnership with national universities, research institutes and the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS). In addition, FRIEND-Water is structured in regional groups which organize international meetings, conferences, workshops, training sessions, scientific exchanges and field trips, while also sharing software and tools. Several communications are published in special issues of regular indexed journals and conference proceedings of IAHS. Involving researchers from 180 countries, the FRIEND-Water programme evolved into regional groups spread around the world, focusing over time on Europe, Mediterranean, West and Central Africa, Asia-Pacific, Southern Africa, Congo, Nile and Hindu-Kush basins.

The programme is coordinated by the FRIEND Intergroup Coordination Committee (FIGCC) composed of: FIGCC Chair; FRIEND Regional coordinators; Representatives of FRIEND Secretariat; Representatives from UNESCO IHP; Representative of IAHS; FRIEND Science advisors and additional experts as required.

The International Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Water Systems Dynamics (ICIReWaRD) in Montpellier, France, a Category II Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, was endorsed in 2020 to become the global secretariat for the FRIEND-Water programme. To align the programme to the new IHP Phase IX strategy, and particularly to the Resolution XXV-2 on the 'Framework for the Planning, Implementation and Monitoring of IHP Flagship Initiatives', adopted at the IHP council in April 2022, a call for Regional Coordinators is now open.

ROLE OF THE FRIEND-WATER REGIONAL COORDINATOR (FWRC)

The FWRC main role is to develop and coordinate a regional network of water scientists, whilst leveraging opportunities to increase the scientific activities of the regional FRIEND-Water group. Within each FRIEND-Water regional group, research themes are defined by the regional coordinator in close cooperation with the FIGCC and members of the group based on their

experience and knowledge of regional research priorities in water sciences. Research priorities and activities should also be aligned with the strategic action plan of UNESCO IHP-IX (2022-2029).

The main activities to be organized by the FWRCs in their regions include:

- International conferences, seminars and workshops;
- International training sessions and summer schools;
- Database setup and sharing;
- Scientific exchanges for students, junior or senior scientists;
- Transferring knowledge and skills to operational organizations;
- Editing books or proceedings, special issues of peer-reviewed scientific journals;

In addition, the FWRC must report to the FIGCC, the FRIEND-Water secretariat and at UNESCO's request, providing written reports summarizing activities conducted within the region and participating in regular meetings.

Regional Coordinators will be seconded in the implementation of these tasks by a Deputy Regional Coordinator who will be appointed by the FIGCC in consultation with the FWRC. Research Themes coordinators may also be appointed by the FIGCC to support the implementation of the FRIEND-Water activities.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The FRIEND-Water Regional Coordinator is a voluntary, non-remunerated position and has a duration of 4 years, renewable once. Existing regional coordinators are entitled to re-apply.

The main tasks of the FRIEND Water Regional Coordinator are as follows:

- Provide regional scientific leadership in accordance with the FIGCC recommendations to define regional research subthemes along the line of relevant IHP IX priority areas and expected outcomes of IHP IX (2022-2029)¹;
- Promote the development of activities in line with regional research themes including organising conferences and workshops, training sessions and materials², populating databases and publishing research in peer reviewed journals;
- Strengthen the visibility of the FRIEND-Water programme through networking, sharing and dissemination of data, results and tools ;
- Report to the FIGCC, the FRIEND-Water secretariat and at UNESCO's request. In particular contribute to the regional chapter of the 2-year report of activities of the FRIEND-Water programme and its contribution to IHP-IX every biennium, as well as the 4-year report of activities to be summarized in an online report made publicly available;
- Participate in regular meetings with members of the FIGCC, the FRIEND-Water secretariat as well as meetings of IHP-IX Open Ended Working Groups to report activities that are relevant to (at least one of) the 34 identified Outputs of the programme;

¹ <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381318>

² e.g. UNESCO Open Learning (<https://openlearning.unesco.org/>).

- Maintain and develop contacts and synergies with other UNESCO IHP programmes and UNESCO water family (Centres and Representations) in the region as well as relevant International Associations, like IAHS.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Education

- Ph.D. degree in the field of Hydrology, Water Resources or related field.

Work experience

- A minimum of 5 years of relevant professional experience in the areas of water resources research;
- Strong track record of relevant scientific publications related to hydrology and water resources;
- Demonstrated academic, research, and scientific coordination experiences in resource mobilization and partnership building;
- Experience in international, regional collaborations in research programmes, or international commissions or institutions;
- Knowledge of UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Scientific Programme (IHP) and particularly engagement with FRIEND would be an asset.

Languages

- Excellent knowledge (written and spoken) of English.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Applications are invited for the Regional Coordinators of

- AMIGO FRIEND-Water (Latin America),
- ASIAN PACIFIC FRIEND-Water (Asia-Pacific)
- EURO-FRIEND-Water (Europe)
- MEDFRIEND-Water (Mediterranean),
- FRIEND-Water West Africa,
- FRIEND-Water Central Africa,
- FRIEND-Water East and Southern Africa

Candidates are invited to send their application to **the FRIEND-Water Secretariat with a copy to Andrew OGILVIE** (emails below) by the **23rd February 2024**. Applications (in English, PDF format) must clearly state the Region of interest and include the following documents:

- Curriculum vitae;
- Motivation letter underlining your experience, adequacy with the role, and an overview of research themes and activities that you wish to promote in the region and inter-regions;
- Supporting letter from the Institution of the candidate.

Applications will be assessed by an ad-hoc committee of the FRIEND Secretariat, FIGCC Chair and in consultation with the IHP Secretariat.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Andrew OGILVIE | FIGCC Chair | andrew.ogilvie@ird.fr

FRIEND-Water Secretariat | ICIREWARD | friendwater@unesco-montpellier.org

FRIEND-Water website | <https://fr.unesco-montpellier.org/friend-water>