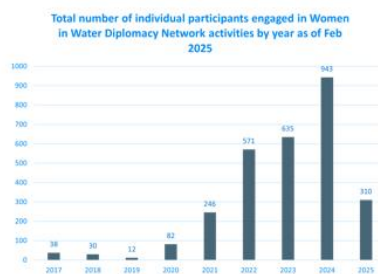


## Women in Water Diplomacy Network Collected Network Member and Champion Profiles

Last updated: March 20, 2025

**The Women in Water Diplomacy Network (WWDN)** is a community of practice comprised of both formal and informal women water diplomats, decision-makers, and experts, representing a wealth of collective experience and expertise with focus on shared waters in some of the most water insecure and conflict sensitive regions of the world. Originating in the Nile Basin in 2017, the Network is now a global community of women water leaders, and male champions supporting gender equality, working collectively to **strengthen women's leadership in transboundary water decision making** with support from a global coalition of partners and members in the Nile, Central Asia-Afghanistan, Southern Africa, North America, the South Caucasus and elsewhere. The Women in Water Diplomacy Network is guided by our Global Strategy, '[A Path Forward for Women, Water, Peace and Security](#),' as well as our Global Network Leadership Council.

At the close of 2024, the Network has engaged 1000+ individuals from 80+ countries and 10+ Indigenous communities convening 20+ Network in-person training and knowledge exchange workshops, 34+ online training and knowledge exchange workshops, contributed to 12+ communications or resource products (including novel research and the Network newsletter's 2000+ subscribers), and collectively engaged at 7+ major water and climate policy and decision making events such as UN Water Conference, World Water Week, and World Water Forum. Hundreds of the Network's community members engage *frequently* across Network programming. In addition, the Network's broader community online numbers nearly 5000+ followers on LinkedIn (launched Nov 2023) and the Network also maintains several Whatsapp groups with more than 200 Network members and champions actively engaged in the sustained dialogue.



Geographic distribution of Network 'Members' (02/2025)



***Included in this collection of short bios are members and supporters who are actively involved in Network engagements. In general, the Network considers its 'members' to be those who are actively engaged in supporting the Network's Global Strategy, 'A Path Forward for Women, Water, Peace and Security,' and who have participated in at least three Network engagements including one in person event globally or in any basin.***

***Please note that all listed are engaged in the Network in their personal capacities and their engagement does not indicate their institutional endorsement of Network communications, reports etc. Network members are listed alphabetical order by first name.***

***If any Network members or supporters would like to add / edit/ remove their details please contact Elizabeth Koch.***

**Dr. Aaron T. Wolf** (United States) is a water resources geographer at Oregon State University and a trained mediator/facilitator. He co-directs the Program in Water Conflict Management and Transformation, through which he has offered workshops, facilitations, and mediations around the world. He is the author of *The Spirit of Dialogue: Lessons from Faith Traditions in Transforming Conflict* (Island Press, 2017), that he uses to bring facilitation and capacity-building to a variety of conflict settings, notably between entities who share water resources, and also in faith and interfaith communities, and within and between government agencies. He has an appointment as a Professor of Water Diplomacy at IHE-Delft Institute for Water Education in The Netherlands and is a partner at Four Worlds Partners. Aaron has been actively involved in supporting the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Dr. Adanech Yared Jillo** (Ethiopia) is a former member of the Ethiopian Negotiations Team to the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) and adviser on national and regional transboundary water issues in the Minister of Water and Energy in Ethiopia. Her main duties included advising ministers, facilitating hydro-diplomacy, negotiation meetings, and internal consultation meetings, and doing hydrological analysis. In her previous capacities, Dr Adanech Yared Jillo led Ethiopia's national NBI, Nile Equatorial Lake Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP), and ENTRO, supporting Nile-COM/EXCO members of the respective countries in prioritizing NBI, NELSAP-Cu, ENTRO, and AMCOW activities as member and chair of the NBI, NELSAP, ENSAP, and AMCOW Technical Advisory Committee. Dr Adanech Yared Jillo provides regular guidance and technical support on matters related to the Nile cooperation and the sustainable management of the Nile water resources including providing oversight for the NBI, its centers, and AMCOW programmatic activities. Adanech has been actively involved in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2018.



**Commissioner Adriana Reséndez Maldonado** (Mexico) was appointed in September 2021. She is a civil engineer with a master's degree in hydraulic resources in arid zones, with a specialty in water use and water quality. She has 23 years of experience in the Mexican section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, in the department of engineering as deputy director of the Colorado River and in operations as principal engineer. In the IBWC, Reséndez has performed functions to ensure compliance with the current treaties between Mexico and the United States regarding the distribution of the waters of the international rivers, as well as the supervision of the operation and maintenance of the hydraulic projects built in the Rio Grande and Colorado River, the operation and maintenance of the hydrometric system of the Mexican section of the IBWC and the accounting of water allocations of the Rio Grande and Colorado River. During her career in this institution, she has participated in the negotiation of several minutes of the IBWC, as well as in the inter-institutional and binational coordination for the development of projects of great relevance in the border region. Commissioner Reséndez has been actively involved in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023.





**Aigerim Karibay** (Kazakhstan) is a water resources specialist on management and cooperation at local, basin and regional level. Her expertise spans from effective methods of management to rational use and protection of water resources. She is a hydraulic-engineer and graduated from the Kazakh-German University in IWRM program with a master's degree. Aigerim has worked at SIC ICWC (Scientific-Information Center of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination of Central Asia) in Kazakh branch to bring strong intercultural communication skills into all her transboundary water cooperation engagements. Also, at Big Almaty canal branch of RSE Kazvodkhoz, the Committee on Water Resources of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic in the field of water usage, regulation and protection. At the moment joined to Hydrogen team of Kazakhstan to extend the interdisciplinary experience and improve NEXUS (water-energy-food-environment) technical and practical skills. She likes swimming and self-development. Aigerim has been actively involved in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2021 and is a founding member of the Central Asia-Afghanistan Network branch.



**Alexandra Said** (Sweden) is the Country Engagement Coordinator of the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, managing the Facilitator Programme which provides direct technical support to 24 countries across the world. Prior to this, she contributed to the implementation of UNEP's Congo project portfolio at the Biodiversity & Land Branch and UNEP's contributions to UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks for Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Nigeria at the Addis Ababa Liaison Office. Before joining UNEP, she served at the Stockholm International Water Institute where her work focused on gender mainstreaming in water governance and water diplomacy in fragile and conflict sensitive river basins. She also supported the establishment of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network from concept and co-developed the MOOC "Water: Addressing the Global Crisis." Her publications focus on gendered perceptions in media and in water governance and water diplomacy, as well as the impact of COVID-19 on gender and water conflicts. Alexandra holds an M.Sc. in Global Studies and a B.Sc. in International Relations. Alexandra has been actively involved with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since its inception in 2017.



**Alvard Zakaryan** (Armenia) was born in Stepanakert. She obtained her bachelor's degree from Artsakh State University, where her research focused on "Hydro-geopolitics as one of the most important trends of geopolitics and its influence on modern geopolitical processes." Subsequently, she pursued her master's degree at Yerevan State University, with her research topic revolving around "The factor of water resources in political conflicts, with a focus on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflicts." Alvard then embarked on her Ph.D. journey, delving into "The role of water resources in creating a platform for dialogue in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict case." She actively participated in numerous international programs and conferences, where she represented her ideas and concepts on how water can serve as a tool for cooperation. For five years, Alvard coordinated the German-based Berghof Foundation project titled "Memory and history as a basis for social reconciliation of Armenians and Azerbaijanis." Currently, she serves as a research analyst and operation manager at the Yerevan-based Institute for Security Analysis. Alvard has been actively involved with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024 as a founding member of the South Caucasus Network branch.



**Alyssa Offutt** (United States/ The Netherlands) is currently completing her PhD at the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education where she is focused on the multi-scalar hydropolitics of transboundary water quality. She also supports the Water, Peace, and Security and Water Diplomacy initiatives hosted by IHE. Alyssa has a background and training in Water Cooperation and Diplomacy as well as Environmental and Water Resources Engineering. Alyssa has contributed to key scholarship related to the Women in Water Diplomacy Network as well as supporting experience exchange opportunities such as through the IHE Delft Seminar entitled “(En)Gendering Transboundary Water Governance” in 2020 and the IHE Water and Peace Seminar 2022 session featuring members of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network. Her chapter ‘A Gendered Perspective on the Multiple Scales of Water Conflict’ is set to be released in the soon to be released IHE Delft edited book Gender dynamics in transboundary water governance: Feminist Perspectives on Water Conflict and Cooperation. IHE Delft is a long-time partner to the Women in Water Diplomacy Network, and she will be joining the UN Water Conference in person on behalf of IHE Delft. Alyssa has been actively involved with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2020.



**Ambika Vishwanath** (India) is Founder and Director of the Kubernein Initiative and a Transboundary Water Security and Diplomacy Specialist. The Kubernein Initiative is an India-based geopolitical advisory group that aims to bridge the gap on issues that require greater intellectual questioning. Ambika works in the space of multilateralism and at the intersection between transboundary water security and foreign policy. She has led Track II diplomacy efforts and consulted with several governments and international organizations both in India and around the world. Ambika has been actively involved in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023 and currently serves on the Network’s Global Leadership Council.



**Chairwoman Amelia Flores** (Mohave/ United States) is an enrolled member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT). She holds a B.S. Degree in Education Northern Arizona University and a Masters in Linguistics from University of Arizona. A former Tribal Librarian/Archivist, she has volunteered her time serving on local, tribal, state committees, boards, and commissions in regards to libraries, archives, early childhood education, foster care, language revitalization, and the humanities. Chairwoman Flores lives on the Colorado River Indian Reservation with her husband Mr. Neil Flores, Sr. and together they have three grown boys and ten grandchildren and one great-grandson with one on the way. She has received many awards for her Library/Archives and Language work, and recently was recognized as 2021 Leader of the Year – Environment/Public Policy by the Arizona Capitol Times. Appointed to the Arizona First Things First, Early Childhood Development and Health Board from 2018 – 2020. Colorado River Indian Tribes Tribal Councilwoman from 2013 to 2020; served as Tribal Council Secretary, two-year terms in 2013 – 2015 & 2017 – 2020. She serves as a Board Member of the Parker Unified School District #27 from 2011 to present, and 2021 Governor’s Water Augmentation Board. In 2020, she was elected as the first Chairwoman for the Colorado River Indian Tribes. Chairwoman Flores has been actively involved in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023.





**Dr Anders Jägerskog** (Sweden) is Program Manager of the Cooperation on International Waters in Africa (CIWA) Trust Fund ([ciwaprogram.org](http://ciwaprogram.org)). He is also the focal point at the World Bank for Transboundary Waters. His work focuses primarily on the African continent and on the Middle East and North Africa region but is also global. Previously he was Counsellor for regional water resources in the MENA region at the Swedish Embassy in Amman, Jordan; Director, Knowledge Services, at the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) where he headed the Transboundary Water Management Unit and was work area leader for applied research. He managed the UNDP Shared Waters Partnership which facilitates and promotes dialogue and cooperation on transboundary water resources. He is Associate Professor (Docent) at Peace and Development Research, School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg where his work focuses on global water issues. He worked for the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs; at the Embassy of Sweden, Nairobi and at Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). In 2003 he finished his PhD on the water negotiations in the Jordan River Basin at the Department of Water and Environmental Studies at the Linköping University, Sweden. He has published over 100 scientific articles, book chapters, debate articles and reports on global water issues. Anders has been actively involved in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2021.



**Dr Andrea Gerlak** (United States) is Director at the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy and Professor in the School of Geography, Development and Environment at the University of Arizona. Her research agenda focuses on cooperation and conflict in water governance, including questions of equity and access, institutional change, learning and adaptation. She is an author or co-author of more than 100 publications. She serves as a co-editor for the *Journal of Environmental Policy and Planning* and as a senior fellow with the Earth Systems Governance network. Andrea has more than two decades of experience leading interdisciplinary environmental studies programs and university-community environmental partnerships. She has consulted on water governance and climate resilience efforts for UNESCO and the WMO. Andrea has been actively involved in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023.



**Ani Harutyunyan** (Armenia) is a Program Manager at the “Community Center for Development” Territorial Cooperation NGO (CCD). She has more than 15 years of experience in the civil society sector, having successfully managed a diverse array of local and international programs in Tavush region and participated in numerous international training opportunities both locally and abroad. Beyond her work on various socio-economic projects, she is dedicated to implementing initiatives that empower women and youth, advocate for their rights, and strengthen community resilience. She also prioritizes environmental protection and support for communities in crisis situations and is deeply committed to promoting sustainable development and addressing pressing social challenges. Ani holds a BA in English Philology. Ani has been actively involved with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024 as a founding member of the South Caucasus Network branch.



**Anna Stephen Mremi** (Tanzania) serves as an Assistant Lecturer at the Tanzania Water Institute within the Ministry of Water. As part of her roles, she is responsible for capacity development and knowledge management in the Ministry, teaching coursework on water and environmental management including transboundary water and conflict resolution modules. Anna is registered with the National Environmental Council (NEMC) since 2016 with expertise in Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Auditing and Environmental and Social Impact Assessment among other areas. Anna holds a master degree in Integrated Sanitation Management. Anna has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Nile since 2021.



**Dr. Annalise Blum** (United States) is a hydrologist with expertise in climate, water, and national security policy. She serves as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the U.S. Department of the Interior working closely with the U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Reclamation. Previously, she served at the U.S. Department of Defense as Senior Advisor for Climate Policy and an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science & Technology Policy Fellow, for which she was awarded the Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service. Blum has over a decade of experience leading multi-disciplinary research focused on water security, extreme events, and the impacts of climate change. She has served as a lecturer in Environmental Sciences and Policy and as the Pim Postdoctoral Fellow in Global Change at Johns Hopkins University. Blum has also worked at the National Academy of Sciences, the American Meteorological Society, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. She holds a Ph.D. in environmental and water resources engineering from Tufts University, M.S. from UNC-Chapel Hill, and B.S. from Stanford University. Annalise has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023.



**Anton Earle** (South Africa) is an environment and development professional leading teams in water management and development internationally, facilitating the interaction between governments, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders for risk-reduction for investments in climate-resilient development. He is experienced in governance and institutional formation for water management at the inter-state level in Africa, the Middle-East and East Asia. His current position is ICLEI's Global Coordinator of Water Systems. Anton has been active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2021.



**Antti Rautavaara** (Finland) serves as the Special Envoy for Water at the Centre for Peace Mediation of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. In this role he supports and represents all five water mandated ministries in Finland, and continues to lead Finland's Water Diplomacy efforts. He has been in-house at Tumen River Commission and is well aware of Nile Basin Initiative and GERD dispute insights. Earlier he also managed UNICEF Nepal Water Section during Gorkha Earthquake 2015, including leadership of water sector response and humanitarian cluster coordination for over 4 million people. During his professional career he has been living and working in Sweden, China, Ethiopia and Nepal. Rautavaara holds a MSc from Aalto-university (Helsinki) and a certificate from the Royal Institute of Technology (Stockholm). Antti has been a member of Finnish Water Diplomacy Network since its establishment and in his capacity has supported the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2021.



**Assefa Gudina Muleta** (Ethiopia) received his first-degree in Agriculture from Haramaya University in Ethiopia and Master of Science in Environment from Wageningen University of the Netherlands. He has extensive experience in different sectors including in Ethiopian Agricultural Research Institute, Ministry of Water and Energy, and Ministry of Environment as a Research Center Director, Water Resources development and management Project Coordinator and Directorate Director respectively in the three sectors. Currently Mr. Assefa is working as Regional Social and Environment Officer and gender focal point at Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO). He is also member of the male champion platform coordinated by the World Bank's Cooperation International Water Africa program. F Assefa has been active supporter of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023.



**Armine G. Margaryan** (Armenia) is a military – political expert, the President and Founder of Yerevan-based Women & Global Security Architecture - WGSA “Think tank.” She served as Advisor to the Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia and later as Chief of Staff. She was an Expert of the Department of Arms Control and International Security and Desk Officer of the CIS Department in Armenia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Armine graduated from the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. She holds a master's degree in International Relations from Hrachia Acharian University (Armenia) and took non-degree programs from the Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP), George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, NATO school, Center for International Trade & Security of The University of Georgia, Clingendael Institute, etc. As a Military-Political Expert, Armine provides thematic interviews and consultancy, publishes articles, delivers lectures, and conducts public diplomacy activities. She co-authored such research papers as “The Green Paper on the Reforms in the Armed Forces of Armenia” (2021), “Limitations of the Security System of the Republic of Armenia and the Possibilities of Overcoming Them” (2022) and “Small, Non-aligned State” (2023). Armine is a National consultant to the CoE's Human Rights of members of the armed forces within the framework of the Project “Fostering Human Rights in the Armed Forces of Armenia”. Armine has been actively involved with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024 as a founding member of the South Caucasus Network branch.



**Aziza Sharofova Khamza kizi** (Uzbekistan) is a senior specialist-expert of the Center for State Ecological Expertise of the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan. She graduated from the Faculty of Hydromelioration of the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration in the direction of "Ecology and Environmental Protection", has a bachelor's degree in "Environmental Engineer of Water Management" (2016). She also received specialized secondary education in Tashkent Financial and Economic College (2011). As a student of the institute, she had work experience in the field of environmental expertise in a private Uzbek company, which later helped her to successfully pass the interview for the civil service (2015). Her total work experience in the field of ecology and environmental protection is 11 years. During her work at the Center Aziza has conducted state environmental expertise of more than 1000 production facilities of the Republic of Uzbekistan, including those in mining and construction industries, water management, chemical, food industry and others. Aziza has been actively involved in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2021 and is a founding member of the Central Asia-Afghanistan Network branch.



**Beesan Shonnar** (Palestine) holds a diverse educational background reflecting her commitment to water management and administration. She completed her MSc in Water and Sanitation Engineering from Bir Zeit University, Palestine, in 2007, following a BSc in Civil Engineering with a minor in Water Resources & Environment from Jordan University of Science & Technology in 1999. She furthered her expertise by undertaking an E-learning Course on International Water Law and Law of Transboundary Aquifers from Universite De Geneve, Switzerland, in 2022. Additionally, she obtained a High Diploma in Leadership and Administration from the School of Diplomacy, Vienna, Austria 2021 and another diploma in leadership from the Palestinian National School. Since 2015, she has served as a Freelance Water & Sanitation Engineer (in addition to her position), focusing on gender, networking, capacity building, and training. Prior to this, she held positions with the Palestinian Water Authority and the Ministry of Public Works and Housing in Palestine, contributing significantly to infrastructure and water management projects. She served as a Gender Expert for the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG6, contributing to the publication of a Gender Contextualization Report. She was also a Steering Committee Member of the Palestinian Women Water Network and participated in the World Water Fora and various water-related committees and initiatives i.e: Women Water Diplomats in the MENA region - GWP and Geneva Water Hub, Department of States exchange Alumina, the Singapore Water Academy (SgWA) alumni member, Sanitation and water for all network Community of Women in Water member 2021-present, World Water Council 2020- present, Gender Water Alliance 2009-present, in addition to women water plus list. Beesan has been actively involved in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Beheshta Saboor** (Afghanistan/ United States) is currently continuing her studies at the American River College following her graduation with a BSc from the Chemistry Department of Science, Faculty of Kabul University. Beheshta was working in National Water Affairs Regulation Authority (NWARA) in Asian Development Bank as Reporting officer before Taliban capturing the Kabul. Her field of work is Administrative, Finance, Project and specifically with different and many years of experience in water sector. Beheshta has worked in different positions in the Ministry of Energy and Water, now called NWARA. She worked as a Project Assistant with CAREC, Reporting Officer, and Administrative Consultant from July 2018 to April 2022. Moreover, for about two years, she has worked with a Purdue International University (USAID Funded project) located in USA. Her position was Admin & Finance Assistant. Also, Beheshta worked with Afghanistan Builders Associations as Admin Assistant. Beheshta has been active in the Network since 2021 as a founding member of the in Central Asia and Afghanistan Network branch.



**Belaynesh Birru** (Ethiopia) is the founding Director of Save the Future, an Ethiopian non-profit supporting programming focused on environmental sustainability, humanitarian action, and women and youth empowerment. Until 2021, Belaynesh served as the Director for the Environment and Climate Change Directorate at the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and as a Member of National Climate Negotiation Team. Belaynesh graduated from Kharkov State University Ukraine, received MSC Degree on Geography with a specialization of rational utilization of natural resources and environmental protection. She has extensive experience in transboundary waters, environment monitoring and evaluation, gender equality, and energy. Previously in her career she served as a geography teacher for ten years. Belaynesh has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2017 as a founding member of the Nile Network branch.





**Belyou Tekola** (Ethiopia) is an accomplished professional in the field of Political Science and International Relations and Public Policy Management. Graduating with a first degree from Ethiopia, Addis Ababa University in Political Science and International Relations, Belyou furthered her academic pursuits by obtaining a Master's Degree in Public Policy Management from Seoul, South Korea. Her career, marked by a series of influential positions, reflects her deep expertise and commitment to her field. After being employed at the Ministry of Water and Energy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Belyou's professional trajectory began with key roles such as Personnel Administration Head and Development Cooperation and Foreign Relations Senior Expert. Her career further progressed as she took on the responsibilities of a Senior Hydro-politics Expert and later, as the Boundary and Transboundary Rivers Affairs Directorate Director. Currently, she works as the Hydro-Politics and Diplomacy Desk Head. In this position, Belyou's responsibilities are multifaceted. She is tasked with planning, coordinating, and directing the activities of the desk. Her role involves conducting basic studies, identifying strategies for boundary and transboundary water resource development, and analyzing international laws and agreements to ensure they align with the national needs concerning water resource utilization. Belyou's expertise is further highlighted in her ability to conduct hydro-political and geopolitical studies, present negotiation strategies related to water use, and generate policy ideas. Her work is instrumental in enabling the country to optimize benefits from its boundary and transboundary water resources. This involves a comprehensive approach, including media surveys, hydro-politics analysis, preparing responses, and coordinating diplomatic activities. Belyou has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2018.



**Bethlehem Mengistu** (Ethiopia) is a distinguished global expert in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) with over 20 years of extensive experience across various countries and sectors. Her work spans leadership, strategy development, management, and system strengthening, with a particular focus on building collaboration, partnerships, and advocacy for policy change. Currently, she serves as the Global Coordinator of Agenda for Change, a role that positions her at the forefront of advancing collective global efforts to improve WASH outcomes. Bethlehem's experience includes providing technical advice to governments, development partners, and technical teams, and she has played a pivotal role in advancing programmatic impact, particularly in Africa and parts of Asia. Her deep knowledge of African policy encompasses a range of issues, including WASH, Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), gender equality, human rights, and governance. Bethlehem holds an academic background in international development and law, which has significantly shaped her work in the development sector. She continues to leverage her expertise to advocate for systemic change and drive impactful solutions in water, sanitation, and broader development challenges. Bethlehem has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Bogadi T. Mathangwane** (Botswana) is a Water Resources Specialist with more than 30 years' experience in water resources and sanitation management. She holds a BSc Honors Double major in Applied and Analytical Chemistry from United Kingdom and a Master's Degree in Water Resources from Iowa State University in the United States of America. She is the first woman to be appointed the Director in the Department of Water and Sanitation in Botswana in 2016. This is a department in the Ministry of Water and Human Settlement, tasked with national planning, development and management of water resources and sanitation countrywide. Ms. Mathangwane has extensive knowledge in areas of integrated water



resources management with emphasis in water conservation, water demand management, water quality and trans-boundary water resources management. She has also facilitated and directed mega water and sanitation projects in the country including those funded by different international cooperating Partners. She is a member and sits in the advisory committees of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) River Basin Commissions as well as in the continental ones of which Botswana is party to. She is currently a Board member to Water Utilities Corporation which is the sole water supply authority in the country. She is also a Board Member at Botswana Geoscience Institute (BGI), which was established to undertake research in the field of geosciences and provide specialised geoscientific services and exploration of any mineral in Botswana. Bogadi has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022 when she and her fellow Commissioners to the Orange-Senqu committed to developing a Network branch in Southern Africa driving efforts to establishing the Network in all SADC River Basin Commissions. Bogadi currently serves on the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Global Leadership Council.

**Brenda Burman** (United States) joined Central Arizona Project in 2021 and has been the general manager since January 2023. Burman has more than 25 years of experience working on Western water and natural resource issues, where she has been committed to finding collaborative solutions to secure reliable water supplies for communities, farms, tribes and the environment. Before joining CAP, Burman was the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation and the first woman to hold that position.



Burman has served in many other areas of the water community: in private legal practice; as the water and energy counsel for U.S. Senator Jon Kyl; as senior water advisor to an environmental organization; and in senior positions for water districts. Burman holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Arizona College of Law and is licensed to practice law in Arizona, Colorado, and Wyoming. Brenda has been actively involved with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023 when the North American Network branch was launched.

**Bridget Schwartz-Manock** (United States) is the Assistant General Manager of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Central Arizona Project in Phoenix, Arizona. She has worked in water policy, legislative strategy, and community outreach on water for more than 15 years. She joined CAP as the Legislative Affairs Manager and has taken on the leadership of additional teams including Board of Directors Administration, Internal and External Communications, State and Federal Lobbying, Strategic Planning, and Stakeholder and Community Relations. She began an internal Women's Leadership Network for the women of her organization to connect and grow professionally. She is currently leading a project to build a new Water Education Center for Arizonans to better understand the CAP history and Arizona water supplies. With 28 years of experience in public policy and legislative affairs, she previously held the position of Government Relations Director for the city of Scottsdale, Arizona and Legislative Liaison for the city of Phoenix, Arizona. Bridget holds a B.A. in Political Science from St. Catherine University and a Master's in Public Administration from Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota. Bridget has been actively involved with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023 when the North American Network branch was launched.





**Burcu Çallı** (Türkiye) completed her undergraduate education at Marmara University, Istanbul majoring in Political Science and International Relations. She received her master's degree (MSc) from The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) European Institute in the UK. From 2009 to 2012, she worked as an editor in the media sector focusing on politics and culture. In 2012, she joined the Turkish Water Institute (SUEN) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Türkiye as an expert. Her expertise lies in transboundary water policy, with a specific emphasis on the Euphrates-Tigris Basin, water diplomacy, water cooperation and the relation between water and migration. She has been involved in various official meetings and transboundary water negotiations at various levels besides, Track 1.5 and Track 2 diplomacy activities such as Collaborative Programme Euphrates and Tigris (CPET) and Blue Peace Middle East. She has been an active member of the OECD Water Governance Initiative, representing Türkiye since 2015. In 2017, Burcu acted as the thematic coordinator for the 4<sup>th</sup> Istanbul International Water Forum. In 2020, she led the negotiation committee representing Türkiye at G20 Water Deputies Meetings and served as the lead negotiator. She currently serves as the Head of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's Water Diplomacy Task Force, which functions as an advisory body. Burcu has delivered speeches on Türkiye's approach to water diplomacy, water and sanitation needs of immigrants, climate, water, and migration at various international conferences and events. She has contributed to published works with chapters on water-related topics and has been giving lectures on water diplomacy in national and international training programs organised by SUEN. Burcu has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Cholpon Aitakhunova** (Kyrgyzstan) is a project manager at CLI Potsdam. She focuses on projects in Asia and has a strong interest in collaborations in complex water and climate adaptation contexts. She has gained extensive field experience working with diverse multi-stakeholder collaborations in Central Asia including through the Green Alliance Kyrgyzstan, international KGSTAT twinning project with Destatis, and the CAY4W Network (a regional network of young water professionals). Cholpon is an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and supports its Central Asia branch. She is an awardee of the International Climate Protection Fellowship of Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and holds a Master's degree in Politics and Security from the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. Cholpon has been active in the Network since 2021 as a founding member of the in Central Asia and Afghanistan Network branch.



**Dr. Christelle Comair** (Lebanon/ Bahrain) is the Head of the Women's Research Centre, Kingdom of Bahrain. She is a political scientist and conflict-resolution specialist. Her work as a technical advisor and certified mediator included advising governments, international organizations and civil society in the field of mediation, gender equity, diplomacy, climate change and development cooperation. As a Research Fellow with the Women and Public Policy Program at the Harvard Kennedy School, Christelle has built on her doctoral findings to further integrate a gender lens into her case-study analysis with the aim to bring women's perspectives and theoretical contributions to the forefront of both diplomatic practice and theory building. As an academic and civil society leader, she has taught courses in international relations, women studies, crisis management and women leadership. She is the founder of the first youth and women-led organization in the Middle East, the Youth Network for Development, and recipient of international prizes. She has designed and led development projects and advocacy campaigns for advancing women's economic, social, and political participation in the Arab region. Christelle holds a Ph.D with distinction from the University of Paris, a



Master's degree from Sciences Po Paris and a Bachelor degree from the American University of Beirut. Dr. Comair is a long time supporter of the Network and exploring opportunities to partner in the development of a regional Network in the Gulf. Christelle has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.

**Dr. Corinne Schuster-Wallace** (Canada) is the Executive Director, Global Institute for Water Security and faculty member in the Department of Geography and Planning, University of Saskatchewan, Canada. Previously positions include Senior Research Fellow for UNU Institute for Water, Environment, and Health and the Public Health Agency of Canada. She founded the Women Plus Water community and is the inaugural Chair of Cansu Global's Science, Innovation, Technology, and Education (SITE) initiative. In 2023 she was recognized as a Water Shero by the Red Dot Foundation. Her research utilises a coupled systems approach to water-related human health in rural, remote, and marginalised communities. Her work integrates university and community, different knowledge systems, and research, practice, and teaching. Coupling environmental and social systems provides a comprehensive understanding of socio-environmental determinants of health and how inequities and intersectionality along with knowledge, attitudes, and practices affect health and wellbeing. These are critical considerations in building climate resilience and more equitable and sustainable water resources management approaches. Corinne has been actively involved with the Women in Water Diplomacy since Women + Water's first collaboration with the Network in 2023.



**Delfina Iervolino** (Argentina) works at the General Secretariat of the Organisation for American States (GS/OAS) Americas Water Program as strategic planning, policy, and diplomacy leader. The program supports OAS Member States in managing their shared ecosystems and water resources. With more than 5 decades in transboundary water cooperation, the Americas Water Program acts as a regional executing agency for various water resources management projects being conducted in multi country river basins and aquifers in the Americas. Ms. Iervolino has been working at the GS/OAS for more than 10 years and her work has tackled diverse development issues such as tourism initiatives, social and economic inclusion projects, culture, and sustainable development in many countries across the Americas. She is a political scientist and a Human Development Specialist. Delfina has been a member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023.



**Diana Ulloa Jiménez** (Ecuador) is a water engineer with experience in water management, especially for national and local governments. Consultant and advisor for public and community water services such as irrigation and water utilities. Experience in climate change, ecosystem-based adaptation, hydrological models, and water conservation. Water activist in Red Agua Ecuador, and Governing Member of Ecuador's International Water Association (IWA) chapter. Diana has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.





**Donald Kasongi** (Tanzania) is a Researcher and Policy Analyst for over 15 years with expertise on a range of intersectional issues in Africa. Donald has worked at senior levels on transboundary water resources management, extractive industries value chains, as well as trade and investments policies. He served in the position of Secretary General at Nile Basin Discourse for 8 years until 2020. Trained with broad field experience on Gender Mainstreaming in natural resources with focus in Sub Saharan Africa, he is highly empathetic about gender equity in water resources management. Has designed gender responsive programs in the Great Lakes Region and just completed a baseline study on Gender dynamics in the Great Lakes Region. Currently consulting in design monitoring, reviews evaluation of complex humanitarian and development programs in the Great Lakes Region. In 2022, he contributed to publication “Gender and Transboundary Water Governance” in collaboration with IHE Delft Institute for Water Education. Donald has been an active supporter of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023.



**Elia M. Tapia** (Mexico) is a faculty professor at Universidad de Sonora in Hermosillo, Mexico. She holds a Ph.D. in Arid Lands Resource Sciences and a Minor Degree in Hydrology from the University of Arizona. Elia has thirteen years of experience in applied hydrology, hydrogeology, climate change studies, and disaster risk assessment. She has been contributing to the United States-Mexico efforts on the Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program (TAAP) for over 12 years, among many other projects for private and public institutions in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Elia has been recently involved in projects for the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and IDB Invest, including the Transboundary Regional Plan for Drinking Water, Basic Sanitation and Solid Waste Management for the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization. Her areas of interest involve water governance, climate change, stakeholder engagement, and water resources management, particularly in transboundary settings. Elia has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023.

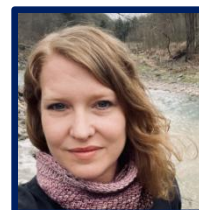


**Dr. Elina Bakradze** (Georgia) is a distinguished environmental ecologist, chemist, and academic with over 17 years of experience in environmental sciences protection and monitoring. She holds a Ph.D. in Geo-Ecological Monitoring from the Technical University of Georgia and advanced degrees in Chemistry from Ivane Javakhishvili State University. She was Senior Researcher at the Republican Center for Gemology and Mineral Substances Research, Diagnostics and Processing of the Georgian State Technical University; Scientist at the State Military Scientific and Technical Center “Delta LEPL Grigol Tsulukidze Mining Institute” of the Georgian State Technical University; Deputy Head of the Environmental Pollution Monitoring Department; Scientific Consultant at the Chemical Risk Factors Research Laboratory of the Legal Entity of Public Law “L. Sakvarelidze National Center for Disease Control and Public Health”. She is also an associate professor at San Diego State University, Georgia, and Ilia State University, contributing to the fields of environmental science and civil engineering. In 2018 was awarded as the best young scientist in the field of Georgian science by the “LEPL-Georgia Rustaveli National Science Foundation.” She is deeply involved in international cooperation and has collaborated with organizations such as UNDP, USAID, and EU-funded projects, focusing on water, air, and soil quality. Her research expertise includes ISO 17025 accreditation, transboundary water management, atmospheric air pollution, and advanced methodologies for chemical analysis. A prolific author, she has published over 100 scientific papers and several monographs, Elina is also an editorial board member of international journals and an active participant in global initiatives like the European Geosciences Union and the European Water Resources Association etc. In 2024, Elina embarked on a transformative educational journey at Lund



University in Sweden. She is currently enrolled in the “Rights-Based Climate Adaptation in Armenia and Georgia” program, which runs until August 2025, further enhancing her expertise in climate justice and sustainable development. This comprehensive background highlights Elina Bakradze’s dedication to advancing environmental science in particular water direction and fostering international cooperation for a sustainable future. Elina has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024 and currently serves on the Women in Water Diplomacy Network’s Global Leadership Council.

**Elizabeth A. Koch** (United States) has led the Women in Water Diplomacy Network’s Process Support Team, supporting the Network’s inception and strategic development, since 2018. Elizabeth has nearly 20 years of experience supporting water diplomacy engagements in conflict sensitive basins on behalf of the Environmental Law Institute, SIWI’s Shared Waters Partnership programme, the UNESCO Category II International Centre for Water Cooperation, and EcoPeace Middle East. Elizabeth holds a MA in Government, Diplomacy and Strategy and BA in International Relations.



**Emma Anakhasyan** (Armenia) holds an MD degree from Yerevan State Medical University, graduated in 1990, and an MPH degree from the American University of Armenia, completed in 2005. With a background in epidemiology and public health, she has extensive experience in water and sanitation policy, project implementation, and monitoring. Prior to joining Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment NGO (AWHHE) in 2003 as the Head of the Environmental Health Department, Emma served as an epidemiologist and later as the Head of the Epidemiological Department at the Sanitary-Epidemiological Surveillance Center of Kotayk province in Armenia from 1990 to 2003. Throughout her career, Emma has collaborated with various international organizations such as WHO, FAO, WB, UNECE, UNDP, WRI, ARCADIS Belgium and SEI, among others, on projects related to water issues. Her expertise and contributions have earned her the role of an International Expert on Water and Sanitation. Additionally, Emma Anakhasyan serves as the Honorary Secretary of the Women for Water Partnership, based in the Netherlands, further demonstrating her commitment to advancing water-related initiatives on a global scale. Emma has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Eng. Enas Ahmed Abdelhalim Hussien** (Egypt) is a Senior Water Resources Engineer at the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation in Egypt. She holds a MSc. Degree (2017) from the Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University, Egypt. Enas has more than 15 years of experience, specialized in multinational projects coordination and monitoring and evaluation. She worked as a Member of Shared Vision Program (SVP) team in the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) National Office, where she was responsible for evaluating, approving and commenting on NBI SVP projects’ proposals, appraisal documents and progress reports. As part of her responsibilities she tested, validated, and analyzed scenarios of development alternatives in the Nile Basin. She has organized, participated in and reported on many regional and international events (Arab Water Forum, Africa Water Week, Union of the Mediterranean, and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, etc). She has served as the AMCOW M&E and UN- Water Overall Focal Point (OFP) and has published in key academic journals on topics related to Nile Basin discourse. Enas has been a Member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2019.



**Dr. Erika Weinthal** (United States) is the John O. Blackburn Distinguished Professor of Environmental Policy at Duke University. She received her Ph.D. in Political Science from Columbia University. She specializes in global environmental politics and environmental security with an emphasis on water and energy. Erika is the President of the Environmental Peacebuilding Association and an associate editor at the new journal, *Environment & Security*. In 2017 she was a recipient of the Women Peacebuilders for Water Award under the auspices of “Fondazione Milano per Expo 2015”. Erika is author of *State Making and Environmental Cooperation: Linking Domestic Politics and International Politics in Central Asia* (MIT Press 2002), which received the 2003 Chadwick Alger Prize and the 2003 Lynton Keith Caldwell Prize. Her recent books include: *Water Quality Impacts of the Energy-Water Nexus* (Cambridge University Press 2022) and *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics* (Oxford University Press forthcoming, 2023). Erika has been an active Network Member since 2023.



**Eng. Evans Kaseke (P.E.)** (Zimbabwe) is a results-oriented strategic climate proofed investments planning civil engineer with over 35 years of experience in developing, implementation and supporting complex integrated climate proofed multi-sectoral investment programmes and projects whose main objectives address issues pertaining to building robust communities that are resilient to climatic and economic shocks through promotion of inclusive transformative investments, job creation, ecosystem-based solutions, and ensure gender equality and social inclusion. Evans has IWRM based competencies in such areas as engineering hydrology and applied hydraulics; water resources management, policy development and decision support systems; water supplies and sanitation; capacity development; procurement; integrated climate proofed multi-sectoral investment planning in transboundary situations; consultancy and advisory services; problem-solving research and publishing. He served as a hydrologist with the then Ministry of Water Development in Zimbabwe; as an integrated programme planning officer with Zimbabwe’s Agricultural and Rural Development Authority; as a Senior Officer with the World Bank and UNDP Water and Sanitation Programme for Southern and East Africa; as Regional Manager for Capacity Building Programme for Southern and East African Water Sectors (Waternet); as Technical Assistance Advisor to SADC’s Shared Watercourse Support Project; and as Programme Manager for Zambezi Strategic Planning with Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM). Upon officially retiring from ZAMCOM in early 2024, Evans continues with IRWM based tasks as an independent consultant. Eng. Kaseke has a B.A. Hon. Degree with specialization in Arid Zone Hydrology and Water Resources from the University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UK); M.A. in Natural Resources Management with specialization in Decision Support Systems from the University of Waterloo (Canada); and M.A.Sc. in Civil Engineering with specialization in Applied Hydraulics and Numerical Modelling from the University of British Columbia (Canada). Notable specialist certifications, among others, are in Gender Mainstreaming in Water from GWPSA; IWRM from Swedish SIWI; and Hydraulic Numerical Modelling from Nanjing Hydraulic Research Institute in China. Evans is passionate about the Nexus and Systems Approaches which emphasize inter-linkages and inter-dependencies of water and diverse demand uses and potential impacts on available water resources particularly within the context of climate variability and change. Eng. Kaseke has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022.



**Dr. Faith Sternlieb** (United States) is the Associate Director for Global Engagement for the Internet of Water Initiative at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy's Center for Geospatial Solutions. She provides support to international and indigenous communities, including a NOAA initiative, Data Access for Urban Climate Resilience for Early Warning Systems in Africa. Faith received a bachelor's degree in anthropology and Latin American languages from the University of Maryland. She earned both a master's degree in agriculture through the Peace Corps Masters International Program, and a Ph.D. in earth sciences with a watershed specialty from Colorado State University. Her post-doctoral work through the U.S. Department of State, Office of the Geographer, was on the Secondary Cities project, where she facilitated teams from under-served, rapidly growing cities across the globe to collect and curate geospatial data for participatory mapping to help them better prepare for uncertain futures. Her tenure at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy included work with the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy (where she led Growing Water Smart, a program that helps communities integrate their land and water planning) and with CGS, where she convened the Internet of Water Coalition and co-founded the North American branch of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network. In her role as Associate Director of Global Engagement for the Internet of Water, she continues to work with diverse communities on land and water equity, sustainability, and climate resilience. This work includes engaging in private-public partnerships within local and global geographies and facilitating water data policy and technical solutions through diplomacy. Faith has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022.



**Farangis Ukumatshoeva** (Tajikistan) is a Researcher at the Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower and Ecology of the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan. She has more than eight years of professional experience in administration, monitoring and water accounting, consulting and research spheres. Farangis holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering, along with two master's degrees: one in Energy Efficiency and Energy Management Technology and the other in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). Farangis is currently pursuing her PhD programme. Since 2021, Farangis has been an active member of the Network, serving as a founding member of the Central Asia and Afghanistan Network branch.



**Dr. Farida Kadirkhodjaeva** (Uzbekistan) is the Chief Specialist of the Department of Strategic Planning and Methodology at the Ministry of Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan. She graduated from the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration - TIMI (present "Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers" National Research University) in the direction of "Water Resources Management", has a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Water Resources Management and Economy. She is a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Economical Sciences since 2023. As a researcher she participated in international and national projects at the Institute of Water Problems of Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences, including an environmental assessment of water resources in Khorezm Region, carried out in collaboration with Nevada University in Reno (USA) and Bonn University (Germany) within the frame of the NATO Science for Peace project, as well as in several government-funded applied research projects aimed on improving of water quality monitoring system. She contributed to improving the quality, relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the skills development system in the agriculture and irrigation sectors, initiated by the Government of Uzbekistan, with a particular focus on the rural regions selected by the national stakeholders (Karakalpakstan, Khorazm, Bukhara, Surkhondaryo as a National Consultant of the UNESCO Project "Skills Development in Rural Areas of Uzbekistan" (2020-2025). Project was aimed to support the development of relevant skills of women and men for sustainable, diversified and





modernized agriculture in Uzbekistan funded by the European Union. Dr. Kadirkhodjaeva has an extensive academic background in water resources management and economics over a decade of experience in research and consultancy, particularly in water resource management, developing public-private partnership for water sector, environmental sustainability, water quality monitoring system and drinking water safety framework for Uzbekistan. Farida Kadirkhodjaeva is enthusiastic in the developing innovative approaches for modernization of water management system and application of effective economical mechanisms in water management for irrigation needs in Uzbekistan. Farida has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.

**Farwa Aamer** (Pakistan/ United States) is the Director of South Asia Initiatives at the Asia Society Policy Institute (ASPI) in New York where she leads the institute's policy work and projects in South Asia. Farwa also runs ASPI's monthly South Asia Snapshot, a roundup of key geopolitical, economic, environmental, and social developments in the region. Prior to ASPI, Farwa worked at the Stimson Center where she led research on the security, political, and socio-economic dimensions of transboundary river governance in the Himalayan region. Through her work, Farwa has organized and convened high-level Track II dialogues and discussions designed to facilitate greater inter and intra-regional cooperation on issues and opportunities concerning water, energy, climate change, and sustainable development in South Asia, MENA, and Central Asia. Farwa also worked on highlighting the disproportionate impacts of climate change and water insecurity on women. From 2017 to 2021, Farwa was with the EastWest Institute (EWI) and served as the Director of the South Asia program. At EWI, Farwa worked on promoting non-traditional channels of diplomacy and establishing multi-stakeholder platforms for shared economic, financial, and geopolitical interests by bringing together policy shapers, media influencers, thought leaders, and business experts from within South Asia and across the globe. Farwa received her Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from University College London (UCL) and has a Masters in Management with Finance from BPP Business School, London. Farwa has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022.



**Felicia Marcus** (United States) is the William C. Landreth Visiting Fellow at Stanford University's *Water in the West* Program, an attorney, consultant and member of the Water Policy Group. She most recently served as chair of the California State Water Resources Control Board, implementing laws regarding drinking water and water quality and state's water rights, hearing regional board water quality appeals, settling disputes and providing financial assistance to communities to upgrade water infrastructure. Before her appointment to the Water Board, Marcus served in positions in government, the non-profit and private sector. In government, Felicia served as the regional administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency's Pacific Southwest region during the Clinton Administration, where she was known for her work in bringing unlikely allies together for environmental progress and for making the agency more responsive to the communities it serves, particularly Indian Tribes, communities of color, local government and agricultural and business interests. Preceding the EPA, Marcus served as the president of the board of Public Works for the City of Los Angeles presiding over the department through a time of great change and challenge, including numerous emergency response situations (including flood, earthquake and riots). Felicia has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022.





**Felix Ngamlagosi** (Tanzania/ Zimbabwe) currently serves as the Executive Secretary of the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM). Felix has over 30 years of professional experience of the Energy and Water Sectors. From 1988 to 2006 he held various positions rising ranks to Senior Economist in ministries responsible for Water and Energy. He was the founding Director of Regulatory Economics in the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) of Tanzania; and the second Director General of EWURA. Felix extensively worked on water sector reforms; institutional restructuring; design of regulatory frameworks, corporate strategic planning; policy formulation in the water sector, sector programme design, and public expenditure reviews. He held positions in regional governance bodies including: Chairman of the African Forum for Utility Regulators (AFUR) based in Pretoria South Africa; Chairman of the Independent Regulatory Board (IRB) of the Eastern Africa Power Pool (EAPP); a member of the Executive Committee of the Energy Regulators Association of East Africa (EREA); Executive Committee of the Regional Electricity Regulators Association (RERA); and of the Executive Committee of the Eastern and Southern Africa Water Association (ESAWAS) Regulators. Felix holds a Master's Degree in Economics (Moscow State University); Post Graduate Diploma in Policy Analysis and Project Planning (Institute of Social Studies, The Hague); and is a Certified Regulation Specialist, awarded jointly by the Institute for Public-Private Partnerships (IP3) of USA and the Loughborough University (WEDC/LU) of the United Kingdom. Felix has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022. He and his colleagues at ZAMCOM are driving the development of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in Southern Africa and ZAMCOM was a leading partner of the Network's engagement at the 2023 UN Water Conference.



**Firmina Acuba** (Uganda) serves as a Senior Sociologist in the Ministry of Water and Environment in Uganda. She holds a Master's Degree in Labour and Development; BA in Social Sciences; Postgraduate Diploma in Management and Certificate in Laws. Firmina has worked with the Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda since 2001, serving as the Ministry's Gender Equality and HIV Mainstreaming Expert as well as UNESCO Water Focal Person. Firmina has developed, guided, and revised several Ministry of Water and Environment Gender Equality and HIV mainstreaming policies and strategies and provided extensive capacity building on these areas. She is an advocate of inclusion of rights of women and vulnerable groups in the water and environment sector. She has years of experience supporting bottom up/grassroots water diplomacy processes and inclusive decision making in several key sub-basins in the Nile including the Maziba River catchment in the Kagera – one of the key sources of Lake Victoria shared by Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. Firmina has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2018.



**Dr. Florence Grace** (Uganda) is the Executive Director of the Nile Basin Initiative and serves as the current President of the Africa Network of Basins Organisation (ANBO). She is an accomplished water and environment resources management professional with an experience of 37 years in the public sector (30 years spent in the water domain and 7 in the field of higher education). Among the positions held in the water domain in Uganda are: Director, Water Resource Management, Commissioner of Water Quality Management Department and Assistant Commissioner in the same Department. She was also the Principal Technical Advisory Committee member for Uganda on two main Nile Basin Initiative Governance Bodies; Nile and Nile Equatorial Lakes Technical Advisory Committees (2015-2023). Dr. Adongo also served as the Vice-Chair for the Uganda Public Service Directors, Commissioners and Under Secretaries Forum by the time of her appointment to her current position. She



holds a Master's of Science in Water and Environmental Resources Management from IHE-Delft Institute of Water Education, Netherlands, a Masters in Business Administration (Executive) from Eastern and Southern East African Institute in Arusha, Tanzania, and a Doctorate in Business Administration, majoring in water optimization from the Atlantic International University, U.S.A. Florence has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2020.

**Florien van Weerelt** (The Netherlands) is a human rights professional with a focus on the relationship between human rights, climate change and the environment. She has worked for the United Nations and civil society organizations in Bangkok, Geneva and Stockholm. Florien holds an LLM in International Human Rights Law from Lund University and an LLB from University College London (UCL). She has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022.



**Foman Forough** (Afghanistan/ Canada) holds a Master's degree in Hydraulic Structures from Ferdowsi University. She served at the National Water Affairs Regulation Authority (NWARA) as General Director of the Kabul River Basin, the largest basin in Afghanistan, before the Taliban captured Kabul in 2021. She is currently working as a water resource specialist- engineering at the South Nation Conservation Authority in Canada. Foman has extensive experience in transboundary water management serving in various capacities at NWARA including as Acting Director of Water Allocation, a Dam and River Adviser, and Hydraulic Structures Design Specialist. In addition, Foman has taught courses on Hydraulic Structures at Kateb Private University and is a proud board member of the Afghanistan Infrastructure Transparency Initiative (COST), which works in the field of transparency in infrastructure projects, access to information, and anti-corruption. Foman has been active in the Network since 2021, is a founding member of the Central Asia and Afghanistan Network branch, and currently serves on the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Global Leadership Council.



**Gabriela Caloca Michel** (Mexico) is an Oceanologist from the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California and has a Specialization in Environmental Management in Geographic Information Systems from the same university. Her vast experience has allowed her to lead, since 2012, the Water and Rivers Program of Pronatura Noroeste. He coordinates the restoration efforts in the Colorado River Delta and the Tijuana River project. She also actively participates in the Act 320 Binational Base Group, is a civil society member of the Baja California Watershed Council and co-chairs the Mexican delegation of the Act 323 Environmental Working Group. Gabriela has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Gladys Wekesa** (Kenya) serves as the Director of Transboundary Water Resources in the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation in Kenya. As the Director of Transboundary Water Resources in the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation she is charged with spearheading the sustainable management and development of the transboundary water resources in Kenya through formulation of the relevant policies, strategies, protocols etc., in collaboration with other stakeholders and riparian states. As such, she is a member of the various Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) of the regional inter-Governmental bodies, including the Nile Basin Initiative (on the Nile River Basin), The Lake Victoria Basin Commission (Mara River and Lake Jipe/Challa Basins), African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), IGAD Water Unit, and the UNEP Coordinated Project on the Sustainable Development



of Lake Turkana and its River Basins, between Kenya and Ethiopia. The role of the TAC Members is to support the Ministers responsible for water affairs of the Member States in providing the overall policy direction and strategic guidance in the joint management and development of the shared water resources. Gladys has been a Member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2018.

**Gulnar Aliyeva** (Azerbaijan) is coordinator of UNECE supported project, named “Identification of Alternative Water Sources to Increase Resilience of Communities of Regions of Azerbaijan to Climate Change”. She has graduated the Azerbaijan Melioration and Construction University, Melioration and Water farm engineer faculty. She is studying at the Master's level of the Faculty of Project Management and Industrial Management at the same University. She has about 10 years of experience in the field of management of water resources and environment protection. Main work was about natural resources management related capacity building and awareness rising, stakeholder coordination in this sphere within different EU, UNDP, OECD, UNECE, UBA(Austria), EaU (France), WB and other donor supported projects. Then cooperated with EU EPIRB and EUWI+ projects as a communication assistant for stakeholder coordination strategy development for pilot RBMPs in Kura upstream of Mingachevir reservoir basin district. She provided assistance to different level of discussions on application of basin approach in Azerbaijan according to EU WFD within the EU4Environment project. Aliyeva has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Gulzhan Makhmudova** (Kyrgyzstan) is an Environmental Sustainability and Climate Expert currently serving as the National Project Coordinator/Advisor for the EU-funded Climate Change and Resilience in Central Asia at UNDP Kyrgyzstan. Gulzhan has over 10 years of experience managing and implementing environmental and climate projects, contributing to policy development, regulatory frameworks, industrial safety, and environmental impact assessment. Prior to joining UNDP, she worked as an Environmental Sustainability Expert and Leading Specialist at the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technical Supervision of Kyrgyzstan, where she played a key role and she was a member of many governmental working groups /commissions in environmental and sustainability policy development, climate adaptation strategies, water management and mine reclamation policy. She has received multiple awards for her contributions to environmental governance, including the Medal “Kaarman” and the Certificate of Honour from the Ministry of Natural Resources of Kyrgyzstan. Gulzhan has experience to work with international organizations such as the World Bank, IOM, OSCE, the Soros Foundation, and the EU. She has contributed to projects and internships across England, Germany, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Russia, and Kazakhstan. She was active board member of the JICA Alumni. Gulzhan holds a Master’s degree in Environmental Sciences from Tsukuba University (Japan), a Master’s degree in Law, and a Bachelor’s degree in Ecology from the International University of Kyrgyzstan. She has also completed international certifications in environmental policy, water management and diplomacy, disaster prevention, waste management, and ESG reporting. Gulzhan is a founding member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network’s Central Asia and Afghanistan branch and serves on the Network’s Global Leadership Council.

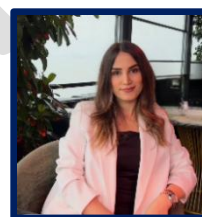




**Gunay Hasanova** (Azerbaijan) is a seasoned professional with over 15 years of experience and expertise in climate change, water resources management, sustainability, and energy generation from water resources. She has held key roles in various esteemed organizations, showcasing her expertise and commitment to driving impactful change. With a background in hydrology and climatology from Baku State University, Gunay's academic journey laid a robust foundation for her career. Gunay's professional journey encompasses significant contributions across diverse sectors. From her tenure at Azerenergy Joint Stock Company, where she played a pivotal role in ensuring the efficient operation of Azerbaijan's electricity system, to her work with the Ministry of Ecology, where she contributed to shaping environmental policies and initiatives. During her time at the University of California, Davis, as a Hubert H. Humphrey fellow, Gunay focused on sustainable water resource management. She served as an Expert in Sustainability at the Azerbaijan Tourism Board leveraging her expertise to promote eco-friendly practices within the tourism industry, contributing to the country's broader sustainability goals. This experience further enriched her understanding of global environmental challenges and solutions. Her involvement in projects such as the UNDP GEF Kura Project underscores her dedication to environmental advocacy on both national and international levels. Gunay has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Guntakin Mammadova** (Azerbaijan) is a Water Supply Engineer with over seven years of experience, currently employed as a project engineer at “Water and Amelioration Complex Design Institute”. In this role, she focuses on designing water management systems. Her primary responsibilities include designing, planning, and implementing water supply systems, particularly for water and sewage lines across various districts and villages. She plays a vital role in ensuring access to clean water and proper sanitation facilities for the communities she serves. Her dedication to her field significantly contributes to improving infrastructure and the quality of life in various regions. Guntakin has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Dr. Guy Bonvin** (Switzerland) was appointed Deputy Head of Mission and Deputy Head of Regional Cooperation in Azerbaijan in July 2024. His current assignment is focused on economic cooperation and bilateral relations, as well as on COP29. Dr. Guy Bonvin previously supported the Swiss-Ukraine Cooperation since October 2022, including one year as Deputy Head of Cooperation in Kyiv and a subsequent senior program manager position in Berne. His working areas included sustainable urban development and mobility, health, and culture in the very challenging Ukrainian context. Prior to that he served as the Swiss Special Envoy for Water in Central Asia. In this diplomatic position, Blue Peace Central Asia, the Swiss water diplomacy initiative, was at the heart of his mandate, contributing to address the challenge posed by the complex water-energy-food-environment nexus in a transboundary context. With his experience in the industrial, diplomatic, and humanitarian fields, Dr. Bonvin has built a broad vision of the water-energy-food nexus, of its stakeholders, of economic and strategic challenges on the path of sustainable economic development and stability. His assignments included operations in Central and Eastern Europe, Middle East, Caucasus, Central Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Guy has been actively supporting the Network's South Caucasus branch development since 2024.



**Gwendena Lee-Gatewood** (White Mountain Apache/ United States) is co-chair of the Indigenous Women Leadership Network (IWLN), a partner in the North American Women in Water Diplomacy Network. Gwendena is the first female ever elected to the highest office for her Tribe, serving as Tribal Chairwoman from 2018-2022. As Chairwoman, she was active on many platforms to improve the way of life for her people, especially doing so during the challenging time period of the Covid 19 pandemic. In her spare time, she loves spending time with her family, writing, taking daily walks to enjoy nature, hunting, photography, finding opportunities to ride horses, she has a passion for horses. Gwendena has been invited to speak at various events that focuses on Indigenous women, and what she encourages most is for these young women to know their self- worth and make an impact on their homelands and beyond, to express themselves by advocating for things they are passionate about, and to advocate for their peers, learn, and become more actively involved in issues that affect our communities. Believe in yourselves, don't let circumstances dictate your future, and most of all stay close to the Creator, through prayer - after all you were made to succeed not to fail, and each challenge is a stepping stone, embrace it as a reflection of your ancestors planting their seeds of hope to be harvested in our day is something to behold. Gwendena has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Hadia Saboor** (Afghanistan) previously served as an intern at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock & Irrigation in Afghanistan with prior experience from service at AIESEC Afghanistan, Khurasan Academic Association, Afghanistan Builders Association (ABA), and the Humanitarian Organization for Motivation and Empowerment. She obtained her Bachelor Degree in Kabul University in 2019. Hadia is very enthusiastic to grow her areas of expertise and has participated in numerous training programmes with focus on communications, women's empowerment, leadership, and social skills and management and looking forward to continue to grow her proficiencies and competencies. Currently, Hadia is enrolled as a Master Student in the AUAF American university of Afghanistan. Hadia has been active in the Network since 2021 as a founding member of the in Central Asia and Afghanistan Network branch.



**Hajar Huseynova** (Azerbaijan) is the Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Development and Diplomacy (IDD) of ADA University. Her major functions include leading the production of high-quality research reports and publications, as well as teaching and conducting trainings in the field of green energy, environmental policy and management, sustainable development, and water resources management. Hajar has worked with various international institutions such as UNDP, GEF, GIZ, Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung, NUI in the capacity of researcher and project manager. She is the author of monthly analytical papers and reports on water, energy, renewable energy and environmental policy gaps in the country. She graduated with an MA in Diplomacy and International Affairs from ADA University. Hajar has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Hana Teshome** (Ethiopia) is an experienced diplomat currently serving at the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations in Geneva. She acts as a focal point for key international organizations such as UNHCR, IFRC, ICRC, OCHA, and the Human Rights Council. Hana began her career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia in 2019 as a trainee diplomat, where she gained extensive experience in international legal affairs. She spent three years in the International Legal Affairs



Directorate General, where she was responsible for drafting, negotiating, and finalizing bilateral and multilateral agreements, while advising the government on various international legal matters. Hana holds an LLB from Adama Science and Technology University (2018), a degree in Business Management from Bahirdar University (2020), and a Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations and Diplomacy from Civil Service University (2021). She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Public International Law at Addis Ababa University. Hana has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.

**Irina Yugay** (Kazakhstan) is a Senior Programme Specialist and Project Manager at the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC). With over 15 years of experience, she specializes in IWRM, water quality, agriculture, gender, and sustainable development in Kazakhstan and Central Asia. Irina has studied Economics and Water Governance at the Kazakh Research Institute of Water Economy and holds MSc in Integrated Water Resources Management from the German-Kazakh University. Before joining CAREC, she worked as a researcher in Agricultural Water Supply Department, coordinating projects on sustainable land and water management. Currently, Irina leads the implementation of Swiss- and German-funded projects that promote transboundary water cooperation and enhance capacity-building for different stakeholders in climate-sensitive and gender-responsive integrated water management. Since 2021, CAREC has been a founding partner of the Central Asia-Afghanistan Women in Water Management Network, and in 2024, Irina joined the Global Process Support Team of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network.



**Dr. Isabela Battistello Espíndola** (Brazil) is a Senior Officer at the International Water Association (IWA), where she leads the engagement of the Young Water Professional (YWP) and Regulators communities. She has over 10 years of experience in international relations, sustainable development, youth engagement, international cooperation, human rights, and international development, with a focus on water resources. She holds a PhD in Human Geography from the University of Sao Paulo, where she researched South America's transboundary water governance and management. She also has an MSc in Environmental Sciences and a BA in International Relations and Economics. She is passionate about advancing the role and voice of women and youth in the water sector, especially in the global arena. She has been a member and organizer of various youth volunteer organizations and initiatives in the fields of water, women in science, and the environment. Isabela has been actively involved in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023.



**Jacqueline Nyirakamana** (Rwanda) is a Transboundary Water Resources Cooperation Specialist in Ministry of Environment of Rwanda since 2015. From 2005 -2008 she served as Rwanda's Nile Basin Initiative Focal Point. She has served as a Nile Technical Advisory Committee (Nile-TAC) member since 2016 and as NILE-TAC Chairperson from 2020-2021. She is also a Nile Equatorial Lakes Technical Advisory Committee Member (NEL-TAC), serving as Chairperson for the year 2023-2024. From February 2018 to June 2019, Jacqueline served as Rwanda's Representative to the Lake Kivu and Rusizi/Ruzizi River Basin Authority (ABAKIR). She has more than 10 years' experience in transboundary water resources cooperation, water conflict resolution, water diplomacy and water policy and Governance. Jacqueline holds a Masters MBA in Strategic Management from Mount Kenya University and a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration from Université Libre de Kigali. She is also a member of Initiative for Future of Great Rivers (IFGR) based in Lyon-France. Jacqueline is a native French speaking and proficient in English.



Jacqueline has been actively involved in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Nile since 2018 and served on the Network's first Leadership Council from 2021-2024.

**Jayne Harkins** (United States) formerly served as Commissioner of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC), the first woman commissioner of the USIBWC. As Commissioner, Harkins led negotiations with Mexico to assure Mexico deliveries to the United States on the Rio Grande were timely made pursuant to the 1944 Water Treaty between the USA and Mexico. In 2020, an agreement was established to improve the reliability and predictability of Mexico's deliveries. Harkins also worked with Mexico on other transboundary issues including Colorado River deliveries, environmental and wastewater issues. Prior to moving to El Paso, Texas to work for the USIBWC, Harkins led the Colorado River Commission of Nevada, as the Executive Director for seven years. Ms. Harkins also worked for the Bureau of Reclamation for 27 years, starting as a Civil Engineer in Yuma, Arizona and ending her USBR career as Deputy Regional Director, Lower Colorado Region. Harkins is a registered professional engineer with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geological Engineering from the University of North Dakota and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Jayne has been actively involved in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since the North American branch of the Network was launched in 2023.



**Dr. Jeanene Mitchell** (United States) has over 20 years of experience in the South Caucasus and Türkiye on water, energy, gender, and sustainable development topics. Previously, Jeanene directed stakeholder engagement for a UNDP-Global Environment Facility transboundary water management project in the Kura River Basin. She has also worked in research at the Columbia University Center for Energy, Marine Transportation and Public Policy. Jeanene holds a PhD in Near and Middle Eastern Studies and a Certificate in International Development from the University of Washington, an MA in International Affairs from Columbia University, and a BSFS in International Politics from Georgetown University. Jeanene has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Jennifer Pitt** (United States) joined the National Audubon Society, a U.S.-based environmental NGO, in 2015 to advise the organization's strategies to protect and restore rivers, in the context of climate change, throughout the Colorado River Basin. She works to improve river governance for stakeholders excluded from historic legal agreements, including the environment and indigenous communities. She helped to negotiate, and continues to lead, the United States–Mexico collaboration to restore ecosystem values in the long-desiccated Colorado River Delta. Prior to joining Audubon, Jennifer spent 17 years working to protect and restore freshwater ecosystems in the Colorado River Basin at the Environmental Defense Fund. Jennifer has also worked at the National Park Service headquarters and in Mesa Verde and Sequoia National Parks, and as a legislative assistant to a U.S. Congressman. Jennifer graduated from Harvard University and received a master's in Environmental Science and Policy from Yale University. Jennifer has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022.





**Jesse Ferraioli** (United States) is a Research Associate at the Environmental Law Institute (ELI). She holds a BA in Environmental Studies and Philosophy from Dartmouth College. At ELI, she assists Elizabeth with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and has worked on projects spanning from the use of natural infrastructure in hazard mitigation to the evaluation of California's Tribal consultation policies. For her senior thesis, Jesse researched the role of the U.S. Forest Service in safeguarding groundwater and cultural resources from uranium contamination in northern Arizona. Jesse has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023.



**Jessica Troell** (United States) is a Senior Attorney and has directed the Environmental Law Institute's International Water Program since its founding in 2006. Under her leadership, the Program has developed and implemented projects to define and track the legal recognition and protections for Indigenous and community-based water tenure; create realistic mechanisms for involving diverse stakeholders in water-related decision-making; identify and implement innovative water governance mechanisms to strengthen resilience of communities and countries in the face of climate change; build the legal and institutional capacity to manage transboundary water challenges; strengthen livelihoods and food security through more effective water management; and ensure that water management is effectively leveraged in fragile and post-conflict states to promote peacebuilding. Jessica works with NGOs, governments, the private sector, and universities to create, implement, and enforce sustainable water laws, policies, and management mechanisms. Jessica has supported the development and implementation of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network on behalf of ELI's International Waters Programme since inception in the Nile Basin in 2017.



**Jeyhuna Mammadova** (Azerbaijan) is an experienced hydrologist and water resources management professional with over a decade of experience in the field. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Hydrology from Baku State University and a Master's degree from Baku Engineering University. Throughout her career, Jeyhuna has worked in various capacities, including as an engineer at the Navy's Navigation and Oceanography Service, where she conducted water quality assessments and environmental impact assessments. She later moved to Azersu OJSC, where she focused on strategic research and freshwater supply planning. She is currently a senior consultant at the Water and Amelioration Complex Design Institute, specialising in strategy and project management. She has also volunteered with the NGO Nature Friends, contributing to environmental awareness and youth development projects. Jeyhuna has actively participated in international projects with organisations such as UNDP, EUWI+ and the European Union, demonstrating her expertise in this field. With a PhD focused on hydro-ecological issues, Jeyhuna continues to contribute to the advancement of sustainable water management practices. Jeyhuna has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Jill Baggerman** (United States) is a program officer for the U.S. Institute of Peace's Afghanistan and Central Asia team where she leads the team's emerging research and programming on transboundary waters. She has worked on issues at the intersection of water, peace, and multi-stakeholder engagement since 2009. Previously in the water sector, Baggerman worked on strategic analysis for the U.N. Water Convention, the "leave no one behind" efforts of UNOPS's Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, and editing for the Wilson Center's environmental change and security program. Baggerman also volunteers in watershed restoration and water quality



monitoring for the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River in the ancestral lands of the Piscataway. She also has a background in local reconciliation implementation in conflict-affected contexts. She holds a master's in global policy studies from the University of Texas with a specialization on water policy in fragile contexts; a master's in development, sustainability and peace from U.N. University in Tokyo, Japan where her thesis was on "Assessing the Relationship between Inclusiveness and Peacebuilding: Case Study of the Water Sector in South Sudan"; and a bachelor's in cultural anthropology from the University of Texas. Baggerman has several publications related to water, security, or peacebuilding. Jill has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023.

**Johanna Sumuvuori** (Finland) was appointed as the Director of the European Centre of Excellence for Civilian Crisis Management in 2025. Prior to joining the CoE, Johanna held various high-level roles including as State Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland, and most recently as a Senior Advisor at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in New York. As State Secretary, she assisted the Minister in matters relating to political steering and preparatory work. She also assisted the Minister and represented him in the drafting of policy papers and in inter-ministerial coordination. Her responsibilities include participation in the harmonization of policy positions, the implementation of the Government Programme in the Minister's administrative branch, and the handling of EU and international affairs. Prior to this, Johanna served as a Member of Parliament of Finland and a City Councillor in Helsinki, and in positions at the Embassy of Finland in London and the Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland. She has also held leading positions in civil society organisations as well as in different kinds of positions of trust, including advocacy for civilian crisis management. Sumuvuori holds the degrees of Master of Social Sciences and Master of Arts. Johanna has been an active member and champion of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023.



**Julia Kharashvili** (Georgia) Chair, IDP Women Association "Consent" and Member, High Level Advisory Group for Global Study on the Impact of UNSC Resolution 1325 is a civil society activist. She has spent 28 years working on protection of rights of IDP and conflict-affected women in Georgia and throughout the South Caucasus region. Since 2013, Ms. Kharashvili has been an expert member on the UN Women High Level Advisory group for the implementation of the UNSCR 1325, which is actively working on localization of WPS agenda in Georgia. Since 2020, she also serves as a member of Global Action Network of Women in Forced Displacement. Julia is also a member of High-Level Advisory Group to OSCE WIN project, and a member of Planning Committee for the Regional platform of Women for Peace Dialogue, which supports efforts of women – peace builders and civic activists in the region of the Former Soviet Union. For her work, Julia has received several international and Georgian awards. Currently, she represents Georgia in the NATO Civil Society Advisory Panel on WPS. Prior to her work in this area, Julia was a researcher in field of immunodeficiency viruses of monkeys (in Abkhazia). Julia is married and has two sons and two grandchildren. Julia has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Julienne Ndjiki (Ngo Yebga)** (Cameroon/ South Africa) has over 11 years of hands-on experience in water governance and transboundary cooperation as well as Integrated Water Resource Management, Climate change and Gender and social Inclusion. In her previous role at the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), where she served as Programme Officer within the Water Cooperation and Diplomacy (WCD) department, Julienne was responsible for supporting water diplomacy processes as part of the SIWI's Shared Waters Partnership programme through stakeholders' engagement and partnership building, technical capacity strengthening and training at various levels. Recently, she has joined (again) the Global Water partnership Southern Africa where she actively supports countries in Central and West Africa to strengthen their capacity to access and manage climate finance. Julienne exhibits great skills in Design, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning as well as facilitation, programme management and development. Holder of two Masters degree (one in Animal biology and the other in Water Resource Management, Julienne is a native French speaking and fully proficient in English. Julienne has been a member and Network champion since 2021.



**Karabo Mokgonyana** (South Africa) is a Renewable Energy Campaigner at Power Shift Africa, where she leads advocacy efforts to accelerate Africa's transition to sustainable energy. With a strong background in human rights, diversity and inclusion and climate security, she works with governments and grassroots organizations to advance equitable renewable energy solutions that are people-centred in the Global South. Her insights on renewable energy, climate action, and sustainable development have been widely published in platforms such as Mail & Guardian, Business Live, and other leading African media. Karabo has collaborated with global institutions like the African Union, United Nations, and Commonwealth to push for sustainable development that is gender sensitive and youth-focused. Karabo has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2021.



**Professor Karima Attia** (Egypt) is Professor Emeritus at the Egyptian National Water Research Center having formerly served as the Director of the Water Resources Research Institute (WRI), National Water Research Center from 2014 -2018. Dr. Attia has more than 35 years of experience in water resources from different disciplines. She has worked as a team leader and member of many national and international projects, including for example as team leader for the study "Windblown Sand to Lake Nasser/Nubia" funded by World Bank, Improved Drought Early Warning and Forecasting to Strengthen Preparedness and Adaptation to Droughts in Africa (DEWFORA), Case study of Ethiopia, local consultant for the Nile inland waterway transport by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Ministry of Finance Central Public Private Partnership Unit, and short term consultant in support to the reform of the Egyptian Transport Sector (EuropeAid/129-110/SER/CE/G) "Strategy for the Sustainability of the Egyptian Transport System", (Navigation for First Class Waterways), The principle investigator for the project "Enhancing Sediment Transport Modeling in Nile Basin Reservoirs" 2009-2012 funded by ESA through TIGER II initiative. She is one of the Principal Authors of the book "The Regime of the River Nile in Egypt" Egypt 1990, ISBN:0-9696846-1-4, (B. Evans, North Hydraulic Consultant, Canada, and K. Attia, Nile Research Institute, Editor in Chief, M. Rafeek Abdelbary, Nile Research Institute,) and has published more than 50 research papers in scientific journals and conferences. Karima has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2020.



**Dr. Karin Sjöstrand** (Sweden) is Senior Editor of Nature Water where she covers articles within the social sciences, agricultural water management, WASH and public health. Karin obtained her PhD from Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden, with a specialization in decision support for sustainable water security. She has more than 20 years' experience working with water-related challenges in the public and private sectors. Prior to Nature Water, she was at RISE Research Institutes of Sweden, working with agricultural companies, industry, water utilities and local governments on water supply and demand issues. She also has experience as an environmental consultant and from local government, working with environmental law and the European Water Framework Directive. Karin has been active in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Dr. Kathryn Bryk Friedman** (United States) serves in a consultative capacity as the North American Arctic Policy Advisor to the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies and a Global Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (Canada Institute). Kathryn is a recognized foreign policy expert, with two decades of experience collaborating with and advising US, Canadian, and European government officials on security, defense, borders, migration, and water security. Her work sits at the intersection of law, security, geopolitics, and governance. Kathryn also is an experienced mediator and conflict resolution specialist, who has designed processes and led Track 1.5-4.0 diplomatic efforts. Prior to supporting the Stevens Center, she served as research faculty at the University at Buffalo where she directed a law and policy program focused on all aspect of the US-Canada relationship. Kathryn has served as a Fulbright Fellow (Germany) and an Abshire Inamori Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC. Kathryn has provided guest commentary in the media, including PBS, NPR, The Hill, CBC, and Bloomberg News. She has served on panels at the United Nations (World Water Week and High-Level Political Forum) and at the Bled Strategic Forum. Kathryn clerked for two appellate judges and is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. Kathryn has a Ph.D. with concentrations in international relations and comparative politics, and J.D., magna cum laude, with a concentration in international law. Kathryn has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023.



**Kathryn Pharr** (United Kingdom/ United States) founded the Community of Women in Water (CWiw) in January 2019 to connect women working on water to help them better address the challenges they work on through enhanced networks and knowledge. CWiw currently has over 1,000 members globally. Since 2011, Kathryn has worked on science policy and programme management; her policy and research focus on water since 2015 has included climate change, gender, transboundary, urban resilience, IWRM, governance, finance, and WASH. Kathryn has worked with the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA), Arup, the Global Water Forum, the U.S. Department of State, USAID, the University of Oxford, and WaterAid. Kathryn has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022.







**Kathy Robb** (United States) is the Chief Executive Officer of Blue Access. Prior to joining Blue Access, she was a nationally-recognized environmental attorney in private practice, concentrating on water districts, developers, investors, lenders, energy companies, industrial and paper companies, and chemical manufacturers on water-related disputes, endangered species issues, environmental impact reviews, river sites with contaminated sediments, solid and hazardous waste issues, and sites with contaminated groundwater. Kathy focused on these environmental litigation before federal district and appellate courts across the country, as well as before the U.S. Supreme Court. She has worked on water-related issues across the United States, including Kalamazoo, Colorado, Klamath, and Guadalupe Rivers; the ACT-ACF river systems; the San Gabriel Valley; and numerous lakes, streams, and aquifers. Kathy has also taught courses on international environmental law and human rights at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University, and writes and speaks frequently on water quality and quantity issues. She has co-founded three environmental-related non-profit organizations, and served on the Environmental Law Institute Board and is the president of the Leadership Council. Her work has garnered her many professional acknowledgements and awards. Kathy is a graduate of the University of the Virginia School of Law and the University of Texas at Austin Plan II interdisciplinary honors program. She spends most of her recreational time looking at, being in and on, and reading about, water. She has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Katja Ahlfors** (Finland) is the Senior Advisor for the Northern and Western Africa Unit within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and the former Director of the Centre for Peace Mediation at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. Prior to this she served as Senior Advisor on Horn of Africa to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland. She joined the Foreign Service in 2004 and has since served at the Department for Africa and the Middle East, the Department for Americas and Asia and at the Department for Development Policy. Ahlfors has served at the Embassies of Finland in Addis Ababa and Stockholm. She has also been seconded to the European Commission in Brussels and as Senior Advisor to CMI - Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation. As a senior diplomat and a peace mediator Katja has supported the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022.



**Kerry Schneider** (United States/Sweden) serves as SIWI's Senior Programme Manager for the Shared Waters Partnership programme, a multi-stakeholder platform aimed at advancing cooperation over shared water resources in regions where political tensions could be a source of conflict. He contributes to the development of research and project management in a number of fields including transboundary water management, climate change, and capacity building. Kerry holds a Master's degree in International Humanitarian Action from Uppsala University, Sweden. Prior joining SIWI in 2013, Kerry worked for Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). Kerry has supported the inception and development of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2017 as a flagship engagement of SIWI's Shared Waters Partnership programme.





**Khalisa Shahverdiyeva** (Azerbaijan) is Senior Gender Expert / Social and Environmental Development Specialist based in Azerbaijan. She has more than 14 years of working experience in promoting gender equality and social-economical inclusion in different fields, such as environment, climate change, land use, digital, energy, transport, water, wastewater and solid waste, agriculture. As the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow (2021-2022), Khalisa studied Public Policy and Public Administration at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University, focused on gender policies, gender-responsive climate policies, public-private partnerships for sustainable development and digital inclusion. Currently, Khalisa Shahverdiyeva works as a senior Social Development Consultant at the World Bank's Social Sustainability and Inclusion unit, conducting research, facilitating consultations with stakeholders ensuring inclusion in the Digital and Green Development in Rural Azerbaijan Programs. Khalisa has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Ambassador Lena Sundh** (Sweden) has long experience of working on issues relating to peace and stability, conflict resolution and gender equality both at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the United Nations. She is currently Special Envoy to the Great Lakes at the Ministry and participates in the Burundi peace talks facilitated by Tanzania's former President Mkapa. In January 2018 she was appointed by the UN Secretary-General as chair of the International Commission of Inquiry for Mali. She was Ambassador to Angola until September 2016. Ambassador Sundh has served as the Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of Congo, MONUC, 2002-2004. Moreover, she was Head of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal 2006-2007 and member of the UN Monitoring Mechanism for the Angola sanctions 2000-2001. In 2004-2005 Lena Sundh chaired SIDDR, the Stockholm Initiative on disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration and participated in the work to follow up the findings of SIDDR in the field. She also represented Sweden as delegate to the UN Commission on the Status of Women 1987-1989 and 1992-1995. Ambassador Sundh is a founding member of the Swedish Women's Mediation Network (SWM N) and participated in the very first Women in Water Diplomacy Network Forum in Uganda in 2017.



**Lenka Thamae** (Lesotho) is the former (ret.) Executive Secretary of Orange-Senqu River Basin Commission (ORASECOM) and expert in transboundary water cooperation, water diplomacy intergovernmental relations, and sustainable development. Lenka is a leading institutional development professional with an MSc in Engineering - Water Resources Management from University of Guelph, Canada. Lenka has been actively involved in supporting the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since his participation at the Network's first Global Network Forum in 2022.



**Lesley Pories** (United States) is Policy Lead for Finance at WaterAid, where she explores how more private and public finance can be mobilized for access to safe drinking water and sanitation in emerging markets. She has spent over a decade in the sector working across the intersection of policy, finance, governance and engagement within Global Water Partnership (GWP), Water.org and the World Bank, amongst others. Lesley is a member of the Scientific Programme Committee for Stockholm World Water Week, on the Steering Committee for the Water Initiative for Net Zero (WINZ), and Co-Chair of the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) High-Level Political Dialogue Working Group. She holds a Masters in City and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Masters in International Relations (focusing on international environmental resource policy) from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy

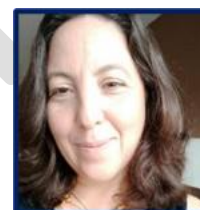


at Tufts University. She is based in London. Lesley has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022.

**Letizia Zuliani** (Italy) is currently Assistant Project Officer at the OSCE where since 2020 has been contributing to the work of the Environmental Co-operation Unit/OCEEA, on implementing initiatives related to water management and transboundary water cooperation across the OSCE area, with a focus on inclusive and participatory processes. Letizia has also gained experience at the Italian Embassy in Finland, where she conducted research on circular economy, further deepening her understanding of sustainable development practices and policies and as Local Pathways Fellow at the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. Her academic background includes a Joint Master's degree in East European and Eurasian Studies – International Relations from the University of Bologna and Saint Petersburg State University, as well as a postgraduate Master in Sustainable Development and Geopolitics of Resources and Arctic Studies from the Italian Association for the United Nations. She further specialized in water diplomacy through a course at IHE Delft, Netherlands, and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages and Russian Studies from Ca Foscari University of Venice.



**Dr. Liliana Pimentel** (Brazil) holds a bachelor in Architect and Urban Planner and a Specialist in Water Resources Management holding a Master's in Urban and Regional Planning focusing on bioregional planning and landscape ecology, and a Ph.D. in Geography focusing in hydrology and governance for water-related conflict transformation. She is a Former Fulbright Hubert Humphrey Fellow attending SPURS/MIT and currently works as a civil servant at the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation in Brazil. Liliana is a trained mediator interested in transboundary cooperation and conflict prevention over natural resources. Her passion for mediation and peacebuilding drove her to Join the Environmental Peacebuilding Association since its very beginning and the Mediators Beyond Borders International. By volunteering for several non-profit organizations, she keeps enhancing her negotiation and conflict prevention skills to benefit governance, decision-making, and public policy processes in Latin America and the Caribbean Region. Liliana has more than 30 years of professional experience in climate change, environmental conservation, biodiversity, governance and water resources for the public, private, and third sectors. She is an experienced lecturer and teacher in several universities in Brazil. She serves as a co-coordinator at OLAC and co-chair of the EnPAX's Interest Group on Water. She plans to set up a Water Group under the MBBI's UNMWG umbrella, focusing on the role of women in water management and the use of traditional knowledge to enhance water quality. Liliana has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023.



**Lilit Ananyan** (Armenia) serves as a Capacity Development Expert at the "Community Center for Development" Territorial Cooperation NGO (CCD). She holds a Master's in International Relations from the International Scientific-Educational Center of NAS RA (2016-2018) and a Bachelor's in English Philology from Yerevan State University (2012-2016). Prior to joining CCD, she served as Manager of the Economics and Law Centre from 2017 to 2018; a specialist at the Public Relations and Information Center SNCO, operating under the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia from 2018 to 2021; and held an internship at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia. Currently, as a Capacity Development Expert at the Community Center for Development, she contributes to initiatives focused on environmental protection, assisting communities facing emergency situations, promoting sustainable



development, and addressing critical social challenges. Lilit has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.

**Lilit Baghdasaryan** (Armenia) is a projects management specialist at Country Water Partnership (CWP). She is deeply committed to harnessing the power of women's leadership in resolving water-related conflicts and fostering sustainable water management practices globally. With a background in Psychology and a passion for gender equality, she has dedicated her career to addressing the intricate nexus of water scarcity, environmental degradation, and socio-political tensions. Drawing on her expertise in conflict resolution and mediation, Lilit has pioneered innovative approaches that integrate gender perspectives into water governance frameworks, thereby fostering inclusive and equitable solutions. Through her work, she has had the privilege of collaborating with diverse stakeholders, including government agencies, non-profit organizations, and grassroots communities, to develop tailored strategies that address the unique challenges faced by women and men having health issues. Whether facilitating capacity-building workshops for female water entrepreneurs or advocating for gender-sensitive policies at the highest levels of government, she has remained steadfast in her commitment to advancing the principles of women's empowerment and sustainable development. Lilit has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Lorelei Cloud** (Southern Ute/ United States) is the first Native American to serve on a state water board. She is also the co-founder of The Indigenous Women's Leadership Network, Board Trustee for The Nature Conservancy for Colorado, and Board Member for the Colorado Water Conservation Board for the San Miguel, Dolores, Animas, and San Juan River Basin and is a member of the Leadership Team for the Water and Tribes Initiative. Previously, she served three terms on the Southern Ute Tribal Council and held the positions of Vice Chairman and Treasurer. Lorelei has received several notable awards recognizing her leadership and contributions to water conservation and Indigenous rights: The Nature Conservancy's Nature's Advocate Award in 2023 and the Water Education Colorado's Greg Hobbs Next Wave Leadership Award in 2024. Lorelei has been actively involved in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since the North American branch of the Network was launched in 2023.



**Louise Heegaard** (Denmark/ Sweden) is a strategic partnerships and resource mobilization expert with predominantly focus on the environmental field, i.e. food and water. Louise has 25 years of experience from research and policy institutes (International Food Policy Research Institute and Stockholm International Water Institute), NGOs (such as the International Foundation for Science and Human Act), the intergovernmental organization International Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) as well as in public sector and private sectors in Denmark and Sweden. Louise has an academic background in political sciences / international relations. She works as Partnerships and Funding Mobilization Expert since June 2022 for DHI, a global digitally enabled advisory company / Research and Technical Organization that innovates new ways to use, manage and live with water and protect water-related ecosystems. Louise is based DHI's Stockholm office in Sweden. Louise has been closely following the WWDN since its start and is thrilled to have become an official member of the Network in 2025.





**Dr. Lusine Hambaryan** (Armenia) is an Associate Professor at Yerevan State University and Head of Hydroecology laboratory at the SC of Zoology and Hydroecology, Institute of Hydroecology and Ichthyology NAS RA. Dr. Hambaryan Lusine has many years of experience researching freshwater phytoplankton, cyanobacterial blooming and ecological conditions in water ecosystems of the Republic of Armenia. Luisine has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Lyazzat Syrlybayeva** (Kazakhstan) has over five years of experience in the water sector, focusing on integrated water resources management, transboundary water cooperation, climate change, and Sustainable Development Goals. In her previous role, Lyazzat co-led a regional project supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. She also served as a consultant for the World Bank Group, the OSCE, and others. Armed with a master's degree in natural resources management from the University of Padova and the University of Lisbon, she made significant contributions to Kazakhstan's Country Climate Development Report. Currently a project analyst at UNDP Kazakhstan in the Energy and Environment Unit, Lyazzat continues her impactful journey in advancing sustainable development initiatives. Lyazzat has been active in the Network since 2021 as a founding member of the in Central Asia and Afghanistan Network branch.



**Maarten Gischler** (The Netherlands) is a water adviser in the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2011. He works on water and resilience at scales from the global water cycle to urban problemsheds. His focus is on Africa and the Middle East. In the transboundary domain he has engaged in the Senegal River (OMVS), Niger River (ABN), Lake Chad (LCBC), and Nile (NBI). Before joining the Foreign Ministry in 2001, Maarten worked as a consultant on challenges in transboundary waters of the Caspian Sea, Aral Sea Basin and in the Middle East Peace Process. Maarten has been active engaged in supporting the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022.



**Dr. Maha Abdelrahim Ismail** (Sudan) holds a PhD in Geology and Hydrogeology. She has worked as a geologist at Gemarson drilling company, Asma drilling company, and White Nile Petroleum Operating company. Maha served as Head of Department for Environmental Studies, University of Medical Science and Technology, lecturer at the Geology Department, University of Khartoum, and a lecturer on part time basis at UNESCO Chair in Water Resources, Omdurman Islamic University. Maha worked IWRM consultant for UNESCO, ITT Cologne, part of the CNRD group, ZOA Sudan, NAPATA project French Embassy Khartoum. Dr. Ismail joined the Nile Basin Initiative team in January 2021 as the Technical Team Leader for the GEF/UNDP conjunctive use project. Maha has been active engaged with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Dr Mara Tignino** (Switzerland) is Reader at the Faculty of Law and the Institute for Environmental Sciences at the University of Geneva and Lead Legal Specialist of the Platform for International Water Law at the Geneva Water Hub. Dr Tignino has been Visiting Professor at Renmin University of China, the University of Barcelona, the *Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali* (LUISS) and the Catholic University of Lille. She was also a Visiting Scholar at the George Washington University Law School in Washington D.C. Dr Tignino acts as an expert and legal adviser for States and international organisations. She has given training workshops in Africa, Asia, Middle East



and South America. She is a member of the Coordinating Committee of the Interest Group of “International Business and Human Rights” of the European Society of International Law (ESIL) and former co-chair of the Interest Group on Water of the Environmental Peacebuilding Association. She holds a Ph.D. in international law from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva and an *Habilitation à diriger des recherches (HDR)* from the Faculty of Law of the University Jean Moulin Lyon. Mara has been active engaged with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023.

**Margaret Irungu** (Kenya) is Deputy Director Transboundary Water Resources Department, working within the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation as a Senior Principal Water Research Officer. She is the Nile Basin Initiative Desk Officer, Kenya and Deputy Project Coordinator Horn of Africa Groundwater for Resilience Project. She has long experience of working on issues relating to groundwater. She is currently the Focal Person, ‘Enhancing conjunctive management of surface and groundwater resources project, Mt. Elgon aquifer, shared between Kenya and Uganda, among other projects. She is also the Focal Person in Kenya within the Angololo Multipurpose Water Development Project shared between Kenya and Uganda. She holds a Masters in Geology, from The University of Nairobi and is trained on various aspects of water, to include; Isotope, Database and Groundwater Modeling, International Water Law, Negotiations and Hydro-Diplomacy, International Water Law, Climate Change in Integrated Water Management, among other areas. Margaret is a registered Geologist and has been an active member of Women in Water Diplomacy within the Nile Network since 2020.



**Margaret J. Vick** (United States) is a Doctor of Juridical Science (JSD) in the law of international water resources having studied from her advisor Stephen C. McCaffrey at UOP McGeorge School of Law. She also has a law degree (JD) from McGeorge. She worked with and advised Native American Tribes and tribal organizations in the Western United States on cross jurisdictional matters with a focus on water resources and water rights and has advised foreign governments about shared water resources through USAID and United Nations programs. She worked for a year as an imbedded advisor to the Ministry of Energy and Water within the Government of Afghanistan from 2009 - 2010 teaching an inter-ministry group of officials key principles of international law, international water law, and negotiation strategy. Margaret has been active engaged with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since the Network’s North American branch was launched in 2023.



**Maria Amakali** (Namibia) is a water resource manager and head of the Water Department from Namibia. With 30 years’ experience in the water sector, her expertise lies in integrated water resource management and transboundary water governance. She has developed water policies, strategies and IWRM Plans for Namibia and shared watercourses in SADC. She leads the Namibia delegation to Kunene, Cuvelai and Orange-Senqu River Basin commissions, whose basin agreements she was involved in development and provides technical advice to Okavango and Zambezi Watercourse Commissions. She is a member of the Technical Committee of Expert for the Cabinet Committee on Water Supply Security in Namibia whose main task is to ensure water supply security in the country. Maria holds a Master of Engineering on Water and Environmental Resources Management from IHE-Delft, Netherlands and a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Chemistry from Dana College in the USA. Maria has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022 when she and her fellow



Commissioners to the Orange-Senqu committed to developing a Network branch in Southern Africa, and currently serves on the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Global Leadership Council.

**Dr. Maria A. Gwynn** (Paraguay) is an international lawyer and an International Arbitrator. She is Senior Fellow at the International Law Institute, University of Bonn, Germany; and Member of the Implementation Committee of the UN Water Convention. She is also an International Hydropower Association Fellow and a member of the International Association for Water Law (AIDA) where she previously was the Chair for Water Partnerships and its representative to UN Water. She was a Governing Council Member of the Binational Entity ITAIPU (2019-2023). She was also Professor of the Strategic Studies Institute of Paraguay, and a member of the Paraguayan National Climate Change Commission. She was a delegate of the Republic of Paraguay and ITAIPU at the COP 26, COP 27, the World Water Forum, the World Energy Council, and multiple other international fora. She was selected for the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2022 and at the UN Water Conference 2023 was a keynote speaker for the dialogue on Water Cooperation. Previously, she was an Oxford-Princeton Global Leaders Fellow (2016-2018): Post-doctoral Research Fellow at the Blavatnik School of Government and SCR Research Associate, University College, University of Oxford (2017-2018); and at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, USA (2016-2017). She has been a CAS arbitrator since 2019 and was also a Member of the CAS Ad Hoc Division for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022. She holds a PhD magna cum laude from the Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Germany; a Magister Juris from the Law Faculty, University of Oxford, UK; and an LLB-Honours degree from the Faculty of Law, National University of Asuncion, Paraguay, as well as various postgraduate degrees, among them a Directed Studies Diploma from The Hague Academy of International Law, and an International Arbitration Diploma from the College of Law of England and Wales. She is the author of several books and articles in international journals. Dr. Gwynn has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since her participation at the second Global Network Forum in 2024, and currently serves on the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Global Leadership Council.



**Dr. Marianne Kjellén** (Sweden) serves on the independent Technical Advisory Panel (iTAP) of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), where she advises the organization's board on funding proposals. Alongside this three-year appointment (2023-2026), Marianne teaches on topics of urbanization and environment at Stockholm University and takes on selected consultancy assignments. She is Associate Professor (Docent) at the Department of Human Geography at Stockholm University, and has more than 30 years of international experience of water governance, relating to water resources and environmental management as well as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. Previous experience includes positions as Senior Water Advisor at UNDP, 2016-2023, Water Governance team leader at the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), 2012-2016, Research Fellow at the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), 1994-2012, alongside studies and teaching at Stockholm University. Marianne has field experience from sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Southeast Asia. She is fluent in English and Spanish and speaks good Swahili. Marianne has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022.





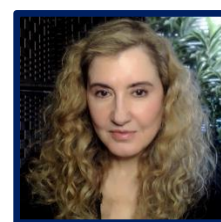
**Commissioner Maria-Elena Giner** (United States) was appointed by US President Joe Biden in August 2021 to serve as the United States Commissioner of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico. Dr Giner, the second woman and first Latina to hold the post, previously served as General Manager of the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC), an institution that developed environmental infrastructure along the U.S.-Mexico border in association with the North American Development Bank. During her tenure at the BECC, she focused on policies that addressed U.S.-Mexico cooperation on water, energy, and climate change. Dr Giner is well regarded among state agencies and local communities in California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and the six Mexican border states. With the support of the BECC staff, she led the development and financing of \$9 billion in environmental infrastructure, benefitting about 100 communities and over 10 million residents. In addition, she has published extensively on water policy and transboundary bilateral cooperation. Dr Giner's education includes a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Loyola Marymount University, a Master of Business Administration from the University of Texas at El Paso, and a Ph.D. in Public Policy from the University of Texas at Austin. She is also a registered professional engineer, first-generation college graduate, and daughter of an immigrant. Dr Giner is from the border region and attended Loretto Academy High School in El Paso, Texas. She is bicultural and bilingual. Maria-Elena and her colleagues at the IBWC have been actively engaged with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023.



**Dr. Marie-Amélie Pétré** (Finland) is a Senior Scientist in hydrogeology at the Geological Survey of Finland (GTK). She was appointed Associate of the International Association of Hydrogeologists' Commission on Transboundary Aquifers in 2020. She has over ten years of experience in transboundary groundwater cooperation, stakeholder engagement, and communication. Dr Pétré obtained her PhD in 2016 on the assessment of a regional transboundary aquifer between Canada and the USA. Her research works have become a standard against which other transboundary aquifers in the world are being assessed. Dr. Pétré has participated in global initiatives and programs (such as IGRAC and UNESCO-ISARM). Since 2019, she has also been conducting research projects on emerging contaminants in groundwater. Marie-Amélie has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Dr. Marisa O. Ensor** (United States) is a climate security specialist with a background in the socio-environmental dimensions of Climate Change, Disasters, Conflict, and Displacement. Combining science and rights-based approaches, her work examines intersectional gender, youth, and Indigenous perspectives on human-nature interactions. A central component of her work are the critical linkages between water and climate change in the context of increasing global and local insecurity with a focus on gendered water governance and adaptation strategies. Dr. Ensor is based at Georgetown University where she teaches courses on "Gender, Climate and Security," "Climate, Conflict and Displacement" and "Research Methodologies." A former Senior Climate Research Fellow at the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (GIWPS), and Chair of the Gender Interest Working Group of the Environmental Peacebuilding Association, she is currently a Researcher at Earth Commons: Georgetown Institute for Environment and Sustainability. Dr. Ensor has lived and worked in over 25 environmentally fragile and conflict-affected countries of Africa, Asia, Europe, the MENA region, and Latin America. She has consulted with various UN agencies (UN Women, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, OHCHR), the Economic and Social Research Council, USAID, and the United States Institute of Peace. She has most





recently completed a multi-disciplinary project on the gender-climate-security nexus in 5 countries across the world, focusing on the identification of context-specific solutions, including water-related challenges and opportunities. Her current work investigates climate adaptation strategies on coastal communities and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) – both in the Indo-Pacific and Caribbean regions – focusing on the co-identification of context-specific solutions to water insecurity. A central component of this project are the critical linkages between water, bio-cultural heritage, a plurality of knowledge systems – including Indigenous, local, and traditional ecological knowledge (ILK/TEK) – and community resilience in processes of climate adaptation. Her research has resulted in numerous publications including five books, over 50 book chapters and journal articles, and dozens of technical and policy-oriented reports.

**Marissa Mar Pecero** (Mexico) holds a Bachelor's degree in Communication and a Master's Degree in Public Policies, with diplomas in Information Law and Governance. Marissa has collaborated with the Broadcasting Committee of Congress, the Federal Institute of Telecommunications, the National Water Commission, Water Utilities, the Rio Bravo Basin Council and the IHP of UNESCO in Mexico and Latin America. She has contributed to projects such as the Water Culture Program, the IV WWF and the 2030 Water Agenda, the inclusion of the water issue in the Final Declaration of the UNESCO World Conference on EDS and co-organized the only meeting of women in water in LAC at the 2023 UN Water Conference. Currently, she is a consultant and advisor on communication, education, transparency and ICT on water; member of the Mexican Network of Watersheds, the National Water Advisory Council, Aquatech Mexico Council and participates in projects related to youth and women. Marissa has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023.



**Eng. Marwa Khattab** (Egypt) serves as the Deputy Director of the Establishment of a Navigational Line Between Lake Victoria and the Mediterranean Sea (VICMED) project and Senior Engineer in the Central Department of External Cooperation, Nile water sector, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation. She holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA), Government and Public Sector; Shared Water Resources Diploma, Cairo university 2004; and B.Sc Civil engineering, Ain Shams university, Egypt 2000. Eng. Khattab has twenty years' experience in water resources management in different disciplines, including as a team member in Nile Basin Initiative National Office Shared Program and Eastern Nile projects and member of the Bilateral Cooperation Department. Eng. Marwa has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2020.



**Mary Nelson Khamis Noah** (South Sudan) is a water diplomat with over 20 years of experience. Mary holds a Degree in Community studies and Rural development obtained at the University of Juba. She worked for three years (2004 – 2006) as Assistant Secretary for Women Affairs, which afforded her the opportunity to participate in humanitarian activities and mobilise women and ladies for social counselling. She further worked as a nutritionist in Health Center Sudan NGO Medecins du Monde Sudan from 2009 to 2011. She joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of South Sudan in 2013 in the office of the Deputy Minister as Secretary, following which she worked in the Department of Natural Resources at the Embassy of South Sudan in Nairobi, Kenya, working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation. She has been a member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Nile since 2017.



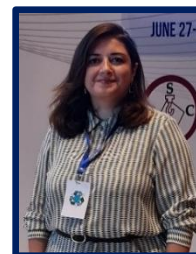
**Mary-Kate Ugrekhelidze** (Georgia) is a Water Governance Specialist for the USAID South Caucasus Regional Water Management Program (SCRWM). She holds master's degrees in Environmental Management from Kiel University (Germany) and Natural Resources Management from Ilia State University (Georgia). With ten years of experience in teaching, research, and program development, Mary Kate has worked across governmental and non-governmental sectors in environmental and project management. Throughout her career, she has contributed to a wide array of national, regional, and international development, cooperation, and research projects, serving as an assistant, consultant, expert, researcher, and coordinator. Furthermore, as a Ph.D. student and junior researcher at the Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, she is studying the complex socio-ecological dynamics within the Three Alazani Rivers Biosphere Reserve. Her research focuses on understanding the diverse, often conflicting, perspectives, interests, and needs of stakeholders to reveal actual patterns of land and resource access, use, governance, and management. Mary-Kate has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Maya Barkhudaryan** (Armenia) has extensive experience in dialogue-building, project management, and evaluation. She has been involved in research on metal mining and its impact, conducted an assessment of the Joghaz water reservoir, and evaluated the situation in Tavush's border villages during times of conflict. Additionally, she has worked on strengthening human rights protections and democratic institutions. Maya has served as a project manager, evaluation specialist, and consultant for local, foreign, and international organizations. Maya has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Medina Hajiyeva** (Azerbaijan) is an expert in environmental management and water resource optimization, with a strong focus on driving efficiency and sustainability initiatives. She holds a master's degree in Environmental Engineering from University College London, specializing in water treatment technologies. Currently serving as the Head of the Environmental Management Division at SOCAR HQ, she leads efforts to enhance water usage efficiency, demonstrating a commitment to environmental stewardship and resource conservation. Previously, she served as a Senior Project Manager at the Israeli National Water Company, Mekorot, where she played a pivotal role in preparing the Azerbaijan Water Masterplan in collaboration with the Azerbaijan State Water Agency. Additionally, she conducted a feasibility study for the construction of a major desalination plant on the Caspian Sea, aimed at addressing the potable water needs of the population. As the Delivery Manager for the Electro-chlorination Plant project at SUEZ, she ensured the quality and safety of potable water disinfection systems at major water treatment and pumping stations in Azerbaijan. Medina also served as the Project Manager for the Boyukshor Lake Rehabilitation Project, where she coordinated the preparation of detailed designs. She continues to contribute significantly to water management and conservation efforts as a national consultant for both UNDP and FAO. Medina has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



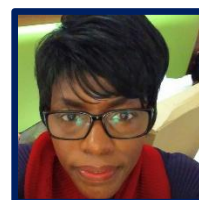
**Meena Westford** (United States) rejoined the San Diego County Water Authority in 2024, after serving for the previous 12 years as an executive policy advisor for Colorado River Programs at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. At the Water Authority, Westford reports to the general manager and is responsible for the Colorado River and the Metropolitan Water District Programs. Her primary responsibilities include optimization of the Water Authority's imported water portfolio and engagement with other agencies on water transfer programs. In total, Westford has more than three decades of experience in water policy, water resource management, and intergovernmental and foreign relations. At Metropolitan, she worked on Colorado River issues, intergovernmental relations with tribal nations, and engagement with NGOs and Mexico. Before that, she worked for the Water Authority from 2008-2012 in the General Manager's Office on dry-year water transfers and regional outreach, and as manager of the water conservation department. During the 1990s and early 2000s, Westford served for 17 years at the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in a variety of capacities and locations, including the California-Great Basin Region, the Lower Colorado Basin Region, and several stints in Washington, D.C. Westford worked her way from an entry level "ditch rider" inspector and left as the water resource area planning officer for Reclamation's Southern California Area. Westford has a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from San Diego State University and a Master of Arts degree in environmental policy management from the University of Denver, Colorado.



**Meerim Seidakmatova** (Kyrgyzstan) is a water specialist with a Master's degree in Integrated Water Resources Management with experience working with local and regional non-profit organisations and state governments in environmental monitoring, pollution, avalanche monitoring and glacier measurements, ecosystem conservation, climate and water studies, citizen science, and environmental activism. Meerim gained experience coordinating the Central Asia Youth for Water Network, where she was engaged in raising awareness among over 1000 young people from the Central Asia region on water and climate issues. She has advocated for the inclusion of Central Asian youth and women in water governance, water diplomacy, and climate change at the UN Water Conference, World Water Week 2022, the 9th World Water Forum, and the Regional Conference of Youth. Meerim has been active in the Network since 2021 as a founding member of the Central Asia and Afghanistan Network branch.



**Dr. Mercy Dikito-Wachtmeister** (Sweden) is an independent consultant and strategic programme manager and experienced evaluator in international development for 20 years in the practice areas of IWRM, transboundary water management and climate change, women & water diplomacy, water supply and sanitation, agriculture & rural development, and gender and social inclusion. Dr Dikito-Wachtmeister expertise connects the interlinked international development thematic areas of water governance, institutions and gendered livelihoods. Dr Dikito-Wachtmeister possesses a wide expertise in working with governments, regional cooperation organisations, bilateral & UN agencies, civil society in Southern and Eastern Africa, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Caribbean and Central and Eastern Europe. As a water diplomat, she has 'sought to facilitate dialogue over the political nature of transboundary management in the context of broader regional cooperation and geopolitics and promoted women's participation in water diplomacy and supported regions to utilise decision support tools for equal participation in water governance. Mercy has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022.



**Commissioner Merrell-Ann Phare** (Canada) is a lawyer, writer, strategist, negotiator, and relationship-builder who worked extensively in and with Indigenous organizations on environmental, land, water, rights and governance issues. She, along with 10 First Nation Chiefs, was the founding Executive Director of the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources, a national First Nation charitable environmental organization. As Chief Negotiator for the Government of the Northwest Territories, Ms. Phare led the negotiation of transboundary water agreements in the Mackenzie River Basin and the creation of Thaidene Nene, a national and territorial park in the east arm of Great Slave Lake. She is the author of the book “Denying the Source: The Crisis of First Nations Water Rights” and co-author of “Ethical Water”. She is a member of the Forum for Leadership on Water, Smart Prosperity's Leadership Council, and is a recipient of Canada's Clean 50 Award. She served as legal counsel and advisor to a number of First Nation and Métis governments and organizations. Ms. Phare was appointed by Canada to the International Joint Commission in 2019. Merrell-Ann has been actively engaged with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022 and has led the call to develop a North American branch of the Network.



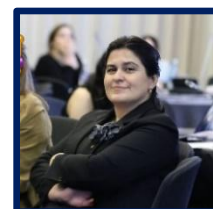
**Minura Begishbek kyzy** (Kyrgyzstan) previously worked in the Karasuu District Water Management Department and in the Osh Basin Water Management Department as chief economist. She completed a master's degree in Integrated water Resources Management at the Kazakh-German University. Minura currently works as a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Assistant at Mercy Corps Kyrgyzstan. She has scientific publications focused on the role of women in the water sector in Central Asia, and she is a nominee of Blue Peace Story. She wants to continue her career in the water sector, as well as grow professionally. Minura has been active in the Network since 2021 as a founding member of the in Central Asia and Afghanistan Network branch.



**Montserrat Santibanez** (United States) holds a B.A. in International Relations and Global Studies, a B.A in Theatre and Dance, a Bridging Disciplines Program Certificate in Human Rights and Social Justice, and a Portuguese Flagship Program Certificate from the University of Texas in Austin (UT - Austin). At UT - Austin she worked alongside Dr. David Eaton, the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality, and the Secretaría de Medio Ambiente de Coahuila on the initial phases of the Programa Ríos Vivos in Coahuila, Mexico. Montserrat and her colleagues at the Permanent Forum on Binational Waters have been involved with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Moreta Bobokhidze** (Georgia) is a consultant engaged in programmes related to Women Peace and Security (WPS), Gender Sensitive Leadership, and Conflict Resolution. Moreta has 20 years' experience working in the criminal justice sector with significant focus on human rights, corrections, gender equality, and anti-discrimination. In 2019-2022 Moreta was a Torture Prevention Expert of the National Prevention Mechanism under the Ombudsman of Georgia. Moreta is an experienced election observer, amongst other countries, she observed presidential elections in United States in 2020. Ms. Bobokhidze works as a Gender Expert, develops policies, recommendations on gender mainstreaming, evaluates budgets with gender lenses and conducts training on various aspects of gender equality. Moreta is the co-author of manuals for prison and probation system and has published articles on women's economic empowerment. Moreta has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.





**Dr. Muna Mohammed Musnad Farah** (Sudan) brings over nine years of expertise in Water Resources Engineering, Development, and Management. She currently holds the position of Regional Water Resources Modeler at the Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) under the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and provides technical expertise for the Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR) Project. Previously, she served as the Director of the UNESCO Chair in Water Resources at Omdurman Islamic University (OIU), Sudan and headed the Research and Innovation Department. Dr. Muna has more than 19 years' experience as a researcher and more than 6 years as a consultant at KIMA consultancy. She also coordinates the Integrated Water Resources Management Network-Sudan (IWRM-Net-SD). Dr. Muna earned her MSc degree from the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in 1998, and her PhD in Water Resources Engineering, Development, and Management in 2016 from the UNESCO Chair in Water Resources at OIU, Sudan. Her technical expertise spans Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), water quality, Water Diplomacy, Water modelling and use of hydraulic, hydrological, and hydrogeological models such as MODFLOW, HEC products, Mike products, and Q2K. She is also skilled in Remote Sensing (RS), Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and Earth Observation (EO) data. Her transboundary research collaborations include projects under the umbrella of UNESCO Chair in Water Resources with Riverside Company (USA) for ENTRO-NBI and the Nile Basin Capacity Building Network-River Engineering Project (NBCBN-RE). Furthermore, Dr. Muna is a lecturer in an MSc program in Environmental Engineering. Dr. Muna served on the Governing Board of the International Water Cooperation Centre (ICWC), hosted by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). She is a founding member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network (2017) and served on the Network's first Leadership Council from 2021-2024. Additionally, she has



**Ambassador Nadia Eisa Gofoun** (Sudan) currently serves as the Deputy Commissioner for the National Commission for Human Rights in Sudan. Amb Gofoun is a member of the Charter Committee for Human Rights at the Arab League of Nations for eight years and has twice serviced as the body's Deputy President. Ambassador Gofoun has over 30 years of direct experience in formal water diplomacy processes in the Nile Basin on behalf of Sudan. Ambassador Gefoun has played key roles in regional and bilateral water cooperation since the 1990s, including as a Member of Sudan's official delegation in the GERD negotiation processes. Until 2021, Ambassador Gefoun served as the Deputy General Director of International Issues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Director of the Department of Water, Environment and Natural Resources. She also served as a Member to the Human Rights Committee in the Arab League from 2016-2021. She served as Sudan's Ambassador to Norway and Demark (2011-2015), prior to that she served as Sudan's Deputy Ambassador to Sweden, Malaysia, and served as part of the delegation to the United Nations. Ambassador Gefoun is a founding Member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network.



**Nadira Mukhamejan** (Kazakhstan/ Switzerland) is a PhD researcher at the University of Geneva, supported by the Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship. Her doctoral work explores how development-sector discourses shape water governance in the Syr Darya river basin. She holds a joint Master's in Security, Intelligence, and Strategic Studies (IMSIS) from the University of Glasgow, University of Trento, and Charles University, with a BA in International Relations from the Kazakh-German University. From 2019 to 2023, Nadira served at the UNESCO Chair for Water Resources Management in Central Asia, focusing on regional water policies, education and



environmental capacity-building. She has participated in international forums, including the World Water Week in 2024 presenting on youth-driven solutions for transboundary water cooperation. She has been actively involved in Central Asian Youth for Water, COY16 (as a country coordinator), and the Swiss Water Partnership (as a youth coordinator). Additionally, she volunteers with Y-PEER Kazakhstan to advance leadership, gender awareness, and reproductive health and rights. Her research interests span gender security, discourses on traditional gender roles, and the nexus of gender and environmental security. Nadira has been engaged with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network

**Nana Kitiashvili** (Georgia) is the Head of Hydrogeological Monitoring and Technical Maintenance Division, Department of Geology at the LEPL National Environmental Agency (NEA ) in Georgia. Nana is a hydrogeologist by profession. During her studies at the higher education institution and then, during her professional career, she had the opportunity to directly participate in the field and office work carried out for the purpose of hydrogeological, engineering-geological, and geo-ecological data collection in different regions of Georgia. Since 2013, she has taught courses at the Technical University of Georgia related to Geology, Mining and Geoengineering and Archaeology including „Drinking, mineral, thermal and industrial waters of Georgia“, ‘Hydrogeochemistry’, ‘Geological environmental protection’, ‘Geoecology’. Since 2016, in parallel with scientific-pedagogical activities, she has worked in the Geology Department of the LELP National Environmental Agency of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia. Nana is the author and co-author of scientific articles and various types of reports. Nana has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Nancy Ngumba** (Kenya) is Director, Foreign Service in the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs on behalf of the Republic of Kenya and currently posted in Pretoria, South Africa. Nancy has 15 years of experience in the civil service and a background in the NGO sector, specializing in international relations, conflict management, and gender development. Before joining the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Nancy worked with The Osotua Foundation and Save the Children, focusing on humanitarian and development programs. From 2003 to 2006, Nancy was actively involved in the Somali Peace Process in Mbagathi, Nairobi, contributing to efforts that led to the formation of a new government in Somalia. This experience deepened her focus on peacebuilding, mediation, and conflict resolution, and reinforced her commitment to diplomacy as a tool for sustainable peace and development. Nancy currently serves as a Director in the Foreign Service focused on strengthening diplomatic relations, policy guidance and implementation, and diaspora engagement. Nancy holds a Masters in International Conflict Management, a Bachelor’s in Gender and Development, and a Diploma in International Relations, all from the University of Nairobi, Kenya. Nancy is passionate about integrating gender perspectives into diplomacy, peacebuilding, and conflict resolution, ensuring that international policies promote inclusion, equity, security, and sustainable development. Nancy has been actively involved in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since the Network’s first meeting in the Nile Basin in 2017.



**Narges Sediqi** (Afghanistan/ United States) holds one-year Master's degree in Integrated Water Management from Ankara University. With a robust background in water resource management, she served as a Quality Control and Data Processing Engineer at the Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW) in Afghanistan until the Taliban's takeover in 2021. Currently, she is an Intake Coordinator at a private sector in the United States. She has extensive experience in various roles within MEW, GIZ, FAO, and the Afghan Civil Aviation Authority (ACAA), including positions as a Rural Drinking Water Management Engineer, Adviser, and Weather Forecaster. She has also contributed as a co-member of the Quality Control team for JICA and is a proud board member of the Afghan Astronomy Association, which focuses on planetary and space sciences. Narges has furthered her expertise by completing GIS courses online at the University of California, Davis. She is currently a candidate for H.I.T certification with the American Institute of Hydrology (AIH) and is a founding member of the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan (2021), dedicated to promoting women's roles in water resource management.



**Dr. Natavan Jafarova** (Azerbaijan) is a Senior Science Researcher at the Institute of Geography in Azerbaijan with extensive experience on water issues. In 2000-2004, She graduated with honors from the Faculty of Geography of Baku State University. In 2004-2006, she graduated with honors with a master's degree in "Regional planning and management" from the Faculty of Geography of Baku State University. In 2006-2009, she undertook her PhD at the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan, Institute of Geography, defending her dissertation in 2013 on the topic of "Development of an information database of social and economic conditions of the Azerbaijani coastal zone of the Caspian Sea by using GIS technologies" for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Geographical Sciences. Since 2012, Natavan has been working as a senior researcher at the "Economic-social and Political Geography" department of the Institute of Geography. Since 2015, she has also been working as a teacher at the Geography Faculty of Baku State University. Natavan has provided expert and specialist input into a number of international projects including as a country expert for "Strengthening Adaptive Capacity in the Caucasus" Mountain regions; GIS expert in for "Preparation of the atlas of zoonotic infections in South Caucasus"; Participant in the project "HORIZON2020" Expert from Azerbaijan; and UNEP's "Mountain ADAPT" program on climate change adaptation and mitigation. Natavan has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Nazokat Isaeva** (Tajikistan) is a water resources management specialist, currently working in the field of surface water quality monitoring and assessments. Her "water journey" began in 2005 when she served as a volunteer for the UNICEF "WASH in Schools" project in rural areas of Tajikistan. She worked within diverse communities, ensuring safe access to drinking water and sanitation, as well as raising awareness among poor community groups. During the last 20 years she worked in NGOs, UN Agencies (Unicef, WHO, UN Women and UNOPS) as well as in such bilateral donor institutions as JICA, SDC, and Norwegian MFA. In 2015 Nazokat joined the program under the Wider European Initiative (WEI) and worked as a National Program Manager in Tajikistan, covering Finnish-funded projects – from drinking water provision to managing transboundary water cooperation. She participated in the National Policy Dialogues on IWRM in Tajikistan, contributing to policy formulation on water safety, water quality, environmental data exchange and gender equality within water programming. She also served as a national focal point for the development of water-related targets under the Protocol on Water and Health, UNECE. For the last decade, Nazokat has been actively engaged in the



facilitation of Women Water Forums (2013, 2015, 2018 and 2022) within the International Water Conferences in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Nazokat has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.

**Dr. Nazrin Baghirova** (Azerbaijan) is ADA University Faculty and a Researcher. She is a former Research Associate for the Federal Statistics Office at the American Institutes for Research, Washington D.C, Chief Policy Adviser to the Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan, and Head of Unit in the Department for Education and Training Policy of the Ministry of Agriculture of Azerbaijan. She is a former advisor to the rector on Strategic Planning and International Partnership at the Azerbaijan State Agricultural University. Nazrin Baghirova is publishing policy research nexus on education, agriculture, and water diplomacy (regulations) with the focus on the Caspian Sea Basin. Nazrin has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024, and currently serves on the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Global Leadership Council.



**Dr. Nehal Adel** (Egypt) is currently the Head of the Central Department of Foreign Cooperation at the Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation. She has over 30 years of experience in the water sector, and has held a variety of leadership positions in Egypt and Africa. Dr. Nehal Adel graduated from the Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University, in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. She then worked in the field of design and implementation of major water projects. In 2003, she earned a Master of Science degree in environmental impact assessment of water projects from Ain Shams University. In 2004, Dr. Nehal Adel moved into the research field, joining the Strategic Studies Unit at the National Water Research Center. She earned her Doctor of Philosophy degree in hydropolitics from Cairo University in 2010. In 2011, Dr. Nehal Adel was appointed Director General of Studies and African Affairs at the Office of the Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation. She served as Chair of the Technical Committee of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) and received the AMCOW Award for Distinguished Technical Leaders in the Field of Water at the African Level. She earned a Diploma in Political Science from the American University in Cairo in 2020. In 2022, Dr. Nehal Adel was appointed Assistant Minister for International Cooperation. In 2023, she was appointed Head of the Central Department of Foreign Cooperation. Dr. Nehal Adel is a mother of two daughters, one a pharmacist and the other a doctor. She is a member of the Egyptian Society of Hydrology and Water Resources and the African Water Association. Nehal has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024 serving on the Network's Leadership Council in 2024.



**Nino Malashkhia** holds the M.Sc. in Environmental Science and Academic Degree (equivalent to the M.Sc.) in Biology. She has over 20 years of experience in the field of environmental policy analysis, project development & management. She has 7 years of professional engagement at international level and 13 years at national and sub-regional levels (in the South Caucasus). She worked for international organizations (OSCE and UNDP) and designed and managed various national and regional projects focusing on water resources management & transboundary cooperation, climate change and security, hazardous waste management, environmental governance; supported organization of the high-level policy events related to environment and security; Ms. Malashkhia provided expert backstopping for various projects regional and national projects. Nino has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.





**Nino Rostomashvili** is a Gender and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist with a specific focus on integrated water resource management. Her contributions are aimed at shaping inclusive development strategies for sustainable river basin management within the country. Collaborating closely with water resource management officials as well as sectoral experts in Georgia, she has taken part in the formulation of River Basin Management Plans, emphasizing the importance of stakeholder engagement and inclusivity. Currently, her work is particularly focused on the incorporation of gender considerations into policy development processes, promoting more equitable approaches in the water resource management sector and beyond. Nino has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Nompumelelo Ntshalintshali-Motsa** (Eswatini) Nompumelelo Ntshalintshali – Motsa is the Former Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) Regional Coordinator for Africa. She is a member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Leadership Council and a founder member and Executive Director of the GlobeCare Foundation. Ms. Ntshalintshali is a development practitioner focusing on WASH governance, gender equality and social inclusion, climate change, policy development and execution with over 20 years of extensive experience and proven record of achievements at national, sub-regional, regional and international platforms. As a Development Practitioner, Ms Ntshalintshali has a vast experience in multi-stakeholder engagement programming. She has led the sector policy formulation and execution, governance, advocacy, rural/community development, behaviour change communication, gender, climate action, and sector coordination. Nompumelelo has been actively involved as a Network member since 2018 and served on the Network's first Leadership Council from 2021-2024.



**Nsuku Chanakira** (South Africa) is a Principal Hydrologist at Thungela Resources. She is a young professional with over 7 years experience in environmental management, mine water, water cooperation and project management, including supporting the implementation of the Strategic Water Sector Programme between Denmark and South Africa. Nsuku completed her masters research work on transboundary water management/water diplomacy in 2020 at the University of Oxford where she studied Water Science, Policy and Management. She also has a BSc honours degree in Hydrogeology and a BSc degree in Environmental and Engineering Geology from University of Pretoria. Nsuku is a proponent of responsible water management and youth empowerment. She has previously served as the national vice lead for Young Water Professionals South Africa as well as being a member of the Young Scientific Programme Committee for World Water Week in Sweden. Nsuku has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022.



**Nune Stepanyan** (Armenia) is the Head of Scientific-technical Cooperation and Capacity Development Unit of Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Center of the Republic of Armenia. She graduated from the Public Administration Academy of the Republic of Armenia and Yerevan State University. Nune holds a Master's degree in Political Science. She is also alumna of Diplomatic School of Armenia, LUND University ("Innovation in Governance for Urban Nature-based Solutions") and Dresden University of Technology, Centre for International Postgraduate Studies of Environmental Management ("Nature-based Solutions to Emerging Water Challenges"). Nune had more than 15 years of working experience in public administration, more than 5 years in NGOs. She was also a Lecturer at Public Administration Chair of the Faculty of International Relations of Yerevan State University. With over 12 years of working experience at the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia, she has a strong track of record of

delivering successful projects in sphere of DRR and DRM. In addition to project management experience, she has extensive experience in concept development. 15+ years of experience in the field of: Development (mainly, Official development assistance (ODA)); International cooperation (South-South Cooperation, North – South Cooperation, Triangular Cooperation); and Capacity development (2018-2020 Nune was EU Union Civil Protection Mechanism Training Programme Focal point of the Republic of Armenia). 10+ years of experience working on donor-funded project (JICA, JICS, EU, UNDP, UNICEF, OSCE, WB, GIZ, SDC, U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), U.S. Office of Defense Cooperation, USAID). Nune has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.

**Oygul Usmanova** (Uzbekistan/ participated online) serves as the Head of International Communications Division at the Scientific-Information Center of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia/SIC ICWC, a regional organization that contributes to fostering transboundary water cooperation in the region through data, information and knowledge development and dissemination. Oygul has been supporting for over 25 years the projects implemented under the umbrella of the Commission and contributed to the establishment of the Gender and Water Network in Central Asia in 2007. Oygul also maintains activities of the Network of Water Management Organizations from Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) as a member of the Network's Secretariat and leads the activity on the development of a Regional Centre of Excellence on the nexus approach on the base of the existing Expert Platform for Water Security, Sustainable Development and Future Studies. Oygul holds a diploma in Applied Maths. Oygul been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Petunia Ramunenyiwa** (South Africa) is Chief Director responsible for intergovernmental relations, strategic partnerships, sector transformation with focus on mainstreaming gender, youth, persons with disability, and Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment within the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS). Petunia is also responsible for Provincial governance within DWS. She has worked in the WASH sector since 1999 at National, Provincial, and non-governmental organisations. She is a passionate social scientist and holds a Master's in Business Administration. She previously served as the Director of Water Sector Support in Free State province where she was at the fore of service delivery and managing infrastructure projects implementation. She was seconded for one year as Provincial Head of DWS Gauteng Provincial office. She has served as Board Member of the Energy and Water Sector Training Authority (EWSETA) from 2013-2020 and was instrumental in shaping the skills and capacity chapter of the National Water Resources Strategy and driving its implementation. She has served in the Water Institute of Southern Africa (WISA) Bi-Annual Conference Organising Committee since 2021 and is a member of the Management Committee (MANCO) of the Strategic Water Partnership Network (SWPN) which is key platform to facilitate water management partnerships between government, the private sector, civil society and other key stakeholders. She has been actively involved in the Women in Water diplomacy since 2023.



**Phera Ramoeli** (Botswana) is currently the Executive Secretary of the Okavango River Basin Commission since October 2018, after serving as Senior Program Officer in Directorate of Infrastructure and Services – Water Division, SADC Secretariat for over 15 years. He was responsible for the coordination and facilitation of the implementation of the SADC Program of Action in Water. He has been working in the water sector for at least 20 years, with over 14 years focused in Transboundary Water



Resources management at the SADC Level. He joined SADC Water Sector Coordinating Unit as Senior Environment Officer in 1997 and was in charge of, among other things, coordinating the implementation of the ZAMBEZI Action Plan Program including the Chairing the negotiation Process for ZAMCOM. He became the Sector Coordinator in 1999 until the restructuring of SADC in 2003 and has been with the SADC Secretariat as head of the Water Program since and was active in the process of negotiating the amendments and subsequent revision of the SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses. Mr. Ramoeli has a Master's Degree in Aquatic Resources Management from the Kings College, University of London, A Post Graduate Diploma in Operational Hydrology from Institute of Meteorological Training and research in Nairobi, and BSc in Biology and Chemistry from the National University of Lesotho. Phera has been an active member and champion of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022 when he and his colleagues are driving the development of a Network branch in Southern Africa, and currently serves on the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Global Leadership Council.

**Phuti Moshina Setati** (South Africa) is a Director for Gender and Disability Mainstreaming in the Department of Water and Sanitation in South Africa. She has been a Gender focal person since 2010. Her main role in the water sector is to provide guidance on mainstreaming Gender and disability in projects and programmes. She performed that duty for more than 12 years. She leads women empowerment programmes in the water sector. She represents South Africa in SADC Gender related activities. She also participated in the development of Gender strategy and mainstreaming of Gender in two transboundary organisations: Orange Senqu and Limpopo. She is also coordinated two impactful programmes: Women in Water Awards (this is the programme through which community women competed on different strategies their projects used to develop, protect and use water resource) and Adopt a River which is a project that encouraged the community women groups to remove solid waste at banks of rivers and recycle the waste. Phuti Setati has an honors degree in education and was a geography lecturer at college of education, geography subject advisor and geography educator. Phuti has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022 and together with her colleagues are engaged in driving the development of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in Southern Africa.



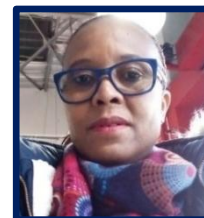
#### **Dr. Pinimidzai Sithole**

**Prisca Nandede** (Uganda) serves as a Senior Sociologist with the Ministry of Water and Environment in the Republic of Uganda. She has a background in Social Sciences with specific interest in gender equality and community development. Prisca, an advocate for improved livelihoods of vulnerable people through provision of sustainable water and environmental services. She is also a member of the International Association for Community Development. Prisca has been involved in the development and review of a number of policies and strategies key among which include: the first African Ministers' Council on Water's Gender Strategy (AMCOW's), the Strategy for Mainstreaming Gender in Uganda's Water and Environment Sector, National Guidelines for Assessing Gender, Environment and Social Risk in the Water and Environment Sector in Uganda, and the development of Grievance Redress Mechanisms for several projects in the Ministry of Water and Environment. A firm believer and beneficiary of mentorship and coaching, her main areas of interest are gender equality, community development,



religion, conflict resolution and water security. Ms. Nandede holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences at Makerere University, Uganda and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Development Studies. Prisca has been active in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2018, and currently serves on the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Global Leadership Council.

**Puleng Pali** (Lesotho) works as a Director of Legal Services in the Ministry of Water in Lesotho. She also represents Lesotho in the Orange-Senqu River Basin Commission (ORASECOM). In November 2016, she was appointed as a board member to the Centre for Coordination of Agriculture Research and Development in Southern Africa (CCARDESA), for a period of three years. She is an accomplished legal professional with extensive experience in providing legal advisory services to various government agencies and private entities. She is committed to providing legal support with a keen interest on development projects that promote human rights, gender equality, capacity building and the empowerment of women. Puleng Pali holds academic qualifications in women's law, intellectual property, and international trade. Puleng has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022 and together with her colleagues are currently driving the development of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in Southern Africa.



**Radhika Gupta** (Sweden/ India) has a multi-disciplinary background covering fields of visual communication, storytelling and sustainability science research. Through participatory methods, she invokes visions and dreams of project partners, to tell authentic stories through the use of illustrations, video/animation, journalistic writing, and interactive tactile art installations. Radhika is highly passionate about topics of food systems and Indigenous land rights and has previously worked at the Stockholm International Water Institute and the Stockholm Resilience Centre. Find her visual and written works on her [personal website](#) and connect through [LinkedIn](#). Radhika has been actively involved in supporting the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2021, including through her cover illustrations for Network publications.



**Dr Rebecca Peters** (United States) serves as an international water policy advisor in the Department of State Bureau of Oceans and International and Environmental and Scientific Affairs. Previously she served as an Aspen Institute Climate Fellow and Academy Associate at the London-based think tank Chatham House. Her other experience includes serving as a Luce Scholar at the Asian International Rivers Center in Yunnan, China and co-authoring The Nature Conservancy's Power of Rivers report. As a doctoral candidate at the University of Oxford, she partnered with the REACH Water Security program to engage civil society, private sector partners, and the government of Bangladesh to confront industrial water pollution. During her tenure, she led the bi-lingual Bengali-English translation of the 283-page 'legal personhood' High Court verdict for Bangladesh's rivers. Dr Peters received an M.Sc. in Poverty and Development Economics and an M.Sc. in Water Science and Policy as a Marshall Scholar in the United Kingdom. As an undergraduate at UC Berkeley, she served as President of the Berkeley Water Group and as a Berkeley Law Human Rights Fellow. She has written for publications including *Scientific American*, *Foreign Affairs*, and *The World Today*. Rebecca has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023.





**Rehab Abd Almohsen** (Egypt) is an Egyptian science journalist, based in Cairo, covering all MENA water issues extensively. In 2021, Rehab took home three prizes from the Nile Media Awards ceremony, in the categories of Digital, Print and the Best Female Entry. Rehab is also a science media trainer, she done trainings with the British council, Goethe institute, international science media and communication forum, and she published a MOOC course with Aljazeera online learning which consists of 20 lessons on science journalism. Rehab also contributed to the open access e-book Water Conflicts and Cooperation: A Media Handbook coordinated by SciDev .Net under the Open Water Diplomacy Lab project. The Handbook was designed for journalists and other professionals working on science communication in the field of water, peace, and cooperation and draws upon the experience of like journalists like Rehab. Rehab has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022.



**Rob Sisson** (United States) is the founder of Leatherstocking Strategies, a water diplomacy, conservation, and political consultancy. He served from 2019-2024 as U.S. Commissioner on the International Joint Commission and one year during that period as U.S. Chairman of the IJC. He represented the IJC as a delegate to the United Nations Water Week and delivered keynote speeches at a host of international meetings including International Rivers Foundation (Wien), Japan-US-Mekong Power Partnership (Phnom Penh), International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species (Belgium), Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement 50th Anniversary Celebration, and the Canadian Water Resource Association (Alberta). Prior to his nomination to the IJC by President Trump, Sisson served as President of ConservAmerica, America's oldest conservation policy organization focused on Republican and conservative values. He also served as Mayor and City Commissioner of Sturgis, Michigan. As Mayor, he was CEO of the City's electric company which owned and operated a FERC licensed hydro-electric dam, and oversaw the City's domestic, waste, and stormwater systems. Since 2018, he has lived near the Yellowstone River in Montana, USA. Rob and his colleagues from the IJC have been actively engaged with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023.



**Dr. Róisín Burke** (Ireland) is an Assistant Professor of Public International Law with the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights at Utrecht University (UU). She is also a member of UU's Research Platform on Peace, Security and Human Rights, and the Montaigne Centre for the Rule of Law and Administration of Justice. Róisín's present and past work, publications and teaching have cut across the areas of international criminal law, international humanitarian law (IHL), human rights law, women peace and security (WPS), peace operations, international security law, rule of law programming in conflict-affected states, legal pluralism, and public international law. She is leading an NWO project related to WPS, transboundary water security and environmental peacebuilding in the South Caucasus. She has been a consultant on projects related to gender, human rights, IHL, and peace-building with NGOs, and international and regional bodies. Previously, she was a Senior Law Lecturer (above the bar) at the University of Canterbury, and worked as Political Advisor to the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the UN. She holds a doctorate from the Asia Pacific Centre for Military Law, University of Melbourne, a LLB in Law and European Studies (UL), an LLM in International Human Rights Law (Irish Centre for Human Rights) and is admitted as an Attorney in New York State. Róisín has been actively involved in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022.





**Rosa J. Long** (Cocopah Indian Tribe/ United States) is the Vice-Chairwoman and Acting Secretary/Treasurer for the Cocopah Indian Tribe serving a 6th term. She also represents the Cocopah Indian Tribe as Chairwoman for The Ten Tribes Water Partnership (Upper and Lower Basin Tribes) and Five Tribes Water Coalition (Lower Basin Tribes) all intended to assist tribes to develop and protect tribal water resources and to address technical, legal, economic and important issues related to the management and operation of our precious Colorado River. Vice-Chairwoman Long is currently serving on CRWUA Resolution Committee, and on the Board of Trustees for CRWUA representing the lower basin tribes for Ten Tribes Partnership. In addition, Vice Chair Long is the Secretary of the Indian Gaming of Arizona and is serving a third term as Secretary for Inter-Tribal Association of Arizona (ITAA), which is an advocacy organization associated with the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA). She also serves as Chairwoman for Healing Journey, in Yuma, Arizona an organization that provides therapy and support programs to those affected by sex trafficking, domestic violence, child abuse trauma providing individuals with the necessary tools to live enriching and fulfilling lives. Ms. Long has also previously served on Cocopah Indian Tribe boards such as housing, education and currently on the Cocopah Veterans Committee. Rosa has been active engaged with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since the Network's North American branch was launched in 2023.



**Dr. Rosario Sanchez** (United States) is a Senior Research Scientist at the Texas Water Resources and Associate Graduate Faculty of the Water Management and Hydrological Sciences Program at Texas A&M University. She is Co-Chair of the Transboundary Aquifers Commission of the International Association of Hydrogeologists and, Founder and Director of the Permanent Forum of Binational Waters. She is the PI of the Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Act Program (TAAP) for the state of Texas, founder of the Transboundary Water Portal and leader of the transboundary groundwater research team. She published the first complete map of transboundary aquifers between Mexico and the United States in 2021 and coined the term “transboundariness” that defines the strategic value of an aquifer that happens to be located at the border between two or more countries. She has 25 years of academic and work experience on transboundary issues between Mexico and the United States both in the academia and the public sector. She is Associate Editor of the Journal of the American Water Resources Association, the Journal of Environmental Management and the Texas Water Journal. She has served at international panels and committees at UNESCO, International Groundwater Resources Assessment Center (IGRAC) and the International Water Resources Association (IWRA). She has a bachelor's degree in International Relations from Monterrey Tech, a Master's degree in Diplomacy from the Institute of Diplomatic Studies Matias Romero (Foreign Service Academy), and a PhD in Water Management and Hydrological Sciences from Texas A&M University. Rosario has been active engaged with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.

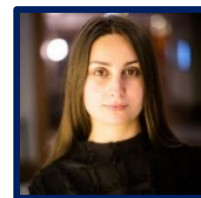


**Engineer Samaa El Baroudy** (Egypt) is a Senior Water Resources Engineer serving as the Technical Office Director and the Head of Nile Water Sector in the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation in Egypt. Eng. El Baroudy has more than 18 years of experience in the field of transboundary water cooperation, participating in the preparation, negotiations and implementation of many technical projects related to water resources management that are implemented under the umbrella of the Nile Basin Initiative such as the Eastern Nile joint multi-purpose, flood preparedness and early warning systems, The Eastern Nile Irrigation and Drainage projects, the Watershed management project. Eng El Baroudy has participated in the negotiation process of many bilateral cooperation protocols held



between Egypt and some of the Nile Basin countries including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Uganda, and South Sudan. Eng El Baroudy is a member of the Egypt-Sudan Permanent Joint Technical Commission for Nile Water and the Ministry's representative in the Water-Employment-Migration Task force formed under the umbrella of the Union for the Mediterranean. Eng El Baroudy has been an active Member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since the Network's first gathering in 2017.

**Salome Kobalava** (Georgia) is a political ecology researcher and consultant with over a decade of experience leading and supporting regional and national projects on inclusive water resource management, environmental justice and governance, gender equity, renewable energy, open governance, and social justice advocacy. Her work spans governmental, INGO, international development, and media sectors across Georgia, the South Caucasus, and Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe. Her expertise includes research design and management, GESI programming, strategic communication design and management, project development and management, stakeholder engagement, and public information accessibility management. Her published work explores the gendered and intersectional dimensions of extractivism and access to natural resources, with a particular focus on rural and ethnic communities in Georgia. Opinions and articles Salome has authored have also appeared in regional and international media. Salome holds postgraduate degrees in Sociology and Social Anthropology from Central European University (Austria) and in Media and Communication Studies from Lund University (Sweden). She served as a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Specialist at the USAID South Caucasus Regional Water Management Program and has been actively engaged with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Sarah Keener** (United States) is a Senior Social Development Specialist, serving as the global thematic lead on social inclusion in the World Bank Water Global Practice and in this role leads a team to embed gender, citizen engagement and broader inclusion into World Bank supported operations. She has worked for over 25 years with the World Bank Group in the Middle East and North African Region, the Latin American and Caribbean Region, and the Africa Region, leading efforts to increase citizen engagement and social inclusion within World Bank lending and non-lending operations. Sarah has pioneered approaches to inclusion in water via leading a stakeholder engagement project among the riparians of the Nile Basin, contributing to the Africa Region Infrastructure Flagship on water provision to the urban poor, managed technical assistance focused on infrastructure regulation and citizen engagement, and developed innovative approaches to peri-urban water provision in Peru, Mozambique, Angola, Lesotho, Zambia and elsewhere. She has focused extensively on issues of inclusion and voice in the context of infrastructure operations in municipal, water, energy and transport. Sarah holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Sarah has been an active supporter of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023.



**Dr. Satenik Bakunts** (Armenia) is an Associate Professor of Ecology with a PhD in Soil Science, specializing in environmental problems and ecosystem resilience. With over ten years of experience in research and teaching, her work focuses on the intersection of soil health, climate change, and sustainable nature-based solutions. Dr. Bakunts has published over 30 scientific papers and actively collaborates with organizations promoting sustainability among vulnerable groups, while raising awareness on adaptation strategies. Satenik has been active engaged with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Dr. Saule Ospanova** (Kazakhstan) is a Senior Environmental Affairs Advisor heading the environmental cooperation portfolio at OSCE with activities in sustainable water management, water diplomacy, disaster risk reduction, good environmental governance, and hazardous waste management. She has over 20 years of experience contributing to international multi stakeholder initiatives, managing, and implementing sustainability projects in different parts of the world (including Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Africa and China). Prior to joining OSCE, she worked with the International Institute for Environment and Development, the World Bank, UN and other institutions on policy development in water, climate change, energy and green economy, as well as accountability in the extractive sector. Her doctorate studies at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor focused on resource governance and environmental justice. Dr. Ospanova and the OSCE are founding partners of the Central Asia-Afghanistan Network.



**Shahla Ismayil** (Azerbaijan) has been working on gender equality and women's rights for over 25 years. She chairs the 22-year-old Women's Association for Rational Development (WARD); she is also an advisor for two US-based grant making women foundations – Global Fund for Women and Urgent Action Fund for Women's Rights, director of the first gender-oriented think-tank "Gender Port". Since 2020 Shahla Ismayil has been the elected country facilitator to coordinate the Azerbaijan National Platform of EaP Civil Society Forum. She is a founding member of WPS Advisory Council and a member of several Dialogue Platforms between Armenian-Azerbaijani experts in support of lasting peace in the South Caucasus. Shahla Ismayil authored and managed over 130 projects and over 170 publications in the fields of human rights, gender equality, civil society. She is the author of the formal versions of the NAP 1325 in Azerbaijan. In addition to gender expertise, Shahla Ismayil is a certified international expert on Human and Institutional Capacity Development (HICD) as well as communication, advocacy and coaching. In 2018 the UK-based Equal Rights Trust awarded Shahla Ismayil with the Bob Hepple Equality Award for 20 years of work in justice and equality. She received the 2022 National Order of Merit, awarded by French President Emmanuel Macron for merits in the area of gender equality and women's rights in Azerbaijan. In 2023, she received the National Medal "Progress" for 25-years of contribution to the gender equality in Azerbaijan. Shahla has been active engaged with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Dr. Shahnaz Amanova** (Azerbaijan) received a Ph.D. degree in Physical Geography, biogeography, soil geography, geophysics, and geochemistry of landscapes in 2018. Currently, she is about to defend her doctorate in geographical sciences. She is an Azerbaijan program associate at the Environmental Health and Pollution Management Institute. She is the computer developer of the geography atlas for secondary schools, 1:600,000 scale physical and political wall maps of Azerbaijan, physical and political wall maps of the world. She conducts research in the direction of Geographical Information Systems and Remote Sensing, monitoring vegetation and environment by processing satellite images. She has analyzed and mapped renewable energy sources in the western part of Azerbaijan, especially the potential of solar energy, based on modern methods. She is the author of more than 60 scientific works. Shahnaz has been active engaged with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.





**Dr. Sharon B. Megdal** (United States) is Director of The University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center (WRRRC), Professor in the Department of Environmental Science, C.W. & Modene Neely Endowed Professor, and Distinguished Outreach Professor. Dr Megdal aims to bridge the academic, practitioner, and civil society communities through water policy and management research, education, and engagement programs. The geographic scope of Dr Megdal's work ranges from local to international. Applied research projects include analysis of water management, policy, and governance in water-scarce regions, groundwater recharge, and transboundary aquifer assessment. Key engagement initiatives are Indigenous Water Dialogues and Diversifying Voices in Water Resources. Dr Megdal teaches the multi-disciplinary graduate course "Water Policy in Arizona and Semi-arid Regions". In 2020, she was awarded the Warren A. Hall Medal for lifetime achievement in water resources research and education by the Universities Council on Water Resources. Dr Megdal serves as on the Board of Governors for the Kasser Joint Institute for Food, Water, and Energy Security, is an ex officio member of the Leadership Team for the Colorado River Basin Water & Tribes Initiative, and is a member of the University of Arizona Presidential Advisory Commission on the Future of Agriculture and Food Production in a Drying Climate. Dr Megdal holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Princeton University. Sharon has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022, and currently serves on the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Global Leadership Council.



**Shemshat Setdarova** (Turkmenistan) since January 2023, Shemshat has been working as a chief specialist of the Department of Organizational and Cultural Affairs of the Women's Union of Turkmenistan. Prior to this she served as the Head of the Department of Information, Analysis and International Relations of the National Center of Trade Unions of Turkmenistan. Shemshat has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Shohida Tulieva** (Tajikistan) is the National Expert on Gender, Social Equality and Youth Engagement in the Water Sector Reform Program of the Government of Tajikistan. Also, she is the President of the Association "Woman and Water" of Central Asia and Afghanistan with the aim of developing networking and increasing the potential of women specialists in the water sector. In addition, Ms. Tulieva is a member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan (OSCE, SIWI, ELI, CAREC), member of the National Commission on Irrigation and Drainage in Tajikistan (ICID India), and a Lecturer at the Kazakh-German University on Gender in water sector and Basin Management. She is activist on public speech on raising Gender, Youth and water issues, social-gender equality, climate change, water diplomacy taking into account the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management at the International conferences, dialogue platforms in such events in Sweden, USA, Germany, Israel and others. Ms. Tulieva has 15 years of professional experience in water sector at operational and portfolio management levels with cross-cutting aspects on Gender and Water Resource Management into account a "Bottom-Up" approach based on developing methodologies and tools for gender research in particular at the local level in Tajikistan, Central Asia and Afghanistan. In her professional work, she created a dialogue platform - Basin Women Forum of the Syrdarya River, under the SDC project and contributed to the developing the sustainable replication mechanism to create another Basin forum in Kafarnigan river in the south of Tajikistan, by raising the voices of women from rural area and lobbying their interests on the front of the ministries' decision makers at the national level. Ms. Tulieva, holds a M.A. in Social studies with a specialization in Integrated Water Resources Management in Central



Asia in the Kazakh-German University, Almaty, Kazakhstan. Shohida has been active in the Network since 2021 as a founding member of the in Central Asia and Afghanistan Network branch.

**Simla Yasemin Özkaya** (Türkiye) is a Counsellor (Transboundary Waters and Environment) at the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She graduated from the Middle East Technical University (METU), Environmental Engineering Department, in 1998 in Türkiye. Received her Msc degree on EU Water Legislation at the Hacettepe University in 2004 in Türkiye. Joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2001. She worked at the Permanent Delegation of Türkiye to the UN Office in Geneva from 2004-2008. During her tenure, participated in the meetings of UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Water Courses and International Lakes as the delegate of Türkiye. One of the accomplishments during her duty was making contributions to the UNECE Report on “First Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Ground Waters”. Worked at the Permanent Delegation of Türkiye to UNESCO from 2012-2016. During her mission, she was the Delegate of Türkiye in the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) Committee, the member of Groundwater Governance Permanent Consultation Mechanism of UNESCO and the member UNESCO Integrated Water Resources Management Guidelines Steering Group. Worked at the Permanent Delegation of Türkiye to OECD in between 2018-2022. As the Delegate of Türkiye in various Committees, including the OECD Environmental Policy Committee, actively involved in the preparation process of 2019 OECD Environmental Performance Review of Türkiye report. Made substantial contributions to the report titled “Applying the OECD Principles on Water Governance”. Carried out Bureau membership of “Biodiversity, Water and Ecosystems Working Group of OECD” and the “OECD Climate Change Adaptation Task Force Steering Group”. Currently working at the Department of the Transboundary Waters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) as the Consellor. During her carrier in the MFA in Ankara and in abroad, she has prepared various concept notes for decision makers based on trends on water policies and has negotiated various documents at the international meetings. Simla has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Sogol Jafarzadeh** (Switzerland) is an Environmental Scientist with more than 12 years of experience working on environmental policy and inclusive governance. In her capacity as UNU-INWEH’s UN and Government Relations Coordinator & Gender and Capacity Building Focal Point for Africa, she works with stakeholders in the region to address water, health and sanitation, climate and environmental issues as well as their gender-related and justice implications. Based in Harare, Zimbabwe, she liaises with partners and donors to identify new opportunities for collaboration and implements relevant projects and activities in East and Southern Africa. Sogol joined UNU from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), where she served as the Environmental Affairs Adviser, focusing on transboundary water cooperation and water diplomacy. She was also the gender focal point of her department and led efforts to establish the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan. Before joining the OSCE, Sogol worked at UNEP and UNDP, supporting initiatives on environmental policy, including combating sand and dust storms. She also worked as an Adjunct Instructor at the City College of New York, teaching environmental sciences and environmental psychology, and as a researcher at ETH Zurich, looking at drivers of land degradation in water-scarce rangelands. Sogol holds an MSc in Environmental Sciences from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich) and a postgraduate certificate in Conservation Biology from the Earth Institute, Columbia University in New York. Sogol has been actively involved in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2021 including supporting the inception and development of the Central Asia-Afghanistan and Southern African Network communities.



**Suray Charyyeva** (Turkmenistan) is a Junior researcher at the Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Development in Countries in Transition, specialising in sustainable agricultural practices in Central Asia. She is actively involved in the Central Asia Research Group, studying topics such as gender dynamics, crop diversification, water management, agricultural trade, etc. In addition, Suray cooperates with Turkmen institutions, offering expertise in agricultural economics at the Dakhsoguz Agricultural Institute. She also mentors female students at the International University of Humanities and Development in an effort to empower the next generation of leaders. Through her diverse activities, Suray demonstrates a commitment to sustainable development and inclusiveness in Central Asia's agricultural sector. Suray has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024, and currently serves on the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Global Leadership Council.



**Commissioner Susan (Sue) Bell Chiblow** (Anishinaabe kwe / Canada) is Anishinaabe kwe, born and raised in Garden River First Nation, Ontario. She has worked extensively with First Nation communities for the last 30 years in environmental related fields. Sue has a B.Sc. in Biology, M.Sc. in Environment and Management, and has her PhD in Environmental Science with a focus on N'bi Kendaaswin (Water Knowledge). She has worked with the Chiefs of Ontario as the Environmental Coordinator of the Environment Unit. Through her company, Ogamauh annag, Sue continues to work with First Nation communities and Elders as an Anishinaabe Advisor on environmental projects and policy analysis (i.e., watershed planning, source water protection, Anishinabek law development, policy development, facilitation, strategic planning, report writing, environmental assessments, documenting Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and environmental management planning). Dr. Chiblow is also a Vanier Scholar and Assistant Professor at the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of Guelph. Susan has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Susan Daniel** (United States) is the Secretary for the United States Section of the International Joint Commission (IJC). The IJC is a bilateral treaty organization created by the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty which assists in preventing and resolving disputes between the United States of America and Canada over the use of waters shared by the two countries. She also served as legal advisor for the U.S. Section of the IJC. Prior to moving to Washington, D.C. she worked as an attorney-advisor for the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission on the southern boundary of the United States, between the U.S. and Mexico, in El Paso, Texas. She has also served as legal counsel to the Oklahoma Municipal League, an association of cities and towns, and was in private legal practice in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Susan received both an undergraduate degree in economics and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Oklahoma. Susan has been actively engaged with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022 and her and her colleagues at the IJC have contributed to the development of the North American branch of the Network.





**Dr Suvi Sojamo** (Finland) works as a Senior Research Scientist at the Finnish Environment Institute. She has over ten years of experience on developing principles and practices of sustainable and equitable water use and governance, collaborating with academia, governments, private sector, and civil society alike. Dr Sojamo was a member of the drafting team of the UNECE Handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context and coordinated an Expert Opinion on the role of water during and after conflicts and in conflict prevention to the UN 2023 Water Conference Interactive Dialogues. She currently leads a Horizon Europe project Governance innovations for a transition to sustainable and equitable water use in Europe (GOVAQUA) and acts as an expert in the Water Cooperation and Peace - Finnish Water Way project developing Finland's water diplomacy activities. Suvi has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022.



**Dr. Tahani Sileet** (Egypt) currently serves as Minister Assistant for International Cooperation at Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt. She formerly served as the Chair of the African Minister Council On Water (AMCOW) Technical Advisory Committee and Head of the Central Department for External Cooperation in the Nile Water Sector on behalf of the Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation. She has represented the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation in many regional and international organizations including the Technical and Scientific Committee Member in the League of Arab States (LAS), the Water Expert Group Member in the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the Director of Nile Basin Initiative National Office and the Project Management Unit Director and Regional Coordinator of “Establishment of a Navigational Line Between Lake Victoria and the Mediterranean Sea (VICMED) Project”. She is also appointed as the National Focal Point of Program Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). She holds a PhD in Shared Water Resources Management, a M.Sc. In the “Impact of Climate Change and Sea Surface Temperature on the River Nile Flood Regime”, an International Post Graduate Diploma in Shared Water Resources, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Irrigation and Drainage from Cairo University. She frequently publishes on many different topics related to the Shared Water Resources Management with focus on the Nile Basin. Dr. Sileet is a founding Member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network (2017) and served on the Network’s first Leadership Council from 2021-2024, and currently serves on the Women in Water Diplomacy Network’s Global Leadership Council.



**Tahlia Bear** (Yavapai/Navajo/United States) is a member of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and Navajo originally from Arizona. Currently, she is the Senior Indigenous Peoples Engagement Manager for Western Resources Advocates, an advocacy organization that fights climate change and its impacts in the West. She also is the Program Coordinator for the Indigenous Women’s Leadership Network a platform for Indigenous women working on water and natural resource issues in Indian Country in the Colorado River Basin. Tahlia has spent over a decade working in the nonprofit space for a variety of conservation and scientific organizations such as the National Wildlife Federation, the National Council for Science and the Environment, and the Geological Society of America. She holds her bachelor’s degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and a master’s degree from George Washington University. Tahlia has been involved with the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023.





**Tais Reznikova** (Kazakhstan) is a water resources management specialist with a focus on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), environmental management, and policy. She currently coordinates the Mentoring and Career Development Programme for Women in Water and serves as the Blue Peace Central Asia Secretariat at the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Tais has over 7 years of practical experience in project implementation across Central Asia, specializing in basin management, planning, and water diplomacy. She holds a master's degree in Environmental Science, Policy, and Management from Central European and Lund Universities, and another in IWRM from Kazakh-German University. Tais has been actively involved in nurturing the Women in Water Management Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan since its establishment in 2021.



**Tamar Lobjanidze** (Georgia) has been working with UN Women since 2018 serving as the Women, Peace and Security Portfolio Manager. Ms. Lobjanidze has an extensive academic background and over a decade of hands-on experience in conflict prevention, transformation, resolution, and peacebuilding, with a specific focus on gender, peace, and security. Prior to joining UN Women, Ms. Lobjanidze has made substantial contributions to conflict management and peacebuilding in her role as a Protection Field Officer at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Tbilisi, Georgia. In her current position as the Women, Peace, and Security Portfolio Manager, Ms. Lobjanidze is dedicated to advancing the meaningful participation of women in peace and security initiatives. Her responsibilities encompass program development, technical assistance, capacity building, monitoring and reporting, and resource mobilization, all aimed at fostering a more just, equitable, and peaceful societies. Ms. Lobjanidze holds an MSc. in Women, Peace, and Security from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), UK, and an M.A. degree in Modern and Contemporary History from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. Additionally, she has also been an International Relations fellow at the Uniwersytet Wrocławski in Poland. Tamar has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Ambassador Tanja Miškova** (Slovenia) is Ambassador-at-Large for Water Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovenia. During her diplomatic career she served as Director General for Multilateral Affairs and Development Cooperation, as head of Department for Emerging Challenges, as Ambassador to Egypt (non-resident to Jordan, KSA, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and Oman), as Diplomatic Adviser to the President of Slovenia and as Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Slovenia to Israel. In her current work, she is focusing on the priority areas of the Slovenian water diplomacy: water & peace nexus, transboundary water cooperation, and water & climate change nexus. She also serves as a Deputy Commissioner of Slovenia to the International Sava River Basin Commission. Tanja has been an active member and champion of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022.



**Tanya Trujillo** (United States) currently serves as Senior Water Policy Advisor and Deputy State Engineer for New Mexico, United States. She is the former Assistant Secretary of the Interior for the United States. She is a water lawyer with more than 20 years of experience working on complex natural resources management issues and interstate and transboundary water agreements. She most recently worked as a project director with the Colorado River Sustainability Campaign. Before then, she served as the Executive Director of the Colorado River Board of California. She has served as



Senior Counsel to the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and as Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at Interior. A native New Mexican, Tanya attended Stanford University and the University of Iowa College of Law. Tanya has been an active member and champion of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022.

**Tarana Jafarova** (Azerbaijan) is a gender specialist, researcher, and sociologist with proven experience in development, gender, women and social issues, assessment and capacity building of government and civil society organizations. Currently, as a Gender Specialist, Tarana provides technical support with practical tools and knowledge on how to integrate gender perspectives and dimensions into policies, policy interventions, projects, state statistics and climate change adaptation strategies and priority sectors of the country such as energy, agriculture, health, and coastal zone. As a Gender Researcher, she conducts gender analysis and developed a Gender Action Plan (GAP) along with gender targets and indicators and prepared GAP Implementation Plan and oversaw the implementation of the GAP in projects such as land degradation neutrality, biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, fisheries and aquaculture implemented by the UN FAO in partnership with relevant ministries of Azerbaijan. Currently, she is supporting the Asian Development Bank, as national gender expert undertaking Azerbaijan's Country Gender Assessment. In addition, as a gender expert hired by UNDP, she prepares and conducts training for decision makers on how to effectively mainstream gender dimensions into sectors that represent priority areas in Azerbaijan such as energy, agriculture, water, and health and prepare the training materials for the Climate Change Adaptation course within the Master's program. Tarana prepared a Practical Guide on Mainstreaming Gender in projects, budgets, and state statistics, which was also posted online on the website of the State Committee for Women and Family Affairs of Azerbaijan. Tarana is a strong professional researcher, gender specialist, trainer, and coach on women's leadership with a solid academic background from the State University of New York, USA, and the Center for International Education at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and Adler International Coaching Federation. Tarana has published her research and articles on gender issues in various international journals. Tarana has been an active member and champion of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Tracy Sithabile Molefi** (Botswana) is a Senior Consultant at Rio Consultants Company and former Programme Coordinator for the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM) Secretariat. In her role at OKACOM she was responsible for the overall coordination of the entire OKACOM programme with specific focus on the implementation of the OKACOM Strategic Programme. Prior to joining the OKACOM Secretariat, she was the Deputy Director-Water Resources for the Department of Water and Sanitation of Botswana. Tracy earlier served as National Coordinator- River Basin Organizations, heading the Ministry's International Waters Unit. In this role, she oversaw, facilitated, and coordinated the programme and activities of the four river basins of Zambezi, Limpopo, Orange-Senqu and Okavango and other water related bilateral and joint commissions that Botswana has formed agreements with other countries. She has served in different capacities on the various structures or organs of these four river basins including being Co-Chair of the Okavango Basin Steering Committee (OBSC) under OKACOM. Tracy has over ten years' experience in water resources development and management cut across national and regional level focusing on community development and capacity building, environmental protection and natural resource management, Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), advocacy and developing strategic partnerships. She has knowledge of Project Management gained through work with regional projects such as the Swedish



funded Every River Has Its People project (where she was a project coordinator), and the USAID funded Okavango Integrated River Basin Management project, implemented in Botswana, Namibia and Angola. Tracy is the former Chairperson of the African Network of River basin organisation and Member of the Global Water Partnership Organisation (GWPO) where she also serves as member of GWP Nomination Committee. She is the member of Kalahari Conservation Society and IUCN's Communication and Education Commission. She has a master's degree in Environmental Science holder coupled with several professional courses in trans-boundary water resources management. Tracy has been actively involved in the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2021.

**Dr. Tuğba Evrim Maden** (Türkiye) is the Policy Development Coordinator at the Turkish Water Institute (SUEN). Dr. Maden is a senior expert in water policy, transboundary waters, and hydropolitics, with over 25 years of experience and a multidisciplinary background that bridges engineering, social sciences, and policy analysis. She completed her B.Sc. in Hydrogeological Engineering at Hacettepe University, followed by an M.A. focusing on water issues in Cyprus, and earned her Ph.D. from Ankara University with a thesis on the EU Water Framework Directive and transboundary waters, using the Maritsa (Meriç) River as a case study. Dr. Maden has served in key positions throughout her career, including as a researcher at ORSAM's Water Research Program and as a hydropolitics expert at SUEN. Since 2021, she has been SUEN's Policy Development Coordinator, where she provides political analyses on water management and diplomacy, with a focus on Turkey, the EU, and the Middle East. She is a management committee member of the Blue Peace Middle East Initiative, an effort she has been involved with since 2011, and a member of the Türkiye-Iraq Permanent Joint Committee on Water since August 2023. Her notable roles also include co-chairing the UfM Water-Employment-Migration Task Force and leading the Blue Peace Middle East Initiative's Coordination Office from 2019 to 2022. Dr. Maden has conducted extensive fieldwork across transboundary basins in Syria, Iran, Iraq, and Jordan, as well as other regions around the world, including the Euphrates-Tigris basin, Mekong, Senegal, and Araks –Kura Basins. Dr. Maden is recognized for her contributions to water diplomacy, regional cooperation, and sustainable water management. Her unique multidisciplinary expertise allows her to integrate engineering insights with policy-making, enabling innovative solutions for water-related challenges. Her academic work has led to numerous publications, and she is a sought-after lecturer and advisor on water-related challenges exacerbated by climate change and regional conflicts. Tuğba has been an active member and champion of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023.



**Tumaini Mwamyalla** (Tanzania) serves as Tanzania's National Desk Officer for the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and principal project preparation and coordination officer within the Ministry of Water. She holds a MSc in Community Economic Development from New Hampshire University and MSc in Engineering Management from the University of Dar Es Salaam as well as a Post Graduate certificate in Integrated Water Resources Management from the Stockholm International Water Institute. Throughout her career, Tumaini has held responsibility of coordinating and supervising, preparation and execution of transboundary water resources management and development plans as well as implementation of national, regional, and international programmes at national level. Tumaini has eighteen years of experience in transboundary water resources management coordinating transboundary issues with different regional cooperation institutions including African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), the NBI, the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM), Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), Lake Tanganyika Authority, Ruvuma Basin Commission and Songwe River Commission. Tanzania has eleven surface water bodies shared with eight neighboring countries including Burundi, Democratic

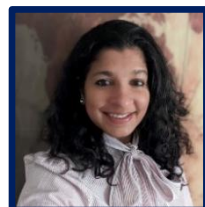


Republic of Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia (not including shared ground water aquifers). Tumaini has participated from negotiations to ratification in the Nile Basin Comparative Agreement Framework (CFA) dialogues and in the preparation and implementation of several Shared Vision Programmes under the Nile basin Initiative. Tumaini is a founding Member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network (2017) and served on the Network's first Leadership Council from 2021-2024, and currently serves on the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Global Leadership Council.

**Verdiane Nyiramana** (Rwanda) with a master's degree in Project Management and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Information Technology, Verdiane Nyiramana has benefited from different trainings in different domains including peace building, women empowerment and conflict resolution. In the aftermath of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsis, Verdiane did not fear to take the lead as a young lady to mobilize other young women in Rwanda to actively engage in reconciliation and rehabilitation of Rwanda focusing on reconciliation and peace. Her determination and commitment to give back to communities, led to her appointment as the Executive Director of BENIMPUHWE organization. In addition, Verdiane's networking; communication and persuasive skills have led BENIMPUHWE organization to attract donors from different sources including Rwanda Government, USA, Belgium, Canada, Netherlands, Germany and France. Currently she is a Regional Chairperson of Nile Basin Discourse, Founder and chair of women for water and climate cooperation network (WWCCN) and former Regional Board member of Concertation des collectives des Associations Feminines de la Region des Grands-Lacs. Verdiane has been an active member and champion of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023.



**Vineetha Kartha** (United States) is currently employed as the Colorado River Programs Manager with the Central Arizona Project. In her capacity with CAP, Vineetha and her team provide technical and policy support to management and the CAWCD Board of Directors on Colorado River issues including developing and implementing strategic planning efforts and projects protecting and enhancing CAP's interest in the Colorado River water supplies. Vineetha has worked with Freeport-McMoRan as their water resources manager working on water rights management issues across Freeport mines in Arizona and has previously served as the Manager for the Colorado River Management Section at the Arizona Department of Water Resources. She holds a Master of Urban and Environmental Planning degree from the Arizona State University and a Master of Geology degree from the University of Bombay and a post graduate Diploma in "International Negotiations and Capacity Skills" from the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna. Vineetha has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Viviane Kinyaga** (South Africa) is a qualified water management specialist with more than 20 years of professional experience advocating for environment sustainability in freshwater, marine and dryland ecosystems. She is passionate about promoting transboundary water cooperation and has worked with different governments, NGO's, the UN and inter-governmental bodies. She is currently working as a Project Manager at Orange-Senqu Water Commission (ORASECOM) where she is leading implementation of the Strategic Action Programme that seeks to reduce stress on the catchment emanating from increased water demand, deteriorating water resources quality, changes to flow regime and land degradation. Viviane and her colleagues are currently driving the development of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Orange-Senqu Basin.





**Wilzave Quiles Guzmán** (Puerto Rico/ United States) is currently completing her MS Degree in Water, Society and Policy at the University of Arizona with strong focus on local and international water resource management. Wilzave also serves as a Graduate Research Assistant and project manager for the interdisciplinary research project “Assessing Navajo COVID-19 Risk and Increasing Indigenous Resilience.” A native of Puerto Rico, Wilzave has strong interests in service, community engagement, the intersection of science and society and is deeply passionate about water resources. Wilzave has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023.



**Xanani Baloyi** (South Africa) is a seasoned development professional dedicated to advocating for improved water governance, fostering stakeholder engagement, and championing gender equality in water-related initiatives. She currently holds the position of Transboundary Water Management Programme Officer at Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA). In this role, Xanani provides project management support and coordination for the UNDP-GEF Project "Enhanced Water Security and Community Resilience in the Adjacent Cuvelai and Kunene Transboundary River Basins (CUVKUN)" shared by Angola and Namibia. Her responsibilities include project management, coordinating fieldwork for data validation and monitors compliance with Social and Environmental Safeguards (SES). Additionally, she provides technical coordination support, facilitates policy harmonization and strengthening national Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) governance frameworks. Previously, Xanani worked as Programme Manager at the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). Her role focused on facilitating the implementation of development projects aimed at increasing accessibility to public and private capital for water and climate-related projects in Africa as well as advancing the financial viability of projects. Xanani implements GESI Action Plans and serves as member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Global Network since 2021. She holds a Master's of Geography in International Development Studies- Palacký University- Czech Republic, Honours Degree in International Relations & Bachelor of Political Sciences in International Studies - University of Pretoria, South Africa.



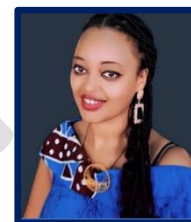
**Yara Fernandes Lourenço** (Angola) joined TNC in January 2023 as Chief of Party for the USAID-supported Ecosystems, Communities and Climate (ECCO) project. Prior to TNC, Yara served as Government Relations Manager at The HALO Trust in Angola where she focused on accelerating donor relations, assisted in developing the organizational profile and conducted research and development of new funding opportunities. Yara has over 20 years of experience in project management and implementation and leading teams in the Southern Africa region. Her expertise includes: the development and implementation of MEL plans; undertaking program evaluations; and working extensively with gender and community-based projects throughout Angola. She previously conducted evaluations for UNICEF, Norwegian Norad and the European Union and provided technical guidance and support to grant management as Country Director for mothers2mothers/PEPFAR in Angola. Additional experience includes delivering strategic guidance and advise to a multitude of stakeholders (government agencies, international donors, civil society organizations, INGOs) in Angola and the Southern African region. Yara holds a Master of Sciences in Development Studies from the School of Oriental and Africa Studies, UK and a Bachelor of International Relations and Politics from the University of Westminster, UK. Finally, she has over 18 years of experience as a Lecturer in International Relations and Africa Development. Yara has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2024.



**Yasmina Rais El Fenni** (Morocco) joined TNC's Global Food and Water team as Portfolio Management Coordinator in 2024, with the aim of Mainstreaming Solutions in Food & Freshwater Systems through equitable conservation. Prior to TNC, Yasmina served as Program Officer for Cap-Net, a global UNDP Programme for capacity development in sustainable water management. She worked on improved IWRM practices through gender inclusive practices, indicators, and budgets, with specific focus on Africa and the Middle East. This included regional, national and basin-level initiatives, spanning topics such as groundwater management, climate change adaptation, conflict resolution, gender mainstreaming and youth empowerment. Yasmina worked with key stakeholders spanning from AMCOW, SIWI, UN agencies and governments to civil society organizations, to mobilize gender specific funding, change social norms and improve access to water resource. Yasmina has been working in international development for over 15 years, holds a Masters in Public Policy and Administration from Roskilde University, Denmark and a Bachelor's in International Studies from Kingston University, UK. Yasmina has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023.



**Yodit Balcha** (Ethiopia) is a founding member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network and serves on the Network's Leadership Council. Yodit is also a founding member of the African Women in Water and Climate Association. Currently, Yodit works as a Climate Adaptation research officer at the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT-Africa Hub in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Until early 2022, Yodit served as the Senior Climate Change Adaptation Advisor at the Ministry of Water, Irrigation, and Energy in Ethiopia, where she is responsible for mainstreaming climate change adaptation and resilience plans into the ministries sectoral strategic and development projects, she was also one of the few women water diplomats during the GERD negotiations back in 2019. Her work focuses on the nexus approach of Climate, Land (Agriculture), Energy, and Water Systems. Yodit holds a Master's degree in Sustainable Development from Uppsala University, a Master's course in Agricultural Economics from Haramaya University, and Bachelor's Degree in Natural Resource Economics and Management from Mekelle University. Yodit has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2020 and served on the Network's first Leadership Council from 2021-2024, and currently serves on the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Global Leadership Council.



**Dr. Yolanda López-Maldonado** (Mexico) is an Indigenous Maya woman from Mexico and a science diplomat, working on the social dimensions of water conservation. Her career spans both natural and social sciences, focusing on the science-society-policy interface. She has worked for academic and non-academic organizations, achieving high-level results in diplomatic environments across various social issues and scientific fields, including UNESCO, UNPFII, CBD, ICCROM, IPBES, and IUCN, fostering debates on how science (both Western and Indigenous) can build trust between nations and support foreign policies. Her expertise includes in-depth knowledge of theories, frameworks, methods, and analytical techniques to investigate complex systems undergoing global change. Recently, she was appointed as Lead Author of the Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge section for the Global Environment Outlook Report 7, Early Warning and Assessment Division, UNEP. As a Young Scholar at the Beijer Institute of Ecological Economics of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and a Junior Fellow at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Dr. López-Maldonado holds a PhD in Human Geography from Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (Germany). Yolanda has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023, and currently serves on the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Global Leadership Council.





**Dr. Yumiko Yasuda** (Japan/ Sweden) is a water and environmental governance specialist. She has over 30 years of professional experience in global sustainability. For the past 18 years, her work has focused on integrated water resources management, particularly on governance of transboundary waters. She worked in various sectors, including the public sector, private sector, civil society sector, and in research and academia, and through multiple levels of governance from local to global. She recently worked as senior IWRM and transboundary water cooperation specialist at the Global Water Partnership, based in Stockholm, Sweden. She gained her PhD from the Center for Water Law, Policy and Science, the University of Dundee in Scotland. She is originally from Japan has global experience, and has lived in 10 countries. She is currently an independent expert, an associate researcher at the Research School on Water Cooperation, Uppsala University, and an affiliate at the Wuhan International Water Law Academy. Yumiko has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2022.



**Dr. Zhanar Naurozbayeva** (Kazakhstan) is the Head of the Regional Climate Change Laboratory of the JSC 'Institute of Geography and Water Security'. She graduated Bachelor's and Master's degrees at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, and postgraduate programme at the Russian State Hydrometeorological University, where she defended her doctoral thesis. The theme of her PhD thesis was 'Impact of climate change on the ice regime of the Caspian Sea'. Within the dissertation the method of short-term forecast of ice thickness growth was developed and introduced into operational work of Kazhydromet, the validity of which is 96-98 %. The results of work are approved in hydrometeorological centres of Hamburg, Moscow and Kazhydromet. She has good experience in research activities, in the research of climatic changes, modelling of climatic scenarios, ice regime of the Caspian Sea, research of dangerous meteorological phenomena (fogs, thunderstorms, sea ice). She has published more than 70 publications in the field of meteorology, climatology and hydrology, including a monograph and articles in rating journals. Zhanar is a founding member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in Central Asia and Afghanistan, and currently serves on the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Global Leadership Council.



**Dr. Zodwa Dlamini** (South Africa) is a seasoned international transboundary water management specialist, development professional, and senior infrastructure projects manager. As the former South Africa's Chief Delegate and Permanent Representative on the Lesotho Highlands Water Commission (LHWC) for 11 years, she oversaw the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) and its implementation and served as South Africa's Chief Negotiator for Phase 2 of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project valued at \$5 Billion that is currently being implemented in Lesotho. The LHWP is a binational project between the government of the Republic South Africa and the Kingdom of Lesotho responsible for delivering water from the highlands of Lesotho to South Africa and utilising the water delivery system to generate 72MW hydro-electric power for the Kingdom of Lesotho at 'Muela Hydropower Station. LHWP was Africa's largest water transfer scheme prior to the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). Dr. Dlamini further ensured that gender policies in the LHWP are intentional and decisive in matters of gender inclusivity and participation of women. It was during her tenure when the LHDA first appointed a woman Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in over 20 years of its existence. Dr. Dlamini is currently an independent consultant currently supporting the development of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Orange-Senqu. Zodwa is a founding member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network in the Nile (2017) and served on the Network's Leadership Council from 2021-2024, and currently serves on the Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Global Leadership Council.



**Dr. Zoe Rosenblum** (United States) believes in a peaceful and biodiverse future. Since 2014, her academic and professional career has focused on environmental policy and social-ecological systems, with wetlands featuring prominently throughout. Her doctoral research at Oregon State University (OSU) resulted in the most comprehensive map and policy analysis of transboundary wetlands to date. Zoe is a graduate of the Water Cooperation and Diplomacy joint master's program of OSU (USA), IHE Delft Institute for Water Education (Netherlands) and the United Nations-Mandated University for Peace (Costa Rica). Her graduate research was advised by Professors Aaron Wolf and Susanne Schmeier, with whom she supports transboundary water research across the globe. She shares peace as a yoga instructor and as a volunteer mediator. Zoe has been an active member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network since 2023.



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