



MEANJIN BRISBANE DECLARATION

At each WLC, a declaration is issued outlining guidelines for the environmental conservation and sustainable lake management. The key points of the declaration adopted at WLC20 are as follows. The full declaration is available on the official WLC20 website.

Preamble

Lakes store most of the Earth's freshwater and have long been essential to human life and ecosystems. However, today they face serious crises due to pollution, overuse, and climate change. Safeguarding the sustainability of lakes is vital for sustainable development, climate resilience, and biodiversity conservation. In acknowledging the inaugural UN World Lake Day on 27 August and recognising the 2023 UNEA Resolution on sustainable lake management, the international community declares that the sustainability of lakes and their basins must be integrated into all global, national, and local actions. We commit to advancing practical solutions, strengthening governance, and fostering inclusive collaboration to secure the future of the world's lakes.

Principles for Lake Sustainability

1. Lakes are essential to life and planetary health.
2. Lakes are connected systems, not isolated waterbodies.
3. Lakes are sentinels of environmental and societal change.
4. Lake degradation undermines planetary sustainability goals.
5. Indigenous Peoples and local communities must lead.
6. Climate change demands urgent and adaptive responses.

Commitments to Action | We commit to protect and restore lake ecosystems and catchments by:

- Integrating lakes and their specific indicators into national and global policy frameworks
- Advancing integrated basin-scale coordination
- Supporting Indigenous and community stewardship
- Strengthening monitoring and research
- Promoting innovation and technology transfer to support lake sustainability
- Investing in sustainable lake financing
- Educating and engaging emerging generations, communities, and civil society

A Global Call to Action | WE CALL ON YOU

- Governments: Implement science-based lake policies and management.
- United Nations: Include lakes in the post-SDG framework.
- International Organizations: Prioritize lakes in agreements and funding.
- Scientific Community: Develop tools and improve threat understanding.
- Private Sector: Disclose lake impacts and adopt nature-positive practices.
- Civil Society: Reconnect with and advocate for lakes.

Full Declaration

