

CONCEPT NOTE

Title: Commemorating World Lake Day: Strengthening Global Cooperation for Sustainable Lake Management

- Date: 27 August 2026. 10:00 – 11:30 am (TBC)
- Venue: Conference Room 11

In-person event

Background and Objectives

Lakes and reservoirs contain more than 90% of the world's liquid surface freshwater. They are the lifeblood of ecosystems, driving local economies, securing food and drinking water for billions, and regulating local climates. Despite their critical importance, lakes globally face unprecedented threats from pollution, agricultural runoff, climate-induced evaporation, and rapid biodiversity loss.

World Lake Day serves as an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of lakes, while also providing an international platform for countries and diverse stakeholders to collaborate in advancing their conservation and sustainable use. Recognizing the critical importance and compounding crises faced by lakes, a special event to commemorate World Lake Day is being organized to elevate the global political and technical profile of sustainable lake management. Specifically, the event aims to:

- Showcase good practices and lessons learned.
- Mobilize support: Highlight Global Wetland Watch as one of the global Earth observation initiatives that provides standardized information on inland water and wetland ecosystems, supporting improved lake monitoring, policy development, and international reporting.
- Catalyse Science-to-Policy Action: Convene a multi-stakeholder panel of experts, policymakers, and UN representatives to propose actionable pathways for integrating lake protection into national strategies, including on climate and biodiversity.
- Bridge to the upcoming World Lake Conference: Build momentum toward the World Lake Conference (WLC21) schedule to take place in June 2027 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Preliminary Programme

This programme assumes a 90-minute event.

Length	Proposed sub-themes title	Proposed intervention content	Tentative speakers
10'	Opening session:	- Opening remarks	- Rafael Peralta (Director of NY Office) - Japan - Indonesia
10'	Technical Showcase: Earth Observation for Lake Monitoring	- Demonstration of Global Wetland Watch and how satellite-based monitoring supports lake extent, wetland monitoring, national reporting, and evidence-based management.	- UNEP – GWW (Stuart Crane, remotely)
30'	Multi-Stakeholder Panel Discussion: From Science to Policy	Suggested guiding questions: • How can lake conservation be better integrated into national climate and biodiversity strategies? • What lessons can countries share through South-South and triangular cooperation? • What technical and financial support is needed to accelerate action? • How can momentum be sustained toward the 21st World Lake Conference?	
30'	Interactive Discussion / Q&A		- Audience
5'	Closing Remarks	- Key takeaways - Invitation to the 21st World Lake Conference (WLC21) - Closing	- Tanzania