

# Capturing Water, Culture and Heritage through Icons: A First Attempt

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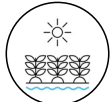
Humans have engaged with water in multiple ways, creating physical structures – such as buildings, cities, infrastructures and landscapes – and socio-cultural manifestations – for example, institutions, laws, artistic practices and rituals. They have transformed natural settings in keeping with climate and energy conditions. To understand the diverse conditions of water spaces and heritage, we have created a set of icons to categorize tangible and intangible objects and practices related to water. The icons help us identify different scales, functions and forms of both water management-related heritage objects, as well as generic water-related structures. The categories identified are suggestions and not conclusive or mutually exclusive.

## Tangible



### Drinking

A key function of water management is the provision of freshwater and access to potable water; infrastructures and techniques to store, pump, redistribute and use drinking water.



### Agriculture and Irrigation

Numerous strategies and technologies exist to channel and exploit water resources for food production, including the irrigation of agricultural land and livestock watering.



### Drainage and Sewage

The removal of excess water and sewage water – e.g., rainwater and excess surface run-off, and wastewater (black and gray water) – requires extensive infrastructure and cleaning systems.



### Food from Water Bodies

Natural and artificial water bodies - including seas, rivers, lakes and ponds - are home to plants and animals and are a source of food, obtained through traditional and industrial fishing techniques as well as aquaculture.



### Shelter and Defense

Humans have built shelters to protect themselves from harsh climatic elements (rain, snow, etc), through architectural and urban forms. They have also made structures to defend themselves from and through water, such as dikes, dams, moats and fortification walls.



### Health

Clean water is key to human well-being. Water quality is important for individual and public health. The pollution of water bodies through biological and chemical agents has notably influenced the development of spatial planning.

## Water, Culture and Heritage Themes



### Energy/ Industry

Water is used in industrial processes, e.g., for cooling down machinery, in mining activities and breweries; it is exploited for energy production, such as hydroelectric power. Energy is also key to controlling water and is used to generate energy.



### Transport

Water bodies – seas, rivers and canals – are key to transporting people and goods for everyday mobility, tourism and commercial purposes. Specific infrastructures exist to transport people and goods from sea to land and vice versa (e.g., quays, cranes), and for storage (e.g., warehouses).



### Places of Leisure

Water bodies, natural or manmade, in cities and landscapes serve leisure practices in multiple ways (e.g., waterfronts, water parks, rivers, swimming pools).



### Place of Worship

Humans have created religious spaces for revering water and they may use water to express reverence for or connection with a spirit or deity. Structures such as churches and temples contain elements related to water, or can be part of the management of water resources.

## Intangible



### Daily Water Practices

Water is part of everyday practices, including drinking, bathing, washing and cooking.



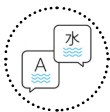
### Recreation

Recreational practices use water bodies, natural and artificial. These practices include water sports as well as spending time by the sea.



### Rites and Rituals

Water is part of religious and spiritual practices all over the world, including those of major world religions. It is often associated with purification, and in some belief systems, it is revered as a source of all life.



### Language/Idioms

Idioms, proverbs and sayings that concern water and water-related societal wisdom and ancestral knowledge.



### Laws and Policies

Water management, access, and use have long been regulated through governmental policies and customary laws. Water politics affect and are affected by social, cultural and economic dynamics; they can determine rights and obligations for citizens and community members.



**Institutions**

Water management laws and policies are often designed and enforced by institutions. These can be political (e.g., a nation-state or a chiefdom), religious or social.



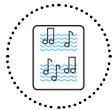
**Education**

Socialization is key to healthy and sustainable living with water. This can occur through community members, capacity-building programs, schooling, and initiatives to exchange or transmit knowledge and to raise water awareness.



**Preservation, Adaptation, Reuse**

Diverse traditional and contemporary practices and actions aim at preserving or strategically changing water bodies, related ecosystems, and even the social customs connected to them.



**Music, Arts and Dance**

Ecological knowledge is contained in local songs and other oral traditions, poems, illustrations, paintings, and artistic performances that connect life stories to water.



**Festivals and Ceremonies**

Many special events celebrate, commemorate or inaugurate water-related structures, practices and models. This includes fishing and seasonal festivals, events organized to honor or mourn historic water-related events, and ceremonies to establish/launch new water-related objects or structures.