

Water Film Prize

Back to Our Future

Water Film Prize launches call for stories about Ancient Water Solutions for Present Climate Crisis

Let's Talk About Water (LTAW) and **The Global Network of Water Museums (WAMU-NET)** proudly announce the launch of the **Water Film Prize**, a global competition for short films exploring Ancient Hydro Technologies (AHTs). Themed **Back to Our Future**, this UNESCO-supported initiative invites filmmakers to create compelling narratives that celebrate these ingenious water management technologies which have sustained civilizations for millennia.

These remarkable systems created harmony between communities and their environments, preserved biodiversity, and fostered social bonds, particularly in the world's most arid regions. The competition aims to highlight how these historical water management approaches could inspire valuable solutions for today's pressing climate challenges.

AHTs have played distinct roles throughout history:

Water Transportation: Qanats (Iran and North Africa), Karez System (China), Roman Aqueducts

Water Collection: Stepwells (India), Phoenician Cisterns (Malta)

Water Harvesting: Terraced irrigation systems (Peru), the Acequia Systems (New Mexico)

Water Retention: Johad (India), Sand Dams (East Africa)

Water Extraction: Sahduf (Sudan/Egypt) Persian Wheel (Pakistan, India)

As we race to meet the UN's Agenda 2030 water management goals, we're discovering that modern solutions alone cannot address our interconnected challenges of climate change and resource scarcity. The wisdom embedded in these ancestral technologies isn't just relevant—it's vital for our future.

Submissions should address themes such as water conservation, climate resilience, biodiversity preservation, and/or social cohesion. Ideally, submitted films will also highlight their potential to inspire modern solutions. Films can be fiction, documentary, or animation.

The prize offers \$10,000 in awards across multiple categories:

First Prize: \$3,000

Second Prize: \$2,000

Third Prize: \$1,000

Best Youth Film(Under 18): \$1,000

Best Student Film(Over 18): \$1,000

GCC Prize: \$1,000 (Best film from Gulf Cooperation Council countries)

Back to Our Future Prize: \$1,000 (Best film about AHTs inspiring modern solutions)

Selected films will premiere at the annual WAMU-NET meeting in Brasilia (November 5, 2025), followed by screenings at prestigious venues including the Let's Talk About Water Film Festival, Paris (2026), the Luxor African Film Festival (2026), and the 11th World Water Forum in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (2027).

Competition Details:

Length: 3-5 minutes

Format: Documentary, fiction, or animation

Regular Deadline: August 15, 2025 (\$10)

Late Deadline: September 15, 2025 (\$20)

Languages: English or with English subtitles

The Water Film Prize is organized by LTAW, a global platform with 20 years of experience using film to bridge the gap between scientists, policy makers and the public, in partnership with WAMU-NET, a UNESCO-IHP initiative uniting over 100 water museums across 44 countries.

For submission guidelines and competition details visit:

<https://letstalkaboutwater.org/water-film-prizes/>

<https://filmfreeway.com/waterscienceprize>

or contact us at info@letstalkaboutwater.org

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