



Technical Meeting on the Establishment of a Global Network of Isotopes in Lakes

**IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria**
and virtual participation via Microsoft Teams

19 - 22 October 2026

Ref. No.: EVT2601879

Information Sheet

Introduction

Climate change is accelerating global warming, posing a major threat to the water budgets of the Earth's lakes. Stable isotopes of oxygen and hydrogen are sensitive indicators of climate change because the relative enrichment of heavy and light isotopes depends strongly on temperature-driven processes such as evaporation and condensation. In 2021, the IAEA assessed stable oxygen and hydrogen isotope data from 1,257 lakes reported in the literature and found that most lakes rely on both precipitation and groundwater recharge, both of which are being altered by climate change. The survey also showed that about 20% of global lake inflows are lost to evaporation. This has important implications for the sustainability of both natural and artificial lakes. At the same time, evaporation influences lake temperature regulation, helping to keep lakes cooler than they would otherwise be under a warming climate. Shifting evaporation patterns, together with rising temperatures, are also thought to contribute to the increase in extreme weather events. Although evaporation is a key component of climate models, its local, regional, and global patterns remain poorly understood. The proposed isotope network for lakes would strengthen quantification of evaporation and support improved evaporation parameter definitions for hydrological and climate models used in nowcasting, forecasting, and climate prediction.

Objectives

1. To establish the terms of reference for the lake monitoring isotope network; 2. To review existing protocols and data requirements; 3. To set out how the sampling would be undertaken (for example would the sample be taken at the lake edge or centre and at what depth); 4. To identify the parameters to be measured and the analysis method to be used; 5. To compile the above information into a guideline on isotope sampling in lakes; 6. To determine the method for calculating evaporation impact from climate change; 7. To identify where the initial sampling campaigns could be set up to

meet the goal of sampling 1000 lakes globally.

Target Audience

The meeting will be relevant to stakeholder from the lake monitoring community, e.g. the Global Lake Ecological Observation Network (GLEON), experts in lake water evaporation and scientists in limnology and isotope hydrology. The meeting will also be of interest to water managers, hydrologists and ecologists.

Working Language(s)

English

Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the event have to be designated by an IAEA Member State or should be members of organizations that have been invited to attend.

In order to be designated by an IAEA Member State or invited organization, participants are requested to submit their application via the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) to the competent national authority (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) or organization for onward transmission to the IAEA by **31 August 2026**, following the registration procedure in InTouch+:

1. Access the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>):
 - Persons with an existing NUCLEUS account can sign in to the platform with their username and password;
 - Persons without an existing NUCLEUS account can register [here](#).
2. Once signed in, prospective participants can use the InTouch+ platform to:
 - Complete or update their personal details under ‘Complete Profile’ and upload the relevant supporting documents;
 - Search for the relevant event under the ‘My Eligible Events’ tab;
 - Select the Member State or invited organization they want to represent from the drop-down menu entitled ‘Designating Authority’ (if an invited organization is not listed, please contact InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org);
 - If applicable, indicate whether a paper is being submitted and complete the relevant information;
 - If applicable, indicate whether financial support is requested and complete the relevant information (this is not applicable to participants from invited organizations);
 - Based on the data input, the InTouch+ platform will automatically generate the Participation Form (Form A) and/or the Grant Application Form (Form C);
 - Submit their application.

Once submitted through the InTouch+ platform, the application, together with the auto-generated form(s), will be transmitted automatically to the required authority for approval. If approved, the application, together with the applicable form(s), will automatically be sent to the IAEA through the online platform.

NOTE: The application for financial support should be made, together with the submission of the application, by **31 August 2026**.

For additional information on how to apply for an event, please refer to the [InTouch+ Help](#) page. Any other issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be sent to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

Selected participants will be informed in due course on the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Participants are hereby informed that the personal data they submit will be processed in line with the [Agency's Personal Data and Privacy Policy](#) and is collected solely for the purpose(s) of reviewing and assessing the application and to complete logistical arrangements where required. The IAEA may also use the contact details of Applicants to inform them of the IAEA's scientific and technical publications, or the latest employment opportunities and current open vacancies at the IAEA. These secondary purposes are consistent with the IAEA's mandate. Further information can be found in the [Data Processing Notice](#) concerning the IAEA InTouch+ platform.

In addition to the registration already submitted through the InTouch+ platform, participants have to submit the abstract, together with the Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B), to the competent national authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) or organization for onward transmission to the IAEA not later than .

Submission of a paper should be confirmed, together with the submission of the main application via the InTouch+ platform, by .

Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee is charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the event. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help meet the cost of attendance of certain participants. Upon specific request, such assistance may be offered to normally one participant per country, provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant will make an important contribution to the event.

The application for financial support should be made, together with the submission of the application, by **31 August 2026**.

Venue

The event will be held at the Vienna International Centre (VIC) where the IAEA's Headquarters are located. Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

General information on the VIC and other practical details, such as a list of hotels offering a reduced rate for IAEA participants, are listed on the following IAEA web page:
<https://www.iaea.org/events>.

Participants are advised to arrive at Checkpoint 1/Gate 1 of the VIC one hour before the start of the event on the first day in order to allow for timely registration. Participants will need to present an official photo identification document in order to be admitted to the VIC premises.

Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria at least four weeks before they travel to Austria. Since Austria is a Schengen State, persons requiring a visa will have to apply for a Schengen visa. In States where Austria has no diplomatic mission, visas can be obtained from the consular authority of a Schengen Partner State representing Austria in the country in question.

Organization

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretary/Secretaries and correspondence on other matters related to the event to the Administrative Secretary.