

International Association of Hydrogeologists
the World-wide Groundwater Organisation

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Furthering the understanding, wise use
and protection of groundwater resources
throughout the world

President's message

During 2018 IAH continued to defend our profession and professionals all around the world, using its influence at international level to reclaim groundwater's place in the consideration of water related issues in the international agenda. Due to the actual financial constraints, IAH carefully chose the main meetings where water was involved to be present and influence the global politics on water. I attended the World Water Forum and IAH received requests for inputs to reviews by the United Nations on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. Several of our members were invited to take up roles on UN-Water Expert Groups.

Our members in National Chapters, Commissions and Networks, Working Groups, and other IAH activities deserve recognition for their efforts to develop science and education on groundwater and bring our understanding to a higher level.

IAH Council, especially the Executive Committee, involved in the day to day management of the Association, deserve also my thanks for all the voluntary time and work dedicated to IAH. Also, a special mention to the IAH Secretariat and the Executive Manager, the Executive Editor and the Editor-in-Chief for Books for their professionalism in representing our Association.

Financially, there was a surplus in 2018 but uncertainties in exchange rates can always change this situation. IAH clearly needs to diversify its income sources. Brexit remains an issue that can also be a source of concerns for the future.

The website, after the great changes in the last years, continues to be updated and the education page was a priority in 2018.

IAH is facing changes in the world of publishing and there is an increasing preference for the electronic version of Hydrogeology Journal. More than 50% of our members now receive this form and the future of the printed journal will need to continue to be addressed. We published a new paper in the Strategic Overview Series, concerning 'Mining Enterprises and Groundwater', and preparations were made for a further paper to be published in 2019.

In terms of our national chapters, we have recently received the interest of several countries and territories to establish new national chapters, which underlines their continuing importance.

This year the IAH Congress, organised in South Korea, was once more a successful one, allowing many of our members to meet and discuss the most recent hydrogeology issues in the world. Finally, we were pleased to support our colleagues at the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC) with their publication on World Water Day of 'Making the invisible visible'. This report emphasises how the groundwater community together has the capability to help achieve the vital targets of protecting groundwater and the SDGs.

António Chambel
IAH President



Highlights

Membership held up once again during 2018, with 4100 members at the end of the year. It was good to see several companies and institutes amongst the list of new members. We appreciate the involvement of corporate supporters, to help us develop services, and hope more will commit in the future.

IAH members continued to be busy engaging in the international debate on sustainable development and water protection. It can be challenging to explain complex scientific issues across different languages and with different audiences, and careful attention is needed in getting critical 'groundwater messages' across to others.

The IAH Executive team and Council reviewed achievements under the Forward Look 10-year plan and identified priorities remaining before the plan concludes in 2020. Future planning will of course be the responsibility of the next Council but all IAH members will want to consider what it is that our Association should be doing to ensure groundwater benefits everyone.

Our Commissions and Networks put in strong performances. The Burdon Groundwater Network distributed hydrogeology books to nearly 60% of IAH's members in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Managed Aquifer Recharge Commission published papers from the ISMAR9 conference as a special issue of 'Sustainable Water Resources Management', a sister journal to our own Hydrogeology Journal. New commissions and networks are in prospect for 2019.

Patience and resilience are needed in strategic cooperation, as was reported by former Latin America Vice President Luiz Amore following the signing of the Guarani Aquifer Agreement between the governments of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. Perseverance paid off in Malawi where, following years of ambition to form a national chapter, Strathclyde University, supported by the Scottish Government, brought together an informal grouping of 50 new IAH members. We hope that in time this will become a full national chapter.

Our 45th Congress in Daejeon was undoubtedly one of the year's highlights that will remain in the memories of all who were able to attend. We are very grateful to our Korean hosts who gave us such a warm welcome and enabled us to enjoy some excellent technical sessions and papers. For those who could not be there, some of the keynote lectures are available on our Vimeo channel.

The wider economic conditions continue to present challenges with, as ever, close attention needed in managing our finances. We achieved an operational surplus over expenditure, which was partly because of the postponement of the Journal Editors' meeting to 2019, but also because of support received by Council members from their institutions for travel and subsistence costs.



International Association of Hydrogeologists

Strategic Overview Series

MINING ENTERPRISES & GROUNDWATER

KEY MESSAGES

enterprises are a major activity that is intimately linked with groundwater

groundwater often exerts a negative influence on mining operations and mine safety, and mitigating such problems requires sound hydrogeological understanding

mine water-supply is highly local specific, but

In what ways do mining activities interact with groundwater systems ?

Mineral resource extraction leads to an inflow of groundwater to the mine or quarry and potentially major modifications of groundwater flow and quality regimes, and thus to various issues requiring consideration during mine evaluation, development, operation and closure. Groundwater can exert negative influences on mining economics by creating risks for operational continuity and miners' safety as well as having adverse environmental impacts.

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And our corporate members

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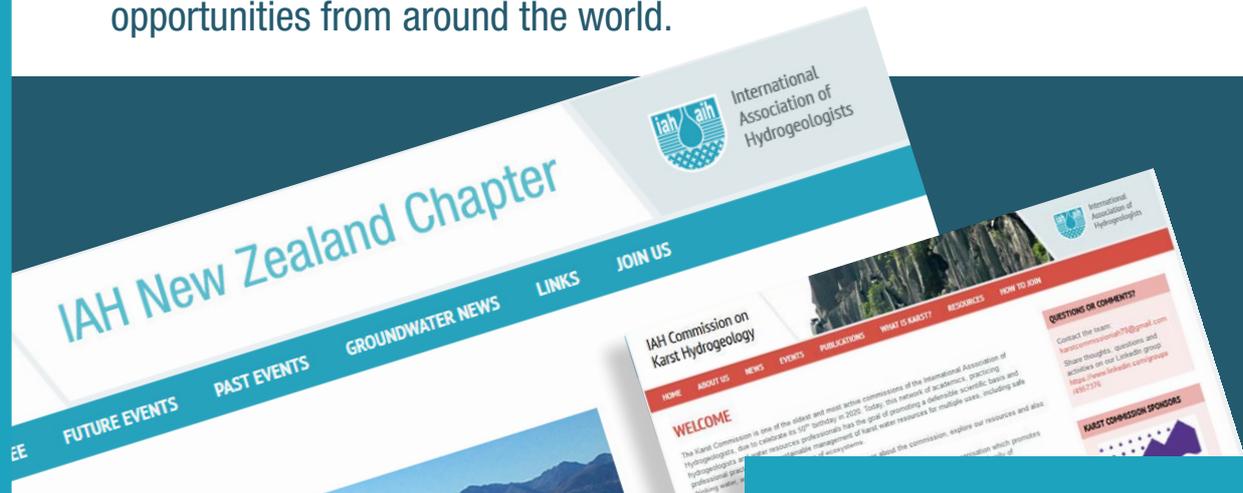
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Developing knowledge and resources

We published new education pages on the IAH website just before the end of the year, with various information about groundwater for professionals and those with more general interests. Our listings of events, degree courses and other training opportunities continue to grow. While this should not be taken as IAH endorsement, we aim to highlight a range of learning and networking opportunities from around the world.



Launched in 2018

Over the years we have made many recordings of keynote and other presentations at IAH congresses. These will be available on our new Vimeo channel, which went live in 2018. We also established more websites for commissions, networks and national chapters to communicate with their members and other interested specialists.

Degree course listing

<https://iah.org/knowledge/degree-courses>

Education area the general public, students, professionals and career development

<https://iah.org.uk/education>

Groundwater and Energy Commission

<https://gwenergy.iah.org/>

Japan national chapter

<https://japan.iah.org/>

Commission on Karst Hydrogeology

<https://karst.iah.org/>

New Zealand national chapter

<https://newzealand.iah.org/>

Poland national chapter

<https://poland.iah.org>

Urban Groundwater Network

<https://urbangw.iah.org/>

The Managed Aquifer Recharge Commission published papers from the ISMAR9 conference as a special issue of 'Sustainable Water Resources Management' (SWaRM). The papers can also be downloaded free in author submitted format from the IAH-MAR web site at <https://recharge.iah.org/thematic-issues-journals>.

There were many conferences held by national chapters, including Ireland, Egypt jointly with Iraq, Japan and Slovakia, and by commissions and networks. More focussed conferences took place on 'Groundwater and Global Change in the Western Mediterranean' (Spain), 'Hydrogeology of Chalk Aquifers' (France), 'Groundwater Vulnerability' (Poland) and 'KARST 2018: Expect the Unexpected' (Bosnia & Herzegovina).

The latest paper published in our Strategic Overview Series concerns mining enterprises and groundwater. A further paper, on groundwater and climate change, is proposed for 2019.

Hydrogeology Journal continues to be one of the premier earth sciences journals, with more than 270 000 downloads of articles in 2017. It continued to accept submissions from across the global hydrogeological community, in line with the aims of the journal. Around 53% of IAH members now receive online versions of HJ only, with 47% having both print and online versions.

A paperback edition of 'Groundwater Flow Understanding: From Local to Regional Scale', from our Selected Papers series, was published. A major new title in our International Contributions to Hydrogeology series was in preparation, scheduled for 2019 publication.

As part of a review for IAH's Forward Look plan we asked members what they predicted would be the most exciting and needed areas of research in groundwater science in the coming years. A review panel will make recommendations on how to take forward this important work.



Supporting our members

We have members in 129 countries and more than 40 national chapters. IAH national chapters can form the focus of the groundwater community in a country and provide great opportunities for meetings and networking. They provide professional and social benefits to our members and community, and also enable the Association to promote sound and sustainable groundwater use at a country and regional level. National chapter committees are run on a voluntary basis by members and we are hugely grateful for their efforts.

We continue to have interest from other countries in establishing national chapters, including, in 2018, Afghanistan, Ecuador, Lebanon, Malawi, Namibia, Nepal, Panama, Paraguay and Peru.

Sharing experience

We began our mentoring scheme for IAH members in 2012 with an initial trial, with guidance from a mentoring and career development expert. Following further calls for participation in 2015 and 2016 we reopened the scheme to new participants in 2018. We aim to support our members in three important areas:

- science – advice and technical knowledge on hydrogeological sciences;
- career options and pathways – guidance on job, interviews, training and networking
- practical experience – case studies, local knowledge of specific regions, assignments.

Many members have benefited from the scheme and we intend to seek feedback from past participants to help the scheme as part of our “Forward Look” plan

In our ‘Ask a Member’ column in the IAH newsletter, our experienced members offered their advice:

Judith Flügge, Germany:

Reach out to the public in the name of hydrogeology! When politicians make their decisions, make sure it's based on scientific facts.

Shrikant Limaye, India:

While collecting hydrogeological data, talk to the local people – the farmers, etc. Show interest in their problems. The local people often give valuable information from their experience.

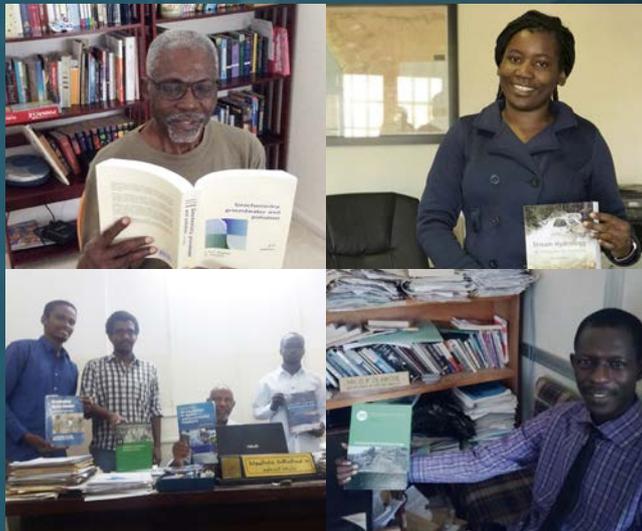
Daniela Ducci, Italy:

Hydrogeological research is very exciting, but we all have to keep in mind that a drop of drinking water for a child in disadvantaged countries with scarcity of water is more valuable than 100 papers published in prestigious journals...

BGID Free Book Scheme

IAH members in Sub-Saharan Africa were offered a free book from a list of 17 covering a range of hydrogeological matters, by the Burdon Groundwater Network for International Development (BGID). Nearly 150 books were sent, accounting for 60% of Sub-Saharan Africa members.

We were delighted to receive a flurry of messages of appreciation in our inboxes and on social media, confirming once again that this initiative is much appreciated.



Chapters share ideas in Korea

Members of our national chapters met at the IAH Annual Congress in Korea and swapped notes on benefits they offer members in their countries. We encourage chapters to think both about their own regions and also in sharing ideas and initiatives more widely so that all can benefit.

The Belgian National Chapter reported on their continued programme of meetings and evening courses, and their publication the 'groundwater book of Belgium'. The Spanish NC organise at least one course each year on modelling. The Nigerian and Indian chapters award certificates in recognition of members' activities, including hydrogeological research, applied hydrogeology, and for students.

The Italian NC include 2-yearly national conferences in the membership fee. They also pay the IAH membership fee for a number of former students as the increase from student to full fee was high for young hydrogeologists. This concern was shared by the Spanish NC. The Indian National Chapter also considered that the IAH membership fee more generally was expensive and would like to see this reduced. Council have asked the Secretariat to review membership fees with the aim of ensuring the different rates are fair.

Council meetings

The IAH Council, appointed by election by the membership every four years, is the Association's governing body. Some decisions are delegated to an Executive consisting of the President, Secretary General and two Vice Presidents (Finance and Membership; and Science and Programme). The Executive met at the end of February in Dorchester on Thames, in the UK and Budapest, Hungary, in June. The full Council meeting took place in September in Daejeon, South Korea.

Review of financial matters is a critical role for Council. A proposal was made for a small increase to the membership fee, which was agreed subsequently at the AGM. However, it was recognised that the subscription fee may discourage potential members in some countries. Council instructed the Secretariat to look at various aspects of membership fees. An updated and flexible scheme to attract more corporate supporters, which aims to reduce reliance on individual members' fees, was presented and Council agreed that this should now be implemented.

A review of our Forward Look strategic plan showed that many successes had been achieved since it was established in 2010. The website had been established and our Hydrogeology Journal had increased in quality. The Early Career Hydrogeologists' Network had been set up, a mentoring scheme was in place and membership numbers had risen considerably. Remaining priorities for the period until 2020 were to enhance alliances, influence policy and develop groundwater science, after which the next Council will consider longer term aims.

President Antonio Chambel informed Council of a proposal to the UN for a World Groundwater Year, to help raise the profile of groundwater with a wider, possibly more politically sensitive audience. We committed to work with other organisations such as IGRAC (International Water Resources Assessment Centre) and with GRIPP (Groundwater Solutions Initiative for Policy and Practice) to help develop this.

An update on progress with arrangements for the next congress in Malaga was presented and Council approved bids for congresses in Sao Paulo in 2020 and in Brussels in 2021. Council offered their congratulations to the organising teams.

Council recognised that for IAH, as for many organisations, congresses bring potential benefits and risks to its finances. IAH's Executive and Secretariat provide advice and support each congress organising committee. Formal agreements between the Executive and each organising committee encourage the sharing of congress income to help cover our costs (for example, travel costs for an Executive committee advisor and Secretariat staff costs). Where a profit is made, additional funds may also be made available for charitable purposes. Although not all congresses can make significant profits, Council agreed that all national chapters should still be considered as potential hosts for future congresses.



See a list of IAH's Council members here
<https://iah.org/about/council>

2018 IAH Annual General Meeting

The 2018 Annual General Meeting took place on 11th September 2018 and was attended by 86 IAH members and 14 non-members. Reports were provided on IAH finances and on progress with planned activities. Members voted to accept a small increase to the membership fee with no objections raised.

Our annual awards were also announced at the AGM, with the Presidents' Award (made by the current and immediate past Presidents) going to Dr Bridget Scanlon. The Distinguished Associate Award, presented to a person who is not a groundwater professional but has made an outstanding contribution to groundwater matters, went to Dr Tushaar Shah, economist and public policy specialist. Dr Peter Dillon was made an Honorary Member, in recognition of the exceptional services given to IAH over a very long period. Peter Ravenscroft received our Applied Hydrogeology Award, for his substantial and practical efforts concerning arsenic pollution of groundwater in developing countries.



GDPR

We implemented the European Union General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679 on data protection and privacy for all individuals in May 2018. The regulation relates to processing of personal data carried out by organisations operating within the EU and applies to private, professional or public life.

We collect data to help us understand the needs of our members and supporters, enabling us to provide our community with better services. This includes contact information, location, non-sensitive employment information, hydrogeology and other IAH interests, photographs. We do not keep bank details.

We hold additional non-sensitive information for our mentorship scheme, about professional experience and aspirations, and this data is given voluntarily to help us manage the scheme.

We hold names and email addresses for non-members, specifically where they have requested that we keep them in touch with IAH news and information. This most commonly happens by opting in via our eNews form on the website.

The GDPR provides the various rights for individuals:

- The right to be informed about how we collect and use data
- The right of access to personal information records and ensuring data we hold are correct
- The right for records to be deleted
- The right to object to or restrict processing of data
- The right to portability of data where we process data on the basis of consent or for the performance of a contract

As has always been the case, we are committed to managing data securely, including where this is held by national chapters, commissions and networks. More information can be found on our privacy policy at <https://iah.org/privacy-and-cookies-policy>.

International Engagement

IAH's effectiveness as a global organisation is enhanced by collaborating with others. The Association has built up a variety of partnerships, and is always looking for new opportunities for cooperation. In 2017 Council confirmed its continuing desire to develop further active links with a range of other organisations that share IAH's aims in promoting sustainable groundwater management.

IAH has a mix of ad hoc and scheduled engagement with many other groups. This approach helps us to build our influence with a wider community with a range of interests in groundwater, in line with IAH's mission and goals. It ensures a variety of networking and knowledge-sharing opportunities and helps to improve the profile of groundwater and the professional community. In turn, as the IAH makes its voice heard clearly, we hope to see an increase in the number of members worldwide. Particular issues that we try to influence include protection of drinking water resources, agriculture and irrigation, the wider environment and ecosystems.

Council members highlighted groundwater issues at important meetings during the year, including the World Water Forum in Brasilia, UNESCO events in New York and Perugia, World Water Week in Stockholm, UN Water in Vienna, and INBO in Rome. In addition, they contributed to several consultations and initiatives during 2018, including reports for the various Sustainable Development Indicators, KINDRA (Knowledge inventory for hydrogeological research) and, in the UK, on 'environmental principles and governance' in preparation for Brexit.

We received several requests for inputs to reviews by the United Nations on implementing Sustainable Development Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation for all people, including Water and Ecosystems, Water Quality Indicators, Monitoring Methodology, Water Stress, Water Use Efficiency and the overall synthesis report. Several IAH members were invited to take up roles on UN-Water Expert Groups, dealing with Agenda 2030, transboundary waters, water quality and waste-water, and climate change. Our input to considerations for the World Water Quality Assessment has greatly increased the profile in the report that is currently in preparation.

National Chapters, Commissions and Networks maintained their active links with many other organisations. For example, the Urban Groundwater Network co-operates actively with the International Water Association, International Association of Hydrological Science, Rural Water Supply Network (active across developing countries), UNESCO, UPGRO (Unlocking the Potential of Groundwater for the Poor) African research programme, and research programmes within South and South East Asia. In some countries our national chapters are part of other national groups, which gives IAH access to many more hydrogeologists and institutions. This is the case, for example, for our Brazilian Chapter, which is hosted by ABAS (Associação Brasileira de Águas Subterrâneas).



Financial performance reviewed

Overall there was a surplus of £13K over expenditure. There were some projected costs that were not incurred in 2018, which will now need to be budgeted for in 2019. This outturn compares with a budget surplus in 2017 of £8K and an overall loss of £11K following adjustment for foreign exchange changes. The balance at 31/12/2018 was £112,114, compared with a balance at 31/12/2017 of £98,906. IAH aims to retain around £100K as reserves, sufficient to cover approximately 4 months' expenditure.

The improved end of year balance resulted primarily from the postponement of a meeting of 'Hydrogeology Journal' Editors. This was rescheduled for 2019. Travel costs were below those originally projected for Council members, as they were able to obtain funding from other sources. In some cases they were also able to obtain more cost-effective flights. We also received significantly higher income from our journal publisher, Springer, for staff costs and royalties.

The Association aims to meet its charitable objectives in several ways. A number of funds have been established for this purpose, including the following:

Our Education and Development Fund is used for various educational initiatives to support IAH members. In 2018, a further paper in our Strategic Overview Series, on 'Mining Enterprises and Groundwater', was prepared at a cost of £2,082. Support was also provided to our early careers members for attendance at Congress.

IAH continues to use its Burdon Fund and Network as its main focus for supporting the work of groundwater professionals in the developing world. This has traditionally had a focus on Africa. A book distribution to IAH members in Sub-Saharan Africa was implemented in 2018 at a cost of £6,187. Our Asia Fund was used to provide support for a national conference for the Indian National Chapter (£550).

The Association maintains a sponsored membership scheme for professional colleagues who for financial or practical reasons find it difficult to pay their own fees. This helps them to receive scientific knowledge and maintain technical contact with recent developments in groundwater science. At the end of 2018 total membership of this scheme stood at 236 such members, with £6,000 provided from central funds to cover the sponsorship of 163 members. The remaining sponsored members were supported by National Chapters and individual IAH members.

Trading activities

These are carried out through the Association's subsidiary company World-Wide Groundwater Ltd. There was no activity during 2018; the company is, however, maintained at a small charge in the event of further requirements arising for its use.

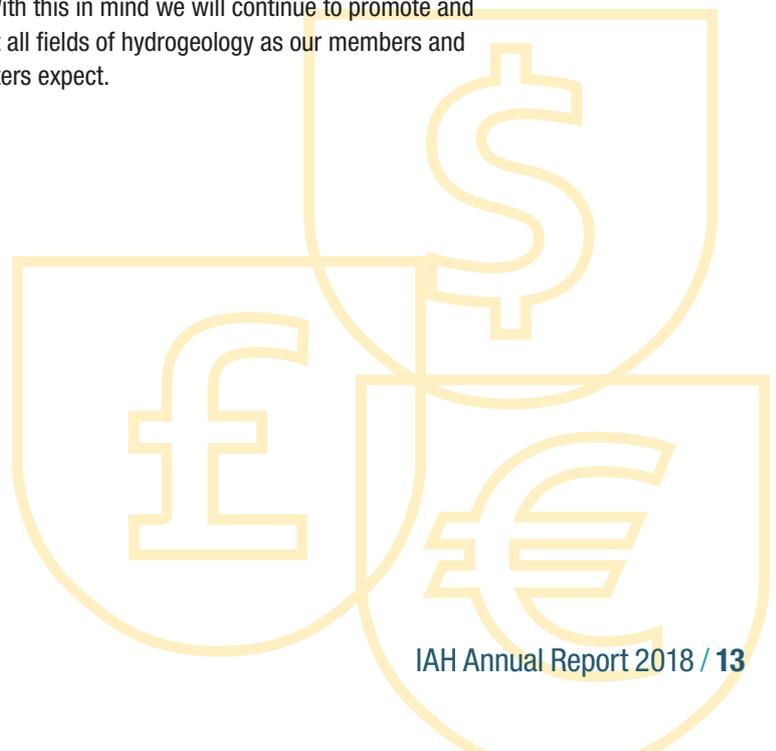
IAH and Brexit

For the IAH, being a UK based charity, with its income mainly being in euro and its expenditure mainly pounds sterling, the ongoing confusion over Brexit has great potential to affect our finances, as exchange rates react to each stage of this drama.

For those of you reading this report far from Europe, you may consider this to be a little local difficulty, though to quote António Guterres, UN Secretary-General:

"While global economic indicators remain largely favourable, they do not tell the whole story. The 'World Economic Situation and Prospects 2019' underscores that behind these numbers, one can discern a build-up in short-term risks that are threatening global growth prospects. More fundamentally, the report raises concerns over the sustainability of global economic growth in the face of rising financial, social and environmental challenges."

Despite these concerns, we consider that the IAH's finances remain sound. With continued careful financial management and hopefully ongoing growth in our membership and corporate support, we believe this will continue to be the case. With this in mind we will continue to promote and support all fields of hydrogeology as our members and supporters expect.



Statement of financial activities for the year ending 31 December 2018

Incoming resources		£	£	EUR(€)	USD(\$)
Membership fees			227,771	254,876	288,358
Contract and subvention income			37,264	41,698	47,176
Investment income			145	162	184
Donations			19,101	21,374	24,182
Royalties			26,700	29,877	33,802
Other income			6,483	7,254	8,207
Total resources received			317,464	355,242	401,909
Resources expended					
Member services	Salaries	23,846			
	Printing and publications	110,796			
	Hydrogeology Journal Editorial Office	15,160			
	Refunds to National Chapters and other grants	7,621			
	Other	20,648	178,071	199,261	225,438
Donations and grants payable			6,000	6,714	7,596
Support costs	Salaries	29,966			
	Travel and subsistence	42,263			
	Printing, stationery and database administration	10,862			
	Website development	2,160			
	Other	6,626	91,877	102,810	116,316
Management and administration of the charity	Salaries	19,208			
	Strategic review and training	2,142			
	Accountancy fee	2,182			
	Other		23,532	26,332	29,792
Finance costs (bank charges) and depreciation			4,729	5,292	5,987
Total resources expended			304,209	340,410	385,129
Net income/expenditure			13,255	14,832	16,781
Net foreign exchange gains/(losses)			(47)	(53)	(60)
Net incoming resources			13,208	14,780	16,721
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2018			98,906	110,676	125,215
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2018			112,114	125,456	141,936

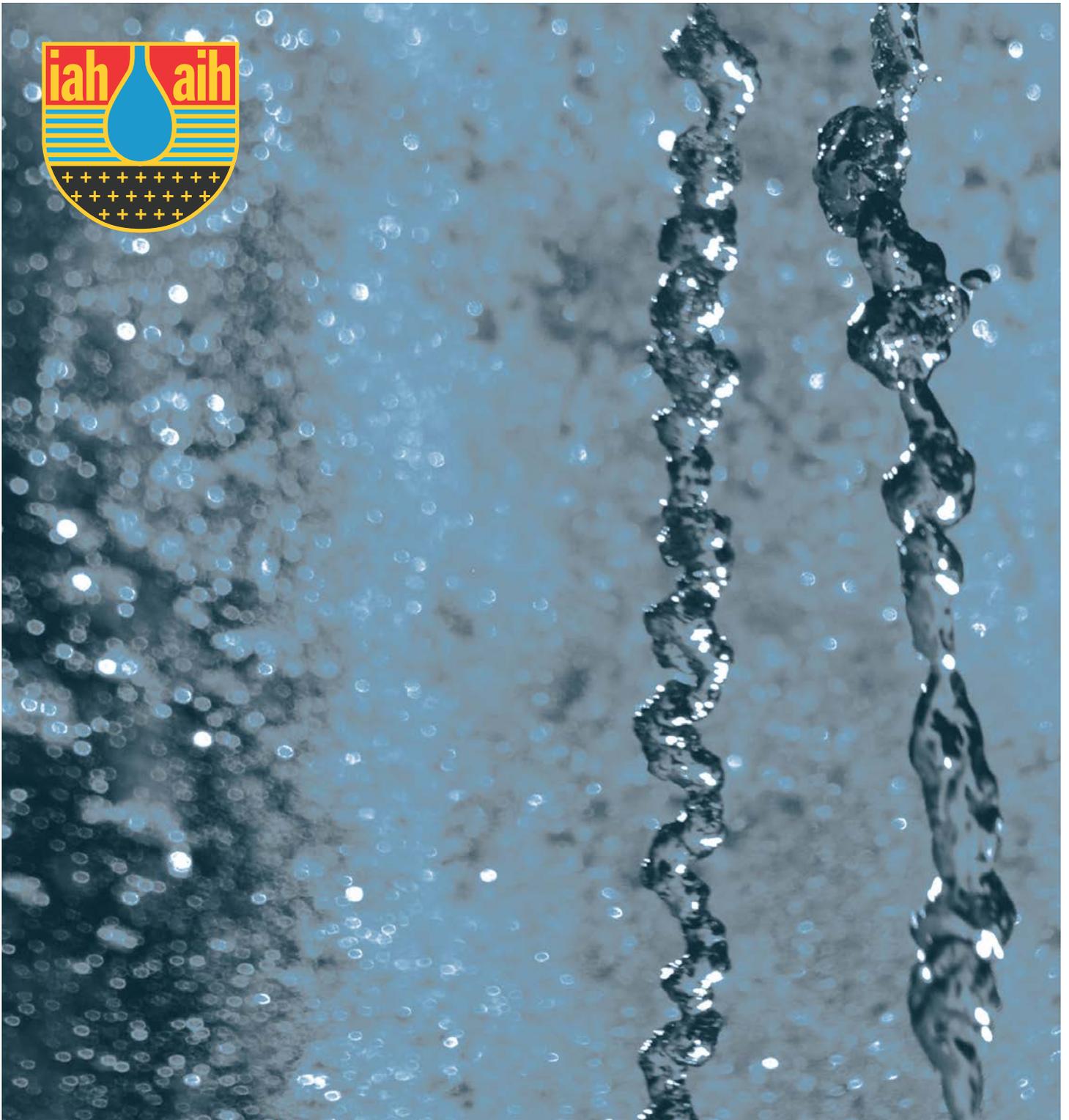
Balance sheet as at 31 December 2018

	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017
	£	£	EUR(€)	EUR(€)	USD(\$)	USD(\$)
Fixed assets	1	678	1	759	1	858
Current assets						
Cash and debtors due	129,147	112,034	144,515	125,366	163,500	141,835
Creditors						
Amounts due within one year	(17,034)	(13,806)	(19,061)	(15,449)	(21,565)	(17,478)
Net assets	112,114	98,906	125,456	110,676	141,936	125,215
Represented by:						
Unrestricted Funds	80,415	61,506	89,984	68,825	101,805	77,867
Burdon Fund	31,699	37,400	35,471	41,851	40,131	47,348
Funds	112,114	98,906	125,456	110,676	141,936	125,215

Statement by the Association's reporting accountant: These summarised accounts are extracted from the full financial statement of the Association which were subject to an unqualified report by Locke Williams Associates LLP, Blackthorn House, St Pauls Square, Birmingham, B3 1RL. The independent examiners have confirmed that the summarised accounts are consistent with the full annual financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report of International Association of Hydrogeologists for the year ended 31 December 2018. The annual report and accounts were adopted by the IAH Council on 24 September 2019 and were submitted to the Charity Commission and the Registrar of Companies.

These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to gain a complete understanding of the financial affairs of the Association. For further information, the full accounts, the reporting accountants' report on those accounts and the trustees' annual report should be consulted; copies of these can be obtained from the IAH International Office or downloaded from www.iah.org.

Throughout this report the conversion from sterling (£) to euro (€) is at the rate of €1.119 = £1 and to US dollar (\$) is at the rate of \$1.266 = £1.



International Association of Hydrogeologists

the World-wide Groundwater Organisation

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