

First Announcement Brochure

2nd ISLANDS WATER CONGRESS

Montego Bay, Jamaica, 9-11 December 2026

**“Resilient Islands: Securing Water for Sustainable
Development in a Changing World”**



Hosted and organised by:
Water Resources Authority of Jamaica
& International Water Resources Association

www.islandswatercongress.org | islands.congress@iwra.org

WELCOME TO THE 2nd ISLANDS WATER CONGRESS



Welcome to the International Water Resources Association's (IWRA) 2nd Islands Water Congress, a high-level event convened in collaboration with a different island host every two years. For the second edition, IWRA is proud to partner with the Water Resources Authority of Jamaica as we gather in Montego Bay, Jamaica from 9 - 11 December 2026.

WELCOME MESSAGES

Yuanyuan Li, IWRA President

On behalf of the International Water Resources Association (IWRA), I am honoured to invite you to the 2nd Islands Water Congress, to be held in Jamaica from 9 to 11 December 2026. Under the theme "Resilient Islands: Securing Water for Sustainable Development in a Changing World", this second edition builds on the strong foundations of the inaugural Congress. In 2024, the first Islands Water Congress brought together 81 speakers from over 40 countries and islands, with nearly 200 participants across 30 sessions—affirming both the urgency of water-related challenges facing small island developing States and island communities, and the strength of island leadership in advancing resilience, innovation and cooperation.

An island lens—attentive to the distinct environmental, social and economic contexts of island states and communities—underscores the need for adaptive strategies and innovative solutions to manage water resources amid escalating global pressures, foremost among them climate change. This second Congress reinforces the imperative to safeguard fragile island environments while meeting growing societal and ecological demands.

Convened in close succession to the 2026 United Nations Water Conference, the 2nd Islands Water Congress offers a timely platform to translate global commitments into focused dialogue and practical collaboration tailored to island contexts, strengthening coherence between international policy processes and on-the-ground action.



For more than five decades, IWRA has worked to connect science, policy and practice in support of sustainable water resources management. Through the Islands Water Congress, IWRA reaffirms its commitment to inclusive, knowledge-based cooperation that brings together governments, academia, practitioners, the private sector, civil society and communities to advance resilient and equitable water futures for island regions worldwide.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Jamaica, and to the Water Resources Authority of Jamaica, for their leadership and partnership in hosting this Congress. Policymakers, researchers, water professionals, development partners and community leaders are warmly encouraged to register and submit contributions. By participating, you will help shape actionable solutions, share knowledge and strengthen partnerships that islands need to thrive in a changing world.

We look forward to welcoming you to Jamaica in December 2026.

Geoffrey Marshall, ISC Co-chair

It is my privilege to welcome you to Montego Bay, Jamaica for the IWRA's 2nd Islands Water Congress. Known as the "Land of Wood and Water" and surrounded by the Caribbean Sea, Jamaica is an island nation with a significant global influence belied by its small size. Indeed, Jamaicans are characterised by our resilience amidst varied challenges, not least of which are water resources challenges.

While we meet in the popular tourist resort of Montego Bay, the beautiful vistas and the "sun, sand and fun" should not over-shadow the very real risks of climate hazards. The impacts of Hurricane Melissa which struck Western Jamaica in October 2025 are still felt and visible today. These impacts give urgency to the Congress's theme: "Resilient Islands: Securing Water for Sustainable Development in a Changing World." As we collaborate, dialogue, and seek consensus on the best methods to address our unique and common water challenges as islands, I encourage you to prepare for an unforgettable and enriching experience.

I look forward to your presence and input towards a

Francesco Sindico, ISC Co-chair

I would like to add my warm welcome to the 2nd Islands Water Congress. In Jamaica we will continue where we left off in the Faroe Islands in 2024. We will bring together participants interested not only in sharing experiences and expertise in freshwater related matters relevant for islands, but also interested in making an impact and leaving a legacy. This is the spirit of the IWRA Islands Water Congress series, and we are delighted to work closely with the Water Resources Authority of Jamaica to continue moving in this direction.



productive, enjoyable and impactful 2nd Islands Water Congress, building upon the success of the 1st Congress in the Faroe Islands. See you in December 2026!



The Faroe Islands 2024 Congress led to the establishment of the IWRA Islands and Water Task Force, and also supported the Faroe Islands and Malta in the development of the MoU "Establishing the Torshavn Dialogue on the Sustainable Management of Freshwater on Islands". In the Jamaica 2026 Congress, we will focus on Jamaica's resilience in relation to how it prepared for, coped with and survived Melissa, the strongest hurricane to have ever hit the island to date. We will look at the Melissa story from a freshwater lens, not only in relation to infrastructure, but also governance and culture.

The 2nd IWRA Islands Water Congress provides a unique opportunity for islands to tell their own "Melissa" story and share it with a wider policy relevant audience. IWRA, in collaboration with its partners, will share the outcomes of the 2nd IWRA Islands Water Congress to a wide range of international stakeholders in forums like the 2027 World Water Forum and the XX IWRA World Water Congress. We will also work closely with our local partners, and the Water Resources Authority of Jamaica, to ensure that the legacy of the Congress lives on in Jamaica and in the wider Caribbean.

CONGRESS ORGANISERS



International Water Resources Association

The International Water Resources Association (IWRA) is an international, non-governmental, member-based organisation established in 1971. It is widely recognised as a leading global forum at the interface of water science and policy, advancing understanding and practice in water resources management worldwide.

IWRA's mission is to build and strengthen partnerships that address water resource challenges and priorities at the local, national, and international level. It does so by bringing together the global water community from across geographies, sectors and disciplines to improve water outcomes for all.

The Association promotes water education and research grounded in sound scientific, social, and ethical principles. IWRA seeks to continuously improve water-related decision-making by supporting a more integrated understanding of the physical, ecological, chemical, cultural, social, and economic dimensions of water.

Water Resources Authority of Jamaica

The Water Resources Authority of Jamaica (WRA) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Water, Environment and Climate Change. Its primary mandate is to regulate, allocate, conserve, and manage the nation's water resources.

The WRA is responsible for obtaining, compiling, storing, and disseminating data concerning Jamaica's water resources, preparing and updating the Water Resources Master Plan, regulating and allocating the use of all freshwater resources, and providing technical hydrological assistance to government departments and agencies.

The WRA's core activities include hydrologic data collection, compilation, and analysis; water resources investigation, assessment, and planning; water resources allocation, and environmental monitoring and impact assessment.

Address:
22 rue de Madrid
Paris 75008
France

Contact:
+33-6-44-20-57-53
islands.congress@iwra.org
www.iwra.org

Address:
Hope Complex, Hope
Gardens
PO Box 91, Kingston 7
St. Andrew, Jamaica

Contact:
1-876-927-0077
info@wra.gov.jm
www.wra.gov.jm

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE



Francesco Sindico
ISC Co-Chair
Professor in Law
*University of Strathclyde,
Glasgow, Scotland*



Geoffrey Marshall
ISC Co-Chair
Deputy Managing Director
*Water Resources Authority of
Jamaica*



Kamana Beamer
Director of Kamakakūokalani Center
for Hawaiian Studies
University of Hawaii, Hawaii, USA



Laurayne Lucky
Executive Director
*Caribbean Water and Wastewater
Association, Trinidad*



Oluva Eidsegaard
Geologist
*Jarðfeingi (Faroese Geological Survey),
Faroe Islands*



Debbie-Ann Gordon-Smith
Lecturer in the Faculty of Science
and Technology
*University of the West Indies
Mona Campus, Jamaica*



Laurie Brinklow
Assistant Professor and
Co-ordinator of Master of Arts
*University of Prince Edward Island,
Canada*



Kate Brown
Executive Director
*Global Island Partnership,
New Zealand*



Christopher Husbands
Former General Manager
*National Water and Sewerage
Authority, Grenada*



Noelia Cruz Perez
Assistant Professor
*University of La Laguna
Canary Islands, Spain*



Nia Ramsoogoon
Chief Hydrologist
*Water Resources Authority of
Jamaica*



Michael Taylor
Lecturer in the Faculty of Science
and Technology
*University of the West Indies
Mona Campus, Jamaica*



Ronald Roopnarine
Lecturer in the Faculty of Food
and Agriculture
*University of the West Indies
St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad*



Shaneica Lester
Lecturer in the Faculty of Geography
and Geology
*University of the West Indies
Mona Campus, Jamaica*



Tiedi Guy
Monitoring Officer
*Ministry of Water, Environment
and Climate Change, Jamaica*



Andrea Spencer
Director of Water Policy
*Ministry of Water, Environment and
Climate Change, Jamaica*

CONGRESS THEMES AND SUB-THEMES

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Resilient Islands: Securing Water for Sustainable Development in a Changing World

Accordingly, the Congress focuses on resilience, water security, water governance and sustainable development under the following sub-themes:

1. Technology and Innovations for Water Resources Monitoring and Management in Islands (Flow and Recharge of Surface Water and Groundwater)
2. Water Quality, Pollution Control & Freshwater Ecosystems Protection
3. Sustainable Water Financing Models
4. Advancing Non-Revenue Water (NRW) Reduction Strategies
5. Community Engagement & Policy Frameworks for Sustainable Water Use
6. The Water-Energy-Food-Tourism Nexus
7. Climate Resilience & Water Security
8. Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Adaptive Water Governance in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
9. Circular Water Management, Wastewater and Resource Recovery

Every two years the IWRA organises the event with a different host island. In 2024, the first hosts were the Faroe Islands, and in 2026, the second host is Jamaica. The event also focuses on a concrete issue that is relevant for that island, but equally of interest to a global island audience.

The 2nd IWRA Islands Water Congress is also an opportunity to discuss how Jamaica prepared for, responded to, and is undertaking long-term recovery and adaptation following the unprecedented impacts of Hurricane Melissa, a Category 5 event that severely disrupted the country's social, economic, and environmental systems.

Climate change, increasing climate variability, and the growing frequency of extremes are generating complex and far-reaching impacts on island systems. Rising sea levels, saltwater intrusion, prolonged droughts, declining water quality, and altered groundwater recharge are reshaping the way islands manage their water resources. With possible scenarios of mean global temperatures exceeding 1.5 °C, freshwater scarcity may increasingly act as a binding constraint on development and a catalyst for social, economic, and ecological change. A changing climate along with changes in demand dynamics has made water security a pressing concern, demanding innovative and adaptive solutions.

The Congress explores the water dimension of Hurricane Melissa, considering not only the performance and resilience of freshwater infrastructure, but also how water governance systems anticipated, coped with, and are adapting to the aftermath of the event. The 2nd IWRA Islands and Water Congress is a platform to explore and compare how other island nations and communities have dealt and are preparing themselves to deal with hurricanes and other climate related hazards, from a water perspective.

Against this background, the 2nd IWRA Islands Water Congress explores how islands are strengthening resilience through integrated water resource management (IWRM) and Integrated water and wastewater management (IWWM), climate-smart infrastructure, improved monitoring and data management, and nature-based/ecosystem-based solutions.

This specific focus allows the Congress to examine how climate change induced natural disasters have affected freshwater resources, water services, and water governance across other island contexts.



TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Time	Monday 7 December	Tuesday 8 December	Wednesday 9 December	Thursday 10 December	Friday 11 December
Morning		Field Trips:	Opening Ceremony, Plenary	Plenary Sessions	Plenary Sessions
Mid-Morning	High-Level Meetings (by invitation only) Exhibitors Set-Up	1. Black River/Appleton Estates	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions
Afternoon		2. Roaring River H.E.P./Dunns River Falls	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	High-Level Round Table
		3. MAR Facility/Bob Marley Museum	Plenary Sessions		Closing Ceremony
Evening			Ice-breaker 17.00- 18.00	Grand Gala Dinner 19.00- 21.00	Unofficial Lyme*
	Exhibitions (all day)				

*In the Caribbean, a 'Lyme' is a relaxed social gathering, where people come together to connect, chat, and enjoy each other's company in an informal setting.

Monday - Tuesday, 7-8 December 2026

Possibility of meetings or workshops in order to collaborate on the Memorandum of Understanding Memorandum of Understanding to establish the *Tórshavn Dialogue on Sustainable Freshwater Management on Islands* from the 1st Islands Water Congress, or other topics as determined by the ISC and IWRA.



Cultural events (left) and special sessions (bottom) at the 1st Islands Water Congress

PRESENTATIONS, SPECIAL SESSIONS & CREATIVE PROPOSALS

Presentation Proposal

We invite individual presentation proposals that address one or more of the nine Congress sub-themes. Presentation proposals should be written in English, and include an abstract of no more than 300 words, clearly stating the research objectives, methodology, key findings/expected outcomes, and relevance to islands water management.

Please indicate if you wish your paper to be considered for publication. We plan to publish special issues from the Congress with *Water International* and the *Island Studies Journal*.

Special Session Proposal

We also welcome Special Session proposals from organisations or groups that wish to host a session or workshop that presents their work on subjects related to the theme and/or sub-themes of the 2nd Islands Water Congress. Special Session formats can vary from panel discussions to workshops, and innovative formats are welcome. The Special Sessions are part of the main programme, and are open to all Congress attendees. A Special Session is typically 90 minutes long, and must be aligned with at least one of the Congress sub-themes.

Special Session proposals must be prepared in English, and should clearly describe in no more than 700 words the proposed programme, list of presenters, name(s) of lead and partner organization(s), and are expected to include a brief statement on the expected impact resulting from the special session. In addition, special sessions organisers and/or participants may be invited to contribute to the practical tools jointly agreed with Jamaican key stakeholders.

Creative Proposal

We also invite proposals for innovative and creative sessions that address one or more of the Congress themes listed above. Sessions can include poetry readings, exhibitions, photography, performances of any kind and interactive activities. Creative proposals should be written in English, and include an abstract of no more than 300 words.

Please indicate if you wish your creative session to result in an output, which can be featured on the Congress Website.

Timeline

30 April 2026 (now extended to 25 May 2026) - Deadline for proposal submissions

15 June 2026 - Announcement of accepted proposals

31 August 2026 - Deadline for registration of accepted speakers

[Click here to submit a proposal.](#)

REGISTRATION FEES AND KEY DATES

Pricing:

Registration	Category	Early-bird registration (ends 30 Jun 2026)	Regular registration (1 Jul - 31 Aug 2026)	Late registration (1 Sep - 23 Nov 2026)
Full registration	IWRA Gold Member Developed Country	\$400 USD	\$500 USD	\$600 USD
Full registration	Regular Attendee Developed Country	\$450 USD	\$550 USD	\$650 USD
Full registration	IWRA Gold Member Developing Country	\$300 USD	\$350 USD	\$400 USD
Full registration	Regular Attendee Developing Country	\$350 USD	\$400 USD	\$450 USD
Full registration	Student	\$100 USD	\$150 USD	\$300 USD

* If you are a student or from a developing country, please contact us to receive a special registration code – send an email to info@wra.gov.jm

Timeline:

- Early-bird registration ends 30 June 2026
- 1 July - 31 August 2026 - Regular registration
- 1 Sep - 23 Nov 2026 - Late registration
- 9-11 Dec 2026 - On-site registration of \$300 USD per day

Important Information:

- 31 August 2026 - Deadline for registration of accepted speakers
- 23 Nov 2026 - Online registration ends
- Online registration includes access to Welcome Reception and Grand Gala Dinner
- On-site registration does not include access to Welcome Reception and Grand Gala Dinner



SPONSORSHIP

IWRA's 2nd Islands Water Congress provides an excellent platform to elevate your organisation's visibility as an official sponsor. The guide below outlines three packages for your consideration. Select the bundle that best suits the needs of your organisation or institution.

Please contact us if you have other sponsorship and benefit requirements at info@wra.gov.jm

Gold Sponsor

- 4 Registration Tickets
- Visible logo at presentations
- Advert options on-site within agreed setting
- Advertise Congress bag
- Large logo on Congress bag
- Large logo on Programmes
- Large logo on Abstract-booklet
- Large logo on Congress website

Silver Sponsor

- 2 Registration Tickets
- Advertise Congress bag
- Medium logo on Congress bag
- Medium logo on Programmes
- Medium logo on Abstract-booklet
- Medium logo on Congress website

Bronze Sponsor

- 1 Registration Ticket
- Small logo on Congress bag
- Small logo on Programmes
- Small logo on Abstract-booklet
- Small logo on Congress website

Alternative sponsorship and exhibitor options are available, including in-kind contributions such as sponsoring food, beverages, or other relevant items. If you have a great idea, please contact us!





INTERNATIONAL WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION'S
2nd ISLANDS WATER CONGRESS
MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA 9-11 DECEMBER 2026

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO
WELCOMING YOU IN JAMAICA!**



GET IN TOUCH

Website: www.islandswatercongress.org

Email: islands.congress@iwra.org



@IslandsWaterCongress



IWRA

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