

**Call for Proposals**

# **2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.islandswatercongress.org) | [islands.congress@iwra.org](mailto:islands.congress@iwra.org)

# CONGRESS THEMES AND SUB-THEMES

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

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.

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.

Against this background, the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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.



# CONGRESS THEMES AND SUB-THEMES

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



# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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** - 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.](#)



INTERNATIONAL WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION'S  
**2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.islandswatercongress.org)

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International  
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Water  
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