



Second Announcement Brochure

2nd ISLANDS WATER CONGRESS

Montego Bay, Jamaica | 27-29 January 2027

“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 MESSAGE

Hon. Matthew Samuda, M.P.
Minister of Water, Environment and Climate Change, Jamaica



On behalf of the Government and people of Jamaica, I extend a warm welcome to all delegates, researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders gathered for the 2nd Islands Water Congress.

It is an honour for Jamaica to host this congress in Montego Bay, a city whose natural beauty reflects the very resources we have come together to protect. Island and coastal nations share a set of realities that few others fully appreciate: limited freshwater sources, growing exposure to droughts and storms, and infrastructure that must serve populations concentrated along vulnerable coastlines. Here in Jamaica, approximately 70 percent of our population lives along the coast or within five kilometres of it. These concerns shape how we plan, how we invest, and how we prepare for the years ahead.

Jamaica continues to invest in strengthening our water infrastructure and improving how this resource is managed, even as we acknowledge that work remains. These are challenges no island nation can solve in isolation. What makes this congress valuable is the chance to bring together people confronting similar problems in different settings, so that a solution tested in one place can inform the response in another.

Over the coming days, I encourage every participant to engage openly, share what has worked and what has not, and leave with practical ideas that can be carried home and put into action. The friendships and partnerships formed at gatherings like this one often prove just as valuable as the technical solutions discussed in the sessions themselves.

To our visitors, welcome to Jamaica. I hope you find time beyond the conference room to experience the warmth of our people and the beauty of this island, and that you leave with both new knowledge and a renewed sense of possibility for the work ahead.

I wish you a productive and successful congress.

Honourable Matthew Samuda, MP
Minister of Water, Environment and Climate Change

ABOUT THE 2nd ISLANDS WATER CONGRESS

The Islands Water Congress is a high-level international forum convened by the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) in partnership with host island institutions. Held every two years, the Congress brings together island policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and community leaders to address freshwater challenges and opportunities unique to island contexts.

The first edition of the Congress took place in Tórshavn, Faroe Islands, from 4 to 6 September 2024, in collaboration with the Faroese Geological Survey. The second edition takes place in Jamaica from 27 – 29 January 2027, in partnership with the Water Resources Authority of Jamaica (WRA).

By rotating across island regions, the Islands Water Congress builds a growing body of shared learning grounded in island realities. This evolving knowledge base supports the development of context-specific freshwater solutions while also generating insights and good practices that can be applied to non-island settings, ensuring that island perspectives meaningfully inform global water policy and practice.

Islands are at the frontline of freshwater stress. Climate change, limited resources, and fragile ecosystems are intensifying pressures that demand tailored, island-specific responses. Additionally, while all islands share a common “islandness,” each island is shaped by distinct geographical, socio-economic, and governance realities that influence how freshwater is sourced, managed, and protected. As a result, island water challenges are often inappropriately tackled by frameworks developed for continental settings.

At the global level, water challenges are increasingly addressed through frameworks such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals and other international processes. Yet the specific freshwater concerns of islands remain underrepresented in these discussions.

Against this backdrop, the Islands Water Congress provides a dedicated, recurring forum to elevate island perspectives, enabling the exchange of island-led knowledge, strengthening context-specific solutions, and ensuring that island freshwater realities meaningfully inform global water policy and practice.



CONGRESS THEME

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

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 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.

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 dis-

rupted 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 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.

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.

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

CONGRESS SUB-THEMES

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



WHY ATTEND?

To be part of something different that will make a real impact to the Jamaica, other islands and non-island nations and communities. This includes:

WATER MANAGERS + TECHNICIANS

- Connect with professionals, experts, and peers in the water industry.
- Share experiences, challenges, and best practices.
- Learn about cutting-edge technologies, innovations, and research in water management.
- Gain insights into emerging trends, regulations, and industry standards.
- Explore case studies and success stories that could offer ideas for addressing your own challenges.
- Get inspired by success stories, innovative projects, and advancements in water management.
- Understand global water challenges, conservation efforts, and the importance of sustainable water management.

PRIVATE SECTOR

- Gain valuable insights into industry trends, market demands, and emerging technologies.
- Explore new business opportunities, partnerships, and joint ventures.
- Stay informed about regulatory changes that may affect your business operations.
- Establish connections with decision-makers, industry influencers, and experts.
- Build relationships that could lead to business growth and partnerships.
- Participate in panel discussions, workshops, and presentations to establish your company as a leader.

POLICY MAKERS

- Learn about successful policies and strategies implemented in different regions.
- Exchange ideas, experiences, and best practices with peers from around the world.
- Gain insights into public perspectives, concerns, and priorities regarding water issues.
- Use this information to better communicate policies and engage with voters.
- Use your platform to drive positive change in water management practices.

ACADEMIA + RESEARCH

- Stay updated on the latest research trends, findings, and advancements in water-related studies.
- Establish collaborations, partnerships, and potential research projects.
- Attend workshops, training sessions, and seminars to enhance your research skills and methodologies.
- Contribute to global efforts in addressing water-related challenges.

PLENARY SESSIONS

International Water Governance: A SIDS and Caribbean Perspective

This session will bring together speakers from the Alliance of Small Island States, Caribbean Water Professionals, United Nations and other island stakeholders to discuss how to increase the influence of SIDS in the international water governance arena. The session will also be an opportunity to hear from the theme rapporteurs as a way to highlight key Congress conclusions.

From Grenada to Jamaica and towards Türkiye

Building on the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Faroe Islands and Prince Edwards Island at the 1st Islands Water Congress, this session will introduce Caribbean viewpoints of sustainable freshwater management practices to further strengthen the Torshavn Dialogue. The session will feature national, regional, and international panelists who will provide expert viewpoints as island water leaders to prepare for a stronger Islands Water Position at the next World Water Congress in Türkiye.

Resilience, Loss, Damage and Melissa

Hurricane Melissa's catastrophic passage through Jamaica exposed the full weight of what climate-driven disasters mean for island water systems and the communities that depend on them. This plenary session confronts the realities of resilience, loss, and damage in the aftermath of an unprecedented storm, examining how water infrastructure, supply systems, and communities can recover, adapt, and prepare for a future of intensifying hazards. The keynote speaker will share insights on the lessons that must inform how islands build lasting resilience against the storms yet to come.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Welcome Reception: A Taste of Jamaica

Kick off the Congress with a warm Jamaican welcome in a relaxed tropical setting. The Welcome Reception offers participants the chance to meet fellow delegates, reconnect with colleagues and make new connections over drinks, music and light entertainment. It's an informal and lively start to the Congress, setting the scene for the days ahead.

Business and Water: An Island Perspective

As islands face the direct impacts of climate change on water resources, sustainable water management has moved from an environmental concern into a core business imperative. This high-level plenary session explores how private sector leaders are navigating unique island vulnerabilities, optimizing resource efficiency, and investing in resilient water infrastructure. The panelists will share innovative strategies and collaborative solutions used by their entities that both safeguard freshwater resources and promote long-term economic stability.

Climate and Water Nexus

As rainfall patterns grow more erratic and sea levels rise, islands are confronting the reality that climate change and water security are inseparable challenges. This plenary session features a leading voice in climate science and water resource management to discuss the compounding pressures facing island freshwater systems from climatic impacts, and offers practical pathways for building adaptive capacity and safeguarding water security in an era of accelerating environmental change.

Water and Climate Nexus

Securing water for sustainable development begins with a clear understanding of the resource itself, how rainfall, rivers, and groundwater systems behave, and how they respond to a changing climate. This plenary session explores the hydrological foundations of island water resources, examining what current science tells us about water availability, quality, and reliability across diverse island settings. The keynote speaker will share insights from ongoing hydrological research, highlighting what a deeper understanding of island water systems means for building resilience and securing water for generations to come.

Grand Gala Dinner: Jamaican Rythms and Flavour

An evening dedicated to the flavours, rhythms and traditions of Jamaica. The Grand Gala will showcase Jamaican cuisine alongside reggae, live music and vibrant cultural performances, including traditional entertainment. The evening will bring Congress participants together in a vibrant setting to celebrate, connect and experience Jamaican hospitality.



TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 26. JANUARY 2027					
08.00 - 17.00	Black River/Appleton Estates Field Trip, St. Elizabeth		Roaring River H.E.P/ Dunn's River Field Trip, St. Ann	Managed Artificial Recharge/Bob Marley Museum Field Trip, St. Catherine & Kingston	
Sessions	Parallel Session #1	Parallel Session #2	Parallel Session #3	Special Session	Special Session
WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY 2027					
07.00 - 09.00	Registration and coffee				
09.00 - 10.00	Opening Ceremony				
10.00 - 10.30	Break				
10.30 - 11.30	Plenary Session- Climate and Water Nexus (Keynote Speaker: Dr. Michael Taylor)				
11.30 - 12.30	Plenary Session- Water and Climate Nexus (Keynote Speaker: Dr. Bayani Cardenas)				
12.30 - 14.00	Lunch & Creative Session				
14.00 - 15.30	Community Engagement & Policy Frameworks for Sustainable Water Use	Climate Resilience & Water Security	Sustainable Water Financing Models	Special Session #1	Special Session #2
15.30 - 16.00	Coffee Break				
16.00 - 17.30	Community Engagement & Policy Frameworks for Sustainable Water Use	Climate Resilience & Water Security	Circular Water Management	Special Session #3	Special Session #4
18.00 - 20.00	Welcome Reception (Location TBD)				
THURSDAY 28 JANUARY 2027					
9.00 - 10.30	Plenary Session - International Water Governance: A SIDS and Caribbean Perspective				
11.00 - 12:30	IWRM and Adaptative Water Governance	Climate Resilience & Water Security	Technology and Innovations for Water Resources	Special Session #5	Special Session #6
12.30 - 14.00	Lunch & Creative Session				
14.00 - 15:30	IWRM and Adaptative Water Governance	Climate Resilience & Water Security	Technology and Innovations for Water Resources	Special Session #7	Special Session #8
15.30 - 16.00	Coffee Break				
16.00 - 17:30	Water Quality, Pollution Control & Freshwater Ecosystems	Climate Resilience & Water Security	Technology and Innovations for Water Resources	Special Session #9	Special Session #10
19.00 - 21.00	GRAND GALA DINNER (Location: TBD)				
FRIDAY 29 JANUARY 2027					
9.00 - 9.45	Plenary Session - Resilience, Loss & Damage, and Hurricane Melissa (Keynote Speaker: Kate Brown)				
9.45 - 10:30	HURRICANE MELISSA FEATURED PRESENTATION				
10.30 - 11.00	Break				
11.00 - 12:30	Water Quality, Pollution Control & Freshwater Ecosystems	Climate Resilience & Water Security / Circular Water Management	Water-Energy-Tourism Nexus	Special Session #11	Special Session #12
12.30 - 14.00	Lunch & Creative Session				
14.00 - 15.00	Plenary Session: Business and Water: An Island Perspective				
15.00 - 16.00	Plenary Session From Greneda to Jamaica and towards Türkiye				
16.00 - 16.30	Coffee Break				
16.30 - 17.30	Closing Ceremony				
19.00 - 21.00	UNOFFICIAL "LYME" (Location: TBD)				

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Kate Brown
Executive Director
Global Island Partnership,
New Zealand



M. Bayani Cardenas
Professor of Hydrology
Jackson School of Geological Sciences
University of Texas at Austin, Texas, USA



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

HIGH-LEVEL SPEAKERS



John Bowleg
Water & Environmental Manager
AEES Consulting, Bahamas



Shaneica Lester
Lecturer
Faculty of Science and Technology
University of the West Indies
Mona Campus, Jamaica



Laurayne Lucky
Executive Director
Caribbean Water and Wastewater
Association, Trinidad



Makane Moïse Mbengue
Professor of International Law
Faculty of Law, University of Geneva
Switzerland



Kirstin McCarthy
Corporate Director, Sustainability
Sandals Resorts International
Jamaica



Assela Pathirana
Lecturer
IHE Delft Institute for Water Education
The Netherlands



Natasha Ramkirpal
Water Security Strategist
Manufacturing Circle
South Africa



Matthew Samuda
Minister of Water, Environment and
Climate Change
Jamaica



Christian Severin
Senior Water Specialist
World Bank
Jamaica



Emily Wilkinson
Global Risks and Resilience Director
Resilient and Sustainable Islands Initiative
(RESI)
United Kingdom



Nayana Williams
Chief Executive Officer
Lifespan Company Limited
Jamaica

CONGRESS HOSTS



Yuanyuan Li
President
International Water Resources
Association

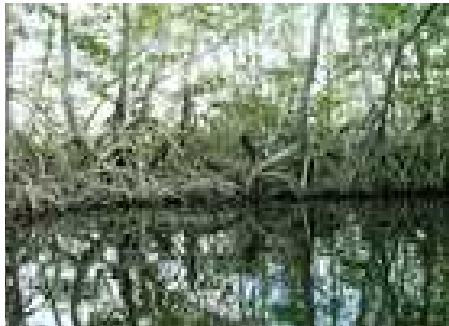


Peter Clarke
Managing Director
Water Resources Authority of
Jamaica

FIELD TOURS

*All tours include access to sites, transportation and lunch. All tours are at the participant's own risk.

BLACK RIVER TOUR (\$110 USD p.p.)

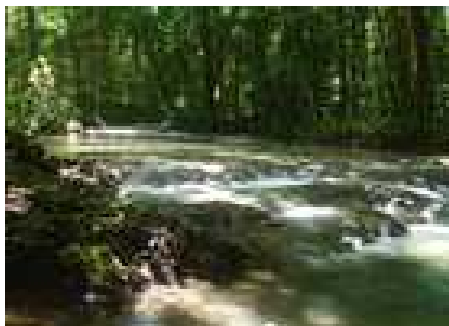


The Black River is one of Jamaica's longest rivers, and plays a crucial role in the island's ecology and economy. The Black River Basin was also ground-zero for the landfall of Hurricane Melissa on October 28, 2025, and thus presents a direct example of Jamaica's resilience after climatic catastrophes.

Featured stops: Black River Hydroelectric Dam and Power Plant, Water Resources Authority Stream Gauge Stations at Appelton, Newton and Lacovia, National Irrigation Commission Pedro Plains Irrigation Project Site.

Cultural Tour: Appleton Estate Rum Experience: a journey through the history of rum in Jamaica.

ROARING RIVER/DUNN'S RIVER TOUR (\$110 USD p.p.)



The Roaring River, Cave River and Dunn's River are all vital water sources for Jamaica, highlighting an integrated approach to sustainable water resources management. The tour offers an in-depth look at how renewable energy, advanced water treatment, infrastructure management and ecosystem preservation come together to support both the health of local communities and the island's natural heritage.

Featured stops: Roaring River Hydroelectric Power Plant, National Water Commission Water Treatment Plant at Bogue, Dunn's River Falls (Ecosystem Preservation and Tourism Management).

Cultural Tour: Dunns River Falls Experience (Beach and Falls Climb). Swimming clothes and river shoes recommended.

MANAGED ARTIFICIAL RECHARGE FACILITY (\$175 USD p.p.)



The Managed Artificial Recharge (MAR) Facility in Jamaica is a pioneering initiative aimed at enhancing ground-water resources by intentionally directing surface water into aquifers via sinkholes and injection wells. The facility serves as a critical bulwark against saline intrusion and ensuring a resilient supply of water.

Featured stops: Rio Cobre Headworks Dam, Managed Artificial Recharge Facility.

Cultural Tour: Bob Marley Museum Tour. Visit the home of Jamaica's arguably most famous and iconic son, Robert Nesta "Bob" Marley in Kingston.

CONGRESS ORGANISERS



International
Water Resources
Association



Water
Resources
Authority

SPECIAL SESSION ORGANISATIONS



crawfordhydrology
laboratory



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' INITIATIVE



Latin America
and the Caribbean
Youth Parliament
for Water



THE UNIVERSITY
OF THE
WEST INDIES
MONA CAMPUS



WELCOME TO JAMAICA



**Discover Jamaica, where resilience and innovation converge
at the 2nd Islands Water Congress, 27-29 January 2027**

Surrounded by the northwestern Caribbean Sea, Jamaica is strategically positioned at the crossroads of the Americas, just 90 minutes by air from Miami and within easy reach of major international markets. More than just an island paradise, Jamaica is a thriving economic hub with a modern infrastructure network, a world-class tourism industry, and a business-friendly environment that fosters investment and innovation. From the pristine beaches of Montego Bay to the historic charm of Kingston, visitors are captivated by the island's dynamic cities, luxury resorts, and adventure tourism.

Our vibrant culinary landscape—featuring world-famous jerk cuisine, Blue Mountain coffee, and fresh seafood—adds to the immersive Jamaican experience. Often cel-

ebrated as the “Land of Wood and Water,” Jamaica has long recognised the vital role of water in our national identity, economic growth, and sustainable development.

Our rivers, waterfalls such as the world-renowned Dunn’s River Falls and coastal resources make our island an inspiring setting for discussions on water security, climate resilience, and sustainable island economies. Additionally, Jamaica’s progressive water sector policies and legislation stand as a model for resilience within the Caribbean and beyond, despite the unique challenges faced as a developing nation. Jamaica has been at the forefront of water resources management, climate adaptation, and sustainable development, making it the ideal location for hosting the 2nd Island Water Congress.

CONGRESS VENUE: MONTEGO BAY CONVENTION CENTRE

Nestled along the picturesque coastline of Montego Bay, the Montego Bay Convention Centre (MBCC) is the ideal venue to host the IWRA's 2nd Island Water Congress 2026. Located in the heart of Jamaica's premier tourism corridor, the MBCC provides an unparalleled blend of modern facilities, exceptional service, and a vibrant cultural atmosphere, making it the perfect setting for international delegates to convene, collaborate, and innovate on critical water management issues facing island nations.

The state-of-the-art MBCC features over 57,000 square feet of event space, including a 21,000- square-foot exhibition hall, a grand ballroom that accommodates over 1,500 guests, and multiple meeting rooms designed for technical sessions, workshops, and panel discussions. The venue's flexible design

allows for a seamless transition between plenary sessions, technical presentations, networking opportunities, and cultural showcases, ensuring a dynamic and engaging conference experience. Recognized as the Caribbean's Leading Meetings & Conference Centre by the World Travel Awards for fifteen consecutive years, the MBCC is equipped with cutting-edge technology, high-speed internet access, and world-class catering services that highlight Jamaica's rich culinary traditions.

The venue's experienced event management team is dedicated to delivering a seamless, high-quality experience, ensuring that the IWRA's 2nd Island Water Congress 2026 is a resounding success.

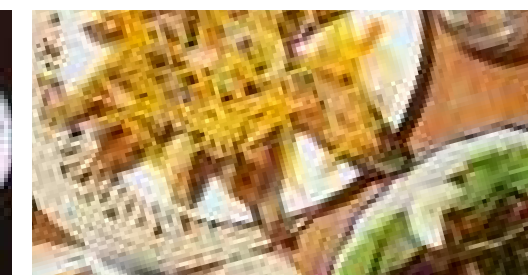
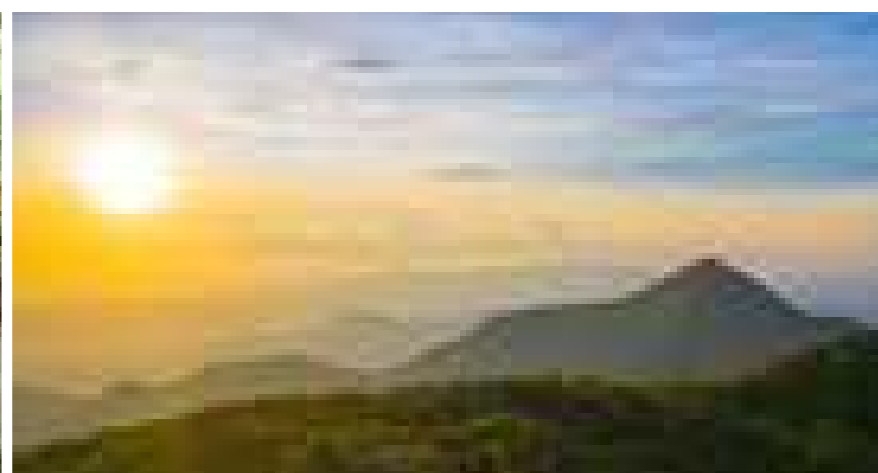
Visit the MBCC's website [here](#).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For detailed information on travel, accommodation, and transport, please visit [the Congress's official website](#).

Citizens from North and South America, the Caribbean, EU and most African and Asian-Pacific countries are permitted to enter Jamaica without a visa and can stay for up to 3 months. Find out if you need to apply for a visa on [this webpage](#).

You can apply for a visa to Jamaica at a Jamaican Embassy or Consulate in your country of residence. A list of Jamaican Embassies and Consulates around the world can be viewed on [this webpage](#).



REGISTRATION FEES AND KEY DATES

Pricing:

Registration	Category	Early-bird registration	Regular registration	Late registration
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

Timeline:

- Early-bird registration ends 15 Sep 2026
- 16 Sept - 15 Nov 2026 - Regular registration
- 16 Nov 2026 - 15 Jan 2027 - Late registration
- 27-29 Jan 2027 - On-site registration of \$300 USD per day

Important Information:

- 15 September 2026 - Deadline for registration of accepted speakers
- 15 Jan 2027 - 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. [Click here](#) to see all sponsorship options available to your organisation or institution. Some of the available options and benefits are listed below (not an exhaustive list).

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

Gold Sponsor

- 6 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
- Complimentary exhibition booth space

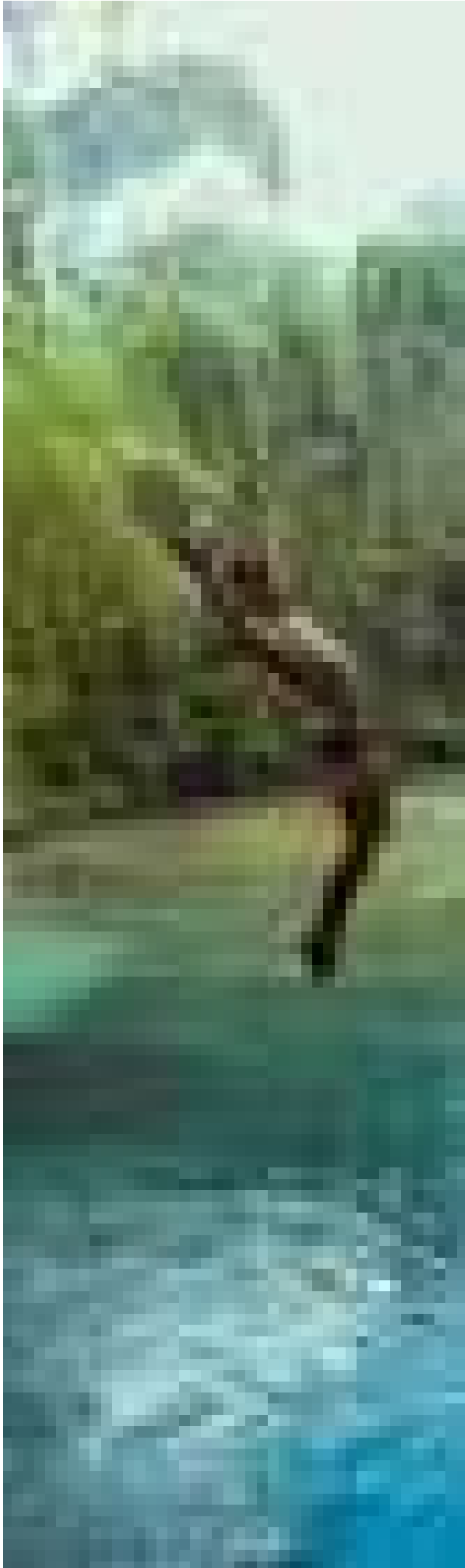
Silver Sponsor

- 4 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

- 2 Registration Tickets
- 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 also available, including in-kind contributions such as sponsoring food, beverages, or other relevant items. If you want to take part, please contact us!





International Water Resources Association's
2nd ISLANDS WATER CONGRESS
Montego Bay, Jamaica | 27-29 January 2027



We look forward to welcoming you in Jamaica

GET IN TOUCH

Website: www.islandswatercongress.org

Email: islands.congress@iwra.org



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