

IWRA Knowledge Products

The International Water Resources Association (IWRA) is an interdisciplinary and multisectoral membership-based organisation at the interface of water science, policy, and practice. It is a trusted and globally recognised platform, source of scientific, technical and policy knowledge on sustainable water management, fostering knowledge, research, networking and collaboration across disciplines, levels and sectors.

IWRA's strength in producing high-value knowledge products lies in its members and partners. Through contributions from leading experts and professionals from around the world, the Association generates and disseminates knowledge and research that supports learning, informs decision-making and advances dialogue across the water sector and beyond. This collective expertise underpins IWRA's diverse portfolio of Knowledge Products and learning resources.

IWRA Knowledge Products

Knowledge products are the outputs resulting from the creation, development, and exchange of information, expertise and research. They include:

- **In-Depth Written Works:** journal articles, special books, analytical reports, policy studies, proceedings, and research-based publications.
- **Guidance and Capacity-Building Resources:** technical guidelines, best-practice frameworks, case studies, knowledge sharing platforms, mentoring initiatives and heritage programmes.
- **Briefings and Think Pieces:** concise publications communicating key findings and recommendations, such as policy briefs, lectures, newsletters, e-magazines, and newspapers.
- **Multimedia and Digital Resources:** infographics, explanatory videos, recordings, curated online resources and soon, podcasts.
- **Other Actionable, Reusable and Value-Driven Activities:** thematic webinars, master classes, online conference series, proceedings, news archive, etc.

I. In-Depth Written Works

[Water International](#)

Water International is the official journal of IWRA, founded in 1975 to serve as an international gateway to the people, ideas and networks that are critical to the sustainable management of water resources around the world. In 2025, this flagship journal proudly celebrated its 50th anniversary. *Water International's* articles, state-of-the-art reviews, technical notes, commentaries and other sections are policy-relevant and aimed at communicating in-depth knowledge to a multidisciplinary and international community. *Water International* publishes eight issues a year, roughly divided between those with contributions selected from open submissions and sections on contemporary and cutting-edge issues, and thematic special issues.

With the Citation Indicator (JCI) standing at 0.67 in 2022, *Water International* has the best 5-year Impact Factor of 3.0.

[Routledge Special Issues on Water Policy and Governance Book Series](#)

Many of the world's water challenges — and the responses to them — are closely shaped by policy and governance, both within and beyond the water sector. This special issues book series draws on contributions from two leading journals in the field, the *International Journal of Water Resources Development* and *Water International*, to share new knowledge on water policy and governance with a broad global audience. It is intended for policy makers, practitioners, and general readers seeking current perspectives on pressing water issues.

[Specialty Books Authored by Members \(new\)](#)

IWRA members are encouraged to author or edit specialty books in the areas of their expertise. These books will be reviewed and approved by the IWRA Publications Committee for content. Recommendation for publishing will be shared by IWRA publisher in coordination with the Publications Committee.

[Project Reports](#)

IWRA projects address priority water challenges in both developing and developed countries, supporting sustainable water management and progress toward the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Current and previous areas of work include global development trends and future pathways in key water resource fields, water security, smart water management, water quality, and the science-policy interface (SPI). IWRA Geographic Chapters and Task Forces guide these efforts through their global network of experts.

1. Key Water Resource Fields: Analysis of Global Development Trends and Future Pathways – in collaboration with the General Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Planning and Design (GIWP) of the Ministry of Water Resources, People’s Republic of China. This report provides a forward-looking assessment of global water resources development, identifying major trends and emerging challenges across water governance, protection, and sustainable use.
2. Global Water Security Issues (GWSI) Paper Series – in partnership with UNESCO-IHP and i-WSSM Centre. This series translates scientific knowledge into policy-relevant insights for Sustainable Development Goal 6, strengthening the evidence base for water security challenges.
3. Smart Water Management (SWM) Case Study Project, and the Smart Water Cities Project – both in collaboration with K-water and the Asia Water Council (AWC). These projects document real-world applications of smart water technologies and Information and Communications Technology (ICT), showcasing innovative approaches to urban and peri-urban water management and digital transformation.
4. Developing a Global Compendium on Water Quality Guidelines for Different Uses - with strong support from the World Water Council (WWC). This initiative aimed to create a comprehensive reference for water quality standards, providing practitioners with clear guidelines for safe and sustainable water use.
5. Science-Policy Interface (SPI) - together with the Office International de l’Eau (OIEau). This work fostered dialogue between scientists and policymakers to ensure that robust scientific evidence effectively informs water policy decisions and management practices.

Congresses Reports

World Water Congress and Islands Water Congress Reports are key outputs of major international water events, capturing the technical and scientific knowledge shared through presentations, thematic sessions, and expert dialogue, while also translating these discussions into accessible messages. They include proceedings, synthesis documents, and targeted policy reports that identify emerging issues, highlight good practices, and formulate practical recommendations to support, for instance, island communities and states in strengthening freshwater governance, regulation, resilience, and sustainable water management.

- **World Water Congress Reports:** Since the inaugural congress in 1973, the World Water Congresses has functioned as IWRA's flagship event, connecting global stakeholders to shape the international water agenda. These congresses serve as critical milestones; for instance, the 1994 Cairo Congress led to the establishment of the World Water Council, the 2008 Montpellier Congress led to the creation of the National French Water Cluster, the 2015 Edinburgh Congress increased international visibility for Scotland's Hydro Nation programme, and the 2021 Daegu Congress was a landmark for the launch of IWRA's World Water Envoys Programme. Reports from these events capture high-level insights, ministerial declarations (such as those from the 2025 Morocco Congress), and scientific outcomes, providing the international community with the evidence base needed to accelerate progress on SDG 6 and integrated water resources management.
- **Islands Water Congress Reports:** Launched in 2024 to address the distinct freshwater challenges of island nations, the Islands Water Congress series bridges global expertise with local, island-specific realities. The reports produced after each edition, analyse successful innovations — such as those stemming from the inaugural 2024 Congress in the Faroe Islands — to help island communities reform regulations, enhance water security, and amplify their unique voices in global policy. By documenting bottom-up governance models and climate-resilient strategies, the reports provide a vital roadmap for islands to navigate their specific geographic, economic, and demographic pressures.

[Annual Activity Reports](#)

Yearly comprehensive documents detailing IWRA's achievements, governance, membership and events updates, financial overview and future outlook. This is a vital document to maintain transparency, showcase impact, and build trust with members, partners, and the international community.

II. Guidance and Capacity-Building Resources

Technical Guidelines and Manuals (new)

This new category features IWRA work on a range of topics, including advice, research, technical guidelines, and manuals. It encompasses global and national water assessments designed to support the sustainable use and management of water resources through science-based methods, practical technical guidance, key performance indicators, and assessment frameworks. Drawing on approaches that have already been applied in other countries by IWRA senior members, these products can help promote more consistent methodologies, strengthen comparability across contexts, and support the gradual standardisation of their use and implementation.

Best-Practice Frameworks

IWRA members drawing on its expertise, networks, and work are increasingly encouraged to help bridge scientific principles and policy recommendations with positive impact on the ground. Options include practical strategies and planning to support water professionals on what they should do, how they can do it, and why each action matters for the development of best-practice frameworks for sustainable water resources management. This ensures decisions and interventions are consistent, ethical, evidence-based, and adaptable across different contexts.

[Case Studies](#)

The upcoming handbook on *"Diversification of the Water Resources Mix and Water Demand Management at Basin Level"*, being developed in collaboration between INBO, IDRA, and IWRA, serves as a comprehensive resource for basin organisations and public decision-makers. It offers operational recommendations and practical, evidence-based case studies to guide the structuring and optimization of water supply diversification. By addressing the challenge of water scarcity through an integrated approach, the handbook links scientific understanding with governance and implementation, providing a vital roadmap for achieving sustainable water resources management at the basin scale.

[Mentored Publishing Scheme for Early-Career Professionals](#)

IWRA launched the Publication Mentoring Initiative (PMI) in 2020. The purpose of the initiative is to encourage mentoring of junior water professionals through the development of publishable articles that are accepted for publication by *Water International*. Articles produced through this initiative are researched and written by one or more junior water professionals closely mentored by a senior water professional.

[Knowledge Sharing and Exchange Platform](#)

IWRA's main website serves as a global one-stop shop for cutting-edge publications, innovative research, and knowledge materials, bringing together reports, policy briefs, master classes/online conferences/webinars resources, archives and other learning content in one place. Beyond providing easy access to information, it also offers a unique platform for international knowledge sharing and exchange, capacity building and awareness raising connecting researchers, practitioners, policy makers, and institutions across regions, levels and sectors for joint collaboration, globally.

Heritage Programme on Water Resources Development and Protection (new)

The Association is currently exploring a heritage programme documenting traditional approaches to water resources development and protection in ways that are practical, transferable, and relevant to present-day challenges. By capturing lessons, methods, and culturally rooted practices from heritage projects, it can provide reference material and inspiration for water professionals, communities, and decision-makers seeking context-sensitive approaches to sustainable water management.

III. Think Pieces

[Policy Briefs](#)

Water International and IWRA Policy Briefs aim to provide high quality analysis and practical recommendations for policy makers on important development issues. *Water International* (Blue Series) Policy Briefs are based on thematic special issues of *Water International*. IWRA (Green Series) Policy Briefs are produced in cooperation with IWRA partners, and as an outlet for IWRA partnered initiatives such as project findings, programme information, webinars, and much more.

[Ven Te Chow Memorial Award and Lecture](#)

Honouring IWRA's founder and first president, the renowned hydrologist Dr. Ven Te Chow, this prestigious lecture, delivered during the World Water Congresses, celebrates his legacy and showcases outstanding contributions to the field of water resources management.

Since 1988, it recognises exceptional individuals who distil experts' insights, experience, and reflections that inform and stimulate discussion. Helping to interpret key issues, the lectures highlight emerging perspectives and connect knowledge to broader policy and practice debates. In this way, it contributes to thought leadership while making complex ideas understandable and relevant to a wider audience.

[Newsletters](#)

IWRA Update is the Association's quarterly digital newsletter published each year. With a readership of over +15,000 subscribers, it shares news on IWRA's past and upcoming events and publications, along with updates from Chapters, Task Forces, Gold and Silver members, and partners. It also serves as a valuable platform to connect with a diverse network of professionals across the IWRA community and beyond.

[Other Journals, Newsletters and E-Magazines](#)

IWRA members regularly contribute to other international journals (e.g. *International Journal of Water Resources Development* and *Water Islands Water Journal*), as well as national newspapers and e-magazines in the context of international events, and present their opinions, analysis, and informed discussion on key water issues in a clear and accessible format. Rather than simply reporting facts, it can help interpret emerging challenges, share perspectives, and stimulate dialogue with broader professional and public audiences.

IV. Multimedia and Digital Resources

Through infographics, explanatory videos, webinar recordings, curated online resources and soon, podcasts, IWRA makes complex water issues more accessible, engaging, and impactful for wider audiences.

By sharing recorded events, expert interviews celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2021, concise summaries, and digital content through its websites, membership platform and social media channels, IWRA can preserve valuable knowledge, extend the reach of its activities, and strengthen global learning, awareness, and exchange across the water community.

These multimedia efforts are supported by a dedicated communications and digital strategy that ensures content remains current, visually consistent, and tailored to the diverse needs of IWRA's global membership base.

In leveraging data-driven insights and member feedback, the Association continuously aims to refine its digital offerings to better facilitate connectivity, professional development, and informed decision-making within the water sector.

V. Other Actionable, Reusable and Value-Driven Activities

[Thematic Webinars](#)

Webinars are based on themes of timely interest, including topics of special issues of *Water International* but also other topics that are aligned with the international water agenda and in close collaboration with key partners (AIDA, AWC, AWS, FAO, GWH, GWI, GWP, INBO, K-water, Texas A&M, UNESCO, World Bank, WRC, WWAP, WWF, etc.). These participatory events are designed to help academics, dedicated practitioners, and policy professionals further explore and engage in fruitful discussions.

[Master Classes](#)

Designed to offer advanced learning and practical experience in specific water-related topics, the first series was held in 2021 and focused on “Water Cooperation &

Diplomacy”. Other editions followed, for instance on “Institutional Responsibility in the Support of SDG 6 and the Rights to Water and Sanitation”. The format combines a 90-minute public online lecture with a 60-minute skills-building workshop reserved for gold and silver IWRA members. Soon IWRA will launch a new Master Class on timely and relevant topics. Upcoming topics include transboundary groundwater governance, the private sector’s role in water management, the Future of AI and other emerging issues.

[Online Conference Series](#)

The Online Conference Series provides a free-of-charge online meeting place to share experiences, promote discussion, and present new knowledge, research results, and developments in the field of water sciences, globally. These online conferences are valuable platforms for identifying major themes on the global water agenda and for bringing together a broad cross-section of stakeholders – leaving no-one-behind - to support discussion, collaboration, and informed decision-making in the water field. Past editions and subsequent Policy Briefs produced out of each edition included:

- October 2020: “Addressing Groundwater Resilience under Climate Change”
- June 2021: “Water, Food and Public Health in a Changing World”
- January 2023: “Emerging Pollutants: Protecting Water Quality for the Health of People and the Environment”

[News Archive](#)

Allowing readers to catch up on the latest news from the past few months, the IWRA News Archive incorporates recent publications, events, and updates across the IWRA community and beyond. In addition, the dedicated records provide access to an extensive collection of older news, publications, and events dating back to 2017, making it a useful resource for following the evolution of IWRA’s and international community’s activities and knowledge sharing over time.

[Other International Water Conferences and Meetings](#)

IWRA and Executive Office team members regularly organise and participate in high-level panels, sessions, and workshops at international water conferences and meetings. These interventions and participation are documented by highlighting the outcomes and impacts of these activities. These documentations are available in the form of other organisations’ events proceedings, reports, newsletters, etc.

Taken together, these knowledge products generate, translate, and share value across the full knowledge cycle — from in-depth research and practical guidance to thought leadership, accessible media, and reusable engagement formats. This portfolio offers IWRA as a trusted partner and a global platform for water knowledge, dialogue, and action.

