



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



International
Water Resources
Association

IWRA Islands Water Congress Rapporteurs Programme

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Background

The [International Water Resources Association](#) (IWRA) is pleased to issue the call for rapporteurs for the 2nd Islands Water Congress, jointly hosted by the [Water Resources Authority \(WRA\) of Jamaica](#) and IWRA. Under the theme “*Resilient Islands: Securing Water for Sustainable Development in a Changing World*” the Congress will take place in Montego Bay, Jamaica, 27-29 January 2027.

The [2nd Islands Water Congress](#) is one of the leading global forums dedicated specifically to freshwater challenges and solutions in island contexts. It brings together island governments, practitioners, researchers, and communities to advance practical, island-specific approaches to freshwater management.

Call for rapporteurs

The 2nd Islands Water Congress is currently seeking 10 rapporteurs, aged 18–35, to capture key messages and prepare summary reports on various activities taking place throughout the Congress. This includes regular and special sessions, high-level plenaries, workshops and technical discussions.

Rapporteurs may be students and/or young professionals with strong analytical and writing skills, as well as a strong understanding of water resources management.

What do rapporteurs do?

Rapporteurs attend Congress sessions and capture the key discussions, insights, recommendations, and outcomes shared by speakers and participants. They prepare concise summaries of presentations, panel discussions, workshops, and other activities, helping to ensure that the knowledge generated throughout the Congress is accurately recorded and shared.

Why is this role important?

Rapporteurs are essential in ensuring that the key discussions, insights, and outcomes of the Congress are adequately captured. Without their contribution, valuable knowledge and recommendations risk being lost.

Their work contributes to both the daily Congress newsletters and the 2nd Islands Water Congress Final Report, which serves as a lasting reference for policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and other stakeholders in the water sector. The rapporteurs’ reports also help to inform IWRA’s and its partners’ future initiatives in water resources management.

This is a unique opportunity to contribute to the legacy of an international Congress, engage with leading experts and practitioners, and develop valuable skills in science communication, analysis, and professional reporting.



How are the rapporteurs involved?

Rapporteurs will be assigned to one of four teams:

- **Reporting** – Responsible for attending assigned sessions and preparing concise summaries of presentations, discussions, key messages, recommendations and outcomes using a structured reporting template. Each reporting rapporteur will be assigned 2-3 sessions per day.
- **Editing** – Responsible for reviewing, fact-checking, editing and standardising session reports in close collaboration with the reporting teams to ensure accuracy, consistency, clarity and readiness for publication in Congress outputs.
- **Newsletter** – Responsible for transforming session summaries, interviews and Congress highlights into engaging articles and content for the daily Congress newsletters.
- **Social Media** – Responsible for capturing key Congress moments through social media content, short interviews, photographs, videos and posts, helping to promote Congress activities and engage participants through IWRA's communication channels.

Each rapporteur will be assigned **2-3 sessions per day** and will draft a summary of the sessions using a structured template. Summaries must be completed on the same day and uploaded to a central drive. The Editors Team reviews and refines these summaries as they arrive, ensuring consistency and clarity, while requesting clarifications if needed.

Additionally, some rapporteurs are asked to conduct short interviews with attendees, speakers, and/or High-Level experts for social media and newsletter purposes. The Newsletter Team selects key summaries and interviews to feature as articles in the Congress newsletters.

All rapporteurs also have the opportunity to serve as social media ambassadors, helping to share Congress highlights via tweets, posts, and interviews. Activities will be coordinated with supervisors, who will set daily priorities.

Awards and benefits

- Free registration to the 2nd Islands Water Congress, including:
 - Full access to the 2nd Islands Water Congress
 - Complementary lunches and dinner, including the Gala Dinner
 - An invitation to join day field trips in Montego Bay
- 12-month [IWRA Silver Membership](#).
- Official personalised certificate recognising their contributions to the 2nd Islands Water Congress on the final day.
- Acknowledgement in the 2nd Islands Water Congress Report.
- Opportunities for professional networking and engaging with experts and other water professionals.



Application requirements

- Aged between 18 and 35 years old.
- Fluent in written and spoken English.
- Knowledge of at least one water-related topic covered in the [2nd Islands Water Congress sub-themes](#), ideally supported by university-level studies in a relevant field.
- Experience in science and policy communication, particularly in summarising technical and complex content and translating it into accessible language for diverse audiences.
- Strong analytical, synthesis, and writing skills.
- Have access to a laptop in good working condition and bring it to the Congress.
- Candidates who study or work in Jamaica and/or the Caribbean region during the 2nd Islands Water Congress period and/or have knowledge of other languages are desirable.

How to apply

Applicants should submit the following:

- A **short motivation letter** (300 words) in PDF format explaining their interest in the role, preferred sub-theme(s) from the [Congress Thematic Framework](#), and preferred rapporteur category (Reporter, Editor, Newsletter, or Social Media).
- A short **professional CV** (maximum 2 pages).
- **Two writing samples** (e.g., article, report, policy brief) demonstrating proficiency in English and ability to communicate scientific and policy-related topics effectively
- **One reference letter** (1 page) on official letterhead, with a logo and signature.

All materials should be submitted via [this Google Form](#) before Wednesday 30 September 2026.

All applicants must submit their applications through the online Google Form. However, applicants who are unable to access the Google Form, can submit their application by email in document format to the Islands Water Congress team at islands.congress@iwra.org by the application deadline.

Review process

Following the application deadline, the IWRA Executive Office will review all submissions. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an online interview with representatives from the IWRA Executive Office, the Water Resources Authority of Jamaica, and 2nd Islands Water Congress' International Scientific Committee. Interviews will take place in October 2026.

Selected candidates will be required to confirm their participation by a specified deadline and provide proof of their ability to travel to the Congress, including evidence of a valid passport and, where applicable, residency status in Jamaica.

After this confirmation is received by the IWRA Executive Office, rapporteurs may proceed with booking their travel and accommodation. A **formal invitation letter** from the Congress organisers will be provided to support visa applications where required.



Several weeks before the Congress, all rapporteurs are required to attend online training sessions with detailed information on their roles and responsibilities. An introductory online meeting will also be organised to allow rapporteurs to meet the team, familiarise themselves with the reporting process, and ask any remaining questions.

Terms & Conditions

- Rapporteurs will not receive any form of remuneration from the 2nd Islands Water Congress organisers. Rapporteurs are responsible for arranging and covering any expenses related to their travel, accommodation, visa, and related expenses.
- Rapporteurs must be 18 years old by 30 September 2026.
- Rapporteurs must hold a passport with at least 6 months of validity.
- Rapporteurs are responsible for obtaining their visa for travel to Jamaica. IWRA is not responsible for visa procedures, but can support the visa process with a letter.
- Rapporteurs should be willing to be recorded and have their names, images, and videos used to promote both the 2nd Islands Water Congress and wider IWRA events.
- Rapporteurs participate at their own risk and agree to waive any claims against IWRA, its partners, and the Congress organisers arising from their travel to or participation in the Congress.
- Rapporteurs must agree to our [Code of Conduct](#) and shall present themselves in a professional, respectful, and collaborative manner in any matters related to the 2nd Islands Water Congress.