

Bios – IWRA Islands & Water Task Force

Interim Bureau

1. Francesco Sindico

Francesco Sindico is a Professor of International Environmental Law at the University of Strathclyde Law School in Glasgow, Scotland. As a consultant and through a secondment he has collaborated with the Scottish Government Islands Team working on island governance and climate change related projects. He now heads from the University of Strathclyde the Secretariat of the European Islands Policy Network, that brings together island policy officials from Scotland, Ireland, Finland and Croatia. Francesco's work and research has focused on Scottish islands, but he has also been working on matters relevant for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) from a public international law perspective, and from a climate change law angle. Within IWRA, he has led the International Scientific Committee of the First and Second Edition of the Islands Water Congress and co-leads the Islands and Water Task Force.

2. Pamela Katic

Katic is an Associate Professor in Economics at the Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, UK. She was previously based at the West Africa Office of the International Water Management Institute. Pamela is an environmental and water economist whose work focuses on water governance, justice, and sustainability at the interface of development, ecology, and society. Her research advances relational and transdisciplinary approaches that integrate Indigenous Peoples' knowledge systems, multiple values of water, and nature-based solutions to address water and food insecurity and injustice(s) and socio-ecological vulnerability. She has extensive experience working in climate-exposed and data-scarce contexts, mobilising and co-creating knowledge to inform just water, food, and ecosystem governance.

This work is directly relevant for SIDS and island Indigenous communities, where water systems are deeply embedded in cultural heritage, livelihoods, and wellbeing, and are increasingly threatened by climate change, environmental degradation, and structural inequities. Within IWRA, Pamela is an Associate Editor of *Water International*, IWRA's flagship publication.

3. Celso Garcia

Celso García serves as Professor of Physical Geography at the University of the Balearic Islands in Mallorca, Spain. His research focuses on the Balearic

and Canary Islands, with a particular emphasis on the interplay between tourism development and water sustainability. Additional research areas encompass surface and groundwater hydrology, managed aquifer recharge, social perceptions of flood risk and flood management strategies, and integrated water resource management in island environments.

4. Alana Mahabir

Alana S. Mahabir (PhD Candidate, Civil Engineering) is Head of the Water Resources Agency (WRA) at the Water and Sewerage Authority of Trinidad and Tobago. She provides strategic oversight and technical guidance for national water-resources management, with a strong emphasis on policy and regulatory strengthening. Her portfolio includes advancing abstraction licensing and administrative fee reform, supporting inter-agency water–climate coordination, and representing WRA in regional and international capacity-building initiatives.

Alana also serves as Trinidad and Tobago’s national counterpart on isotope hydrology, applying environmental isotopes to protect groundwater and identify sustainable sources for national supply.

Her PhD at The University of the West Indies centres on underserved rural communities, generating actionable evidence on rainwater harvesting governance to advance water equity, strengthen climate resilience in Small Island Developing States, and share transferable lessons globally through practical, field-informed research.

5. Manuel Sapiano

Mr Sapiano is a hydrogeologist, with specific specialisation in island and coastal hydrology. He has been involved in the water sector since 1997 working for the Water Services Corporation (Malta’s national public water utility), the Malta Resources Authority (the regulatory authority for energy and water resources) and the Energy and Water Agency since 2013. He took the role of Chief Executive Officer for the Agency between 2018 and 2025. From a water management perspective during this period, he had the responsibility of coordinating the implementation process of EU related water legislation in the Maltese islands (including the Water Framework Directive, the Groundwater Water Directive and the Floods Directive), and hence directly involved in the development of Malta’s River Basin Management Plans.

At a European Level, Mr Sapiano has followed in the implementation process of the EU Water Framework Directive since 2002, where within the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) of this Directive (led by the European Commission), he fulfilled the role of Water Director for Malta between 2013 and 2025. He also represented Malta on several EU CIS Working Groups

including those on Water Reuse (co-chair), Groundwater (co-chair), Programmes of Measures and the Ad hoc Task Group on Water Scarcity and Droughts.

Mr Sapiano works with Rizorsi Agrikoli Malta (RAM) within Malta's Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights (MAFA), focusing on the management of water resources in the agricultural sector. He also acts as a Senior Advisor to the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and sits on the scientific board of the Mediterranean Water Institute (IME).

6. Shaneica Lester

Dr. Shaneica Lester is an Environmental Geographer specialising in water security, climate resilience, and environmental governance in Caribbean Small Island Developing States. She is a Lecturer in the Department of Geography and Geology at The University of the West Indies, Mona. Her research focuses on the socio-spatial dimensions of water access and vulnerability. Through interdisciplinary research and applied projects, she examines human–environment interactions in freshwater systems and advances governance-centred and nexus approaches to strengthening climate adaptation and equitable water management in island contexts.

Dr. Lester currently serves as Chairwoman of the Water Resources Authority Board of Directors in Jamaica and as a Commissioner of the Land Development and Utilisation Commission. She is a Fellow and contributing author to UNEP's Global Environment Outlook 7 (GEO-7) and contributes to regional and international water governance processes aimed at strengthening water resilience. Her work also engages vulnerable communities and supports climate-sensitive livelihoods in Caribbean Small Island Developing States.

7. Robert (Bob) DiFilippo

Dr. DiFilippo is an Assistant Professor at the National Institute of Geological Sciences at the University of the Philippines, with interests in groundwater research in vulnerable environments, with a specific interest in the effects of climate change on coastal communities in low to middle- income countries. PhD. was completed in water engineering from Loughborough University in the UK; MA in hydrogeology was completed at West Chester University; and a B.S. in geology from the University of Rhode Island.

His research area is in the Philippines, where he is evaluating the impacts of Saltwater Intrusion on the Freshwater Lens beneath a karst island. The research integrates both quantitative and qualitative research methods. Incorporating water quality, hydrogeologic interpretation, geologic and geomorphologic assessment, remote monitoring system technologies, and

applying GIS and remote sensing observations for environmental characterization. A critical component of the research is assessing stakeholder sentiment regarding water access. His work includes projects in water engineering in low and middle-income countries: Rwanda (Sanitation & Rainwater Harvesting); Uganda (Rainwater Harvesting); Tanzania (Water Supply by Wells); Philippines (Water Supply by Wells), and Haiti (Water Supply by Rainwater Harvesting & Sanitation Design).

Members

8. Geoffrey Marshall

Geoffrey Marshall is currently the Deputy Managing Director at the Water Resources Authority of Jamaica with responsibility for the Technical Branch. He completed his M.Sc in Hydrology at New Mexico Tech in Socorro, New Mexico USA in 2005. Since March 2006, he has worked at the Water Resources Authority, and has served as a Hydrogeologist, then as the head of the License and Regulation Section and Research, Planning and Investigation Section prior to becoming Deputy Managing Director. He is currently the Co-Chair of the International Scientific Committee for the upcoming 2nd Islands Water Congress. His current research interests include isotope hydrology, karst hydrology and impacts of saline intrusion on coastal limestone aquifers in Jamaica.

9. Elys Nehemia Mwigamba

Elys Nehemia Mwigamba is a hydrogeologist and researcher based in Tanzania, with a Master's degree in Hydrogeology and Water Resources Management. He has over seven years of professional and research experience working on groundwater quality, hydrogeochemistry, water resources management, and mining–water interactions, and is the Director of AquaGold Company Ltd/ hunts green consultancy Tanzania (Pty), which provides consultancy and research services in water, mining, agriculture, geotechnical & construction and research.

In parallel, he has engaged in academic research and international scientific collaboration, including presenting his work at international hydrogeology conferences. His work focuses on island-like and climate-vulnerable hydrological settings in East Africa, particularly the Lake Victoria Basin regions with broader relevance to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) facing groundwater contamination, climate stress, and resource governance

challenges. Within IWRA, he participates as an early-career researcher with a strong interest in islands, water security, and climate change adaptation.

10. Eduardo Alberto López Maldonado

Dr. Eduardo Alberto López Maldonado is a Full Professor and Researcher at the Faculty of Chemical Sciences and Engineering, Autonomous University of Baja California (UABC), Mexico. He holds a PhD in Chemical Sciences and specializes in biopolyelectrolyte engineering, advanced materials, and sustainable water treatment technologies. He has previously worked as a researcher at the Center for Research and Technological Development in Electrochemistry (CIDETEQ), where he led applied projects on water treatment, contaminant removal, and industrial effluents. His work is strongly connected to coastal and island-relevant challenges through his research on water reuse, emerging contaminants, and nature-based and electrochemical treatment solutions. His research interests are particularly relevant for coastal and island regions, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS), where water scarcity, wastewater management, and environmental protection are critical. Within IWRA, he is a member interested in contributing scientific expertise to the Islands and Water Task Force.

11. Firoj Alam

MD Firoj Alam is a former United Nations staff member with extensive service. He currently serves as the Chairperson of the non-profit organization Foundation for Supporting Development Goal (FSDG) [<https://fsdgbd.org/>], which works to support communities in the coastal areas of the Bay of Bengal and within the river deltas of Bangladesh. A water and sanitation specialist by profession, he focuses on development and disaster- response contexts. MD Firoj Alam is also a Bronze Category member of the International Water Resources Association (IWRA).

12. Nasir Mehboob

This is Nasir Mehboob, expressing my keen interest in joining the IWRA Task Force Member. I am M.Sc., with over 30 years of professional experience in the food, juice, beverage, and dairy industries, my career has been dedicated to implementing BMR activities with sustainable and renewable approaches. My expertise encompasses water and wastewater treatment, energy conservation, and developing compliance-driven systems for governmental commissions. I acted as representative for my company to the UNIDO-selected companies in the energy conservation system areas and fostered academia-industry relationships as a university advisor. Furthermore,



I have developed strategies to address water scarcity and salinization, including ecosystem preservation through government-directed tree plantation initiatives. I am confident that my extensive, hands-on experience aligns with the IWRA's mission and I am eager to contribute to your Task Force.

The roots of my professional journey lie in a fact in a childhood story about planting trees for future generations. That simple yet profound lesson became the pivotal role for my life, work, implant in me a deep sense of responsibility for our environment and its inhabitants. This early passion drove me to formalize my commitment through academia, leading me to a Master of Science in Food Processing, Applied Chemistry, and Environmental Sciences. I was deeply honored to have my dedication recognized with a USAID scholarship awarded on pure merit, which solidified my path in this critical field.

For over the last 30 years, I have translated this vision into reality as a senior executive within the Food & Beverage industry. My leadership roles, primarily as General Manager, have spanned highly water-intensive sectors, including beverage production, dairy manufacturing, fruit pulping, and ready-to-eat meal projects. I learned early that true operational excellence demands a sustainable approach. This philosophy was validated on an international scale when my company was selected by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) for a prestigious energy conservation project. I had the privilege of working directly with their representatives to implement groundbreaking efficiency programs that became a benchmark for the region. My expertise encompasses the full spectrum of operations—from strategic project management and P&L oversight to the technical mastery of water and wastewater treatment, sludge management, and renewable energy systems.

Beyond the metrics and machinery, I am a leader grounded in conservative, community-focused values. I believe that a crucial part of my role is to foster the next generation of principled leaders. I actively liaison with academic institutions and universities, not just to extend workable knowledge, but to actively participate in the character building of students. My career is an evidence to the belief that industrial success and environmental management are not mutually exclusive, but are, in fact, two sides of the same coin, essential for creating a prosperous, flourishing and sustainable future for all. I would appreciate understanding the above in good faith and spirit.

13. Aditya Narayan Sharma

Aditya Narayan Sharma is a PhD researcher working on water-energy-food (WEF) nexus modelling and sustainable development pathways, with a focus on reservoir-driven and urban-rural water systems. Previously, he has worked

on water resources planning, irrigation management, and climate-related water sustainability issues, combining quantitative modelling with policy-relevant analysis. His research brings together system dynamics modelling, SDG interactions, and integrated water resources management to understand trade-offs and synergies across sectors. While his work does not focus exclusively on islands, it is highly relevant to island contexts due to shared challenges such as limited water availability, dependence on reservoirs and groundwater, climate variability, and competing demands between urban supply, agriculture, and energy. His work is particularly relevant for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and other island systems facing water security and governance constraints. At present, he does not hold any formal roles within IWRA.

14. Mar Ongayo

Marvin Ongayo is a Researcher and Analyst with a background in Statistics, currently working in applied research, data analysis, and organizational financial management. He has experience leading and supporting research and community engagement projects in social health and agriculture, from a perspective of evidence-based decision-making and policy-relevant analysis. Marvin has worked in community-development projects, and contributed to policy recommendations across East and Central Africa. His work is not exclusively island-focused but his research interests span sustainable development and resource governance toward a better social context.

15. Suryakanta Acharya

Dr. Suryakanta Acharya is an Oncologist with deep interest in biodiversity, the environment, and sustainable living. He founded a Civil Society Organization focused on Health and Climate Change, Water and Health, and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. He is part of the Revival of Rivers and Water Management work group during G20 India (2023) and the Climate, Energy Transformation, and Environmental Justice group during G7, Italy (2024).

He is a member of the IWRA Water Quality Task Force since 2022 and an International Scientific Committee member for the UNESCO-IWRA Online conference, 2023. He served as an abstract reviewer for the UNESCO-IWRA Online conference in 2023 and the IWA World Water Congress and Exhibition in 2024, Toronto. (He is soon relocating to Barbados) Climate justice for indigenous community in Barbados will be his next project.

16. G K Dinesh

Dr. Govindaraj Kamalam Dinesh is currently an Assistant Professor of Environmental Science at the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, India, where he works on climate change, agroecology, ecosystem services, and

climate-smart agriculture. Previously, he was affiliated with the ICAR – Indian Agricultural Research Institute (New Delhi) as a research scholar and with INTI International University, Malaysia, as a Research Fellow, contributing to international research collaboration, sustainability-focused teaching, and policy-relevant scientific synthesis in environmentally vulnerable regions. Although his research does not focus exclusively on islands, his work on ecosystem services, soil carbon management, water–carbon–nutrient interactions, and climate resilience in resource-constrained agroecosystems is directly relevant to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and sub-national island jurisdictions, where land scarcity, freshwater stress, and climate vulnerability present comparable sustainability challenges. He contributes to interdisciplinary water–environment–climate research communities.

17. Ashish Sharma

Ashish Sharma is a sustainability and public policy professional from Nepal, serving as Country Director and Chief Sustainability Officer at AlphaZULU Advocates – Nepal, and a law student at Nepal Open University, with academic interests in international environmental law, water governance, and sustainable development. He has held leadership roles within JCI Nepal, including National Sustainable Development Goal Director (2020) and National Training Coordinator (2022), contributing to SDG-focused projects and capacity-building initiatives. He also serves as an Executive Member of the Board of Directors of a hydropower company, supporting governance and sustainability oversight in water-dependent renewable energy development.

His international engagement includes participation in the UN Water Conference 2023 (New York) and UN LDC5 (Doha, 2022), and specialized training under the UNFCCC and the UN System Staff College. He has undertaken academic study at Lucy Cavendish College, University of Cambridge. While not island-specific, his work on climate-vulnerable regions is relevant to Islands and SIDS, particularly on water–energy governance and resilience. Within IWRA, he participates as an interested professional member and contributes through ICT.

18. Arun K Choudhary

Arun K. Choudhary is a Scientist at the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, New Delhi, with experience spanning academia, research, and industry. He holds a B.Tech in Electrical Engineering from AKTU, Lucknow, and an M.Tech in Power Electronics and Drives from MMMUT, Gorakhpur, India.

His expertise includes renewable resource assessment and analytics, agrivoltaics, and energy policy and regulation, with a focus on renewable energy applications for water security, including desalination, solar water

pumping, water treatment, and integrated water–energy systems for islands and remote regions.

At MNRE, he has contributed to the R&D and New Technologies divisions and currently works on Energy Storage, Circular Economy, and the Greening of Islands initiative. This national initiative aims to make the Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep island groups fully reliant on solar and wind energy, reducing diesel dependence through sustainable, resilient, and decarbonized development.

19. Hamidreza Sharifan

Dr. Hamidreza Sharifan is an Assistant Professor at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and an environmental chemist and engineer whose research focuses on water quality, contaminant dynamics, and the impacts of human activities on sensitive aquatic ecosystems. He published on health coral reef systems as affected by sunscreen pollution in coastal waters of Kish Island in Persian Gulf and Texas coastline, highlighting the effects of tourism-derived pollutants on coral health and marine biogeochemistry.

His works towards understanding the fate and transport of emerging contaminants in aquatic systems. His environmental consultancy of Sharifarm-LLC translates scientific research into applied solutions for water quality and sustainability challenges. Within the IWRA Island Task Force, Dr. Sharifan will focus on water quality impacts associated with tourism, contributing expertise in contaminant monitoring, assessment of coastal and island water systems, particularly in the Middle East to mitigate tourism-related pressures on marine and freshwater resources.

20. Hammond Antwi Sarpong

Sarpong Hammond Antwi is Research Fellow at the CREATE Research Cluster, Dundalk Institute of Technology in Ireland. His interests lie at the intersection of water, energy, and climate change. He develops projects to promote sustainable water futures for communities, stakeholders, and decision makers. Sarpong collaborates with partners in Europe, Canada, and Africa on studies linked to climate resilience and environmental regulation. His research examines how policies, institutions, and communities respond to the pressures of climate change.

He emphasises integrated water management and renewable energy transitions. Sarpong completed a PhD in water governance and management in Ireland, building expertise in policy analysis and participatory approaches. He engages actively with the Environmental Sciences Association of Ireland and supports initiatives on sustainability governance. His work encourages

dialogue among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners. The Caribbean Islands and the Canary Islands are my interests

21. Suwilanji Sinyangwe

Suwilanji Sinyangwe is a policy analyst and Programs Officer at the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), a continent-wide African policy network headquartered in Pretoria, South Africa. He works at the science–policy interface, supporting governments, regional economic communities, and development partners in advancing evidence-based policies for resilient agrifood systems, climate adaptation, natural resource governance, and sustainable investment.

His work focuses on agricultural investment planning, climate-smart agriculture, circular food systems, biodiversity governance, and policy monitoring frameworks, including engagement with the CAADP Biennial Review process and the AU’s post-Malabo/Kampala Strategy (2026–2035). He has contributed to continental dialogues under the African Union, G20 Agricultural Chief Scientists (G20- MACS), UNFCCC processes, and regional water–food–climate platforms.

Suwilanji holds postgraduate qualifications in public administration and strategic management and has over eight years of experience in policy research, stakeholder engagement, and multilateral processes. He is particularly interested in strengthening freshwater governance in small island contexts, with a focus on linking water security, food systems resilience, and climate finance in African island states.

22. Chris Grune

Christopher Grune is an experienced IT and finance professional who has turned his attention to sustainability and water treatment technology. He is director of international business development for Cactus Nano, an advanced materials company which manufactures specialised RO membranes, designs customised projects for water treatment plants and effluent treatment plants, and acts as project manager for large water projects.

He has worked at IFC (World Bank Group), Citi, Societe Generale and State Street Global Advisors. He has spent over 15 years in Africa and South Asia and is extremely knowledgeable about the challenges in developing countries related to ensuring clean drinking water and cost-effective wastewater treatment while enabling strong economic growth. He has spent a great deal of time near Lake Victoria and one of his goals for the Task Force will be to improve the sustainability and safety of water on the islands of the lake.

23. OUASLI Abderrahman

A senior agricultural engineer and international expert in integrated water resources management, Abderrahman OUASLI has over 30 years' experience with the Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries, where he served as Director of the Office of Planning and Water Balance.

Holder of a Master's degree in Water Resources (specialising in Hydrology) and having completed several international training courses (IAMZ, WMO, FAO, EU, UNDP, AfDB, etc.), he has led and coordinated numerous regional and international projects related to water governance, hydro-agricultural development, climate change, the management of extreme events (droughts and floods), strategic planning and technical cooperation. He has contributed to the drafting of the Water Code, the Water Strategy 2050 and national reports on the water sector.

24. David Liambila

David Liambila is an international water and sanitation specialist with over 20 years' experience in implementing water supply and sanitation as well as water resources management projects across Africa and beyond. He is currently employed as a Water Resources Specialist on the Rodrigues Airport Project, a World Bank funded project being implemented by the Government of Mauritius.

The main project involves the construction of a new runway for the Rodrigues airport. However, the project also has a component for supporting improved water resources management on Rodrigues Island, an external island that forms part of the Republic of Mauritius. Rodrigues island suffers from severe water shortages and high vulnerability to climate change impacts due to its small size. The Government of Mauritius is keen to see the principles of integrated water resources management (IWRM) being implemented on Rodrigues Island and has contracted the services of an international water resources specialist to support the Rodrigues regional government in implementation of interventions towards improved water resources management on the Island. It is in line with this that David Liambila has recently joined the International Water Resources Association with a keen interest in enhancing the subject of Integrated Resources Management on Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

He hopes to bring the experience from Mauritius (part of the Indian Ocean Islands) and to incorporate lessons learnt and experiences from other island nations towards improving IRWM on Rodrigues Island.

25. John Bowleg

John Bowleg is a Professional Engineer | Sr. Hydrologist Consultant working in the USA, Latin America & the Caribbean (LAC); serving as Head of the UNESCO Ecohydrology Working Group for LAC, and Member (Vice Chair) of the UNESCO Science & Innovation Group.

Following the passage of Hurricane Dorian in The Bahamas, responsibilities for Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH); working with unicef on the solarization of the Abaco water system | IWRM Water Resources Specialist on Grand Bahama with the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) of UNESCO | 'Enhancing Sustainable Ground Water Management' through IsraAid/Water Mission. Proficient in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) concepts for groundwater abstraction, reverse osmosis (RO), drainage & effluent disposal, coastal management, wetlands, and eco-hydrology.

Presently, directing the pairing of renewable energy technologies for use with the RO process; through the implementation of Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC), utilizing water resources and other marine base technologies.

26. Dr. Firouz GAINI

Dr. Firouz Gaini is professor in social anthropology and director of research (Faculty of Social Science) at the University of the Faroe Islands. He is associate editor of Island Studies Journal and a member of Island Innovation's Academic Council. He is deputy member of the steering committee of the European University of islands, ports, and coastal territories (EUNICoast). He has done ethnographic research in the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Japan (Oki and Okinawa Islands).

He is especially interested in Northern and Arctic non-sovereign island societies in transition in a globalizing world. His research interests include island cultures, identities and local (traditional) knowledge. His work discusses the role of sea/water in the everyday life, relations and sense of place of islanders. He is co-editor of the book Gender and Island Communities (Routledge 2020).

27. Rose Casimiro

Dr. Rosemarie Casimiro is a faculty member of the Graduate School and College of Public Administration and Disaster Management (CPADM) at the Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology (NEUST), Philippines.

In parallel, she serves as Head of the University Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Unit and has previously held leadership roles, working closely with local governments, national agencies, and academic institutions on governance and resilience initiatives.

Her work primarily engages with disaster-prone and climate-vulnerable communities in the Philippines, with particular attention to island, coastal, and sub-national contexts facing compounded risks from climate change, public health emergencies, and governance capacity gaps.

Her research and practice focus on DRRM, public administration, climate adaptation, gender and development, and institutional preparedness, with clear relevance to islands through resilience building, risk governance, and sustainability planning.

Within IWRA, she hopes to actively engage with water- and resilience-related initiatives and island-focused knowledge exchanges in areas where her service is warranted.

28. Damian Onwudiwe

C. Onwudiwe is a faculty member and Full Professor at the Chemistry department, North-West University, South Africa. There, he leads the Inorganic and Materials Chemistry Research Group and directs the Nano-Environment Incubation Program (NanoEnv). He holds a PhD in Inorganic and Materials Chemistry, and his research focuses on the design, fabrication, and application of functional nanomaterials for the remediation of ground and surface water contaminated with hazardous inorganic and organic pollutants. He has made significant contributions to multidisciplinary projects addressing surface and groundwater treatment, with a particular emphasis on contaminants of emerging concern (CECs).

He has co-organised seminars and outreach programs focusing on water quality assessment and the impact of climate change on water sustainability within sub-Saharan Africa. By integrating materials chemistry with environmental sustainability, his work advances innovative approaches to water purification and resource protection, thereby advancing the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6.

29. Dr. Giulio CASTELLI

Giulio Castelli is an Assistant Professor of Agricultural Hydraulics and Watershed Protection at the Department of Agriculture, Food, Environment and Forestry (DAGRI), University of Florence. He is a member of the

Research Unit on Territorial development and internal areas of the University of Florence, focusing, among others, on small Italian islands.

His research focuses on water resources management, water harvesting and irrigation systems, with particular attention to participatory approaches and co-creation in water management and hydrology. His interest is mainly in water resources management in the Mediterranean Islands, primarily the Italian Islands in the Tyrrhenian Sea. He is a member of IWRA.

30. Judith Maréchal

Judith Maréchal is specialised on WASH in cold climate - particularly in Greenland where most communities are coastal, and more generally in Arctic and mountains regions where localities often have to operate in an insular way as they tend to be remote and off-grid. She holds a PhD from the Department of Environmental and Resource Engineering of the Technical University of Denmark (DTU Sustain), and has lived and worked for years in Nepal, Norway, and Greenland - based at the center Ilinniarfeqarfik Sisimiut, where her research addressed water supply in rural communities, as well as priorities for intervention on WASH in the country.

She is now looking to develop WASH systems that are both sustainable, and culturally appropriate, and has created a network of experts on the topic, in order to foster collaboration between regions sharing similar constraints.

31. Timothy Chizuzu

Timothy Chizuzu is a holder of a Masters Degree in Natural Resources Management and environmental sustainability with Bindura University of Science Education ,Zimbabwe.He is a registered Environmental Management Agency Zimbabwe and also a founder of any local environmental organization which pushes on environmental advocacy. Has interest in water management and would like to join the task force so as to get more knowledge so that i will be able to assist Islands in Africa on water issues. He is very interested in working with islands in Africa .

32. Laurie M Brinklow

Dr. Laurie Brinklow is an Assistant Professor of Island Studies and Co-ordinator of the Master of Arts in Island Studies program / Chair of the Institute of Island Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island in

Charlottetown, Canada. There she teaches Island Studies, supervises graduate students, and facilitates research on sustainable communities on islands around the world, particularly in the North Atlantic through UArctic's Northern and Arctic Island Studies Research Network. She is President of the International Small Island Studies Association, Iceland's Honorary Consul to PEI, and is a recipient of the Order of PEI.

A published poet, she is co-editor (with Andrew Jennings) of *The Bridge Effect: Critical Reflections in the Age of Technological Solutionism* (Island Studies Press, 2024) and co-editor (with Jean Mitchell, Eric Mijts, and Anouk Martens) of *Turning the Tide: Climate Change, Social Change, and Islandness* (Island Studies Press, 2026). She was a member of the Creative Task Force for the 1st International Islands Water Congress in Torshavn in 2024.

33. Katy Roodenko

Dr. Katy Roodenko is the founder and CEO of Max-IR Labs, where she leads the development and commercialization of infrared-based sensors for real-time monitoring of water quality and environmental contaminants, including PFAS, nitrates, and inorganic carbon in wastewater and water systems. She also contributes to standardization of water analysis methods through ASTM D19, supporting reliable and accurate measurement techniques for environmental and industrial applications. Her work focuses on monitoring and control of water chemistry in industrial systems, such as data centers, municipal wastewater treatment, fish farming and agriculture, which, in the context of islands, supports efficient water management, prevents contamination, and optimizes water reuse.

Within IWRA, she co-organized and co-chaired a session on “Technologies to Ensure the Quality of Water Supply in Islands” at the 1st Islands Water Congress

34. Florent Demelezi

Florent Demelezi is an Environmental Engineer specialising in agricultural water management and remote sensing applications. His work focuses on the integration of Sentinel-2 satellite data to monitor crop health and optimise irrigation efficiency, particularly in water-stressed environments. Through his research, he applies multi-spectral analysis to assess vegetation indices and land-cover changes, providing data-driven insights for sustainable land use. While his primary focus has been on mainland agricultural systems, his expertise in high-resolution satellite imagery and water resource engineering is directly applicable to the unique hydrological challenges and climate change vulnerabilities faced by island ecosystems.

Within the context of the Task Force, Florent Demelez aims to contribute technical methodologies for monitoring water security and agricultural resilience using open-access remote sensing platforms.

35. Gabriel Eckstein

Gabriel Eckstein is Professor of Law and Director of both the Energy, Environmental & Natural Resources Systems Law Program and the Environmental & Natural Resources Clinic at Texas A&M University. He served on the International Scientific Committee for the 1st IWRA Islands Water Congress and helped draft the policy report that emerged from that event. He focuses his research and teaching on water, energy, natural resources, and environmental law and policy at the local, national, and international levels, and has published widely on international and U.S. law applicable to groundwater management, transboundary watercourses and aquifers, pollutants of emerging concern, geothermal energy, endangered species, and other topics. Gabriel previously served as President and Treasurer of IWRA, and chaired the International Scientific Committee for the IWRA XVI World Water Congress held in Cancun, Mexico.

36. Frédéric Huneau

Frédéric Huneau is a Full Professor at the University of Corsica (France) and is affiliated with the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS, UMR 6134 SPE), where he leads the Geology and Hydrogeology Research Group. His research focuses on the assessment of surface water and groundwater quality, groundwater recharge processes, and groundwater residence time, using isotope hydrology combined with hydrogeochemistry and emerging anthropogenic tracers. His work places particular emphasis on coastal regions and islands, with a focus on the impacts of climate change on water resources.

He has coordinated numerous research projects at both national and international levels and currently serves as a water resources expert for the European Union, the French Government, and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), particularly in the field of groundwater resource management in island settings (e.g., Malta, Mauritius) and coastal regions of the Mediterranean and Africa.

37. Feng Hu

Feng Hu is director at silkroad.earth, which is dedicated to helping bridge implementation gaps in accelerating sustainability transitions. As an independent consultant, he has worked on carbon markets, water risk

analysis, and sustainable finance across Asia Pacific, which often involve island states. He now supports the UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)'s sustainable finance policy work in Asia Pacific, primarily coordinating a regional mandate to develop an adaptation finance guide for ASEAN. Based in New Zealand, he is also particularly interested in climate and water issues in the Pacific region. Feng is a member of IWRA and collaborated with IWRA affiliates during his work at CWR (China Water Risk).

38. Peter Clarke

Peter Clarke is the Managing Director of the Water Resources Authority (WRA) in Jamaica. Through the WRA he is directly responsible for the regulation, allocation, conservation and management of Jamaica's water resources. This is achieved through the operationalization of the WRA, the preparation and regular update of Jamaica's Water Resources Master Plan, and the declaration of Emergency Areas, Water Quality Control Zones and Aquifer Safe Yield measures. Additionally, he is UNESCO IHP Hydrological Focal Point and Hydrological Advisor to the Jamaica Government and is Chairman of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Region 4 Hydrological Coordination Panel. Within IWRA he has been part of the foundation meeting(s) for the formation of the Islands Water Task Force.

Peter Clarke is Managing Director of the Water Resources Authority, Jamaica with responsibility for the monitoring, management and abstraction allocation of water resources. He is also the WMO Region 4 (N.Amer, LatAm,Carib) Regional Hydrological Advisor, tasked with coordinating the Hydrological Initiatives that are relevant to the region's progress. He is registered with the Professional Engineers Registration Board (Jam.) as an Environmental Engineer and lectures on Environmental Engineering, Services Engineering and Construction Engineering & Management at the University of Technology, Jam. Peter is the UNESCO-IHP Hydrological Advisor for Jamaica and he has collaborated with the UNESCO on research studies related to challenges facing women farmers in Jamaica, and has represented UNESCO at International Fora regarding the same topic.

39. Salah A. M. El Sadi

Salah A. M. El Sadi is an environmental chemist and water innovation specialist, currently Founder & CEO of Blue Filter, a social enterprise developing low-cost, plant-based water purification technologies for vulnerable and resource-constrained communities. His work focuses on sustainable water treatment, circular and blue economy approaches, and climate-resilient WASH solutions, with experience in crisis and fragile contexts. While his research is not exclusively island-based, it is highly relevant to islands facing water scarcity, pollution, groundwater stress, and

limited infrastructure—particularly Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Caribbean and Mediterranean islands.

Salah is especially interested in island contexts where decentralized, nature-based water solutions are needed to address contamination, salinity, and emergency water access. His work contributes to Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) from a ridge-to-reef perspective, emphasizing low-energy, scalable solutions suitable for islands. He is an IWRA member and actively engages in international water, climate, and policy-oriented initiatives.

40. Renu Sisodia

I am a Senior Lecturer in the School of Social Work at Massey University, New Zealand, with a research focus on water justice, safe water access, and the social dimensions of environmental and climate change. My work examines how structural inequalities, gender, and marginalisation shape water insecurity and water governance. Born and raised in India, I bring extensive professional and research experience grounded in long-term, community-led work with Indigenous and rural communities on water rights, rainwater harvesting, and access to safe drinking water.

I worked with Tarun Bharat Sangh alongside my father, Rajendra Singh, widely known as the Water Man of India, supporting grassroots efforts to revive traditional water systems, conserve rivers, and strengthen community stewardship. These experiences informed my PhD, which examined inequities within water governance systems. Since moving to New Zealand in 2015, which I now consider my second home, my commitment to water justice has continued through teaching, research and advocacy. I look forward to engaging with IWRA.

41. Pengbo ZHAO

I am a researcher specializing in water resource management, agricultural water-saving technologies, and the protection and utilization of karez Systems heritage. I have participated in multiple projects for efficient utilization of water resources in arid areas and led topics such as the optimization of agricultural water-saving irrigation technologies and the adaptive transformation of traditional water conservancy projects (karez Systems).

My research focuses on the balance and sustainable utilization of water supply and demand in arid and semi-arid regions. Although it does not directly target islands, the common problems faced by islands, such as freshwater shortage and uneven temporal and spatial distribution of water resources, are highly consistent with the core pain points of water resource management in

arid areas. Relevant water-saving technologies, water resource recycling solutions, and traditional water conservancy wisdom can provide references for water resource security on islands. In IWRA, I look forward to joining the Islands and Water Resources Task Force, sharing experiences in adaptation technologies and learning about the practices of island water resources management.

42. DEBOJYOTI BHATTACHERJEE

Debojyoti Bhattacharjee is a Deputy Engineer (Water Resources) at LEA Associates South Asia Pvt. Ltd., where he has been engaged since 2022 in the planning and design of water resources and infrastructure projects. His professional work includes hydrological and hydraulic analysis, flood modelling, and the design of cross-drainage structures for national and international highway projects. He has technical proficiency in HEC-RAS, HEC-HMS, EPANET, QGIS, and Civil 3D, and experience working with IRC, AASHTO, Zambian, and Ethiopian design standards, alongside a working knowledge of UK drainage frameworks, including DMRB and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). He completed his Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Biju Patnaik University of Technology, Rourkela, in 2021 with a CGPA of 7.98, and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Hydrology and Water Resources at Delhi Technological University.

His academic and professional interests include integrated water resources management and climate- resilient infrastructure, and he seeks exposure to Small Island Developing States (SIDS)—particularly in the Mediterranean and Caribbean regions—to inform future research and contribute to sustainable water security planning for Indian Ocean Island systems, including the Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands.

43. Mohamad Amereh

Mohammad Amereh is a PhD researcher in Political Geography at Kharazmi University (Tehran), with a focus on hydropolitics, transboundary water governance, and climate–water policy in the Middle East and North Africa. Alongside his doctoral research, he has over ten years of professional experience as an environmental journalist and policy analyst, and currently serves as Inspector and Head of the Media Committee of the Iranian Water Diplomacy Scientific Association, contributing to policy-oriented research, communication, and stakeholder engagement on water and environmental governance. His work does not focus specifically on islands; rather, it examines governance frameworks, institutional dynamics, and international water processes in complex and politically sensitive contexts.

He considers this perspective relevant for islands, particularly in relation to water governance, institutional mapping, and indirect international water and

climate policy processes affecting island systems. Mohammad is a member of the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) and is keen to contribute to the Islands and Water Task Force through policy-relevant research, comparative analysis, and collaborative knowledge-sharing.

44. Rannvá M Arge

Rannvá M Arge is an Environmental Case Officer at Tórshavnar kommuna, Faroe Islands, working on environmental regulation, permitting, and municipal policy implementation, and holds an academic background in geology, geophysics, and currently studying law. In parallel, Ms Arge has been involved in the development and amendment of environmental legislation, supporting the integration of scientific evidence into legal and regulatory frameworks, and contributes to tourism-related sustainability work through a task force linked to the Global Destination Sustainability Index. Previous professional experience includes geoscience roles within the energy sector, as well as research activities in geophysics and hydrogeology. Current work and research interests focus on sub-national island jurisdictions and SIDS, with particular emphasis on North Atlantic islands, including the Faroe Islands.

Areas of interest include island engagement in international water processes, island-adapted Integrated Water Resources Management, traditional knowledge systems, institutional mapping, and water quality challenges linked to tourism and long-term island sustainability.

45. Ricardo Irún

Ricardo Irún Sousa is a Public Works Manager for the Government of Cantabria in Spain, where he oversees the maintenance of communication infrastructures and hydrological plants. He previously worked as a Technical Draftsman for Acciona Agua in Portugal, where he developed designs for water infrastructures, including reverse osmosis desalination plants and wastewater treatment systems. His work focuses on environmental management and the water sector, specifically in the operation and control of treatment plants (ETAP/EDAR), which offers critical technical expertise for managing limited water resources in island jurisdictions. I await your response to see if everything is as requested. Best regards.

46. Ayend Daou

I am a hydraulic engineer currently working with SAUR, where I am involved in the design, operation, and management of potable water and sanitation systems along the western French coast. My work focuses on sustainable water management in sensitive coastal and island environments, where water quality is essential for both ecosystem health and local economic activities.

Through integrated water management, wastewater control, and environmental monitoring, I contribute to protecting coastal waters that directly support farmers and salt producers whose livelihoods depend on high water quality standards. By safeguarding coastal waters, we help ensure more stable and sustainable production outcomes year after year, while preserving fragile island ecosystems facing increasing pressures from climate change and human activity. In parallel, I am actively engaged in youth, policy, and international water initiatives. My main interests lie in Mediterranean islands and oceanic islands, with a focus on island resilience and climate adaptation. I currently serve as one of the four World Water Envoys 2025 at IWRA and am motivated to contribute practical, field-based expertise to the IWRA Islands Task Force.

47. Jane Lei

Jane currently serves as a Planning Committee Member for the Women in Water & Sanitation Network (WWSN), focusing on Membership Management, and actively contributes as a Topic Coordination Member for the 11th World Water Forum across three themes: Water Security, Water Finance, and the Value of Water. Although she has not worked directly on island-specific projects, her professional background centers on applying sustainability principles and sustainable water management in the private sector. She holds a Master of Science in Bioeconomy from the Technical University of Munich, where her thesis focused on addressing global water challenges and water footprint assessment at the water-intensive sector. Her expertise in industrial water risk management could be highly relevant for islands, where efficient water stewardship is critical for economic and environmental resilience. Within IWRA, she served as a Rapporteur at the 19th World Water Congress in Marrakech during 1-5 December 2025.

48. Enrique Rosales Asensio

Enrique Rosales Asensio is an Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain. He holds a PhD in Industrial Engineering and has extensive research experience at the interface of energy–water systems, with a particular focus on island and isolated power systems, desalination, and renewable energy integration. His work addresses the technical, economic, and governance challenges of deploying low-carbon energy solutions to secure water supply in island contexts, including small and medium islands with weak electricity grids. Enrique has authored more than 60 peer-reviewed scientific articles, several books published by international publishers, and holds patents related to energy and water management in desalination systems.

He has participated in and led national and European research projects focused on renewable-powered desalination, microgrids, and energy

resilience, particularly relevant for island regions such as Macaronesia. His research contributes to the energy–water nexus from a systems engineering and sustainability perspective, with clear policy and planning implications for islands.

49. Jhénelle Williams

Jhénelle Williams is the Network Liaison Officer for the Global Water Analysis Laboratories (GloWAL) at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), based in Vienna Austria. In her role, she's supporting Member States to build capacity in water resources management. She also serves as a Technical Officer in the IAEA's Isotope Hydrology Section, where she is currently leading the Coordinated Research Project focussed on using isotopic techniques to address water resource data challenges in small islands, and she also provides technical support for national and regional initiatives, including those across the Pacific Islands. A Jamaican born scientist, her work has largely focused on the Caribbean, specializing in environmental monitoring across freshwater, marine, and coastal systems, but her work now is focussed on supporting research in all island states.

50. Nuwan EDU

Nuwan Waduwavala (W.M. Nuwan) is a Technical Officer at the Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka, where he has been contributing since 2016 in laboratory-based chemical analysis of soil, plant tissues, fertilizers, organic manures, and water samples. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Plantation Management from Wayamba University of Sri Lanka and a Higher National Diploma in Technology (Agriculture) from the Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education. His professional expertise encompasses analytical chemistry, soil and water quality assessment, laboratory quality management, and sustainable agricultural practices.

W.M. Nuwan has received specialized training in ISO/IEC 17025 laboratory quality systems, analytical method validation, and reference material accreditation. His interests extend to environmental conservation and integrated soil–water management, particularly in agricultural and island ecosystems. Through his engagement with research, laboratory science, and sustainability initiatives, he aims to contribute to evidence-based water and environmental management in island contexts. W.M. Nuwan is also a Bronze Individual Member of the International Water Resources Association (IWRA), with active membership ID #2921211

51. Md. Saiful Islam

Md Saiful Islam is a Master's student in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at Cologne University of Applied Sciences, Germany.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Oceanography from Noakhali Science and Technology University, Bangladesh, and has research experience in water quality assessment, coastal ecosystems, climate change, and Nature-based Solutions (NbS). Mr Islam has previously worked as a Youth Fellow at the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and as a Research Assistant on several funded research projects addressing climate resilience, ecological sustainability, and water security. His current research interests focus on Mediterranean Islands, with particular attention to water scarcity, climate adaptation, coastal vulnerability, and water resource management. His work is relevant for island contexts as it addresses sustainable water governance and ecosystem-based approaches in climate-sensitive island and coastal systems.

52. Chris Finnigan

Chris Finnigan serves as Operations Team Manager at Scottish Water, currently overseeing wastewater assets across the North of Scotland and its islands. With over a decade of experience in the sector, he specialises in safeguarding marine and freshwater systems from pollution through the implementation of nature-based solutions, green-blue technologies, and advanced treatment processes to enhance resilience and support climate objectives for island communities.

He navigates the challenges faced by Scottish islands, including fluctuating seasonal demand, complex governance, and collaborates regularly with SEPA and government bodies to ensure compliance and environmental stewardship. He is also pursuing an LLM in Global Environmental Law and Governance, furthering his understanding of the legal and policy frameworks pertinent to water management. Driven by a passion for sharing practical insights and learning from international best practice, he strives to promote innovative, context-sensitive approaches for sustainable water management on islands worldwide.

53. Joseph W. Dellapenna

I am currently unaffiliated, but I taught law at Villanova University in the United States for 40 years and since retiring in 2016 I have taught as a visiting professor at a number of schools, most recently (until 2024) at the Beijing University School of Transnational Law. No affiliation with an island-based institution. I have studied and written extensively about the water law of Hawai'i, a complex and vital issue that reflects the traditional law native Hawaiians, the common law of riparian and prescriptive rights, and a modern statutory system of regulated riparianism. More generally, I have taught, written, and practiced water law at the local, national, and international level, most notably as rapporteur of the Berlin Rules on Water Resources for the International Law Association and as director of the Model Water Code

Project of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Each of these projects should be of interest in developing or improving water law and regulations on many islands. I have never held an official position with IWRA. I have served as moderator of the first public meeting of water managers representing the Israelis and the Palestinians, held under the auspices of IWRA at its meeting in Champaign, IL in 1993, and I have spoken as a panelist at several meetings over the years.

54. Tarak Nath Roy

Tarak Nath Roy is a Superintending Engineer (Agri-Irrigation) under the Water Resources Investigation & Development Department, Government of West Bengal, with nearly 29 years of professional experience in the sustainable development and management of agricultural water resources. He holds a Master of Technology degree in the field of Hydrology from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee, after completing his Bachelor of Civil Engineering from Jadavpur University, Kolkata, both among India's most prestigious academic institutions. In addition, he has successfully completed a specialized course on "Water / Wastewater Treatment and Management" from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, a premier institute of national importance. During his professional career, he was associated for about eight years with the World Bank-funded Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project (ADMIP) in West Bengal. He is keenly interested in being associated with the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) as a Task Force Member and is motivated to contribute to water resources development and management initiatives in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, considering their unique hydrological, ecological, and socio-economic challenges.

55. Qiuchi Shi

Qiuchi Shi, currently serving as a Council Member of the International Water Resources Association (IWRA), is a Professor-level Senior Engineer. She previously held the position of Director of the International Cooperation and Exchange Center of the Ministry of Water Resources of China. Prior to that, she served as Deputy Director General of the Department of Water Resources under the same ministry, where she was primarily responsible for water resources protection in China. She has been involved in freshwater resource conservation and management initiatives for domestic islands in China. Given the numerous islands across the country, her work has encompassed areas such as identifying freshwater sources, protecting island water quality, and preventing seawater intrusion. Her primary focus remains on the protection of island aquatic ecosystems and water quality security. She is willing to participate in relevant discussions and share case studies from China.

56. Natasha Ramkirpal

Natasha Ramkirpal is the Group Lead for Water Security and Optimisation at Coca-Cola Beverages Africa, where she leads enterprise-wide strategies to mitigate water-related risk and strengthen operational resilience. In parallel, she is the founder of a research and innovation practice focused on digital water intelligence, circular water systems, and infrastructure risk mitigation across Africa, working closely with utilities, municipalities, and private-sector partners to translate data into investment-ready water solutions. Her work builds on more than 17 years of experience in process engineering, water systems design, and technology and innovation management across multiple African markets.

Her current island-focused work and interests centre on Indian Ocean and Sub-Saharan African islands and sub-national island jurisdictions, including Mayotte and the Comoros, with a particular focus on source vulnerability, climate exposure, and water security for industrial and municipal systems. Natasha is an active member of the International Water Resources Association (IWRA), contributing to global dialogue on water security, governance, and innovation. She is also an active member of other industrial bodies in South Africa.

57. Akintunde Kuye

Akintunde Kuye is a PhD researcher in the School of Medicine at the University of Nottingham. His present research is focused on establishing the link between air pollution and health while investigating how air pollutants impact on the well-being of citizens on the UK island. Also working with the health provider organisation in Northern Ghana researching on portable water availability, water quality and management in rural areas. Focussing on how this can be used to manage health resources in the community and provision of water safety for women and children including providing tailored rural water education. I have previously worked on water management and water sustainability plans for the University of Nottingham (water quality, availability and flood mitigation plans). I work as a committee member of the UN Protocol on Water.

58. Kervelle Baird

Kervelle Baird is a PhD student at Portland State University. She is from Trinidad and Tobago where she helped establish the Journal of Caribbean Environmental Sciences and Renewable Energy. She also worked on waste management with the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean and wastewater reuse. She focuses on water quality through the management of microplastics.

59. Dr Mehak Puri

Dr Mehak Puri is an Assistant Professor at the Goa Institute of Management (GIM), India, working on climate-resilient water and resource governance. She has collaborated with national and international governments and institutions in India, Nigeria, Uganda, and Tanzania on water, sanitation, environmental policy reform, capacity building, and impact assessment initiatives. Her current research focuses on ecosystem valuation of services in estuaries and decarbonization pathways for India. While her work does not focus exclusively on islands, it addresses coastal and estuarine systems in sub-national regions such as Goa, which face island-like challenges related to freshwater stress, tourism pressure, ecosystem degradation, and climate risks.

Her research adopts a governance and systems perspective that is directly relevant to island and coastal water management. Within IWRA, she participates as an Early Career Young Professional and seeks to contribute to the Islands and Water Task Force through interdisciplinary research and science–policy engagement.

60. Manar Amer Atiyah

I am a law student, legal researcher, and Iraqi youth climate and environmental activist. I am a member of the Iraqi Supreme Youth Council for Climate Change and the International Water Resources Association (IWRA). I serve voluntarily as a Youth Representative to the World Food Forum (WFF), a member of the Regional Youth Network for the Sustainable Management of Forests and Rangelands in the Near East and North Africa region, and a member of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division of the World Food Forum. My academic and professional interests focus on the intersection of environmental law, water governance, and sustainability, supported by voluntary field experience in organizing community awareness campaigns and supporting youth-led initiatives in collaboration with the United Nations and various local and international organizations.

I am particularly interested in the legal and environmental challenges faced by islands affected by climate change, especially islands in the Arabian Gulf region and inhabited artificial islands. My work focuses on water scarcity, soil salinization, and the protection of water resources. Through my engagement with the IWRA Islands & Water Task Force, I aim to contribute to the development of legal frameworks and sustainable policies that promote equitable and resilient water management in island contexts.

61. Tamer Dagher

I am a water quality chemist at the Reference Laboratory for Drinking Water, working on drinking water monitoring, laboratory strengthening, and quality

assurance systems that support safe and resilient water supply under climate stress. In parallel, I have contributed as a consultant to large-scale water and laboratory infrastructure projects, including USAID-funded initiatives in Egypt, supporting institutional capacity building, governance frameworks, and applied water quality management relevant to climate adaptation. While my work is not island-specific, it is highly relevant to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and sub-national island jurisdictions, where limited freshwater resources, reliance on groundwater, desalination and rainwater, seasonal demand peaks, and ridge-to-reef water quality pressures make laboratory capacity, water safety planning, and evidence-based policy essential. I currently do not hold a formal role within IWRA, but I actively engage with IWRA initiatives focused on water quality, IWRM, and climate resilience from a science–policy interface.

62. Chris Obi Okeke

Chris Obi Okeke is a development practitioner, peace advocate, and climate resilience champion currently pursuing a Master's degree in Development Studies and Diplomacy (M.A DSD) with UNITAR/University for Peace. He brings over 15 years of multidisciplinary experience in development policy, climate governance, public health resilience, community advocacy, and leadership across Nigeria and global platforms. He is the Lead and Founder of the Charity Foundation for Livelihood Support (CFLS), advancing inclusive development, sustainable livelihoods, and community resilience in alignment with international frameworks including the SDGs, Paris Agreement, and Sendai Framework. Chris has contributed significantly to national climate governance processes, particularly through his engagement with the Nigeria Climate Change Commission (NCCC) in the development of the country's Just Transition Policy Framework. He has supported stakeholder consultations, evidence-based dialogue, and policy advocacy to promote equitable energy transition, green economy opportunities, and community-centered resilience. His civic leadership includes serving as an accredited Election Observer and Peace Ambassador with Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), and participating in national accountability advocacy through the Bring Back Our Girls Movement, contributing to milestones supporting Nigeria's National Missing Persons Registry.

Chris's expertise spans water sustainability, climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, decentralization reform, urban resilience, and public health, strengthened by advanced training with UNITAR, UNDRR, UNFCCC, FAO, WHO, UNSSC, and other UN-affiliated institutions. His professional background includes clinical and community health work with FAITH ALIVE Foundation and Pro-Health International, as well as capacity development support with Push Africa Centre for Capacity Building. He is deeply committed to strengthening water security, climate-resilient communities, island and

vulnerable population protection, and inclusive policy implementation. His multidisciplinary expertise and engagement with national and UN systems align strongly with the IWRA Islands & Water Task Force, and he is eager to contribute meaningfully to advancing sustainable and resilient water governance solutions. I look forward to contributing my expertise to the IWRA Islands & Water Task Force and supporting its mission to advance evidence-based, inclusive, and sustainable water governance solutions.

63. Inimfon Umo

I am an educationist with expertise in Health Education and Community Health. I bring valuable insights to the current project on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH). My research experience spans societal perceptions, the relationship between education and health policy, community engagement and participation. I have worked with both local and international organizations and institutions, including the University of Bradford, Helen Keller International, International Water Resources Association (IWRA), Waterline and Development Initiative, E-Counselling and Educational Centre (ECEC) Africa. As a research assistant on the IHE-Delft Water Development Partnership Programmes (WDPP) grant project, I investigated environmental and socio-cultural factors behind gender-based differences in access to WaSH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) in Nigeria. This experience strengthened my ability to navigate research projects effectively.

As a passionate volunteer, I have participated in a street and house-to-house community sensitization campaign on adolescent reproductive health, led by the Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS) in collaboration with the Nigerian Red Cross Society. This work deepened my understanding of the challenges faced by adolescents and enabled me to create non-judgmental spaces where they could express themselves without stigma. Given my extensive experience in WaSH and my successful collaborations with diverse Organizations, I am well-positioned to contribute meaningfully to the ongoing project. My skills in social works and the communication of impactful ideas will support high-quality qualitative research. I am confident that my contributions will support evidence-based policymaking and lead to improved outcomes for adolescents and their communities.

64. Solomon Jekayinfa

Solomon Jekayinfa is a Geophysics Lecturer at the Geological Sciences Department, Osun State University, Nigeria and the Lead Consultant, Solo-May Geoservices Nigeria. As a consultant, he has led projects involving the use of geophysics in the exploration and sustainable development of

groundwater resources in different terrains of southwestern Nigeria. His projects involve the application of GIS tools in mapping the extent of saltwater intrusion in coastal aquifers of Southwestern Nigeria. Also, he applied hydrogeophysical techniques in pioneering research modelling the interaction and transportation of bitumen contaminants in the coastal plain sand aquifer of southwestern Nigeria.

He is a registered and accredited geoscientist with the Nigerian Government. Solomon's work and research focuses on near-surface geophysics and its application in groundwater exploration, pollution monitoring and mitigation, geotechnical and environmental assessments and archaeological investigations. Although he is new to IWRA, he is keen to use his expertise to help drive sustainable groundwater resource management on a global scale while also networking and increasing exposure and collaboration for his work.

65. TSIRESY Edmond Clark

I am a geographer with a PhD in Geography, specializing in payment mechanisms for ecosystem services, with a focus on water resources and forest ecological integrity. Currently, I serve as the Director of the Research, Education, and Training Coordination Unit at the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Madagascar. I am passionate about fostering sustainable development through research, education, and strategic initiatives that bridge environmental science and policy. I am also a temporary Lecturer at the universities of Antananarivo and Fianarantsoa Madagascar.

66. Euan Innes

Euan Innes is Technical Team Manager for Water Supply Optioneering with Scottish Water, where he is responsible for water resource investment planning. He serves as Co-Program Lead for the UK Water Industry Research (UKWIR) water resource research program, with a focus on governance issues. He also provides advice to the Scottish Government on IWRM policy development.

With Scottish Water's role as national water utility his work involved planning the water supply for many of Scotland 93 inhabited islands. Dealing with isolated systems, tourism peaks, and water intensive local economies. While historically focussed on Scotland he also has interest in SIDS, having a publication history in social vulnerability to hydro-hazard in African subsistence farming communities. He has particular interest in climate change adaption, cross sector resource planning, and ecological restoration.

He is a member of IWRA and attended the inaugural Islands Water Congress in 2024.

67. SAURABH SINGH

Saurabh Kumar is a research scholar at the Department of Botany, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India. As an environmental botanist, my present research work focuses on utilizing or reusing treated sewage water for irrigation of crop plants, its benefits and limitations as well as sewage water mediated heavy metals uptake and accumulation in crop plants. I am happy to join the IWRA Task Force on Islands and Water particularly emphasizing the conservation of freshwater resources mainly for potable or drinking purposes and recycling of wastewater after treatment so as to maximize the wastewater reuse. I am interested in working mainly on oceanic or sea islands as they have limited sources of fresh water supply. I want to work out on finding possible ways to cope up with limited fresh water supply by rainwater harvesting, integrating reuse of wastewater after proper treatment and by generating more water through desalination of oceanic or sea water.

68. James Ellsmoor

James Ellsmoor focuses on why some regions secure economic opportunity while others remain constrained by environmental risk and structural barriers to finance and investment access. He examines how governance, geography, and political status shape development outcomes, particularly for island and coastal jurisdictions navigating climate and economic transitions.

He advises governments, development institutions, and regional bodies on sustainable economic development in complex jurisdictional contexts, including island states and coastal regions managing climate change, energy transitions, and ocean-linked economies. As CEO of Island Innovation, he leads a global platform connecting governments and practitioners on climate policy and finance, enabling cross-regional collaboration and comparative insight that strengthens institutional capacity and supports resilient development pathways.

He holds a Master's in Island Studies from the University of the Highlands and Islands, a programme based in the Orkney Isles, where he was recognised as Postgraduate Student of the Year. He serves on advisory bodies across the Caribbean, Europe, and Asia and contributes to international policy processes, including UN climate conferences. Based in Lisbon and active globally, he operates at the intersection of governance transition and climate-aligned economic strategy. A frequent speaker and moderator at

international climate and regional development forums, James provides commentary to outlets including the BBC and was formerly a contributor for Forbes. He has delivered guest lectures at institutions including Harvard University and the University of the West Indies.

69. Anass Mouktaoui

Anass Mouktaoui is a Civil Engineering student at the École Hassania des Travaux Publics (EHTP) in Casablanca, specializing in sustainable infrastructure and hydraulic engineering. Recognized for his technical leadership, he was a laureate of the National Hackathon "WaterSmart Morocco," where he developed an IoT solution for water resource optimization. This project was selected for exhibition at the XIXth World Water Congress in Marrakech (2025).

Anass has also received the 2nd National Innovation Prize from FENELEC for smart energy management and the Excellence Prize in Innovation and Entrepreneurship from APC Maroc. With professional experience at major firms like TGCC and SGTm, he possesses strong expertise in structural analysis, BIM, and mathematical modeling. His ambition is to integrate complex engineering with sustainable management strategies to lead the resilient water infrastructures of tomorrow.

Regarding the specific islands of interest, I am quite versatile and able to adapt to any environment. My primary goal is to gain new experiences and network with other professionals in the field. I am confident that I can contribute effectively to the Task Force regardless of the specific location, and I look forward to the opportunity to prove my commitment to the project.

70. Mercy Ncube

Mercy Ncube is a Senior Water and Sanitation Engineer based in St Helena with over 15 years of experience in municipal water management and island water governance. She currently serves as Technical Manager at Connect, where she leads strategic WASH projects on the island, including the development of the Water Resources Management Plan and innovative nature-based solutions such as harnessing water through cloud forests. Previously, she held senior roles in Zimbabwe, including Deputy Director of Water & Sanitation for the City of Mutare and Principal Water Engineer for Bulawayo City Council, spearheading major infrastructure projects like the AfDB-funded Bulawayo Water Sanitation Improvement Project. Mercy holds an MSc in Urban Water & Sanitation from UNESCO-IHE and an MBA in Strategic Management. She is an active member of IWA, AWWA, IWRA, AfWASA, and other professional associations, and is passionate about

advancing sustainable freshwater management for island communities worldwide.

71. Patricia Kroes

Patricia Kroes is the founder of Save our Fiji, a non-profit organisation dedicated to providing clean and safe drinking water to vulnerable and remote communities across Fiji. She also raises awareness about the challenges in Fiji related to access to safe and healthy drinking water, highlighting issues of water security, inequality, and the impacts of climate change on island communities. Her work focuses on sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programmes, with an emphasis on integrating climate resilience into water access to address these challenges.

She has a background in global politics and international public policy, with expertise in sustainability, environmental governance, and public policy analysis. She has contributed to initiatives with UNDP, UNEP, UN-Water, UNITAR, and UNIDO, supporting research and programme work on sustainable energy, water governance, disaster risk, and resilience in Pacific island contexts. She has also contributed to research on water-related challenges in Fiji, including work published with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD).

Through Save our Fiji, Patricia leads initiatives that integrate climate resilience into water access, addressing the impacts of climate change on island communities. Her work is grounded in the belief that access to clean water is a fundamental right and a key driver of sustainable development and peace, and in the conviction that it is possible for everyone in Fiji to have access to safe and healthy drinking water.

72. Phillip Majeke

Phillip Majeke is a Process Engineer with over 14 years' experience in the water sector in South Africa, currently serving as Commercialisation Manager for the South African Sanitation Technology Enterprise Programme (SASTEP) at the Water Research Commission (WRC). He holds a BEng in Chemical Engineering and a BEng Honours in Environmental Engineering from the University of Pretoria. Phillip plays a leading role in the award-winning SASTEP Programme, advancing innovative climate resilient, water efficient and circular decentralized sanitation technologies. He is also seconded to the Development Bank of Southern Africa's Water Partnerships Office (WPO) to support scaling of Water Efficient Sanitation Systems (WESS) across applicable settings in South Africa. His work focuses on commercializing and scaling next-generation sanitation solutions, particularly in resource-constrained contexts. Phillip is part of IWA Resource Oriented

Sanitation Specialist Group Management Committee, AfWASA's Sanitation Specialist Group, and Water Institute of Southern Africa's Climate Change Committee.

73. Tess Davids

Tess Davids is a hydrogeologist at Deltares in the Netherlands, Europe. Her work focuses on freshwater availability, groundwater, and coastal processes in Small Island States (SIDS), particularly in the Caribbean. She is interested in understanding how island systems function as connected social, ecological, and hydrological systems, and how they can remain resilient in the face of climate change and sea level rise. Groundwater modelling is one of the tools she uses, but her main focus is on generating knowledge that supports practical decision-making and sustainable water management. She has contributed to projects on freshwater security, salinisation, and the connection between groundwater and coastal and marine ecosystems on islands. Tess strongly believes that addressing island water challenges requires close cooperation between researchers, communities, practitioners, and policymakers.