



4th GROUNDWATER FORUM

Unlocking Solutions for a Resilient Water Future

Groundwater is the most crucial resource for meeting global freshwater needs. Facing climate change, growing demand, and increasing pressures on water resources, this forum focuses on how groundwater can secure sustainable and future-proof water supplies. The program adds to the discussions at IWA Copenhagen 2022, IWA Toronto 2024 and other recent events. The Groundwater Forum will contribute to the overall theme of the congress: *“Water action – the path to resilience and prosperity”*.

The format of the sessions is expected to be highly interactive, promoting dialogue by sharing experience and knowledge by having a combination of lectures, dialogue fora and other interactive methods. Furthermore, we intend to support the building of groundwater networks for increased knowledge exchange.

Organized by:

- Danish Water Forum (DWF) (Initiator) represented by Jesper G. Dannisøe, Michael Ramlau, Morten Riis & Ida Holm Olesen.
- IWA Groundwater Management Specialist Group (IWA-GWMSG) represented by Julia Gathu
- Geological Survey of Denmark & Greenland (GEUS) represented by Heidi Barlebo
- British Geological Survey (BGS) represented by Alan McDonald and Donald John MacAllister
- Grundfos represented by Morten Riis.
- UNESCO Groundwater Youth Network represented by Lucija Plantak
- Danish Water and Wastewater Association (DANVA) represented by Line Møller Ringgaard

When? Monday 5. October 2026 10:30-17:00

Where? IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition 2026 Glasgow, Scotland

Programme overview:

10:30-12:00: Session I: Groundwater resource management

13:30-15:00: Session II: The future of groundwater-based supply

15:30-17:00: Session III: Engaging societies in groundwater

Groundwater Reception 17:00: In extension of the Groundwater Forum, the participants are invited to continue discussions at a reception kindly hosted by Grundfos in the Exhibition Hall.

During the reception, **a book launch** with authors from the organisations **Action Against Hunger (Action Contre la Faim, ACF)**, **Groundwater Relief (GWR)** and **The International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (UN-IGRAC)** will take place:

GROUNDWATER MONITORING IN HUMANITARIAN CONTEXTS. A GUIDE FOR PRACTITIONERS AND DECISION MAKERS

The book provides guidance for designing, implementing and maintaining groundwater monitoring systems in demanding settings, based on field experience and global good practice. The message is clear: effective groundwater monitoring is possible, even in extreme and challenging contexts, when it is realistic and appropriately designed with its beneficiaries; and the benefits are numerous and documented: protecting safe water access, both for today's emergencies and for future generations.

PROGRAM

Groundwater Forum Monday 5. October 2026 Groundwater - Unlocking Solutions for a Resilient Water Future		
Time	Title	Speakers
10:30-12:00		
Session I: Groundwater resource management – A global outlook and case stories from Africa		
Session Chair: Ida Holm Olesen, President of Danish Water Forum Session Co-Chair: Birgit Guhse, CEO DHI, Denmark		
10:30	Official opening of Groundwater Forum	
10.40	Long-term trends in groundwater levels worldwide: implications for ecosystems and societies	Elisabeth Lictevout, Director, IGRAC (International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre)
10.55	A tale of two groundwaters: contrasting resource development and trajectories of change across two continents	Donald John MacAllister, British Geological Survey
11.10	Groundwater management for durable water security: Learning cases from Morocco	Prof. Lhoussaine-Bouchaou, Ibn Zohr University, Faculty of Sciences & International Water Research Institute (IWRI)- UM6P, Morocco
11.25	The Future of Groundwater in Africa: The Strategic Programme on Groundwater for Water Security and Resilience in Africa	Callist Tindimugaya, Commissioner for Water Resources Planning and Regulation, Uganda
11.40	Interactive session	Line Møller Ringgaard, DANVA

Groundwater Forum Monday 5. October 2026 Groundwater - Unlocking Solutions for a Resilient Water Future		
Time	Title	Speakers
13:30-15:00		
Session II: The future of groundwater-based supply – Resilience and Artificial Intelligence!		
Session Chair: Jesper Goodley Dannisoee, Secretary General, Danish Water Forum. Session Co-Chair: Morten Riis, Group Director, Grundfos Holding A/S		
13:30	Welcome by Chair	
13.40	Same Problem, Different Approaches: UNICEF's Vision for Groundwater Innovation in Low-Resource and Humanitarian Settings.	Jay Matta, UNICEF
13:55	Enhancing Freshwater Capture for Groundwater Resilience: Benefits and Trade-offs	Dr Mohammad Shamsudduha, University College London
14:10	Does a 100% groundwater-based water supply provide a resilient supply for the future?	Dr. Martin Rygaard, HOFOR – Greater Copenhagen Utility
14.25	The use of AI in groundwater resources management- a help or a hindrance?	Professor Marian Scott, University of Glasgow
14.40	Interactive session	Line Møller Ringgaard, DANVA

Groundwater Forum Monday 5. October 2026 Groundwater - Unlocking Solutions for a Resilient Water Future		
Time	Title	Speakers
	15:30-17:00: Session III: Engaging societies in groundwater - how to capacitate societies and especially the next generation of groundwater custodians?	
	Session Chair: Sam Godfrey, UNICEF Session Co-Chair: tbd	
15:30	Welcome by Chair	
15:40	Financing groundwater development	Zeynu Ummer, Resilience Hub for Africa, Groundwater Access Facility, UNDP
15.55	Building water systems that last: Community-supported water supply in South Africa	Dr Shafick Adams, Water Research Commission, South Africa
16.10	From Altepetl to Aquifer: Mexico City's Long Struggle for Water Balance.	Alejandra Partida, groundwater correspondent of IGRAC
16.25	Title to come.	Ricki Korsholm, Grundfos
16.40	Interactive session	Line Møller Ringgaard, DANVA