



Inspiring the Next Wave of Water Stewards: Introducing the AWS Standard V3.0

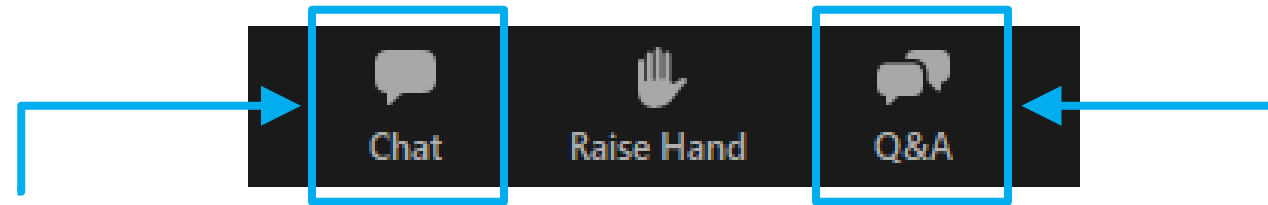
27 MAY 2026

WEBINAR INFORMATION – HOUSEKEEPING RULES



- This webinar will be **recorded and made available “On-demand”** on the [IWA Connect Plus and the IWA website](#) with relevant information.
- The **speakers** are responsible for **securing copyright permissions** for any work that they will present of which they are not the legal copyright holder.
- The opinions, hypothesis, conclusions or recommendations contained in the presentations and other materials are the **sole responsibility of the speaker(s)** and do not necessarily reflect IWA opinion.

WEBINAR INFORMATION – HOUSEKEEPING RULES



- **‘Chat’ box:** please use this for general requests and for interactive activities.
- **‘Q&A’ box:** please use this to send questions to the panelists. (We will answer these during the discussions)

Please Note: Attendees’ microphones are muted. We cannot respond to ‘Raise Hand’.

AGENDA



- **Introduction to the webinar and Housekeeping**
Afia Siddiqui, Learn and Intelligence Officer, IWA
- **Introduction to the SG Advanced Presentation 1 : IWA and water stewardship ambitions. Partnering with AWS and brief background to MOU**
Dr. Faith Lawrence, AWS
- **Brief introduction to AWS, advancing dialogue and collaboration with the public sector and the spirit of our collaboration with IWA**
Dr. Faith Lawrence, AWS
- **AWS Standard V3.0 – Background to the Standard; introducing the new version, and how it can advance water stewardship ambitions of IWA members**
Tyler Farrow, AWS
- **IWA member reflection on Water Stewardship and the Standard**
Oliver Maennicke, Global Advisory Alliance
- **Panel Discussion and Q&A with the audience**
Speakers and Moderator
- **Closing remarks**
Dr. Faith Lawrence, AWS



AWS-IWA Partnership

27 May 2026

The Spirit of our AWS- IWA Partnership



To **facilitate and expand collaboration**, given that the two organisations have:

- Complementary missions and overlapping corporate members; and
- Shared interest in contributing to improved water management through promotion and action on water stewardship.

Purpose

- Express a joint objective in working together to advance water stewardship.
- Enable and encourage joint activities by IWA and AWS members.

Activities

Participate and contribute to events, for example:

- IWA World Water Congress –AWS Global Water Stewardship Forum
- Build capacity and knowledge across networks
- AWS brings knowledge on water stewardship and watershed management to IWA members.
- IWA Specialist Groups share technical knowledge on urban water issues.
- Development of new joint initiatives or special projects, or collaboration on existing initiatives.

WATER AS A BUSINESS RISK



ALLIANCE FOR WATER STEWARDSHIP

Support the Guardian

Fund independent journalism with £12 per month

Support us →

News provider of the year

News

Opinion

Sport

Culture

Lifestyle

Thailand's devastating floods are hitting PC hard drive supplies, warn analysts

Country is centre of world hard drive manufacture but factories have been seriously affected by floods, which could affect supplies early in 2012



Thailand flooding costs Lloyd's of London \$2.2bn
Combined estimates from other insurance groups have already put total cost of Thai natural dis

ALS MAGAZINE RESEARCH



Flooded Toyota Durban plant halts operations; trucks backing up on N3



DEFINING WATER STEWARDSHIP



‘The use of water that is socially and culturally equitable, environmentally sustainable and economically beneficial, achieved through a stakeholder-inclusive process that involves site- and catchment-based actions.’



Photo credit: Pexels

WHAT IS THE



ALLIANCE FOR
WATER STEWARDSHIP



Membership Alliance

Primary multi-stakeholder network of global best practice on site-driven stewardship action

200+ members

- Multinational corporations
- International NGOs
- Global consultancies
- Development Agencies

- SMEs / Supplier producers
- Civil Society Orgs
- Public Sector

Standard System

Custodian of the global best practice standard for water stewardship – ‘AWS Standard’

Provide training, events, working groups, tools, capacity building and knowledge sharing

Certification against the AWS Standard

Convenor + Catalyst

Convenor advancing the practice of water stewardship globally and locally

Catalyst of place-based collective actions – ‘Collective Action Accelerator’

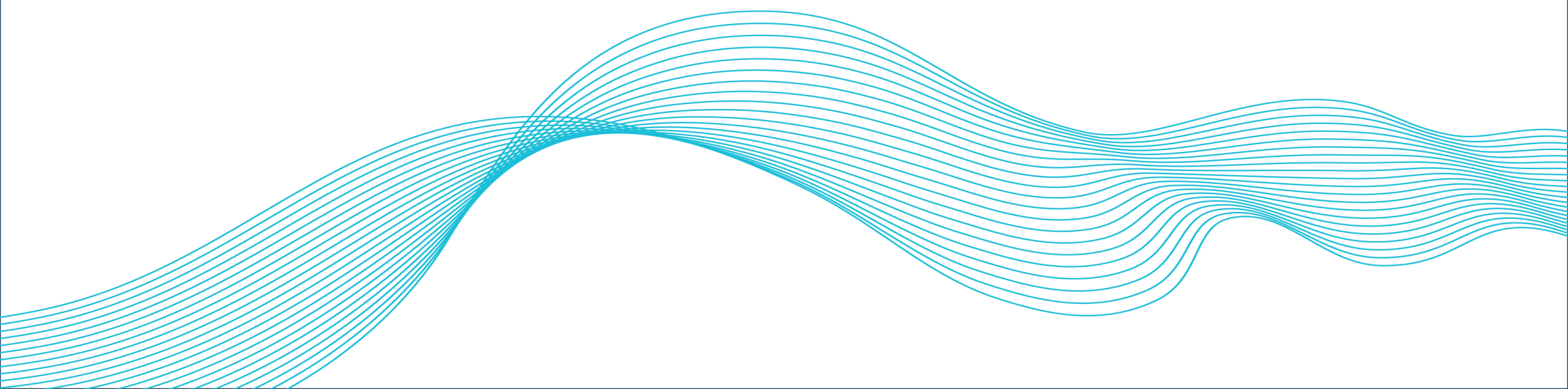
Collaborator of diverse organisations helping to facilitate the advancement of stewardship – creating new tools and resources, shaping policy dialogues, building partnerships

Advancing Dialogue and Collaboration



- **Water stewardship is shaped** not only by action on the ground, but also **by the policies, standards and governance frameworks** that guide those actions.
- We believe that **meaningful policy engagement is essential to advancing credible water stewardship** globally.
- AWS works with members and strategic partners to **ensure that water stewardship is represented in key dialogues and governance processes**. Our approach is collaborative, inclusive and grounded in real-world experience.

International Water Stewardship Standard Version 3.0



AWS STANDARD REVISION

OVERVIEW

Aims

- **Practicality** – Streamlined for companies to implement cost-effectively at scale.
- **Utility** – Alignment with wider sustainability agendas and priorities.
- **Value** – Strengthened integration with corporate-level reporting.

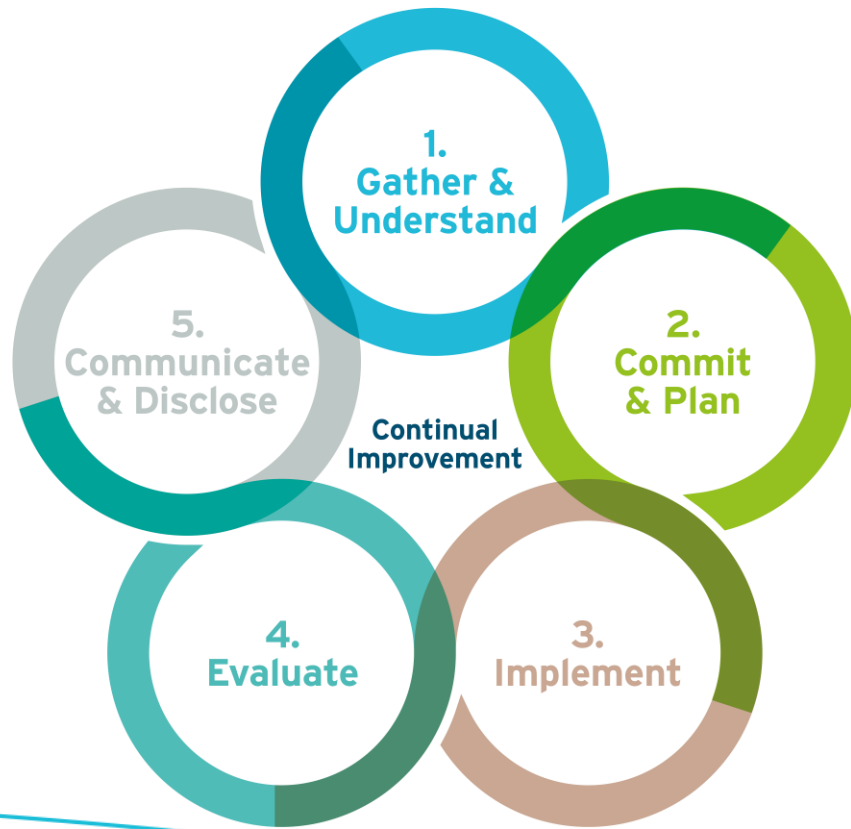
Governance and decision-making

- Followed ISEAL's Code of Good Practice.
- AWS Technical Committee had overall responsibility.
- AWS Members voted to adopt AWS Standard V3.0.



AWS STANDARD VERSION 3.0

The AWS Standard V3.0 is built around five steps:



The Standard is intended to achieve five outcomes:

-  Good water governance
-  Sustainable water balance
-  Good water quality status
-  Healthy freshwater ecosystems and their biodiversity
-  Safe water, sanitation and hygiene for all (WASH)



Download the
AWS Standard



KEY CHANGES

PRACTICALITY

- **Streamlined requirements** – fewer requirements means comprehensiveness retained while redundancy removed
- **Accessibility** – balance between Core, Gold and Platinum requirements has been adjusted to improve accessibility while retaining rigour
- **Improved auditability** – clear minimum expectations for conformance reduces room for interpretation
- **Enhanced approach to Advanced certification** – smaller focused set of Advanced requirements at Gold and Platinum building on Core requirements



KEY CHANGES



UTILITY

- **Climate and resilience** – new requirements to understand climate trends, water-related impacts, identify climate risks and climate-proof water stewardship plans
- **Biodiversity** – ‘Important Water Related Areas’ changed to ‘Healthy freshwater ecosystems and their biodiversity’
- **Collective action** – featured in the Core, Gold and Platinum level
- **Desalination and reuse** – now equally applicable to sites using desalinated water and requirements recognise and encourage water reuse



KEY CHANGES



VALUE

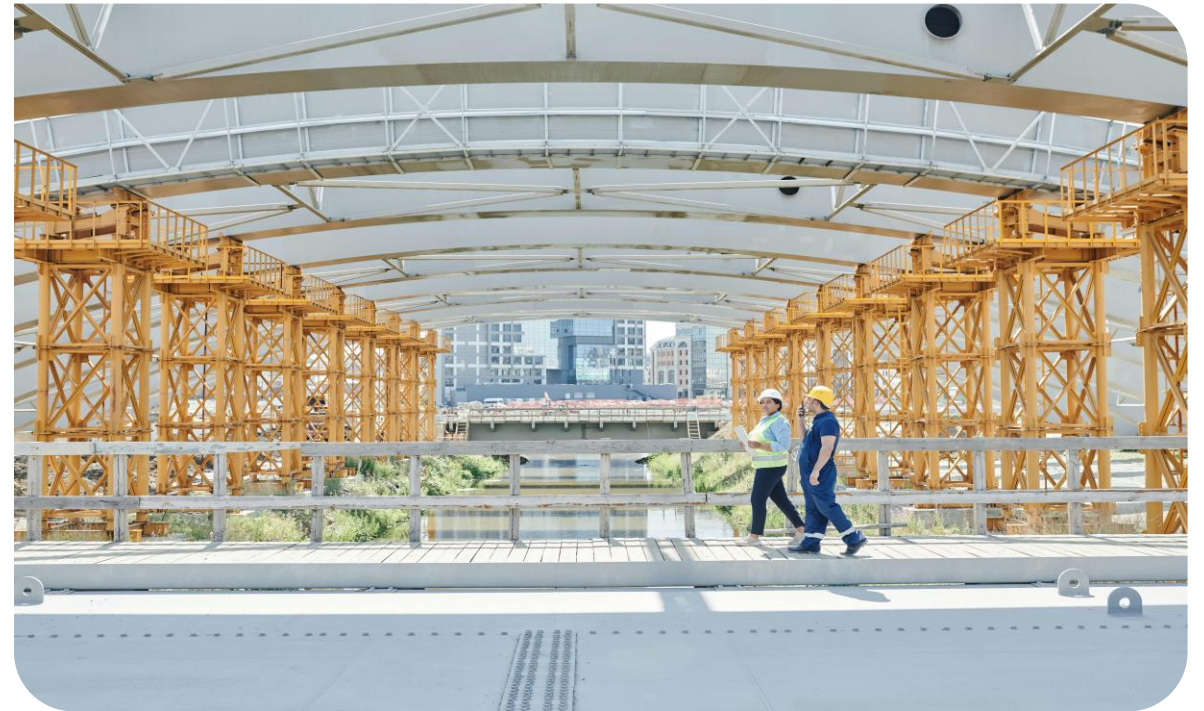
- **Impacts and dependencies** – new requirement to identify water-related impacts and dependencies before identifying risks and opportunities incorporates double materiality
- **Integration with EU CSRD Corporate Level Reporting** – highly interoperable with the ESRS E3 – Water Standard means information gathered can inform reporting on all E3 indicators.



GUIDANCE, TRAINING & AUDITS FOR VERSION 3.0



- The AWS Standard V3.0 Guidance is in the final stages of review and is set to be released by the end of May 2026.
- Registration to AWS Standard System Training course on Version 3.0 is now available on a4ws.org. Contact training@a4ws.org for more information and support.
- Audits against the AWS Standard V3.0 will commence in June 2026.



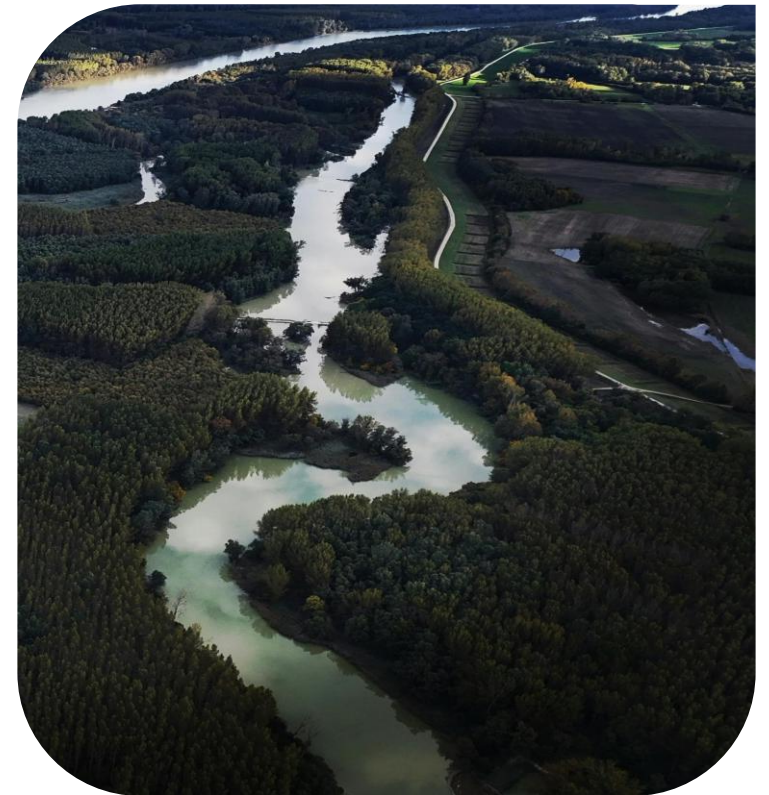
TRANSITION PERIOD



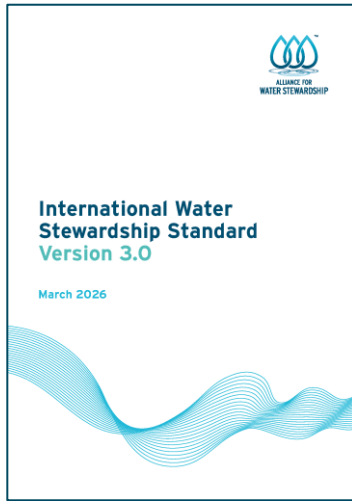
The launch of the AWS Standard V3.0 will be followed by a one-year transition period. After the transition period, all initial and recertification audits will be conducted against V3.0.

For sites that are already certified against the AWS Standard V2.0, or that choose to use V2.0 for their initial or recertification audit during the transition period, surveillance audits will be conducted against V2.0.

Sites may choose to receive a new certification audit against the AWS Standard V3.0 before their existing V2.0 certificate expires.



THANK YOU



Get started on your water stewardship journey, download the AWS Standard V3.0 at a4ws.org/aws-standard



Join AWS at the 2026 Global Water Stewardship Forum in June. Register at a4ws.org/forum



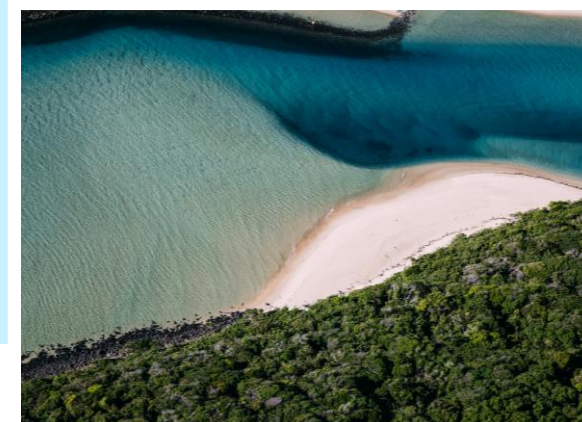
Keep in touch! Subscribe to the AWS newsletter at a4ws.org and follow on LinkedIn [@Alliance for Water Stewardship](https://www.linkedin.com/company/alliance-for-water-stewardship)



ALLIANCE FOR
WATER STEWARDSHIP

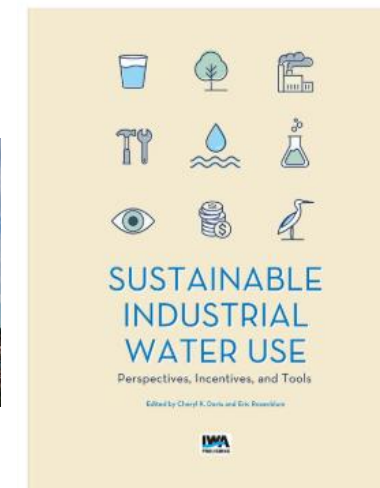
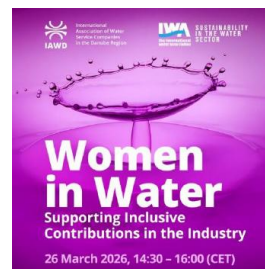
IWA member reflection on Water Stewardship and the Standard

OLIVER MAENNICKE, FOUNDING ADVISOR, GLOBAL ADVISORY ALLIANCE



IWA SPECIALIST GROUP SUSTAINABILITY IN THE WATER SECTOR

- Our Working groups
 - Sustainable water uses by industries
 - SDG's from strategy to action, use of monitoring and reporting
 - Women in Water
 - Climate mitigation and adaptation
 - Indigenous Perspectives
- Previous activities
 - Webinars
 - Conferences and For a
 - Publishing



A CONNECTIVE TISSUE FOR GLOBAL WATER ACTION



UPCOMING IWA WEBINARS & EVENTS



WEBINAR

Shaping Confidence for Women in the Water Sector

IWA
the international water association

 **02 June 2026**
11:00 BST

REGISTER NOW
www.iwa-network.org/iwa-learn



Learn more at

<https://www.iwa-network.org/learn/inspiring-the-next-wave-of-water-stewards-introducing-the-aws-standard-v3-0>

UPCOMING IWA WEBINARS & EVENTS



IWA YOUNG WATER PROFESSIONALS
the international water association

YWP GET-TOGETHER

Career Skills - Session 5: Bridge the gap between academia and industry

 5 JUNE 2026
14:00 BST

REGISTER NOW
www.iwa-network.org/iwa-learn

IWA YOUNG WATER PROFESSIONALS
the international water association
Steering Committee
(2024-2026)

The poster features a white background with blue wavy graphic elements at the bottom. It includes the IWA logo and 'YOUNG WATER PROFESSIONALS' text in the top right. The main title 'YWP GET-TOGETHER' is in large blue letters. Below it, the session title 'Career Skills - Session 5: Bridge the gap between academia and industry' is in black. At the bottom left, there is a calendar icon, the date '5 JUNE 2026', and the time '14:00 BST'. A 'REGISTER NOW' button and the website URL 'www.iwa-network.org/iwa-learn' are also present. At the bottom right, the IWA logo is repeated along with 'YOUNG WATER PROFESSIONALS Steering Committee (2024-2026)'.

Learn more at
<https://www.iwa-network.org/learn/ywp-get-together-career-skills-session-5>

UPCOMING IWA WEBINARS & EVENTS



Learn more at
<https://iwa-let.org/>

UPCOMING IWA WEBINARS & EVENTS



IWA
the international water association

Water Action – The Path to Resilience and Prosperity

World Water Congress & Exhibition

GLASGOW UK
4-8 OCTOBER 2026
www.worldwatercongress.org

The poster features an aerial view of Glasgow, Scotland, with the River Clyde flowing through the city. The River Clyde is a prominent feature, with several bridges crossing it. The city skyline is visible in the background, including the Glasgow Science Centre and the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. The text is overlaid on the image, with the IWA logo in the top right corner. The main title 'World Water Congress & Exhibition' is in large white letters. The dates and location are in blue text at the bottom right. The website URL is in blue text at the bottom right. A blue wavy line is at the bottom of the poster.

Learn more at
<https://worldwatercongress.org/>

UPCOMING IWA WEBINARS & EVENTS



Digital Water Summit

ISTANBUL TÜRKIYE

24-26 Nov 2026

Join the Transformation Journey

www.digitalwatersummit.org



Learn more at
<https://digitalwatersummit.org/>

JOIN OUR NETWORK OF WATER PROFESSIONALS!



IWA brings professionals from many disciplines together to accelerate the science, innovation and practice that can make a difference in addressing water challenges.

SCAN THE QR CODE



Use code **WBNR26IWA20**
for a **20% discount off**
new membership.

Join before 31 December 2026

inspiring change

