

SYSTA Award Experience Report

Participation in the 10th International Symposium on Water Resources Management (IWRM 2026)

Name: Rosemary Evarist Kavishe

Institution: University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Award: IAHS SYSTA Award

Conference: 10th International Symposium on Water Resources Management (IWRM 2026)

Location: Canberra, Australia

Presentation: *Trade-offs Between Pastoral Livelihoods and Water Resource Sustainability in a Semi-Arid Catchment: Insights for Integrated Water Management in Usangu, Tanzania*

1. Introduction

I am very grateful to the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS) for awarding me the SYSTA Award, which provided me with the opportunity to participate in IWRM 2026. The award represented an important opportunity for me as an early-career researcher to present my work to an international audience and engage with researchers working on water resources management and hydrological sciences.

2. Participation and Presentation

Following receipt of the award, I completed the necessary preparations for travel and applied for an Australian visa. Unfortunately, my visa application was refused, which prevented me from travelling to Canberra and attending the symposium in person.

I subsequently worked with the IAHS team and the conference organizers to identify an alternative arrangement. I submitted a recorded version of my presentation and was also able to participate online and deliver my presentation remotely during the scheduled session.

My presentation, *“Trade-offs Between Pastoral Livelihoods and Water Resource Sustainability in a Semi-Arid Catchment: Insights for Integrated Water Management in Usangu, Tanzania,”* examined the relationship between pastoral livelihoods and water-resource sustainability in the semi-arid Usangu Catchment of Tanzania. Presenting this work to an international hydrological audience was a valuable opportunity to communicate the relevance of my research beyond the Tanzanian context.

3. Experience and Benefits

The symposium exposed me to a wide range of research and perspectives on integrated water resources management. I particularly valued the opportunity to learn from researchers working on different hydrological and water-management challenges and to consider how these approaches relate to my own research on hydroclimatic variability, ecosystems, pastoral systems, and water resources sustainability.

The opportunity also strengthened my experience in communicating interdisciplinary research to an international scientific audience. More broadly, the SYSTA Award provided an important platform for professional development and engagement with the IAHS community.

4. Challenges Encountered

The main challenge was the refusal of my Australian visa, which meant that I could not benefit from the in-person conference experience, including face-to-face networking and informal scientific discussions.

Although remote participation allowed me to deliver my presentation and follow the symposium, the considerable time difference between Tanzania and Australia made participation more challenging, particularly for sessions scheduled outside convenient working hours in Tanzania. Consequently, the online experience could not fully replicate the benefits of attending the symposium physically.

5. Future Engagement

Despite these challenges, I greatly value the opportunity provided through the SYSTA Award and remain interested in continued engagement with IAHS. I would be particularly grateful to be considered for future IAHS-supported conferences, training activities, or early-career opportunities that may allow me to participate in person and further develop international research collaborations and professional networks.

Such opportunities would allow me to build on the experience gained through SYSTA and continue contributing to the hydrological sciences community.

6. Conclusion

Overall, the SYSTA Award was a highly valuable experience for my academic and professional development. Despite the unforeseen visa-related circumstances, the support and flexibility of IAHS and the IWRM organizers enabled me to participate and present my research remotely.

I sincerely appreciate IAHS, the SYSTA programme, and the IWRM 2026 organizers for their support and for the confidence placed in my research. I look forward to remaining engaged with IAHS and contributing to its future activities.



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