

Expert Group Meeting

Synthesis of Policy interventions Responding to Common
Integrated Water Resources Management Challenges in the
Caribbean SIDS

Virtual Meeting
October 6, 2021

***“Synopsis of Jamaica’s
Approach to IWRM”***

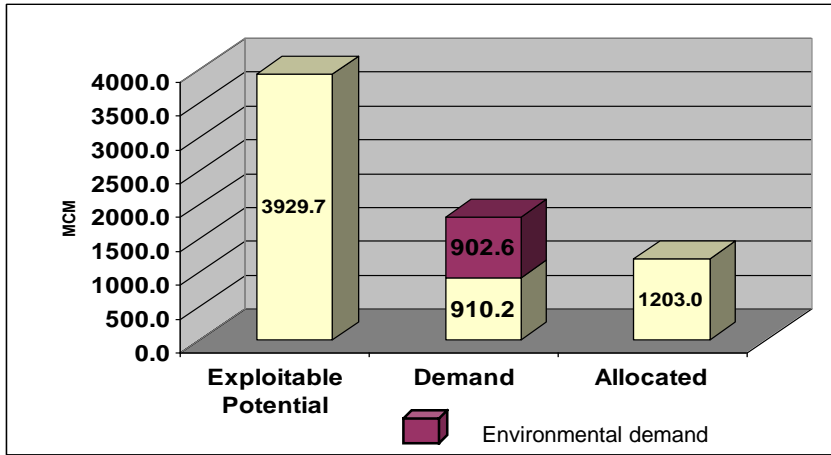
*Herbert Thomas
Hydrologist
Jamaica*

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- Reality of Water Resource Status
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Jamaica's Water Resource Reality

- ❑ There is adequate water nationally

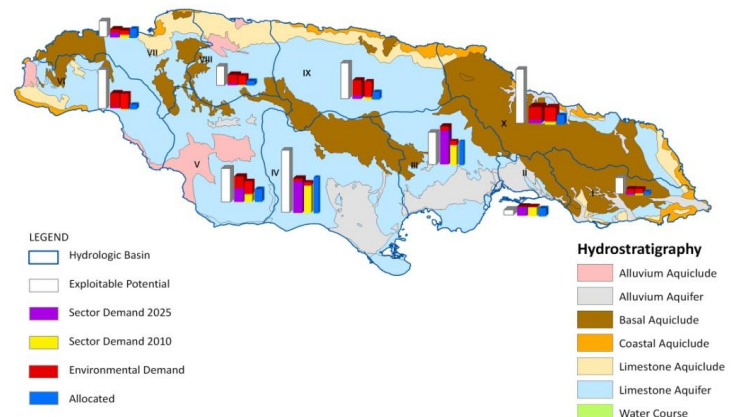
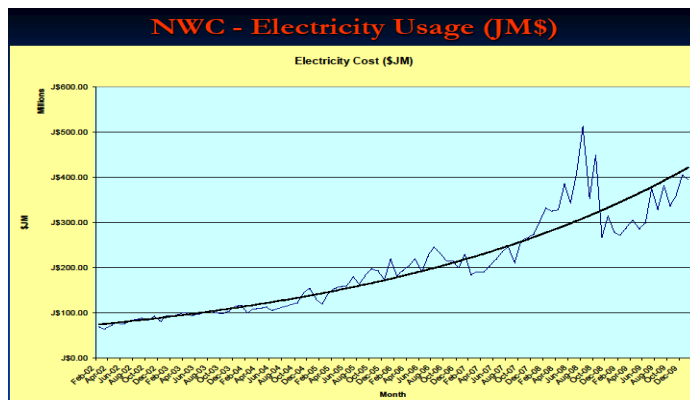


- ❑ Sectoral more demands concentrated in south of country

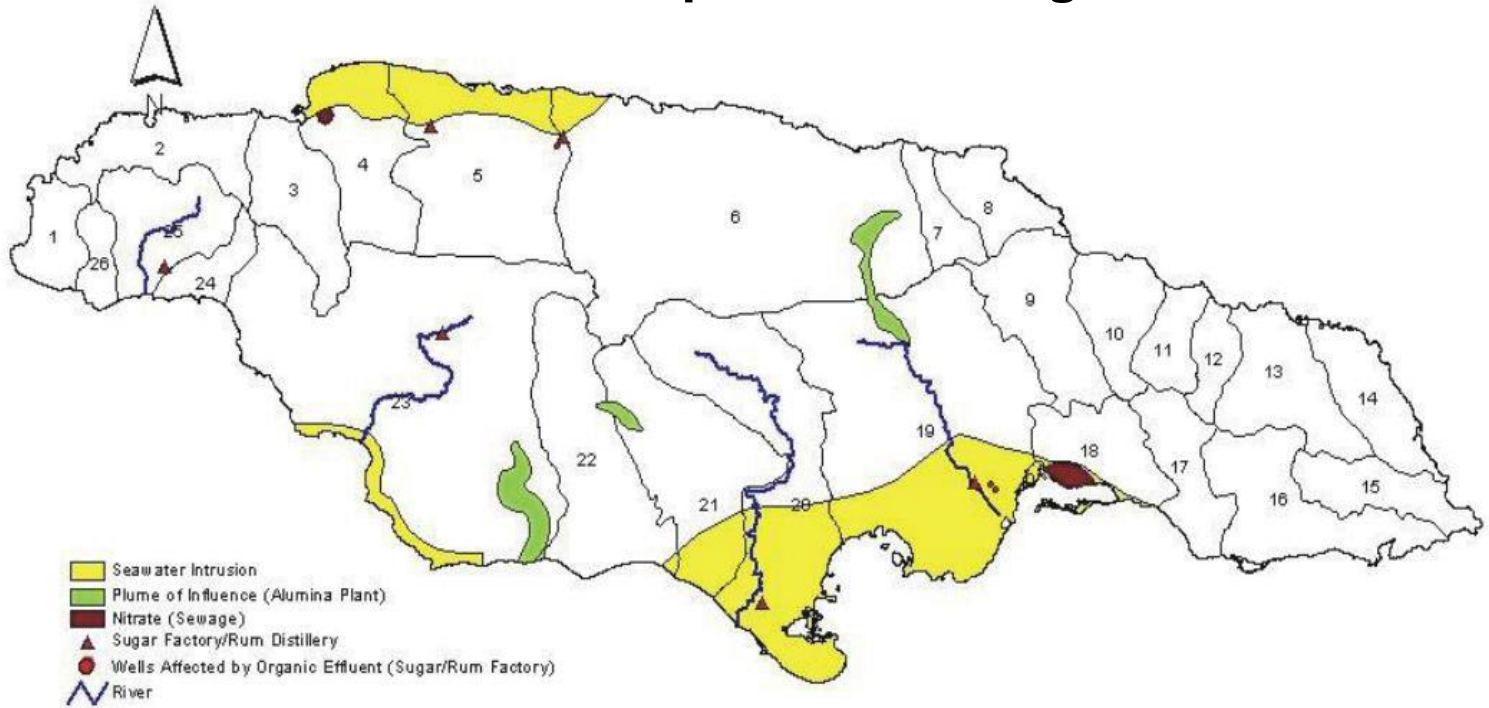
		North	South
Exploitable potential (Ep)		1588.6	2341.1*
Demand	Env	439.1	463.5
	Other	93.1	817.1
	Total	532.2	1280.6

(Million cubic meters /year)

- ❑ High energy cost in water conveyance to high demand areas and groundwater development



Water Resources Development Challenges/Threats



- Supply demand challenges
- Water quality issues
- Flooding and erosion
- Climate variability and change



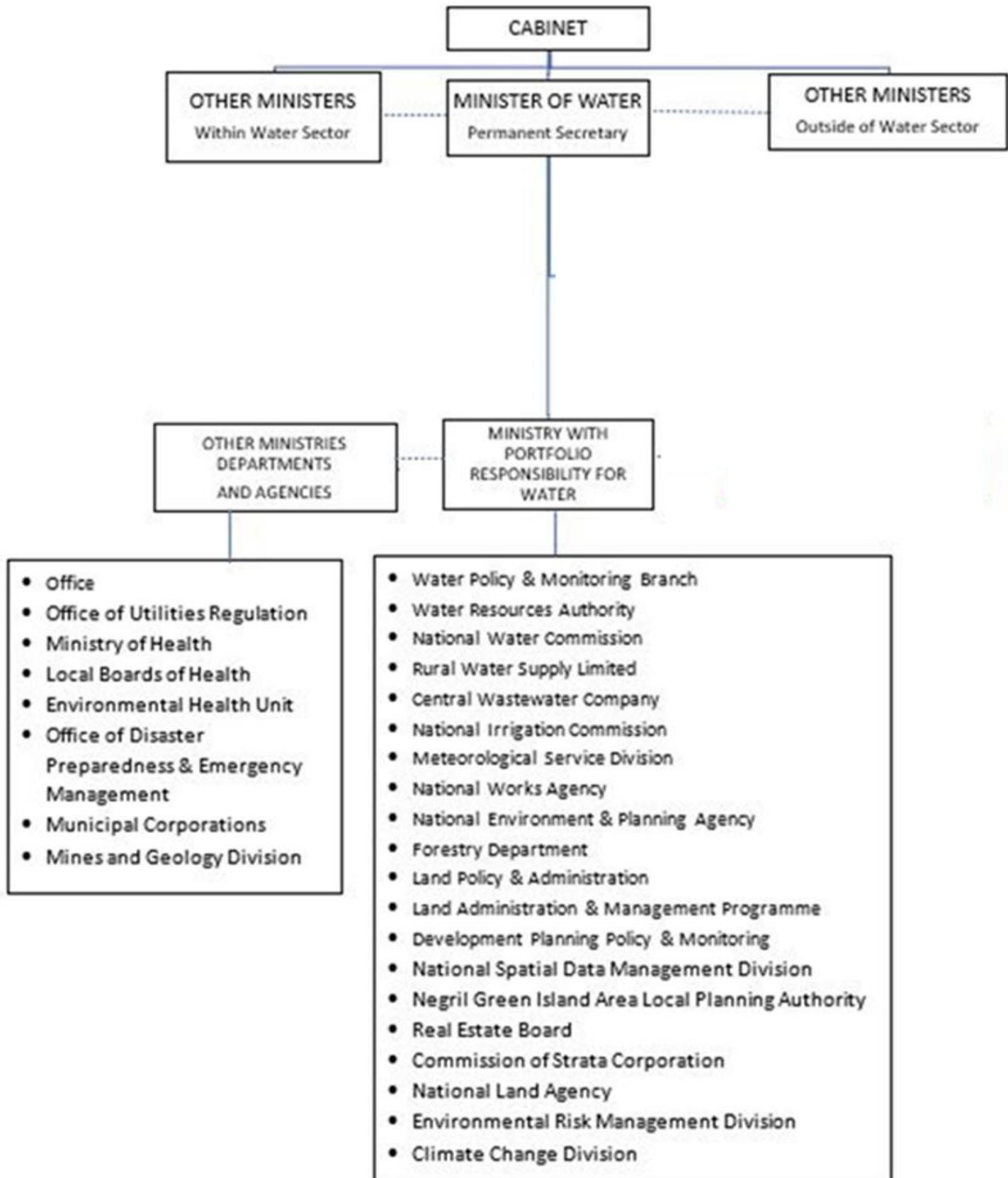
Current Resource Management Reality

- Many MDAs with water resources/ watershed management functions
- Water Resources Authority is the lead agency for water resources management as mandated by the WRA Act 1995.
- In 1998 all water sector agencies brought under one Ministry
- Informal adoption of the IWRM approach as of 2008:
 - The Enabling environment; [Policies, legislation, Financial & incentive schemes](#)
 - The institutional Role; [organizational framework, capacity building](#)
 - The Management Instruments; [water resources assessment/ master plan, Allocation strategy, regulatory, conflict resolution, information exchange.](#)
- Water Policy of 1999 revised in 2018 to include formalisation of the IWRM approach.
- Progress made in IWRM implementation (Status report indicator 6.5.1)

IWRM Dimensions	Average Score		% Diff	Implementation Category for 2020 score
	2017	2020		
Enabling environment	32	52	85%	<i>Capacity to implement IWRM elements under long-term programmes generally adequate.</i>
Institutions and participation	42	52	25%	Capacity to implement IWRM elements under long-term programmes generally adequate.
Management instruments	65	67.5	9.4%	Capacity to implement IWRM elements under long-term programmes generally adequate.
Financing	32	30	-8.3%	Elements of IWRM generally institutionalized, and implementation underway.

Future Plans

Figure 2 Proposed Modification to The Existing IWRM Organization Setting



Outcomes and Lessons Learned

- For the Water Sector Policy (2018), a wide stakeholder participation in its formulation has led to significant buy-in.
- Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR) Project has significantly strengthened the monitoring, assessment and forecasting capabilities of the WRA and Meteorological Service of Jamaica.
- Data and information are critical for an effective IWRM hence the need for a central IWRM data platform accessible to all stakeholders.
- Land and water management agencies falling under a single Ministry allows for a “one-stop-shop” for addressing development, and environmental issues, for integrating environmental, planning and sustainable development policies and programmes and to facilitate the establishment of the central database.
- The single ministry framework should be established in law to give it permanency and continuity
- A Water Abstraction Charge/Volume-Based Fee should be adopted in other SIDS where possible, given its success in reducing water demand and energy conservation due to reduced pumping of groundwater, and the expected positive impact on water quality (salinity) especially in coastal areas. It also results in increased revenue for financing IWRM.

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