

GWP SPONSORING PARTNERS

20th Annual Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners
to the Global Water Partnership Organisation

Stockholm, Sweden

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

MINUTES

(approved as of 25th August 2021)

1. Welcome and Introduction, Apologies Received, Quorum Confirmed & Approval of Agenda

The Chair of GWP, Amb. Howard Bamsey, opened the Annual GWP Sponsoring Partners meeting 2021 and welcomed all participants. The Chair extended a special welcome to the new Chair of the Sponsoring Partners, Ms. Camilla Nevstad Bruzelius, Deputy Director General & Deputy Head of Global Agenda Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden. Ms. Nevstad Bruzelius took over the Chairmanship after Ms. Inger Buxton, who took up the position as Sweden's Ambassador to Lithuania in September 2020.

The meeting was held virtually due to the COVID19 situation.

The Chair of the GWP Sponsoring Partners meeting, Ms. Camilla Nevstad Bruzelius, continued by also welcoming all participants, made a short introduction of herself, and then invited everyone for a quick "round the table" introduction.

1.1: Apologies received

Ms. Nevstad Bruzelius noted that apologies for the 20th Sponsoring Partners meeting had been received from The World Bank. Denmark did not respond to the meeting invitation.

1.2: Quorum confirmed

Ms. Nevstad Bruzelius further confirmed that a quorum of Sponsoring Partners was reached.

1.3: Approval of Agenda

Decision: The meeting Agenda was approved.

The attendance list is appended to these Minutes.

2. Matters arising/updates from Minutes from the 19th Annual Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners in Stockholm on 29th June 2020

The Chair of the Sponsoring Partners noted that, according to the procedure of electronic approval of the Sponsoring Partners Minutes on a no objection basis after each meeting, the Minutes from the 19th Annual Sponsoring Partners Meeting had been approved as of August 7th, 2020.

No further comments related to the Minutes were raised.

2.1: Update on decisions taken since last SP meeting

The decisions made electronically by the Sponsoring Partners since the last SP meeting were noted. The GWP Chair said that the 7 Steering Committee members (6 new and 1 re-appointment) that were appointed for taking up their seats as of December 2020 had proven to be very active and engaged in the work of GWP. With 6 completely new members, a lot of change and different set of skills were positively brought on to the Steering Committee. Further, Ms. Jamilla Sealy, appointed youth Steering Committee member, had been appointed SC Vice Chair, which further strengthens GWP's commitment to work with youth related topics and activities.

3. Information and Approval of GWP Reports

3.1: GWP Annual Activity and Financial Reports 2020

The GWP Executive Secretary, Mr. Darío Soto-Abril, presented an overview of GWP's most significant activities and impact made during last year, which reflects the status of the 2020-2025 Strategy implementation. The Executive Secretary also addressed some challenges faced, related to the COVID 19 situation (changed priorities, postponements, strained human and financial capacities etc).

Key results presented:

- 42 key governance outcomes influenced by GWP activities
- 14 new local, national, and regional River Basin policies, plans, and strategies established
- 17 investment plans, strategies, and budget commitments
- 5 River Basin agreements and management frameworks committed to
- Investments worth around €120 million can be linked to GWP's work

The Executive Secretary said that his main priorities for GWP going forward were:

- Increase the footprint of GWP in the global arena
- Strengthen Regions and Partners
- Engage the Private Sector as a partner
- Solidify our base of supporters

The Executive Secretary invited the Sponsoring Partners to:

- Get to know GWP
- Use GWP as your tool to promote their country's water and climate position in the global arena. We are your organization!
- Invite GWP to provide support with national and local water processes (IWRM, SDGs etc). We can help and be your mobilizing voice!
- Solidify our base of supporters

A question was raised with regards to getting access to the detailed GWP Progress Report. Mr. Ralph Philip, acting COO, said that the GWP Progress Review is provided in December each year and that the document of course can be made available at any time during the year upon request.

Action: GWP Secretariat to forward the 2020 Progress Review to all SP members.

The presentation made is appended to these Minutes.

Mr. Tendai Gandanzara, interim CFO, presented the Annual Financial Report for 2020. GWPO's income for 2020 was € 12,8m (compared to €14,7m in 2019). The locally raised funds came to €3,143m. The in-kind support was calculated to €3,2m (based on information received from the Regions and the Secretariat, not audited).

One of the Sida representatives raised a question with regards to how some accounting errors are dealt with (like accruals not being booked correctly) related to the regions. The interim CFO said that structures and check lists are put in place together with respective regional Financial Manager to avoid that mistakes will happen again. The Sida representative also pointed to the fact that Sida has to do their own assessments of GWP and cannot be bound to other agreements in this regard.

Decision: The GWP Annual Activity Report 2020 and the GWP Annual Financial Report 2020 of the Steering Committee to the Sponsoring Partners were received and approved by the Sponsoring Partners.

3.2: GWP Audit Report 2020

The interim CFO noted that GWPO, yet again, has received an unqualified Audit Report and Management Letter.

The GWP Audit Report and Management Letter 2020 were received and considered by the Sponsoring Partners.

3.3: Discharge of liability of the Steering Committee Members and the Executive Secretary

Decision: The recommendation of the GWP Auditors to discharge the GWP Steering Committee Members and the Executive Secretary of liability for 2020 was approved by the Sponsoring Partners.

The presentation made is appended to these Minutes.

4. GWP Chair's Annual Update

The GWP Chair, Amb. Howard Bamsey, said that despite the continued COVID situation worldwide, the past year had not only provided challenges but also many highlights. One of the highlights being the recruitment of the new GWP Executive Secretary, Mr. Darío Soto-Abril, who took up his position as of March 1st, 2021. Significant progress made on several fronts had been noted 4 months into Mr. Soto-Abril's leadership of the organisation.

Collaboration with other organisations and donors had been successful on many fronts, especially with FCDO (former DFID). In many of the 13 regions, successful activities had taken place. Efforts in trying to expand the rain of engagements had been made, one being the effort of trying to get Japan onboard as a GWP Sponsoring Partner. The GWP Chair thanked the Sponsoring Partners who had follow up on the request to send a letter to the Japanese Government, encouraging Japan to join the GWP Sponsoring Partners group. Due to legal requirements, Japan is finding it difficult to go through the formal process of becoming a Sponsoring Partner, but they still seem to be keen to engage with GWP in other ways. The Emperor of Japan has a keen interest in water related issues.

The water world seems highly fragmented and the efforts of stronger collaboration with other organisations had continued, to jointly promote actions towards achieving a water secure world. The GWP Executive Secretary and the IWMI Director General had started off conversations to come to an understanding of how the two organisations could increase collaboration on a programmatic level, to serve better our clients and donors. IWMI hosting several of the GWP Regional offices. The GWP Executive Secretary had also approached the Executive Director of SIWI to further explore possibilities for increased collaboration. The value of establishing an increased collaboration with IWMI and SIWI would also mean to show a stronger common voice for water in the global arena, something which would most likely also catch the interest from other organisations, to join a "forceful water voice and actions collaboration". SWA (Sanitation and Water for All), based in Washington, could probably be another complementary organisation. GWP working upstream and SWA downstream, this could lead to a very beneficial collaboration.

Another area that will be further tackled is to streamline and firm up the GWP Governance structure. There are quite some unclarities with regards to roles and responsibilities (for example the Financing Partners Group not being a formal part of the governance set up but still having quite a lot of influence over the organisation). The governance structure was set in place 20+ years ago and the organisation has since then significantly developed, which would require some changes, adjustments and clarifications.

Baker & McKenzie has committed to support GWP's work on governance, pro bono. Changing an organisations governance structure is a cumbersome process, which will take time, but so far Baker & McKenzie has been very helpful. The Sponsoring Partners will be updated along the way. Some parts of the process will be "quick fixes" whereas other parts will require longer time to be processed.

The representative from Argentina expressed that, any change to the GWP governance would require an in-depth study and the consideration of mechanisms that safeguard the transparency and objectivity of GWPO's processes, products, and results. It called for the strengthening of the Sponsoring Partners meeting, taking into account that it is the most important instance of GWPO. Additionally, it required the Chair and the Secretary to provide regular updates on the work of Baker & McKenzie.

With regards to COP26, the UN Climate Secretariat had opened up for observer registrations just the other day, something that would imply that the event likely will take place in person in Glasgow, in November 2021. GWP is very well plugged in to the COP26 process and very well placed to influence negotiations and key stakeholders. Water being a vital part of the overall climate picture, the pillar of adaptation to climate change.

The GWP Chair ended his update by saying that despite the COVID situation, GWP had had a very successful year, and thanked the GWP Sponsoring Partners, and Financing Partners, for their continued and increased support and engagement.

5. GWP Strategy 2020 - 2025: Update on progress, including global dialogues:

The Executive Secretary started off this agenda item by saying that GWP's impact does not happen in Stockholm. Instead, the action and impact happens in the regions and countries. GWP is influencing global policies and improving and strengthening strategic collaborations, to make sure that water will be the key part of climate discussions. GWP works dedicatedly to be part of COP and UNFCCC meetings and the Petersberg dialogues, for example. GWP supports countries to meet their commitments under the Paris Agreement, via the National Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs):

- Mobilizing Investments (AIP Program)
- Supporting Least Developed Countries accessing GCF-Readiness and preparatory support programmes
- GWP is also working with countries to implement an SDG 6.5.1 IWRM Implementation framework.

The GWP Executive Secretary then handed over the word to Alex Simalabwi, Regional Coordinator, GWP Southern Africa, who informed the Sponsoring Partners about the AIP (Africa Investment Programme). He offered his views on the fact that there is a big investment gap in water in Africa and the AIP programme aims to leverage \$30 billion in SDG 6 investments and have 5 million jobs created by 2030. GWP's role is to help raise advocacy and influence decision makers etc.

The presentation made is appended to these Minutes.

Some of the comments/input received during the following discussion:

- ✓ Would encourage GWP to track finance for grass roots and include that level at a much greater extent in various key meetings and activities
The Executive Secretary responded that GWP will find ways of how to engage at a larger extent with the grass root level.
- ✓ Want to congratulate GWP to its 25th anniversary, to Camilla Nevstad Bruzelius as the new Chair of the Sponsoring Partners and to Darío Soto-Abril as the new GWP Executive Secretary.
- ✓ With regards to streamlining GWP's governance, a very important part will be to keep the Sponsoring Partners updated and involved, as transparency needs to be safeguarded.
The GWP Chair confirmed that the Sponsoring Partners will be updated and involved throughout the governance process. Any suggested changes to the statutes etc need to be brought to the attention of the Sponsoring Partners, as being the owners of GWP.
- ✓ Want to congratulate GWP on its achievements. GWP is maintaining a very good collaboration with GWP CEE (Central and Eastern Europe), including GWP Hungary. A key issue for GWP Hungary and the CEE region is transboundary cooperation due to the severe water stress situation. GWP's work with River Basin organisations is, and will be, a very important area of collaboration.

Dimitris Faloutsos, Deputy Regional Coordinator GWP MED, who had been invited to take part in the meeting during agenda item 5, commented that GWP's work on transboundary issues would possibly leverage work around the globe within this area. Convening partners are needed to bring stakeholders together.

- ✓ GWP is doing a very good job, especially under the present COVID circumstances. GWP and WMO can together as a water and climate coalition, make a really valuable impact. An important event coming up in late November/early December is the Planet Budapest 2021 Sustainability Expo and Summit, at which WMO and GWP will take part.
- ✓ Wanted to pick up on something that was mentioned during the 2020 Sponsoring Partners meeting and that is the biodiversity - ecosystems - water link. How is GWP involved in the protection of biodiversity?
- ✓ Was surprised that the biodiversity - ecosystems - water link was not mentioned in the presentation as water being a connector.

Alex Simalabwi commented that GWP is in fact doing a lot of work in the areas of both transboundary, as well as within the biodiversity - ecosystems - water area. Further information on this will be sent to the Sponsoring Partners via e-mail.

- ✓ With the climate change, the pandemic etc being major threats to human life, world economies etc, GWP, together with its 3000+ partners, should focus on the recovery work, emanating from the various crises. Water is an integral player for recovery.

The Executive Secretary noted that GWP is highly dedicated to continuing its work in relation to the climate agenda. Biodiversity being a challenge due to the restricted funding, but efforts are being made to try furthering the funding through our donors, private sector etc. If the Sponsoring Partners were in a position to help moving this area of work, together with our partners, it would be very welcomed.

Action: GWP Secretariat to send further information to the Sponsoring Partners in relation to GWP's work on biodiversity - ecosystems - water.

6. Five new GWP Steering Committee members to be electronically appointed by the SP during the second half of July:

The Nomination Committee Chair referred to the note presenting the five regionally nominated Steering Committee candidates (four females and one male), which was part of the supporting documents package. By July 14th, the GWP Network Partners have had the stipulated 3 months to bring forward any comments/and/or questions related to the candidates, and thereafter the Sponsoring Partners will be asked to approve the candidates through an electronic decision. If approved, the five new Steering Committee members will take up their seats as of the December 2021 meeting.

The Nomination Committee Chair said that the Nomination Committee is convinced that the five nominated candidates will be excellent contributors to the Steering Committee. With the nominated candidates coming from Southern Africa, West Africa, Southeast Asia,

Caribbean and the Mediterranean, even greater diversity and activity would be represented on the Steering Committee.

7. Any other business, date for SP meeting 2022 and Summary of discussions and decisions:

7.1 AoB:

The representative from Argentina expressed that they are fully aligned with the three global priorities that structured the GWP Strategy, i.e the Agenda 2030 and its SDGs; transboundary water cooperation; and the imperative to support climate change adaptation.

He continued by expressing Argentina's appreciation for GWP's continuous support, especially related to the development of a baseline for the SDG indicator 6.5.1, as well as in an ongoing pilot project for integrating indicator 6.6.1 in the water-related decision-making process.

He also mentioned that his country is currently suffering a long and severe drought in the Rio de la Plata Basin, which has disrupted navigation, hydroelectricity generation, and human access to safe water. Finally, he called for urgent and coordinated action, to promote resilience and build adaptation capabilities to cope with extreme weather events and other impacts arising from climate change.

7.2 Date for SP Meeting 2022:

The GWPO Secretariat will come back to the Sponsoring Partners with a date for the June 2022 meeting well in time.

7.3. Summary of discussions and decisions:

1. The meeting Agenda was approved.
2. According to the procedure of electronic approval of the SP Minutes on a no objection basis after each meeting, the Minutes from the 19th Annual SP Meeting had been approved as of August 7th, 2020.
3. Two decisions had been taken electronically by the Sponsoring Partners since the last SP meeting (see document provided to the Sponsoring Partners as part of the meeting documentation).
4. Action: GWP Secretariat to forward the 2020 Progress Review to all SP members.
5. Decision: The GWP Annual Activity Report 2020 and the GWP Annual Financial Report 2020 of the Steering Committee to the Sponsoring Partners were received and approved.
6. The GWP Audit Report and Management Letter 2020 were received and considered.
7. Decision: The recommendation of the GWP Auditors to discharge the GWP Steering Committee Members and the Executive Secretary of liability for 2020 was approved.
8. Action: GWP Secretariat to send further information to the Sponsoring Partners in relation to

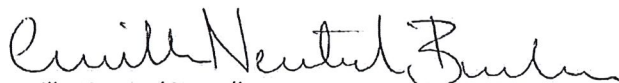
Minutes

GWP's work on biodiversity - ecosystems - water.

9. Action: The Sponsoring Partners will be asked to electronically appoint 5 new Steering Committee members to take seat as of the December 2021 Steering Committee meeting.

Meeting closure:

The Chair of the Sponsoring Partners thanked everyone for a very constructive and good meeting and thereafter closed the meeting.



Camilla Nevstad Bruzelius

Chair of the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners

