

Memorandum of Understanding between The Global Water Partnership (GWP) and The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)

The Parties

This document is a Memorandum of Understanding between The Global Water Partnership (GWP) and The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). This Memorandum describes the background and defines the basic principles for a partnership between GWP and ICLEI. It also defines the modes of collaboration and areas of activities around which the parties will collaborate.

The Background

The Global Water Partnership (GWP), established in 1996, is an international network open to all organisations involved in water resources management. GWP was created to foster Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). The IWRM approach advocates a move towards a much more integrated and co-ordinated water development and management process than is currently practised. This move assumes dialogue and partnership among these actors.

GWP recognises that local governments have a significant role in IWRM and the development of co-operation within and across Municipal boundaries, particularly when these share water basins. The IWRM approach requires many decision-making processes to be taken at the lowest appropriate level, normally local governments and communities. The roles and functions of the different institutional levels and the various tiers of authority need to be properly harmonised and nested.

The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), established in 1990, is committed to building and serving a world-wide movement of local governments to achieve tangible improvements in global environmental and sustainable development through cumulative local action. Recognising that water is a key element for sustainable development and that cities play a major role in the use for this resource, in June 2000, ICLEI launched “The Water Campaign” of local governments. In line with the principles of sustainable development and local agenda 21, ICLEI recognises that transparency, participation and the limits posed by the ecology of the environment are central to the improvement of water resource management by local governments. These principles are captured by the concept of integrated water resource management (IWRM) which ICLEI has therefore adopted as one of the cornerstones of The Water Campaign.

ICLEI further recognises that, whilst it has the capability of mobilising local governments to action, the complexity of IWRM is such that working in this area can only be done in partnership with other organisations.

From this perspective, the parties understand there is a great potential for the organisations to be more successful as a result of collaboration. The ambit of the collaboration can be described in terms of a basic general ambit and in terms of a more specific ambit.

Modes of collaboration

The parties understand it is important to:

- Exchange program documents and documentation.
- Have access to each other's network and member, through the respective secretariats.
- Inform about and invite each other to activities regarding the role of local governments in the management of water. The parties will participate in each other's major events globally and regionally, when relevant.
- Strengthen the links between the organisations at the regional level.
- Promote liaison and collaboration between GWP- regional, national and local technical focal points and partnerships and ICLEI's regional focal points and members.
- Identify specific areas for co-operation and join efforts to mobilise funds for strengthening the capacities of local governments in integrated water management and the implementation of the Water Campaign.
- Identify specific areas for co-operation and join efforts to mobilise funds for the development of local water partnerships aiming at supporting the local governments in the implementation of IWRM platforms for action.

GWP and ICLEI agree to meet annually to discuss specific activities related to the following areas of collaborations or new areas that may emerge. The meeting should preferentially take place in connection to other meetings as agreed between the parties.

Collaborative activities will be agreed on an annual basis and specified in a workplan.

Areas for collaboration

The Water Campaign of ICLEI

The Water Campaign of ICLEI has been developed in response to a need identified by local governments, members of ICLEI. The Water Campaign builds upon ICLEI's experiences with the Local Agenda 21 Campaign. The Campaign has a global scope with special emphasis on Africa, Latin America, South Asia, Central Asia and Eastern Europe.

The objectives of the project are to:

- *build the capacity of local governments, their communities, and other stakeholders to use iterative, participatory approaches and to apply the concept of integrated water resources management at the local level;*
- *facilitate the implementation of specific local projects and programs as identified in each city's Local Water Action Plan;*

- *identify and develop tools, methodologies, and good practices for the implementation of IWRM at the local level;*
- *further the implementation of local-level IWRM internationally by widely disseminating the findings of the project, and by strengthening regional local government networks that support the practical implementation of IWRM within the cultural and political realities in the region.*

In conformity with decisions taken by the TEC and the Steering Committee of GWP, The ICLEI's Water Campaign is one of the Associate Programmes embraced by GWP.

Thus, GWP is committed to assist ICLEI with the planning, development of program documents, facilitation of water expertise and the mobilisation of funds for the implementation of The Water Campaign.

The following shall apply for the Water Campaign of ICLEI as an associated program of GWP.

- GWP will sit on the Steering Committee or leading body of the Water Campaign as ex-officio member.
- The Water Campaign will report progresses once a year to the GWP Secretariat.
- The Water Campaign will comply with the GWP minimum requirements for Associate Programs and be subject to ongoing quality assurance control by the GWP-Technical Committee and Steering Committee.
- The Water Campaign will participate in GWP major events when relevant.
- Strong links will be established between the Water Campaign and the GWP regions and national focal points.
- The Water Campaign will identify and report on successful cases or processes of water partnerships and act at the local level. The experiences of these "champions" will be disseminated through the GWP network.
- GWP will invite its regional offices and Partners to consider supporting the Water Campaign, among others by mobilising expertise and assisting in the adaptation/preparation of training material.
- Local Governments that have adopted the Water Campaign will be invited to GWP events in the corresponding country.
- The Water Campaign will assist the Local Governments with the establishment of Local Water Partnerships.

The Dialogue on Effective Water Governance

The Dialogue on Effective Water Governance is a joint programme of the GWP, UNDP and ICLEI, with GWP as leading partner. A *Task Force* has been set up to manage the Dialogue with members from GWP, UNDP and ICLEI. ICLEI's co-ordinator for The Water Campaign is a member of the task force. For the purpose of the Dialogue the task force has agreed on an operational definition. The parties have committed to use that

Water governance refers to the range of political, social, economic and administrative systems that are in place to develop and manage water resources and the delivery of water services at different levels of society. To be effective, water governance should be transparent, open, accountable, participatory, communicative, incentive-based, equitable, coherent, efficient (low transaction costs), integrative and ethical.

definition.

GWP and ICLEI have, together with UNDP, committed themselves to address the politics of water, through dialogues to be organised at the national and local level. The key actions will take place within the regions and countries and the GWP regional TACs have a special responsibility for this Dialogue to be implemented jointly with UNDP country offices and SURFs and ICLEI regional/country offices.

The “Dialogue” will consist of a series of activities taking place around the world. Within the Dialogue round tables, electronic conferences and regimes analysis on water governance will be carried on.

The success of these activities depends on good planning. In this respect, it is understood that ICLEI and GWP will assist each other with the planning of and reporting from activities involving local governments.

Finally, it is understood that GWP and ICLEI will support each other with the mobilisation of funds for the implementation of this joint programme.

The Tool Box

GWP has launched an IWRM – Tool Box. The Tool Box brings together knowledge and experiences with integrated water resource management (IWRM) and make this experience available in an accessible for to water professionals and policy makers. Case studies illustrate experiences with the use of tools in different contexts and promote the learning from previous experiences. A case study examines an experience related to IWRM and provides an analytical and critical account of the processes involved. These cases are central to the ToolBox.

The following shall apply in the case of the ToolBox.

- ICLEI is welcome to make use of the ToolBox (free of charge) in their training programs and to make the ToolBox accessible to Local Governments.
- ICLEI is invited to prepare cases and experiences from the local level to the ToolBox.

Note of reservation in relation to Institutional Independence

Notwithstanding the agreements entered into above, both GWP and ICLEI shall reserve the right to act independently where either institution believes it is within their best interest. Both parties reserve the right to their own legal institutional dependence and no contract by either party shall be legally binding upon the other without the explicit written approval of the responsible individuals in both organisations.

The endorsement of this Memorandum of Understanding

To manifest our understanding, and on behalf of GWP respectively ICLEI our signatures here below:

In Stockholm, XX YY 2002
Khalid Mohtadullah
Executive Secretary

In XXXXX, 05-2002-05-24
Konrad Otto-Zimmermann
Secretary General

Global Water Partnership (GWP)

International Council for Local
Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)