



What is GWP?

Our Vision

The Global Water Partnership's vision is for a water secure world.

A water secure world harnesses water's productive power and minimises its destructive force. It is a world where every person has enough safe and affordable water to lead a clean, healthy and productive life. It is a world where communities are protected from floods, droughts, landslides, erosion and water-borne disease. Water security also means addressing environmental protection and the negative effects of poor management, which will become more challenging with climate change.

Global Water Partnership (GWP) believes that an integrated approach to managing the world's water resources is the best way to pursue this vision – a vision that encompasses all of life.

Our Values

Inclusiveness, Openness, Transparency, Accountability, Respect, Gender-sensitivity, Solidarity.

Our core values unite more than 2,500 GWP Partner organisations. The GWP network is open to all organisations who subscribe to these values and who share a concern for how the world manages its water resources.



Our Mission

The mission of Global Water Partnership is to support the sustainable development and management of water resources at all levels.

GWP takes its guiding principles from the Dublin and Rio statements (1992), from the Millennium Assembly (2000) which gave rise to the Millennium Development Goals, and from the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002) Plan of Action, which set a target for the preparation of IWRM and Water Efficiency Plans. Over time, GWP has adapted and elaborated these principles to reflect international understanding of the “equitable and efficient management and sustainable use of water”.

Guiding principles

- Freshwater is a finite and vulnerable resource, essential to sustain life, development and the environment.
- Water development and management should be based on a participatory approach involving users, planners and policy makers at all levels.
- Women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water.
- Water is a public good and has a social and economic value in all its competing uses.
- Integrated water resources management is based on the equitable and efficient management and sustainable use of water. It recognises that water is an integral part of the ecosystem, a natural resource and a social and economic good, the quantity and quality of which determine the nature of its utilisation.

Our Distinctive Niche

Advocacy

GWP advocates the implementation of integrated water resources management (IWRM). This is the coordinated development and management of water, land, and related resources in order to maximise economic and social welfare without compromising the sustainability of vital environmental systems.

Convening power

Because GWP is a global action network with multiple stakeholders from many sectors, we provide platforms at various levels on which to facilitate dialogue, resulting in changes to policies, laws, and institutions.

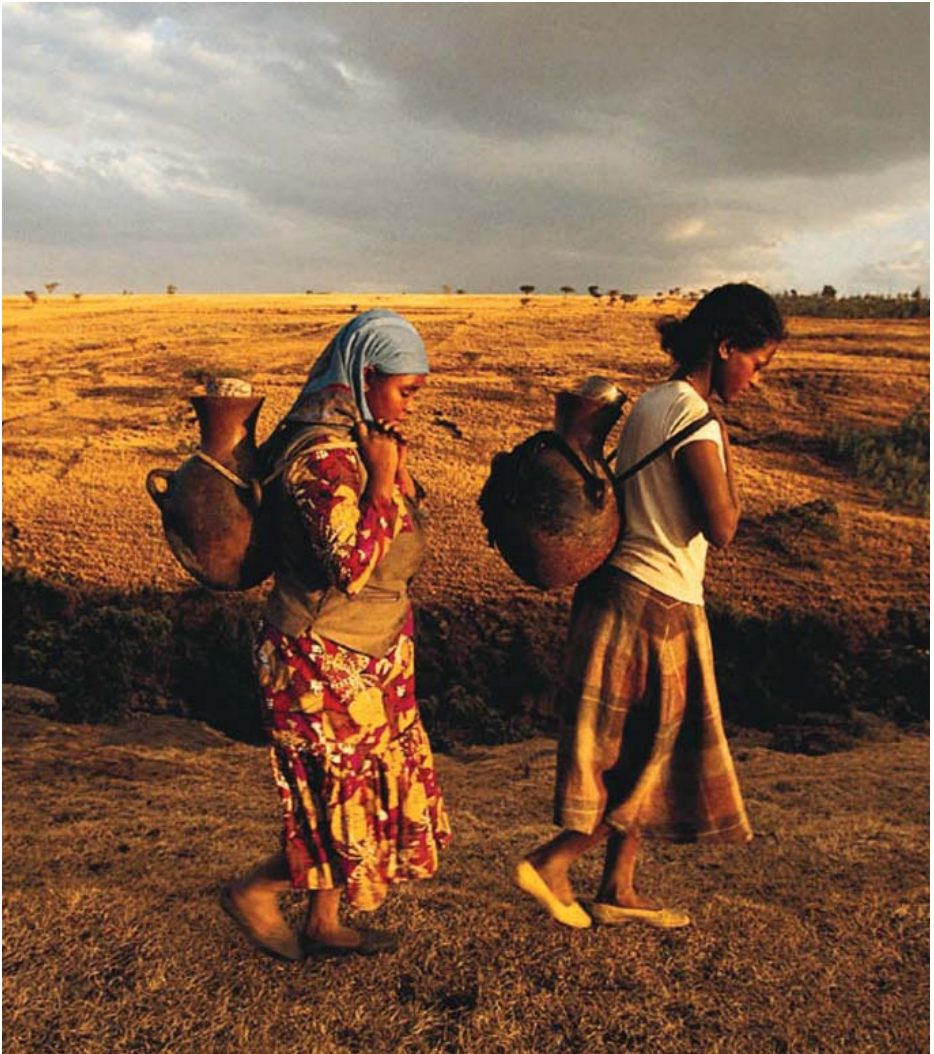
Technical expertise and knowledge sharing

GWP provides the intellectual leadership for an integrated approach to water resources management. GWP created the GWP ToolBox, a public, online, up-to-date knowledge centre with the tools, references and case studies needed for implementing IWRM. The knowledge created by the network is shared at global, regional, national and local levels.



Capacity building

Through developing autonomous structures at regional and country level, GWP connects water resources planning with operations at different scales – from transboundary to local – so that actions are coherent, contextual and sustainable. Instead of taking the traditional development approach, in which projects are often not connected, GWP works with many local stakeholders within the IWRM approach, which integrates projects into programmes and institutions.



Our Strategy 2009–2013

Goal 1 Promote water as a key part of sustainable national development.

This means improving water resources management, putting IWRM into practice to help countries to grow and become water secure, encouraging good governance and advocating appropriate infrastructure and sustainable financing.

Activities

- Improving support for water management through national processes
- Improving governance systems
- Improving water infrastructure
- Improving financing for water management
- Facilitating transboundary cooperation
- Monitoring progress on IWRM

Goal 2 Address critical development challenges.

This means contributing to solutions for critical challenges to water security, such as climate change, urbanisation, food production, resource related conflict and other challenges.

Activities

- Adapting to climate change
- Achieving food security
- Tackling urbanisation
- Resolving conflicts





Goal 3 Reinforce knowledge sharing and communications.

This means developing the capacity to share knowledge and promoting a dynamic communications culture so as to support better water management.

Activities

- Build and embed communications capacity throughout the network
- Outreach activities
- Knowledge sharing
- Strategic messaging

Goal 4 Build a more effective Network.

This means enhancing the Network's resilience and effectiveness through stronger partnerships and good governance, and measuring performance to help learning and ensure financial sustainability.

Activities

- Partnership and alliance building
- Performance measurement
- Financial sustainability
- Supporting the network
- Reducing GWP's carbon footprint

Our Approach

GWP offers a step-wise process, supporting countries in developing IWRM Plans and establishing greater water security. The country mandate for developing national IWRM Plans and water efficiency plans is contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, agreed at the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD).

Water security is essential to:

- Human security
- Millennium Development Goals
- Economic development
- Regional co-operation
- Environmental sustainability



A Road Map to Water Security

Step Three

Countries are integrating water resources management with other key sectoral processes and national priorities, achieving policy coherence.

- Climate change adaptation strategies
- Agricultural development & food security
- Sustainable land and forest management
- Urban development plans & infrastructure policy
- Energy policy (hydropower development & energy efficiency/carbon emissions reduction in water resources management)
- Public and population health policies and equity
- Regional co-operation

Step Two

Countries have successfully mainstreamed water resources management into national development processes, with ownership at the highest levels of government.

Existing IWRM plans are recognised nationally, forming part of National Development Plans, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, World Bank Country Assistance Strategies and similar development processes. Ownership is located at the highest levels of government (e.g., Ministry of Finance, President's Office). Implementation of the IWRM Plan has strong momentum and intersectoral support.

Step One

Countries have established a national IWRM Plan (or equivalent), approved by the government.

All or some of the activities listed below result in the adoption of an IWRM Plan as a government policy, in accordance with the 2002 WSSD mandate. Implementation is progressing.

Step Zero

Countries have not yet established an IWRM Plan (or equivalent) at national level.

GWP engages in the following activities in close partnership with others:

- National water policy development
- National dialogues
- Capacity building and training
- Network governance
- Communication
- Supporting GWP Partners
- Supporting countries to develop national IWRM plans
- Transboundary co-operation

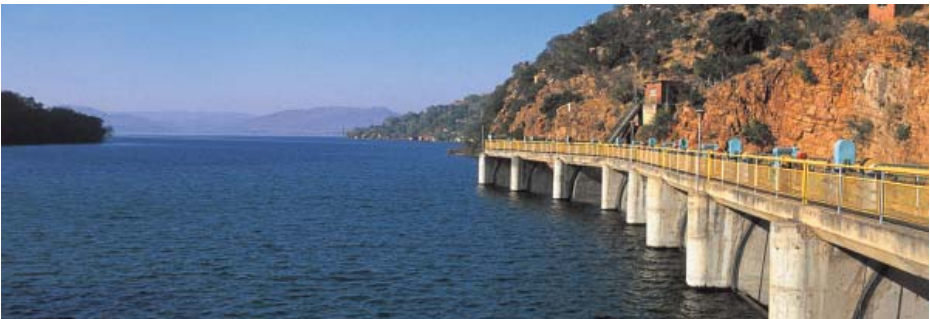
Our Network

A Network of Partners

- A non-profit action network advocating, facilitating and supporting change processes for the sustainable management of water resources.
- A partnership of government agencies, public institutions, private companies, professional organisations, multilateral development agencies and others concerned with water issues.
- A mechanism for coordinated action, adding value to the work of many other development partners.
- A neutral platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue at global, national and local levels that connects water resources planning and operations at different scales – transboundary, regional, basin, national and local – for coherent and sustainable action.
- A resource contributing technical knowledge and building capacity for improving water management.

The GWP Organisation (GWPO) and the Global Secretariat

- Helps the Partnership exchange knowledge and resources and ensures communication and coherence across the Network.
- Manages GWP's finances and reports on funding received at the global level.
- Employs 20 staff (December 2009) managed by the Executive Secretary.
- Accountable to the Steering Committee that directs policy and approves the work programme and budget, with oversight by the Sponsoring Partners.
- An intergovernmental agency hosted by the Government of Sweden.



GWP Regional Water Partnerships



The GWP Technical Committee

- Provides global technical leadership to the network.
- Guides policy makers through insights on emerging issues, drawing on the cutting edge knowledge of world experts.
- Provides high quality, peer-reviewed and evidence-based information and background material for water resource practitioners at all levels. The committee's knowledge products have been translated into many languages.
- Provides advice and support and facilitates sharing of knowledge and experiences at regional and country levels through the GWP knowledge chain.
- Supports the GWP ToolBox, an online resource with case studies and references about water resources and management.

Regional and Country Water Partnerships

- The multi-stakeholder platforms that bring together various sectors and interest groups to discuss water issues at regional and national level and to identify solutions.
- They develop their own regional and national strategies and action plans based on the integrated water resources management (IWRM) approach, and raise funds to implement them.
- They develop Urban Water Partnerships, River Basin Partnerships, or Area Water Partnerships for implementing IWRM approaches at various scales.

A Partnership for Water

The GWP network currently comprises 13 Regional Water Partnerships and 80 Country Water Partnerships. It has more than 2,500 Partners in 161 countries.

Become a Partner

Becoming a GWP Partner is an opportunity to learn about IWRM from expert sources to find guidance and support and interact with water discussions at all levels, from local government to the international agenda. Applications are open to all institutions and organizations that agree to the terms of Partnership, have an interest in water sustainability and IWRM and support the Dublin-Rio Principles.

There is no joining fee. Just bring your vision, dedication, passion and commitment.

Benefits of Partnership

- Part of a global action network for achieving sustainable water resources management.
- Voice and influence at national and international policy discussions through multi-stakeholder platforms.
- Guidance on identifying critical needs for the sustainable use of water resources.
- An opportunity to match one Partner's needs with another Partner's resources.

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