

Sharing Outcomes from GWP Support 2009

2009 marked the start of a new strategy period for the Global Water Partnership (2009-2013). Our strategy can be summed up in the GWP vision: a water secure world.

Bringing about development is a long term process. Activities begun in one year often do not see fruition until later years. GWP engages in long-term social change activities—advocacy, facilitation, capacity building and knowledge sharing—so that the impact is longer lasting and has greater stakeholder ownership. As a global action network, GWP reaches out to a wide range of actors, providing them with a neutral platform for dialogue, and contributing technical expertise to support the sustainable management of water resources. We always do this in close partnership with others.

Below are a selection of achievements from 2009.

Improving Financing for Water Management

- GWP and the African Development Bank convened a session on Financing Water Resources at the 2nd Africa Water Week in Johannesburg in November 2009. The outcome was agreement on the need to:
 - o build a favourable investment environment
 - o balance financing for infrastructure and financing for 'soft' interventions, and
 - o develop a more robust economic case for investing in water.
- In Central America, a 2009 GWP-led workshop in Guatemala, brought together water and finance officials from government institutions who do not usually interact. As a result, financing measures are now part of the Central American and Dominican Republic Water and Sanitation Forum 2010 action plan and there will be national workshops to develop national water financing strategies.



Contributions to Regional Outcomes

- GWP Central Africa has, since 2004, worked with the Congo Basin Commission (CICOS) and the Economic Community of Central Africa States (ECCAS) to develop a regional water policy. The partnership with CICOS has shifted the focus of the Commission from navigation only to fully integrated river basin management. GWP Central Africa is helping to develop a Strategic Action Plan for the Basin.

A Water Secure World

The Global Water Partnership is an intergovernmental organisation with a worldwide network of 13 Regional Water Partnerships, 73 Country Water Partnerships and more than 2,000 Partner organisations in 150 countries. The GWP network is committed to building a water secure world.

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- GWP Central Africa technical experts helped ECCAS draft the regional water policy aligning country water policies with a regional framework. They analysed the water sector in countries, met with ECCAS to explain the results and offered advice on an IWRM approach in the context of national development plans. The policy was adopted by ECCAS heads of states at their Kinshasa Summit in October.

- In response to a decision of Heads of the Central Asian States to address the critical issues of water resources, climate change and ecosystem loss of the Aral Sea, GWP Central Asia and Caucasus is the platform for policy dialogues in all eight Central Asian nations to support transboundary cooperation.

- Since 2005 GWP-Mediterranean has been facilitating transboundary water resources management for the Drin River Basin. The result in 2009 was the recognition by the government of Bulgaria of incorporating IWRM principles in all national water documents.



Contributions to National Outcomes

- An important progress marker was reached in Vietnam when government officials recommended giving stakeholders an opportunity to participate in water resources management at river basin level. The change came after GWP Vietnam provided a platform for sharing experiences in IWRM and explaining the benefits of an integrated approach. It happened at a dialogue on river basin management in Nui Coc, Thai Nguyen Province, in September where scientists, NGOs and development partners were present.

- GWP Bangladesh, approached by local government, brought together stakeholders to examine the potential for surface water to supply growing urban needs and reduce dependence on groundwater. The dialogue clarified the alternatives to groundwater and options for improving surface water quality. Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority is now planning to reduce dependency on ground water from 87% to 50% by 2015. GWP Bangladesh will organize annual meetings to monitor progress.

- Costa Rica launched an IWRM plan in November 2009, the first country in Central America to do so and the result of six years' work. GWP Costa Rica was a key player, first working to develop the national strategy and then providing technical support and training to civil society and public sector agencies. Success stemmed from improving knowledge about IWRM, highlighting the importance of community participation and drawing on the strengths of individual institutions.

- For nearly ten years, GWP Central America has been working with legislators in Honduras to explain the benefits of IWRM and advise on technical aspects as they drafted and refined water legislation. In August 2009, the Honduras National Congress finally approved a national water law, the second Central American country to do so after Nicaragua.

- GWP China is actively involved in the implementation of The Water Saving Society and The New Countryside Development vision, starting at grass-root level with farmers organizing themselves in Water Users Associations. In this way the water users themselves own and manage the water resources with the prospect of making the countryside economically sustainable, and building a rural market from where a new middle class can emerge.

Climate Change: Water Management is Key

- GWP 's advocacy to promote climate adaptation through better water resources management included articles for the G8 summit and COP 15. For the broader development community, a Perspectives Paper and a Technical Committee Background Paper on climate change are being widely distributed within and outside the partnership.

- GWP and the WMO launched a specialized HelpDesk for Flood Management which is assisting countries in implementing an integrated approach to flood management.

FURTHER RESOURCES

GWP has a comprehensive range of knowledge resources available including the following at: www.gwpforum.org

IWRM in Practice: Better Water Management in Practice – edited by Roberto Lenton and Mike Müller, published by www.earthscan.co.uk

A Handbook for IWRM in Basins – published by GWP and INBO, ISBN: 978-91-85321-72-8

Water Management, Water Security and Climate Change Adaptation – GWP Technical Committee Background Paper No. 14

The GWP ToolBox is the preminent IWRM database and is available at: www.gwptoolbox.org