About GWP

What we do – and why

Who

GWP is a network of 3,000 institutional Partners united by their desire to manage the world's water resources sustainably — for people, for economic growth, and for the environment. Our multi-stakeholder partnership embodies a core GWP belief: that only when a broad range of stakeholders work together – government, civil society, and the commercial sector – will we change water management for the better.

What

Our mission is to advance governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development.

Where

Our Partners are in 183 countries. We have Country Water Partnerships in 85. And we have 13 Regional Water Partnerships spanning the developing world.

Why

Water is the cornerstone of human health and economic development. GWP supports countries to ensure that every person has clean water to lead healthy lives, to protect communities from water-related threats, and to harness the productive power of water for sustainable development while protecting vital ecosystems.

Ultimately, good water management is about good governance — policies, laws, financing, and institutions that are transparent, inclusive, and integrated across sectors. That's why we advocate for the application of an integrated approach to water resources management (IWRM). This approach is on the international development agenda (Sustainable Development Goals) and GWP has a 20-year track record in helping countries make it a reality.

How

We advocate.
GWP Partners – locally, regionally and globally – work to make water a top policy priority. GWP advocacy for an integrated approach does not shy away from addressing the trade-offs between different water uses. Putting the issues firmly on the table means stakeholders can consider all perspectives when taking tough decisions about valuing, managing, and using water sustainably. As a network with many stakeholders from many sectors, GWP has a convening power that makes

Our strategic approach

The GWP Network has set itself three overarching goals:

1. **Catalyse change in policies and practice**
   Advancing effective governance, based on comprehensive and mutually supportive policies, institutions, partnerships, processes, and information-sharing.
2. **Generate and communicate knowledge**
   Developing the capacity to share and use knowledge, and fostering a dynamic communications culture.
3. **Strengthen partnerships**
   Enhancing the viability and effectiveness of GWP's Network by strengthening partnerships and Partner organisations to catalyse change, enhance learning, and improve financial sustainability.

Global Water Partnership is a network of 13 Regional Water Partnerships, 85 Country Water Partnerships, and over 3,000 Partners located in 183 countries. Our vision is a water secure world. **www.gwp.org**

dialogue possible and bring about changes to policies, laws, and institutions.

We build capacity.
Advocacy alone, is not enough. Decision-makers and institutions must acquire the attitudes and skills needed for behaviour change to manage water effectively. This is why another GWP core activity is to build capacity. This can range from supporting dialogues on participatory approaches, workshops on financing, flood management, and international water law, and working with parliamentarians, women organizations, and urban planners.

We communicate knowledge.
To build capacity, knowledge is required. GWP technical papers, from background papers to policy briefs, tackle issues ranging from effective water governance to water efficiency. The [GWP IWRM ToolBox](#) is an online knowledge centre for water management. GWP also draws on the expertise of Partners to link science and technology with policy and practice.

We support countries in better water management.
Managing water sustainably requires commitment at the highest political level – when political leaders listen to people, make the tough decisions about water policy, and follow through with investments and implementation. GWP's comparative advantage is its technical expertise and convening power to bring together diverse stakeholders who contribute to the change processes that bring the vision of a water secure world closer to reality.

GWP takes an innovative approach to integrate water security with actions in the following areas:

1. climate change
2. urbanization
3. transboundary cooperation
4. the nexus of food, energy, ecosystems

In addition, GWP recognizes that there are two key cross-cutting issues that have to be addressed in all our programs: **gender equity and youth engagement**. GWP actively supports the Dublin

Principle that women play a central role in providing, managing, and safeguarding water. Guided by our gender strategy, we ensure that the interests and needs of women and men are taken into account as we design, implement, and monitor the impact of policies and programmes on water resources management.

Our youth strategy guides our partnerships with youth organisations and our support for young water professionals and entrepreneurs. We are also tasked with including the voice of young people in our governance structures.

Our impact
GWP has put in place a monitoring and evaluation system that enables a robust analysis to be made of the links between our activities and our contributions to improve the quality of life among target populations. GWP's activities and outputs influence outcomes and impact. The link between GWP's work and the subsequent impact is part of much larger processes involving multiple actors over an extended period.

Here are a few examples of where we have made a difference (details [available online](#)):

- Developing an action plan for water management in Mali
- Enhancing climate resilience in Burundi-Rwanda transboundary catchment
- Implementing water sector reform in The Gambia
- Better health and food security in Armenia
- Improving water supply and sanitation in Karachi
- Unlocking water investments in Zambia

GWP's diverse multi-stakeholder network is essential to the large-scale transformational change required by the 2030 Agenda. GWP, with two decades of experience in water governance, is working towards that sustainable future with a multi-stakeholder partnership focused on holistic solutions to deliver water security.

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