

# GWP Annual Progress Review for 2023

## Monitoring and Reporting progress

November 2023



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### Introduction

This *Annual Progress Review for 2023* summarises the monitoring, learning and reporting within the Global Water Partnership's (GWP) Work Programme Cycle (see Annex C). The Review draws on the regular monitoring data and information being collected. First and foremost, the report informs the Steering Committee in seeking their endorsement of the *Annual Progress Review for 2023*. It is also used for dialogue with the Financing Partners Group. This report is a tool for the GWPO and the 13 Regional Water Partnerships to identify challenges to be addressed in order to refine the delivery of the 6-year Strategy and to prepare their future workplans.

This *Progress Review* uses the full range of GWP's Outcome Mapping monitoring and reporting tools, as well as other reporting sources, in order to review progress in implementing the 6-year GWP Strategy by workstream, and by each of three thematic anchor areas and three cross-cutting areas of the current Strategy. It is intended to form the basis for "GWP in Action", the 2023 annual report published in March which will include audited financial information.

The report is structured as follows:

- **Section 1** provides an overall review of progress in implementing the Strategy, including the highlights and the challenges found in thematic and regional activities.
- **Section 2** contains the review of target achievement against the results-based management logical framework indicators.
- **Section 3** contains the 2023 expenditure report.

A collection of annexes provides further background information. This includes Annex A which documents results according to GWP entities, presented through detailed monitoring and evaluation datasheets of planned and actual progress in 2023.

## 1. Overall review of progress

2023 was the first year of the 2023-2025 Work Programme, which provided renewed pointers to guide the implementation of the second half of the Strategy. This year, the implementation of the Strategy remained satisfactory. Despite some challenges experienced at the global secretariat, the GWP Network continued to deliver significant results: at impact level, the target focused on the value of water-related investments influenced was overachieved, an encouraging sign that GWP's focus on supporting governments to develop investment plans, access funding, and mobilise their own resources is materialising in concrete investments in countries. GWP influenced 55 water governance outcomes around the world, a record since the beginning of the Strategy. The logframe outcome results were nonetheless overall slightly behind annual targets, probably due to an overoptimistic prediction of processes that are not fully under GWP's control. At output level, most targets were either achieved or overachieved. Considering the unexpected constraints faced by the organisation in 2023, the results accomplished in the course of the year demonstrate the strong resilience and delivery capacity of GWP's Regional and Country Water Partnerships.

This section provides a summary of the main achievements and reflections on progress in 2023:

- Investment planning and mobilisation:** This year, it is estimated that GWP directly and indirectly influenced approximately € 272 million, more than double the investments influenced in 2022. A large part of this result is associated to the funding leveraged for the implementation of the Zanzibar Water Investment Programme, launched in 2022 as part of the Africa Water Investment Programme (see below). On the other hand, around its Network GWP continued to support countries accessing climate and development finance, with 56 institutions supported in 2023, resulting in the mobilisation of approximately € 8.7 million.
- Climate finance:** More than € 23 million were mobilised since the beginning of the Strategy for climate-related funds, including from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund, Global Environment Facility, and NDC Partnership, among others. A new milestone was achieved in 2023 with the endorsement from the GCF of a GWP-supported \$1.5 million Project Preparation Facility grant for 13 countries of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). A breakthrough for GWP was the subsequent request from the GCF to replicate and upscale the approach taken in this initiative. In response, GWP launched the African Climate Resilient Co-Investment Programme under the Africa Water Investment Programme and intends to replicate it all around the Network (see Section 3.2.1).
- Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP):** This year, GWP's instrumental support to the AIP translated into the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the African Union Commission and GWP Southern Africa and Africa Coordination to collaborate on mobilising resources to implement water programmes and projects in Africa, and to strengthen capacity to coordinate water policy across the continent. Also under the AIP, the preparation of Water Investment Programmes continued with the finalisation of the Tanzania Water Investment Programme. Additionally, the Zanzibar Water Investment Programme launched in 2022 mobilised over \$180 million from Japan, India, Oman and Germany, a confirmation of GWP's ability to mobilise water-related investments (see Section 2.2).
- Gender equality and inclusion:** Since the beginning of the implementation of the Water, Climate, Development and Gender Programme (WACDEP-G) across Africa, GWP has increasingly

been able to influence the incorporation of gender issues in planning and investment processes in regions and countries. This is particularly noticeable through the gradual increase of water governance outcome results that integrate gender inclusion. In 2023, 15 high-level results were achieved in each of the five Regional Water Partnerships of Africa, as well as in Central America and South Asia. These last results show how GWP has been able to spread the experience gained in Africa to other regions of the GWP Network.

- **Monitoring IWRM implementation:** GWP assisted the governments of 65 countries through the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme to organise multi-stakeholder consultation workshops to update the national evaluation of SDG indicator 6.5.1, the degree of implementation of IWRM, as part of the formal SDG reporting requirements (see Section 3.1.1). The workshop facilitators benefitted from a multilingual online training course prior to the events. 12 countries used the newly introduced online tool for monitoring SDG 6.5.1 available on the IWRM Action Hub.
- **Knowledge and learning:** An increasing demand for knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer learning resulted in a larger focus on facilitating spaces for exchange across GWP's portfolio. The number of Communities of Practice hosted on the IWRM Action Hub further increased in 2023, reaching a total of 20+ active Communities. Other important initiatives include the launch by the Technical Committee of a series of online dialogues, the organisation of 14 learning events, two calls for case studies and the facilitation of monthly exchanges for GCF Readiness implementation teams in GWP (see Sections 2.2 and 3.2.1). The high attendance and active participation reached in each of these spaces was a reaffirmation of the need for GWP to continue investing in its role of knowledge broker and facilitator of knowledge transfer around its Network.
- **Financial situation of the organisation:** In 2023, there has been reduced levels of financing available to the organisation and actions had to be taken to reduce costs, identify savings and reduce the number of positions of GWPO, in order to achieve a balanced budget for 2023 and 2024. Despite these difficulties, GWP regions and countries continued to deliver their annual workplan, which resulted in a satisfactory achievement of annual targets following the trajectory of previous years.
- **Governance:** A consultant was contracted to review GWP's governance structure and organisational set-up. The water related challenges and the context in which GWP functions have evolved and changed significantly over the years, therefore this consultancy aims to ensure that GWP's structure remains fit-for-purpose and will provide specific recommendations for a potential governance reform.

## 2. GWP at work – Selected 2023 Results

This section highlights some of the achievements of the 13 GWP regions and GWPO in the implementation of the 2023 workplan. More information is presented in subsequent sections, in the context of GWP's regions and anchor areas through which they are delivered.

The highlighted results are presented according to the GWP Results Framework (see Annex C). Results reported include those achieved with funding raised by GWPO as well as with funding raised by regional and country water partnerships separately or jointly.

### **2.1 Impact and Outcomes: mid- to long-term achievements**

GWP works towards its Strategy mission and vision according to a chain of results. Activities and outputs designed to promote IWRM principles are implemented in support of targeted stakeholders who have a mandate for water governance. The GWP M&E system documents the different steps of our results chain and analyses how the organisation's work has contributed to governance change across the attribution gap.

The top level of the results chain relates to impact, i.e., the assumption that water governance reform at the outcome level will lead to sustainable socio-economic benefits among the target populations through more sustainable use of water resources. All water governance outcomes to which GWP has contributed are assumed to result in increased water security.

The attribution of quantified impact (e.g., investments leveraged and number of people who benefit) takes time. For example, the development of a National Adaptation Plan in 2023 will only result in increased investment and improvements in people's lives once the plan is under implementation, perhaps 1-3 years following approval.

GWP documents such impact by linking it to investments. In 2023, it is estimated that **investments worth more than €272 million** can be linked to GWP's work either indirectly, e.g., by making the connection between a GWP outcome and the subsequent investment that was allocated to implement it, or directly, e.g., successful support to institutions to access sources of development finance.

Results related to direct investments are relatively easy to monitor on an annual basis due to the clear relationship and short time period between GWP's contribution and the manifestation of the result.

**Approximately €8.7 million** was mobilised in 2023 to support processes such as transboundary cooperation in the Drin basin, strengthening climate adaptation and resilience in Benin and Togo, and NDC implementation fast tracking in El Salvador, Peru, Paraguay and Chile.

In 2023 **55 key water governance outcomes**<sup>1</sup> were recorded in which GWP had a role to play. These include:

- 22 new national, regional and river basin policies, plans and strategies

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<sup>1</sup> Note that some of the reported outcomes are still in the process of being verified and the total number as well as the figures provided in the breakdown are subject to change

- 17 investment plans, strategies and budget commitments, including for basin level investments
- 10 transboundary river basin agreements and management frameworks

The full list of GWP outcomes recorded in 2023 is shown in Annex A.

Achieving outcome and, particularly, impact level results can take several years. As such, the work conducted by GWP to influence the above governance changes was in many cases initiated well before the outcome materialised. The results therefore relate to activities and outputs implemented through a series of workplans dating back to the preceding strategy period.

Figure 1 below gives an overview of the distribution of all outcomes recorded by GWP in 2023 across the four main dimensions of IWRM measured by indicator 6.5.1, namely the *enabling environment, institutions, management instruments and financing*.

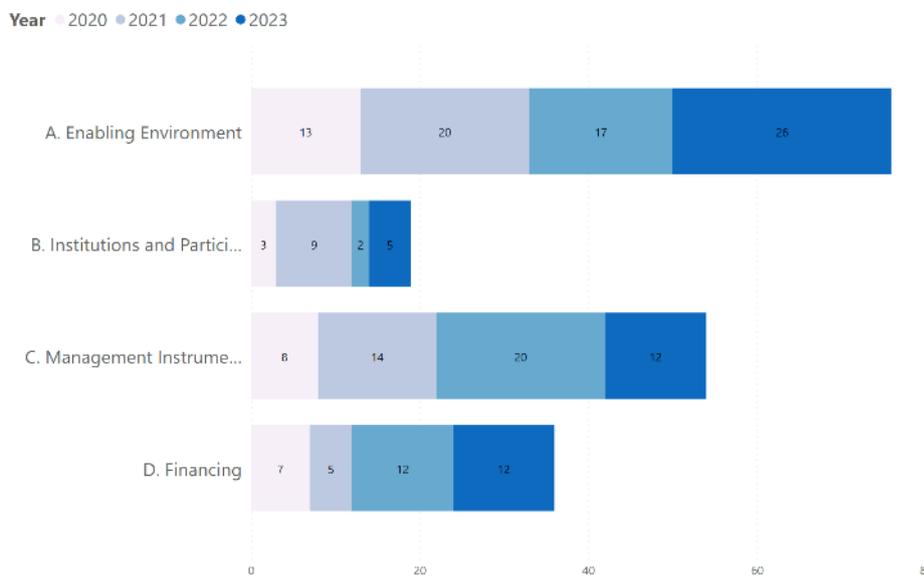


Figure 1: GWP 2020-23 outcomes categorised by the SDG 6.5.1 elements

## 2.2 A continuous flow of activities and outputs under three dimensions

The 2023 GWP workplan was structured according to the three dimensions outlined in the GWP Strategy 2020-25:

**We Mobilise:** Key actors within and beyond the water sector engaged and multi-stakeholder platforms established

**We Learn:** Learning processes, products and platforms introduced in forms that are easily available, attractive, social, and timely

**We Act:** Interventions delivered to foster and demonstrate integrated practice for water resources management

This section provides an illustration of the type of activities and outputs carried out by the 13 GWP regions and GWPO in the implementation of the 2023 workplan by those three dimensions. Some of

these activities and outputs, and the interrelationship between them, contributed to the high-level water governance outcomes described in Section 2.1. Others are contributing to processes that are expected to lead to outcomes in 2024 and beyond.

### Illustrative highlights – We Act

*We Act* focuses on advancing effective governance, based on comprehensive and mutually supportive policies, institutions, partnerships, processes, and information-sharing. These efforts are typically implemented through i) global advocacy, ii) support to transboundary and regional organisations, iii) support to national governments, and iv) the facilitation of multi-stakeholder processes. Most of the activities that contribute to *We Act* are delivered through the thematic anchor areas which results are presented in Section 3.

Some additional examples from 2023 include:

- **Africa Water Investment Programme:** The AIP continued to attract commitments at the highest political level. In 2023, the International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa released its High-Level Report *Africa's Rising Investment Tide*, during the UN 2023 Water Conference. The report unpacks how investment partnerships will mobilize \$30 billion/year to achieve water security and sustainable sanitation in Africa. In support to this goal, the African Union Commission (AUC) championed the launch of a High-Level Panel Campaign *Mind the Gap – Invest in Water*. GWP continues to host the Secretariat of the AIP, providing an instrumental role in the advancement of the programme. As such, the African Union Commission and GWP Southern Africa and Africa Coordination signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on mobilising resources to implement water programmes and projects in Africa, and to strengthen capacity to coordinate water policy across the continent.

In the context of the AIP, GWP continued supporting the preparation of Water Investment Programmes, which are seen as an essential step towards ensuring that the governments commit funding to water investment as a means of implementing water-related development plans and strategies. Launched in 2022, the Zanzibar Water Investment Programme has already mobilised over \$180 million from Japan, India, Oman and Germany. This year, a new country Water Programme was finalised for Tanzania, and a similar process is ongoing in Botswana.

- **Global advocacy:** In 2023, GWP's engagement in global processes was extensive. Highlights of GWP's global influence include:
  - GWP had a strong presence at the **UN Water Conference**, leading and co-convening 26 official side events. One of the main highlights of this engagement was that, out of over 800 commitments registered on the Water Action Agenda, the final UN Press Release noted the Africa Water Investment Programme and its High-Level Panel among the snapshot of bold commitments aimed at driving transformation from a global water crisis to a water-secure world.
  - GWP was one of the key establishing members of the **Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition** which gathers, among others, 17 countries, UN agencies,

development banks, and universities. The purpose of the coalition is to promote the importance of transboundary water cooperation in global fora and encourage countries to make commitments towards this purpose.

- During the **38<sup>th</sup> meeting of UN-Water**, GWP presented recommendations for action to operationalise the innovation acceleration under the SDG 6 Global, which led to the creation of a Task Force. GWP has taken on the co-coordination of the Task Force that aims to come up with a set of tangible actions that can be coordinated by UN-Water.
- **Support to transboundary and regional organisations:** 6 regional organisations and 9 transboundary water management institutions have been supported by the GWP Network in 2023. Examples of supported regional organisations include the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) in the advancement of transboundary cooperation in the region and the African Union (AU), in relation to the AIP. Support to transboundary water management organisations on a range of governance aspects has been most prominent in the Mediterranean, Southern Africa, West and Central Africa. Further details on the transboundary work implemented in 2023 can be found in Section 3.3.
- **Support to national governments:** In 2023, more than 70 national institutions benefitted from GWP's support across the water governance spectrum. Examples include support to the Ministry of Environment of Honduras with the preparation of Special Regulation of Reserve Zones for Water Recharge and Water Production (currently at draft stage), and the support to the Ministry in charge of water and environment of Cameroon developing a Gender Policy for the country.
- **Facilitation of multi-stakeholder processes:** GWP serves as a neutral body to facilitate genuine multi-stakeholder input and establish collective ownership and buy-in to governance processes and change. More than 120 formal multi-stakeholder participation processes were facilitated on behalf of a mandated institution in 2023, including 65 stakeholder workshops in support of national reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.1.

### Illustrative highlights – We Learn

*We Learn* focuses on developing the capacity to share knowledge and fostering a dynamic communications culture through i) capacity building, ii) peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchange, iii) publications, and iv) social media. Illustrations from 2023 include:

- **Capacity building:** GWP's capacity building activities are mostly region or country specific as they are designed and conducted in the context of tangible governance and financing capacity needs. Examples from 2023 include:
  - Capacity building in Grenada for community members and the Mt. Grandby Water Committee to strengthen the functioning of the Committee in the context of the Mt. Grandby dam expansion.
  - Capacity building on integrated drought management for government officials in Armenia
  - Training on GCF procedures offered to government representatives, private sector and civil society organisations in the Central African Republic

- Gender Equality and Social Inclusion training conducted for SADC Regional Basin Organisations
- Finance plan development capacity building in CAR, Malawi, Nepal, Palestine, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda
- **Knowledge curation and peer-to-peer learning:** The GWP Technical Committee launched a series of online dialogues with the GWP Network to surface and explore some of the emerging trends that shape the future of water management, where GWP could take a leadership position in developing and disseminating knowledge, developing partnerships and building capacity. Two dialogues were organised, the first one focused on Just Water Partnerships and the second on bankable projects.

Redeveloped and launched in 2022, the IWRM Action Hub is a global knowledge and learning platform which supports actors to implement IWRM, share knowledge and expertise about their implementation experiences, and bring relevant stakeholders together to improve the way water is managed around the world. The IWRM tools provide support for water professionals and decision makers to navigate the complexities of IWRM. In 2023, the following tools were added and updated: [Water Allocation Regimes](#), [Customary Water Law](#), [Institutional Mapping](#), [Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships](#), [Corporate Stewardship](#) and [Nature Based Solutions](#).

GWP's Communities of Practice hosted on the IWRM Action Hub serve as vehicles to advance social learning towards IWRM and bring together experts to collaborate and drive transformative change. The Action Hub has quickly expanded its scope and number of communities, with 20+ active communities at the conclusion of 2023. Some notable communities established in 2023 were:

- **UNCCD's Communities of Learning and Practice on Drought Management** facilitate knowledge sharing among drought professionals, aiming to improve capacity and reduce land degradation through co-learning and collaboration. Two communities are already active, a global one and a regional one for Latin America and Caribbean countries.
- **The Community of Practice on Drought Management in Armenia**, led by GWP Central and Eastern Europe and CWP Armenia, engages experts and stakeholders to enhance drought recognition, capacity, cooperation, and implementation, with a focus on key drought-related topics.
- **The Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) Community of Practice** unites global experts to discuss and promote NBS in water management, with a focus on increasing recognition, capacity, and intersectoral cooperation. This community is led by GWP Central and Eastern Europe.
- **The WEFE4MED Community** is in design phase and is supported by the EU's PRIMA program. It promotes a Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus approach in the Mediterranean, fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders to enhance sustainability in the region.

- Publications:** GWP produced throughout 2023 more than 80 publications at all levels of the organisation. At the global level, GWP prepared 10+ publications, including a set of MSP publications, and most notably [The MSP Sourcebook - A Guide for Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships in Water](#), launched at the UN 2023 Water Conference in March 2023. An agenda-setting paper was produced in collaboration with Chatham House on [Why lifecycle solutions are needed to tackle marine plastic pollution](#). A final set of climate adaptation country briefs was also produced at the beginning of the year, as well as a ‘Learning journey’ multimedia publication from the SDG 6 IWRM Community on [Financing for water security through an IWRM approach](#). GWP’s Technical Committee also published a technical brief ahead of the UN 2023 Water Conference on [Integrated solutions for water management in Tajikistan](#) (see full publication list in the annex).

At the regional and country levels a wide range of publications were produced covering, inter alia (see Regional secretariats’ websites):

- Perspectives papers, e.g., Wastewater Management in the Caribbean: A Jamaican Case Study
  - Guidance documents, e.g. a guide for SDG 6 evaluation at local level in Central America; a guide to integrate the gender transformative approach into water and climate sector plans and policies in Cameroon.
  - Studies, e.g., country climate finance studies for Southern African countries
- Social media:** social media generates great visibility and provides a set of versatile platforms for showcasing GWP’s work to a wide audience. By strategically planning, organising, and monitoring social media efforts, GWP grew its presence on social media in 2023 with LinkedIn, Facebook and X/Twitter serving as its main channels. A snapshot of GWP’s social media engagement is presented below (15 Nov 2022 – 15 Nov 2023):
  - **1,448,527 impressions** (number of times content was served to users)
  - **67,395 engagements** (likes, shares, replies etc.)
  - **26,385 link clicks** (number of clicks on links within our content, e.g., linking to our or partners’ websites, publications and videos)
  - **76,500 followers on Facebook** (net increase of 12.6% during this period)
  - **34,265 followers on LinkedIn** (net increase of 34% during this period)
  - **23,385 followers on X/Twitter** (net increase of 2.75% during this period)

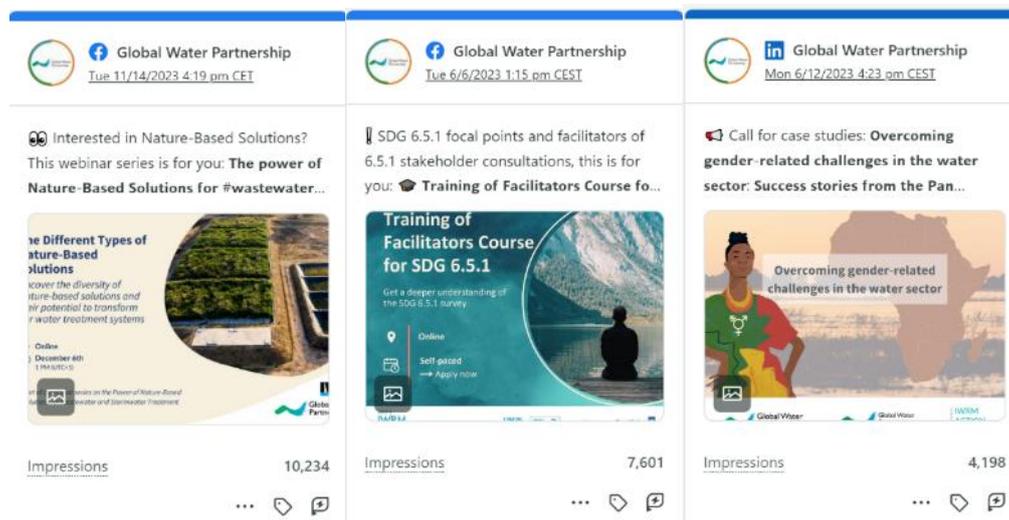
GWP was very active during the largest water events of the year, including the 2023 UN Water Conference and World Water Week, reporting in real-time on these peak moments for water (see table below).

Event	KPI/targets in GWP’s comms strategies & outcomes
<b>UN 2023 Water Conference</b>	- Follower growth cross-channel target: <b>1000</b> (1,248) - Impressions cross-channel target: <b>100,000</b> (178,922) - Engagement target (clicks, likes, shares): <b>5000</b> (9,799)
<b>World Water Week 2023</b>	- Follower growth cross-channel target: <b>500</b> (146) - Impressions cross-channel target: <b>50,000</b> (52,385) - Engagement target (clicks, likes, shares): <b>2000</b> (2,580)

Another big social media campaign in 2023 that involved the whole GWP Network, led by GWP

Southern Africa team, was the Water Changemaker Innovation Awards. Social media has also been important in the promotion of online courses, where GWP collaborated with partners such as WMO and Cap-Net UNDP. Examples include courses on drought management and courses from the SDG 6 IWRM Support programme. The IWRM Action Hub case study competitions were also successfully covered on social media.

**Example of top posts throughout the year:**



**Illustrative highlights – We Mobilise**

*We Mobilise* focuses on enhancing the viability and effectiveness of GWP’s Network by strengthening partnerships and partner organisations to catalyse change, enhance learning, and improve financial sustainability. Some of the main groups of activities include i) partner engagement and strategic alliances, ii) strengthening the Country Water Partnerships, iii) GWP institutional performance, and iv) GWP locally raised funding. Illustrations from 2023 include:

- **Partner engagement:** The second iteration of the Water ChangeMakers Award took place, which aims to recognise high-level commitment and leadership for climate resilient water investments and showcase the most promising climate resilient innovations with the greatest potential for scale, replication, and further investment to support a water-secure world.

The Awards received over 300 innovative submissions on water management from governments, NGOs, private sector entities and universities all of whom had to register as a GWP partner to be eligible for the Awards. The Water Changemaker Awards served as a dynamic force to mobilise current partners but also expand the Network geographically and technically, fortifying the Network with a broader and more specialized alliance of partners.

- **Partnerships and strategic alliances:** The ability of GWP to mobilise high quality action with relatively few resources is largely due to its range of strategic relationships with key partners and allies across all levels of entity. Partnerships are instrumental all around the GWP Network for high-profile initiatives such as the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme (e.g. in partnership with UNEP-DHI), the transboundary water management agenda (e.g. GEF IW:LEARN, UNECE), and the GWP Water and Climate Programmes (e.g. Green Climate Fund, UNFCCC, World Meteorological,

NDC Partnership). Additional highlights in 2023 include the collaboration with UNCCD on Communities of Practice, with FAO on regional drought management workshops and with the Government of the Netherlands and Deltares on the Valuing Water initiative. The results of these collaboration are described along this document.

In addition, in 2023 a new agreement was signed with the United States Department of State. With a total value of \$1.25 million and a duration of 3 years, the *Global Water Security Dialogues* (GLOWS-D) will focus on the inclusion of underrepresented voices in policy fora. It aims to diversify and deepen the international conversation on global water security and help to ensure that water security supports economic growth while also addressing economic and social inequalities. The programme has a global component, as well as three regional chapters that will be implemented in the Mediterranean, Southern Africa and South Asia.

- **Strengthening the country level:** Formal accreditation of a new Country Water Partnership (CWP) in Malawi was achieved in 2023 taking the total GWP CWPs to 77. In addition, the process of accreditation re-check was carried out by GWP Honduras and Nicaragua and initiated by GWP Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. The purpose of this exercise is to verify that CWPs continue to fulfil the GWP Conditions of Accreditation, identify areas that require strengthening and related actions that contribute to energise the platform of partners.
- **Institutional performance:** Since 2017, an annual regional assessment grid reflecting numerous performance data markers has been used to assess each GWP Regional Water Partnership. These include, inter alia, target achievement, financial and programmatic reporting, resource mobilisation and overall governance. Performance agreements to address the recommendations arising from these assessments are formally agreed between the GWP Executive Secretary and the Regional Chairs.
- **Locally raised funding:** Locally raised funding for 2022 was € 7 million, a 60% increase from the previous year. Whereas the final figures for 2023 will not be available until the annual audit is completed in early 2024, at present it is estimated that the total value of local funding will be above € 8 million.
- **GWP and UNDP Cap-Net collaboration:** Examples of this collaboration in 2023 include:
  - Joint organisation of the distance learning course on decision support and response to flood and drought and early warning in the Volta Basin, in collaboration with the Volta Basin Authority and WMO.
  - Collaboration on the second edition of the virtual training course on monitoring of IWRM at municipal level in Central America.
  - Co-convening of the third WEF Nexus Winter school in Southern Africa, along with several partners, which targets early career researchers, postgraduate students, managers, and practitioners in understanding the WEF nexus as a transformative approach to sustainable natural resources management and socio-economic development.
  - Joint moderation of the Community of Practice *Gender and Water Resources Management* (see Section 3.4.1)

See Annex B for the full Cap-Net progress report summary 2023.

### 2.3 Regional highlights

(For further details see Section 3 and Annex A)

The following diagram displays highlighted results from each of the 13 GWP Regions achieved in 2023 (underlined text refers to tangible outcomes). A more detailed description of regional level progress, including at country level, can be found in the referenced sections within the diagram.

#### Mediterranean:

- WEFE Nexus Roadmap in Tangiers-Tetouan (Morocco)
- UfM Water Agenda 2023-25 Work programmes for four thematic priorities and the Financial Strategy

#### Central and Eastern Europe:

- West Estonian basin, East Estonian basin and Koiva/Gauja river basin management plans
- Strengthened capacities for drought policy preparation in Armenia and Kosovo

#### Central Asia and the Caucasus:

- Adoption of the Water Code in Georgia
- 4th National Environmental Action Programme of Georgia

#### China:

- Establishment of the Belt and Road Working Committee
- Beijing Declaration (draft) of the Lancang-Mekong River Cooperation

#### Caribbean:

- Revision of the National IWRM Policy for Trinidad and Tobago
- Curaçao Water Policy

#### Central America:

- Manual for water concessions in Panama
- Evaluation of IWRM in 5 municipalities of Nicaragua and Honduras



#### South Asia:

- Local Water Management Plans (based on rainfall variability) prepared for summer crops in India
- Gender responsive LAPAs for Chhatrakot and Kaligandaki Rural Municipalities

#### Southeast Asia:

- WASH Action plans in development in 3 village governments in Bintan Indonesia
- Catchment Knowledge Hub Indonesia in preparation

#### South America:

- Financing for NDC fast-tracking in Paraguay, Peru, Chile
- Water footprint certification completed for 3 companies in Uruguay

#### West Africa:

- Mono Basin Strategic Plan
- Water Development and Management Scheme approved by 2 regional councils of the Mekrou basin in Niger

#### Central Africa:

- National Water Policy of Cameroon
- Cameroon Gender Policy
- Revision of the 1988 Water Law

#### Southern Africa:

- Tanzania Water Investment Programme
- BUPUSA Gender Action Plan

#### East Africa:

- National Gender Mainstreaming Guidelines in Uganda
- Capacity building for developing finance plans addressing bottlenecks that impeded IWRM/WASH in Uganda

### 3. Thematic reviews

This section presents a review of achievements in each of the 3 thematic anchor areas and 3 cross-cutting areas of the 2020-2025 Strategy.

#### **3.1 Water solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals**

The all-encompassing nature of the SDGs enables GWP to predominantly structure the use of its resources according to the SDG and climate programmes while ensuring that the natural diversity of agendas across the network are still accommodated. This includes work on the remaining GWP strategic themes of *urbanisation* and the *nexus of water, food, energy and ecosystems* described in this section.

##### **3.1.1 The SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme**

The SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme (SDG 6 SP), run by GWP in partnership with UNEP-DHI and UNEP, as the custodian agency for SDG indicator 6.5.1, is structuring a range of direct SDG support initiatives currently under implementation and planned across the GWP network. The Support Programme assists governments in designing and implementing country-led responses to SDG indicator 6.5.1, the degree of implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management, as an entry point to accelerate progress towards the achievement of water-related SDGs and other development goals, in line with their national priorities.

The initiatives are predominantly led by the GWP CWP with support from the associated RWPs. The work conducted under the SDG 6 SP is broadly structured across three stages, namely:

- i) **Stage 1:** Strengthening SDG national monitoring and reporting frameworks, including the establishment of an IWRM score under SDG indicator 6.5.1, with a view to identifying critical areas for attention.
- ii) **Stage 2:** Formulating appropriate responses to water resources management challenges, based on their needs and appropriate to their ambitions and capacities, in the context of the baseline for SDG indicator 6.5.1 and the national water resources management priority issues more broadly.
- iii) **Stage 3:** Implementing IWRM solutions aimed at achieving SDG 6 and other water-related goals, including the mobilisation of funding.

Examples of progress in 2023 in the three stages are as follows:

##### *Monitoring and reporting (Stage 1):*

- **Global:** Support was provided to 65 countries to monitor progress towards SDG 6.5.1 through the facilitation of multi-stakeholder consultation workshops. Multilingual online training was offered and required for the facilitators of the consultations.
- **Global:** This year, GWP made available to countries a new online tool for monitoring SDG 6.5.1 on the IWRM Action Hub. The online survey was a success: 12 countries used the tool to gather stakeholder inputs. For example, in Brazil the National Water Agency used the opportunity to broaden stakeholder participation and consult actors all around the country.

- **Central Africa:** The process of monitoring SDG 6.5.1 was combined in Central African countries with identification of implementable actions to improve IWRM. Roadmaps were prepared that consider aggravating factors such as climate change. GWP supported this process to further work with countries in the implementation of the roadmaps.

### *Planning an IWRM response (Stage 2):*

- **North Macedonia:** A national IWRM Action Plan was validated after a 10-month consultation process led by the Ministry of the Environment and Physical Planning and facilitated by GWP Mediterranean. Through a series of Task Force meetings and wider multi-stakeholder workshops, the IWRM Plan was prepared in an inclusive and consultative manner.
- **Nicaragua:** Following the monitoring of IWRM at municipal level last year, three municipalities developed their IWRM Action Plans that prioritise actions to strengthen the integrated approach for managing water locally.
- **Botswana:** GWP supported the preparation of a Water Investment Programme, which is at final stages of formalisation. The programme aims to mobilise and leverage at least \$10.8 billion for climate resilient water investments in the water-energy-food-ecosystem-health nexus.
- **Paraguay:** The IWRM Action Plan was launched by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. GWP South America supported the preparation of the Plan by providing technical assistance and facilitating multi-stakeholder engagement.

### *Implementing IWRM solutions (Stage 3):*

- **Nepal:** The process of adoption of the Water Resources Bill advanced in 2023, with the clearance given by the Ministry of Finance. GWP Nepal continued engaging with the Agriculture, Cooperative and Natural Resources Committee, which endorsement is key for approval by the Parliament.
- **Tanzania:** A study was prepared to understand the value of water in the national economy. The assessment uses economic valuation methods and provides a starting point to initiate stakeholder engagement around cross-sectoral subsidies and payments for water.

### **3.1.2 Water-Energy-Food-Environment Nexus**

The water, food, energy and ecosystems nexus perspective is an important lens within the GWP programme that interfaces naturally with IWRM efforts. Whereas GWP supports individual aspects of the nexus throughout its regions (see examples below), there are a number of specific nexus programmes either ongoing or under development within the network.

The focus on peer-to-peer learning has been growing in this area, with two of the most active CoPs hosted on the IWRM Action Hub: *Nature-based Solutions in Water Management and WEF E Nexus Community of Practice: A solution for the Mediterranean future*. In addition to facilitating exchanges amongst practitioners at regional level, the CoPs have strengthened GWP's positioning in the Nexus global agenda. For example, GWP is now contributing to WMO's working group on the Nexus.

Other examples of nexus activities and results implemented in 2023 include:

- **West Africa:** The *Reversal of Ecosystems and Water Degradation in the Volta Basin* (REWARD-Volta) project was launched in 2023. With a duration of 5 years, this \$7 million GEF project aims to support integrated ecosystem-based development in the Volta basin through strengthened transboundary governance and restoration and conservation of ecosystems for sustainable livelihoods. GWP West Africa and the Volta Basin Authority are executing agencies of the project, which is being implemented by UNEP and IUCN.
- **Lebanon:** A Nexus Policy Dialogue was carried out building on the National WEF Nexus Assessment developed with GWP's support. The Assessment looked at the interlinkages among sectors, identified trade-offs and proposed synergies to address gaps in institutional settings, policy integration and data management considering Lebanon's National laws, Strategies and Plans in the different sectors. The identification and mapping of financing schemes that could support the implementation of solutions was also an important part of the process.
- **China:** GWP convened experts and practitioners to gather inputs and advance research on water-saving and water control measures in large irrigation areas in the Shaanxi and Gansu provinces. The results of this process are providing policy recommendations to the Yellow River Basin Convergency Commission and to authorities of both provinces.
- **Malawi:** A pilot project was implemented in the village of Kamuisa by SADC, with IWRM inputs from GWP, to utilise water from the lake for irrigation of various crops and domestic use. Harnessing solar power for pumping and lighting, the project empowered the community to farm year-round, ensuring food resilience, and mitigating the impact of climate change.

### 3.1.3 Water Solutions for Urban Resilience and WASH

Covering a broad spectrum of sectoral, demographical, geographical and political dimensions, the notion of urban water management is here loosely interpreted as sub-national water resources management including WASH. GWP's approach to its urban theme is largely implemented through the provision of direct regional and country-based support to tangible activities and projects at the local level.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of local water management, including access to safe water and sanitation. The Global Water Leadership in a Changing Climate (GWL) Programme, supported by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom, works to encourage climate-resilient water management by bringing together policymakers from water resources management (WRM) and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) through an extended working group process. GWL focuses on seven countries (Central African Republic, Malawi, Nepal, Palestine, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda), across five GWP regions, and with a budget of £3.25 million. Through stakeholder consultations, it has facilitated the identification of the top two-to-four most critical barriers to water management in each country, and the subsequent formation of one working group per barrier. These working groups are meeting regularly to develop a dedicated

Response Strategy for their respective barrier. Response Strategies comprise of an Action Plan for addressing the barrier, and a Finance Plan for ensuring that the Action Plans can be undertaken.

Some highlights of processes influenced in 2023 across the GWP Network include:

- **Greece:** Technical support was provided to the island of Folegandros to reduce the gap between water supply and demand in the context of the Zero Drop project. This year, the project showcased innovative technologies with six 'hydropanels' installed to convert air humidity into drinking water, using renewable solar energy. A water cooler was installed in the main square, supplying water produced by the hydropanels.
- **South Asia:** The new project *Built Water Storage in South Asia* was launched in 2023 in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. The project is funded by the U.S. Department of State, and is implemented by IWMI, in association with GWP South Asia. It aims to enhance the use of data for understanding water storage gaps and the options to fill them as well as build capacities for integrated water storage planning and management. The project will support transboundary water storage cooperation through the facilitation of cross-border dialogues. A systematic gender sensitive approach is being adopted in its three workstreams.
- **Indonesia:** In the context of the Safe Water Gardens initiative, GWP and Water Stewardship Indonesia provided training to village leaders and authorities in Busung, Kuala Sempang and Pengujan villages on the use of an e-survey platform to support their efforts to increase access to safe sanitation.

## 3.2 Climate resilience through water

### 3.2.1 Climate investments and access to finance

The water and climate programme is instrumental in shaping the organisation's approach to development more broadly. This is true particularly in relation to investment planning and access to finance, where significant results have been achieved during the current Strategy.

This work has primarily been implemented through a suite of projects under the Water, Climate, Development and Gender Programme (WACDEP-G), the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP), the Associated Flood Management Programme (APFM) and the WASH Climate Resilience programme. In addition, four country projects are under implementation in collaboration with the NDC Partnership (see Section 3.2.2) and funding has been either secured or is under negotiation for a range of region and country level projects focussing on climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction. It relies closely on a combination of implementing partners, such as the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for the IDMP and APFM, and key allies including national governments, international and continental bodies, development banks and climate finance institutions. Progress has been most significant in Africa, where much of the work is being consolidated and advanced through the strategic lens of the Africa Water Investment Programme but is also evolving along a similar trajectory in GWP's non-African regions.

### Access to climate finance

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is the largest financing mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). GWP has therefore strategically focused its support to countries to increase water-related climate investments on the GCF. Since 2018, GWP has been working closely with the GCF National Designated Authorities (NDAs) – usually Ministries of Environment, or Ministries of Planning or Finance – and, importantly, bringing them together with the Ministries of Water, to build capacity to develop proposals for resilience building water projects that can access GCF financing.

Testament of the trust built over these years, in the context of the GCF 2023 Africa Regional Dialogue, GCF sought GWP's inputs on the challenges, opportunities, and investment options for the water sector, with a focus on water security in Africa. The mobilisation of NDAs and other key stakeholders towards the development and submission of project proposals has progressed and materialised with the mobilisation of €4.5 million under the Readiness window since 2020. Currently, five projects are on-going in Central African Republic, eSwatini, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Zambia. A few highlights of the work supported this year include:

- **Zambia:** The National Adaptation Plan was launched by the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment. The development of the plan was supported by GWP, including a comprehensive multi-stakeholder engagement process. The NAP was also officially registered as a National Adaptation Communication by the UNFCCC. The implementation of the GCF Readiness Zambia NAP was commended by the GCF as a model for country-owned NAP.
- **Sri Lanka:** GWP supported the Ministry of Environment converging diverse national planning processes into a Climate-Smart Green Growth Strategy and Investment Plan that will be centered around opportunities for building resilience via water.
- **eSwatini:** A Gender Coordination Framework was validated to strengthen gender mainstreaming for climate finance related programming. This framework will be adapted into the National Climate Change Committee coordination mechanism. GWP is supporting the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, working with the Department of Water Affairs, and the Joint Water River Basin Authority Project Board in this process.
- **Somalia, eSwatini, Central African Republic and Sri Lanka:** the preparation of 10 GCF Concept Notes was initiated, which are to be submitted in 2024.

The GCF Readiness project portfolio is closely associated with the WACDEP-G portfolio of projects. This has enabled meaningful contributions from the expertise being convened on gender inclusion and transformative approaches within WACDEP-G to contribute to the gender equality aspects of the GCF projects, such as the eSwatini Gender Coordination Framework described above. Conversely, the funding leveraged through the GCF Readiness projects is also providing the means of implementing some of the gender ambitions that countries are committing to via WACDEP-G.

Further work was carried out to secure new funding this year. GWP received requests for support from 17 country GCF NDAs to develop proposals to access GCF finance. Four GCF Readiness proposals are being developed (Somalia, Montenegro, Tanzania, SADC multi-country – including Seychelles, Democratic Republic of the Congo), and two more are under formal GCF review. The first one a \$800k proposal to prepare the Water NAP in Zambia, the second phase of the Zambia NAP. The second proposal is an African Union Multi Country Readiness Initiative that aims to support the 11 participating countries to develop Climate-Resilient Water Investment Plans. Currently under evaluation, the \$1.3 proposal was recognized by the GCF as a significant initiative towards enabling access investment finance as sought by GCF-2.

Aware of the importance of harvesting and documenting all the knowledge gained through the implementation of GCF projects, in 2023 GWP rolled out its *Knowledge management and learning plan for the GCF projects*. The plan is structured around 4 components:

- Support to capacity building-related deliverables in GCF Readiness implementation
- Facilitation of peer-to-peer exchange within GWP
- Effective information management
- Harvesting of results and communication.

Several exchange sessions were organised in 2023 which gathered implementing teams across the GWP Network to share their advancements and challenges and learn about new tools to support their work.

In addition, GWP facilitated the preparation of a GCF Project Preparation Facility proposal worth \$1.5 million which was endorsed by the GCF in 2023. The grant will fund the development of a GCF investment finance full proposal for a gender-transformative Regional Climate Resilient Water Investment Programme for the 13 SADC countries. The investment programme aims to leverage at least \$117 million and is expected to benefit 140 million people in the SADC region by closing the water investment gap and promoting climate resilient development through access to reliable climate information, hydrological services, impact-based multi hazard early warning systems and science-based gender sensitive investments water security. The Development Bank of Southern Africa will be the GCF Accredited Entity for the proposed project, and SADC and GWP the lead executing Agencies, with technical guidance from WMO along with other partners.

This project is aligned with the *Early Warnings for All* initiative that emerges in 2022 from the call of the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, for a global effort to ensure that early warning systems protect everyone on Earth by 2027. The initiative is structured around four pillars, one of them delegated to WMO: *Detection, observation, monitoring, analysis, and forecasting*. Cognisant of this alignment, the GCF requested GWP to upscale and replicate this initiative around the world. This was a breakthrough for GWP as a recognition of its ability to mobilise water-related investments. In response, GWP launched the African Climate Resilient Co-Investment Programme, an umbrella programme that brings together a consortium of partners in Africa and the GCF to enable coordination, pipeline development and identification of pilots.

### 3.2.2 Climate development planning

As in Zambia, the overall goal of these proposals is to further develop and implement national climate resilience commitments such as National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The other global framework through which GWP is providing practical support to countries is the NDC Partnership, contributing to NDC enhancement and fast-tracking implementation. Since 2020, GWP has implemented projects in 9 countries (Sudan, Somalia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Chile, Ecuador, Nepal, Peru and Paraguay). Four projects are currently under implementation in Peru, Chile, Paraguay and El Salvador.

Some of the highlights in 2023 include:

- **Peru:** multi-sectoral indicators were established in the context of the National Climate Change Strategy with a vision for 2050. GWP provided technical support to the Ministry of Environment and facilitated the involvement of different sectors, including health, tourism and exports, agriculture, environment, production, housing, energy and mines, transport, communications and social inclusion.
- **Paraguay:** GWP provided technical guidance and support to the Mitigation Department of the National Directorate of Climate Change to articulate priority actions for the implementation of the NDC's sectoral mitigation plans.
- **El Salvador:** A \$200k project was approved by the NDC Partnership, with the sign off from the Government of El Salvador, for the development of economic instruments that facilitate water governance and the conservation of biodiversity in basins and ecosystems in the face of climate change.

### 3.2.3 Floods and drought

In tandem with the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is guiding GWP's work on droughts and floods. At the global level, GWP plays an important role in incorporating the topic of water management into the DRR debate. In 2023, the support provided to countries continued through the WMO-GWP joint programmes, the Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) and the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) by responding to the requests for technical support received through the Helpdesks.

The close collaboration between UNCCD, FAO, WMO and GWP was reflected in 2023 through the organisation of regional workshops on national drought policy in Africa, Central and South America, as well as Europe and Asia, organised in Zambia, Colombia and Turkey respectively. The purpose of this initiative was to build capacities on effective planning of drought management and implementation of drought plans, including their integration with the national action plans to the UNCCD. The workshop also facilitated peer-to-peer learning and a community-of-practice was launched to sustain exchanges amongst practitioners over time.

Highlights of flood and drought management-related advancements in 2023 include:

- **Armenia:** A Community of Practice on drought was launched that gathers 65 participants including mandated institutions and academia in Armenia, as well as experts from other countries of the region for cross-country peer-to-peer learning.

- **China:** A flood management guide was finalised that provides a reference for the development of regulation in the Guangdong Province.
- **Buzi, Pungwe, Save, Limpopo Basins:** Capacity building on real-time monitoring of floods was carried out in Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe. These trainings provide a step further towards the operationalisation of a Flood Forecasting and Early Warning System in the BUPUSA and Limpopo basins.
- **India:** In collaboration with WMO and Deltares, GWP supported the World Bank convening stakeholders to introduce the *EPIC Response Framework*, which provides a new perspective to holistically manage floods and droughts. During the workshop, recommendations were also generated for improving flood and drought risk management at the national and state levels in India.

### 3.3 Transboundary water cooperation

GWP's transboundary water cooperation anchor area aims to improve cooperation over transboundary waters globally, contributing to water security and peace. The programme is loosely structured around four key components: 1) Transboundary water management knowledge and learning; 2) Regional dialogues on transboundary waters; 3) Cooperation for the management of transboundary water bodies; and 4) The transboundary aspects of SDG target 6.5 on IWRM. Progress achieved in 2023 across each of these four components is described below.

#### *Transboundary water management knowledge and learning*

GWP has a well-established capacity building programme in Africa, Latin America and Asia developed in collaboration with a wide range of global, regional and national level partners and targeted at practitioners and legislators involved in transboundary water management. At global level, GWP continues to run the GEF IW:LEARN *Governance for Transboundary Freshwater Security* MOOC to which over 3800 learners from 167 countries are registered. In addition, the *Transboundary Water Knowledge Exchange Hub* is providing a platform for peer-to-peer exchange on the IWRM Action Hub.

Other examples of GWP's work on this component in 2023 include:

- **Southern Africa:** A learning journey to the Orange Senqu river basin was organised for the BUPUSA and Limpopo river basin organisations. Various aspects of operational, financial and technical management were discussed, such as the development of an environmental monitoring framework. On this topic, virtual exchanges with the Okavango River Basin Water Commission were also facilitated.
- **Global:** GWP co-organized the Global International Water Law training convened by UNECE and hosted by Hungary, which trained 90 practitioners from various transboundary basins around the world.

#### *Regional dialogues on transboundary waters*

Regional dialogues constitute a series of events focusing on policy and technical instruments to address transboundary water management. By focusing on solutions, these dialogues can assist in identifying entry points for cooperation. As such, they are suitable for regions where basin and aquifer-specific interventions have not matured, or where it is sensitive to start working directly with specific transboundary bodies. Experience has shown that regional dialogues can lead to gradual steps towards cooperation at the level of specific basins. Examples of GWP's work on this component in 2023 include:

- **Central America:** The Minister Council of the Central American Commission of Environment and Development (CCAD) validated the *Regional Guidelines on the Principles of Cooperation for Transboundary Water Management in the Central American Integration System (SICA) Region*. This milestone is part of the process to advance water cooperation in the region. GWP Central America plays an instrumental role in the facilitation of this process initiated with the first regional dialogue in 2019.
- **Global:** The new publication *Multistakeholder Regional Dialogues: Pathways for Advancing Transboundary Water Cooperation* was launched in 2023, which provides reflections on key factors that enable multi-stakeholder dialogues to positively influence transboundary cooperation by diving into three concrete examples in South East Europe, South Asia and Southern Africa. An interactive online learning event was organized inviting key actors engaged in fostering successful dialogues.

### *Cooperation for the management of transboundary water bodies*

This component facilitates cooperation at the level of specific transboundary water bodies, supporting improved management and governance. Interventions vary depending on the status of cooperation among riparian countries and stakeholders. Highlights from 2023 include:

- **Buzi, Pungwe and Save Basins:** GWP supported the Joint Water Commission to oversee the signing of the Save Water Sharing Agreement, the BUPUSA Hosting Agreement, and the BUPUSA Establishment Agreement by the Mozambique and Zimbabwe's Ministers of Water, which culminated into the establishment of the Buzi, Pungwe, and Save Watercourse Commission (BUPUSACOM).
- **Drin Basin:** A new project was approved by the GEF Council focused on transboundary cooperation in the Drin Basin. With a duration of 5 years and a budget of \$7.1 million, the project will support the implementation of the Drin Strategic Action Programme and enable countries coordinating action at the Drin Basin level. An International Agreement for the management of the Drin Basin is one of the processes that will be facilitated in the context of the project.
- **West Africa:** Togo adhered to the 1992 UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. GWP supported this process and collaborated with the Commission of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and UNECE to promote countries' accession to the Conventions on shared surface and groundwater in the UEMOA region. Benin and Niger are in the process of acceding to the UNECE Convention.

### *SDG 6.5 targets on transboundary waters*

SDG 6.5 is particularly relevant for transboundary water governance, as indicator 6.5.1 focuses on the degree of IWRM implementation at all levels, including the transboundary level. More importantly, SDG indicator 6.5.2 focuses on the proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation.

- In 2023, 5 countries requested GWP's support to complete the monitoring of SDG 6.5.2 (Armenia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Malaysia and Panama).
- **Southeast Asia:** During its regional IWRM conference, GWP organized a session focusing on learning and exchange on SDG 6.5.2 experiences among key transboundary actors in the region.

## 3.4 Cross-cutting Areas

Since the launch of dedicated strategies for gender and youth engagement in 2014 and 2015 respectively, GWP has prioritised these two areas, including within the 2023 work plan. Although presented separately from the other programmatic sections of this report, it should be noted that the aspects of gender and youth are fully embedded into the overall GWP work programme in line with the cross-cutting nature of these issues in the context of water resources management.

In addition, the 2020-2025 GWP Global Strategy also includes a third cross-cutting area, namely engagement with the private sector. This reflects the ambition to mobilise private investment, reduce impacts on water by key industries, and promote innovation and entrepreneurship.

### **3.4.1 Gender**

Across its Network, the work of GWP focused on incorporating gender equality as part of the water governance processes influenced as well as in the design and implementation of its programmes. Many of these efforts were carried out in the context of the *Water, Climate, Gender and Development Programme (AIP-WACDEP-G)* and GWP's closely associated GCF Readiness programme.

A good example is the current support to 13 SADC countries to develop a GCF investment proposal for a SADC Gender-Transformative Water Investment Programme. Gender is also a key aspect of the Country Water Investment Programmes in preparation in Botswana, Malawi and Tanzania. In Sri Lanka, training on gender policy development for GCF Accreditation was provided to potential Accredited Entities in the context of the ongoing GCF Readiness project.

As part of the SDG-SP, in 2023 GWP supported UNEP piloting an SDG 6.5.1 Gender checklist developed based on the 7 key enablers identified in the 2021 report *Advancing towards gender mainstreaming in water resources management*. The checklist was successfully tested in Uganda, Cameroon and in the Mira, Mataje and Carchi-Guáitara binational basins, Colombia – Ecuador. It allowed for a rapid assessment of the status of gender mainstreaming in IWRM and served as a basis to identify opportunities and potential entry points for further action.

Knowledge and peer-to-peer learning were also prioritised in 2023. In collaboration with Cap-Net, the Community of Practice *Gender and Water Resources Management* was set-up on the IWRM Action Hub. The CoP gathers 74 members who share relevant knowledge materials, resources and events on the platform. A call for success stories was also jointly organised on the Hub, focused on experiences overcoming gender-related challenges in the Pan African region water sector.

Additional highlights of gender inclusion in water management in 2023 include:

- **Nepal:** In the context of the GWL programme, a stakeholder and gender analysis towards inclusive and resilient water resources management was carried out to map the stakeholders and their meaningful participation in the planning and decision-making processes. The analysis aims to support the development of GESI policies and to ensure the participation of women in multi-stakeholder change processes.
- **Guatemala:** The IWRM Action Plan was approved by the Ministry of Environment in 2023. GWP supported the development of the plan, including through the incorporation of gender aspects as part of the plan.
- **Volta Basin:** Gender was incorporated in the Volta Basin Flood and Drought Management Strategy finalised this year. The Volta Basin Gender and Flood End-to-End Early Warning System Action Plan was also prepared to ensure that gender considerations are taken into account in the operationalisation of the early warning system for the Volta Basin.

### **3.4.2 Water Solutions for Youth Engagement**

The Water Academy for Youth (W.A.Y.) was launched in 2021 to support youth realising their full potential and help advance effective youth engagement in water resources management. Regional chapters have been organised every year, with in 2023 a new edition carried out in the Caribbean. The 3-month training programme provided theme-specific mentoring to young professionals and aimed to empower them to take IWRM actions in the Caribbean context.

Over the years, GWP has supported the establishment of several youth networks. The value of being connected and learning together is particularly appreciated in the context of these networks. Currently, GWP hosts and supports the moderation of four active youth Communities of Practice: *Youth for Water and Climate*, *Global Youth Movement for Water*, *SADC Youth WHEF Innovation Network (SAYWIN)*, *South Asia Youth Community*.

While being diverse in scope and ambition, the portfolio has the common objective to advance SDG 6 implementation by supporting and enhancing youth's contribution to water resources management, through youth empowerment and building institutional capacity for youth inclusion in decision making. Highlights of progress to this end in 2023 include:

- **West Africa:** Support was provided to national and regional youth organizations to hold national workshops that allowed them to elaborate their contributions to the UN Water Conference held in March 2023.

- **South Asia:** GWP South Asia signed an MoU with Brandix Apparel limited to engage youth across South Asia in water management. This led to the launch of the South Asia Youth Water Challenge 2023 where a winning team was awarded \$2,500 to implement a rainwater harvesting innovative solution.
- **Nicaragua:** An internship programme was carried out targeting last year university students. The purpose of the internship was to provide practical experience to future young professionals in water governance. In turn, interns were key in supporting the Country Water Partnership's efforts in the country.
- **Central and Eastern Europe:** The traditional Summer School was organised, gathering 21 students from 17 different countries around the world. The initiative took place in the context of the EU OPTAIN project and aimed to expand practical knowledge, skills, and competencies to support better implementation of natural, small, and underutilized water and nutrient retention measures.

### 3.4.3 Private sector engagement

The 2020-2025 global GWP Strategy sets the objective for the GWP Network to mobilise private sector engagement. At the global level, efforts continued to strengthen partnerships with the private sector. In 2023, GWP signed onto the Forward Faster initiative, through which private companies can commit to accelerating actions aiming to achieve the objectives of the Water Resilience Coalition of a Net Positive Water Balance in 100 water-stressed basins by 2030.

Other highlights of progress for private sector engagement in water management in 2023 include:

- **South America:** The Water Footprint Verification and Certification Programme was launched in partnership with the Chamber of Industries of Uruguay and the regional certification organization LSQA. Through the programme, companies are offered training, measurement and certification of their industrial production water footprint. The role of LSQA is to independently verify the water footprint measurement. In 2023, six companies were successfully certified in Uruguay. GWP also advanced in the process of facilitating the signature of an MoU among six Chamber of Industries in South America to upscale the successful experience in Uruguay. The MoU aims to enhance the capacities of the Chambers of Industries and promote efficient water management productive processes.
- **Sri Lanka:** A series of workshops was organised to support private sector banks with the process of accreditation by the GCF to become Direct Access Entities. The training was held as part of the current GCF Readiness project that aims to strengthen the capacity of Direct Access Entities (DAEs), NDA and GCF project programming stakeholders in Sri Lanka.
- **Greece:** Two agricultural communities, Profitis and Voutes, Heraklion, were supported with the installation of a new piping system and an upgrade of the pumping station equipment, respectively. The project's measures allow saving a total of 12 million litres of water annually and reduce the carbon footprint by 30.000 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. The interventions were funded by The Coca-Cola Foundation and Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling Company.

## 4. GWP Logframe: Progress against targets

GWP uses a results-based M&E component to monitor quantified targets set against a standard list of impact, outcome, and output indicators in the GWP logical framework. This is combined with a more qualitative outcome mapping methodology which is described in Annex C and reported on in Annex A.

The GWP logframe contains the following:

- a) **2 Impact indicators** based upon the GWP vision that measure the socio-economic and environmental benefits derived from better water resources governance and management in the countries and regions where GWP is active. These benefits can be related to one or several thematic areas depending on the *actual problems* solved.
- b) **14 key water governance Outcome indicators** reflecting the GWP mission of advancing governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development. The indicators measure the governance improvements introduced by actors at all levels where GWP is active.
- c) **20 Output indicators** that measure the services and products delivered by the GWP network which foster sustainable governance improvements of the water systems (via influenced boundary actors). There is a great diversity of services and products: facilitation packages for global, regional, transboundary, national, or local processes; knowledge products and capacity building materials; guidelines and procedures; networking and partnerships tools, etc. They can be related to one or several thematic areas depending on the *actual problems* targeted. The output indicators reflect the three dimensions according to which GWP designs its activities (*We Act* – indicators OT1.1-OT1.11; *We Learn* – indicators OT2.1-OT2.6; *We Mobilise* – indicators OT3.1-OT3.3)

As part of the planning process for the current Strategy period, targets have been set against the logical framework indicators at both the regional and global levels in the GWP regional and global 3-year Work Programmes 2020-2022 and 2023-2025, which are subsequently reviewed on an annual basis for incorporation into each GWP entity's annual workplan. Results are monitored against these targets each year as the strategy period proceeds.

The GWP logframe, including the targets and results for 2023, as well as overall progress against the three-year targets set in the 2023-2025 GWP work programme, is presented in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: GWP Logframe – Targets and Results 2023 (Note that the logframe results presented here are currently undergoing a thorough review following which some of the figures may change)**

Ind code and desc	Target 2023	Result 2023	Achievement of 3-year work prog. targets (2023-2025)
I1 - Number of people benefiting from improved water resources governance and management	293311250	234338605	62%
I2 - Total value of water-related investments from government and private sources influenced	209600000	272264498	35%
O1 - No. of formally adopted national level policies, plans, strategies and laws influenced which integrate water security	26	13	25%
O2 - No. of formally adopted policies, plans, strategies and laws influenced which integrate water security at other levels	10	10	29%
O3 - No. of arrangements / commitments / agreements on enhanced water security influenced at transboundary / regional level	14	8	35%
O4 - No. of capacity building and knowledge development initiatives that can be directly associated with tangible governance change	42	49	58%
O5 - No. of processes / frameworks / institutions established or strengthened to improve cross-sectoral / transboundary coordination	10	2	7%
O6 - No. of formal multi-stakeholder participation processes facilitated on behalf of a mandated institution	70	124	113%
O7 - No. of policies, plans, strategies and laws influenced that integrate gender inclusion	24	15	36%
O8 - No. of management instruments formally being used by water managers and decision-makers	13	14	74%
O9 - No. of formal data sharing arrangements established	2	1	7%
O10 - No. of approved investment plans and budget commitments associated with policies, plans and strategies that integrate water security	19	5	16%
O11 - No. of funding agreements influenced to implement water-informed National Adaptation Plan and integrated flood and drought management policies and measures	14	7	26%
O12 - No. of processes in place to raise local revenues from dedicated levies on water users at basin, aquifer or sub-national levels	4	1	33%
O13 - No. of budget commitments from riparian countries to support agreed transboundary cooperation arrangements	6	5	71%
O14 - No. of water-related infrastructure interventions founded on robust, inclusive, and effective water governance systems influenced	5	5	50%
OT1.1 - No. of mandated institutions supported in developing and implementing arrangements for transboundary water management	44	44	83%
OT1.2 - No. of mandated national institutions supported in developing and implementing policies, legal frameworks and/or plans based on IWRM	61	75	51%
OT1.3 - No. of mandated sub-national institutions supported in developing and implementing policies, by-laws and/or plans based on IWRM	81	49	39%
OT1.4 - No. of mandated institutions supported in integrating gender inclusive water components into development planning and decision-making processes	37	38	70%
OT1.5 - No. of mandated national institutions supported in developing national investment plans or strategies	14	14	56%
OT1.6 - No. of mandated institutions supported in the development of capacity and projects to access finance	43	56	117%
OT1.7 - No. of mandated national institutions supported in monitoring SDG 6	42	65	97%
OT1.8 - No. of demonstration projects undertaken for which innovation has been demonstrated	27	36	52%
OT1.9 - No. of initiatives / demonstration projects specifically targeting gender issues	13	7	20%
OT1.10 - No. of documents produced outlining the lessons from GWP demonstration projects and a plan for replicating solutions	26	36	109%
OT1.11 - No. of beneficiaries supported in demonstration projects on water security and climate resilience undertaken	6853500	6917158	102%
OT2.1 - No. of mandated institutions at national, basin and regional levels with demonstrably enhanced capacity to design and implement policies, legal frameworks and/or plans based on shared learning on IWRM processes	96	99	58%
OT2.2 - No. of capacity building and professional development workshops/initiatives with a significant focus on women, youth, and/or other marginalized groups initiated and implemented	52	61	44%
OT2.3 - No. of publications, knowledge products (including strategic messages) and tools for water security and climate resilience developed and disseminated	38	87	82%
OT2.4 - No. of publications and knowledge products that have a prominent gender perspective incorporated	17	18	37%
OT2.6 - No. of knowledge exchange and cross-regional learning initiatives with commitments for concrete follow up	45	47	80%
OT3.2 - No. of initiatives that mobilise underrepresented groups (incl. gender and youth) to engage with water management and governance processes and to participate in decision making	24	17	33%
OT3.3 - No. of initiatives with private sector actors to mobilise investment, reduce impacts on water by key industries, and promote innovation and	17	14	45%

The 2023 logframe results listed in the table above illustrate the progress that has been made in reaching the targets set in the 2023 workplan. The level of results achievement is roughly following the pattern of recent years – i.e., a mix of achievements at the outcome level, reflecting the uncertainty of predicting the completion of governance processes outside of GWP’s control, and targets largely being met at the output level. Despite challenges experienced at global level, the achievement of 2023 targets was satisfactory thanks to the adaptive capacity of the GWP Network and the continued delivery of the annual workplan by GWP Regional and Country Water Partnerships.

A few points to note:

- **At impact level, the target focused on the value of investment influenced (indicator I2) was overachieved**, which reflects the materialisation of results related to GWP’s strong focus on supporting governments to develop investment plans, access funding, and mobilise their own resources since the beginning of the Strategy. With 12 outcomes achieved related to financing, it is expected that good results will be achieved under this indicator in the coming years.
- **At outcome level, target achievement was mixed**, probably reflecting overoptimistic target setting under indicators where results are not fully under GWP’s control. This mix of target achievement was surprising when analysing it against the number of water governance outcomes achieved by IWRM component (see Section 2.1), and reflect the need to increase efforts towards realistic target setting:

**Enabling environment:** GWP influenced 26 outcome results, the highest since the beginning of the Strategy; yet only one of the three targets associated with this component (O1-O3) was achieved.

**Financing:** 12 outcomes were achieved in 2023, maintaining the highest point achieved in 2022, while its associated indicators (O10-O13) remained unachieved.

**Management instruments:** Results related to management instruments were satisfactory with the target under indicator O8 achieved.

**Institutions and participation:** target achievement under indicators O4 to O9 were mixed. On the one hand, GWP’s efforts to build institutional capacity and facilitate multi-stakeholder processes were well reflected with overachievement of related targets. Other results were less satisfactory, which could be explained as follows:

- **The shortfall in achieving the target for improvements in cross-sectoral and transboundary coordination (indicator O5) can partially be explained by the recent uncertainties surrounding diplomatic relations between countries.** The work relates to highly diplomatic processes and the increase of international tensions, including around the war in Ukraine and the conflict between Israel and Palestine, undoubtedly impacted the initiation of new and ongoing cooperation processes. An underestimation of the time needed to finalise such processes might have occurred in setting the associated targets.
- **The low score for the outcome indicator measuring processes that integrate gender inclusion (indicator O7) is largely due to delays in high-level results achievement in the WACDEP-G projects.** Whereas substantial progress has been achieved in these projects, this has yet to manifest itself into tangible outcome level

results. The number of results under O7 in 2023 is the highest that GWP has achieved, which confirms that GWP continues to focus on incorporating gender issues in the governance processes that the organisation influences.

- **The overachievement of results at output level reflects GWP's focus on responding to partner and country requests as they are received during the year** and making good use of strategic opportunities that come up. Overly conservative target setting that didn't necessarily incorporate project specific workstreams into the corporate GWP logframe within some regions may also have contributed to the discrepancy between targets and results.
  - **The low score for the output indicator on private sector engagement (OT3.3) reflects the challenges that GWP is experiencing in upscaling the engagement with private actors.** This is an area of the strategy where, with some notable exceptions, GWP has struggled to gain traction across most regions. This is reflected in the lack of target achievement.
  - **The application of the methodology to assess user satisfaction of GWP knowledge products and services is limited (indicator OT2.5).** The application of a standard methodology to capture user satisfaction and better understand the value and subsequent use of the knowledge generated across the network remains a work in progress, therefore the indicator was not presented in the table above. Many regions retain their own assessment methodologies preventing consistency in reporting. It is planned to use the GWP IWRM Action Hub to anchor a consistent approach to the calculation of user satisfaction, but this is not yet in place and thus the indicator result cannot be accurately calculated.

## 5. Expenditure report 2023

### BUDGET and EXPENDITURE 2023

CORE AND EARMARKED FUNDING	Revised Budget 2023	Expenditure to October 2023	Forecast to December 2023	Budget Balance
<b>PROGRAMME</b>				
<b>ANCHOR AREAS</b>				
<b>Water Solutions for SDGs</b>				
SDG 6 Support Programme	184 047	164 377	19 670	0
Nexus	21 909	1 000	-	20 909
<b>Total Water Solutions for SDGs</b>	<b>205 956</b>	<b>165 377</b>	<b>19 670</b>	<b>20 909</b>
<b>Climate Resilience through Water</b>				
WMO, IDMP and APFM	129 063	124 077	4 986	0
<b>WACDEP</b>	<b>1 132 600</b>	<b>892 018</b>	<b>236 582</b>	<b>4 000</b>
Water and Climate	132 600	101 784	26 816	4 000
AIP WACDEP-G Africa	1 000 000	790 234	209 766	0
WACDEP-G Global				
<b>Total Climate Resilience through Water</b>	<b>1 261 663</b>	<b>1 016 095</b>	<b>241 568</b>	<b>4 000</b>
<b>Transboundary Water Cooperation</b>				
<b>Total Transboundary Water Cooperation</b>	<b>121 866</b>	<b>79 949</b>	<b>31 917</b>	<b>10 000</b>
<b>Across Anchor Areas</b>				
Private Sector	20 000	7 277		12 723
Global innovation	15 720	8 075		7 646
Gender Equality	-			-
Youth for WRM	131 284	61 483	25 000	44 801
Global processes	30 000	27 004		2 996
<b>Total Across Anchor Areas</b>	<b>197 004</b>	<b>103 838</b>	<b>25 000</b>	<b>68 166</b>
<b>Strategic Program development and strengthening</b>				
<b>Total Strategic Program development and strengthening</b>	<b>117 450</b>	<b>117 195</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>255</b>
<b>TOTAL ANCHOR AREAS</b>	<b>1 903 939</b>	<b>1 482 454</b>	<b>318 155</b>	<b>103 331</b>
<b>STRENGTHENING REGIONAL OPERATIONS AND NETWORK GROWTH (STRONG)</b>				
<b>Leadership and Skills</b>				
Positioning, Leadership and Skills	46 713	17 500	29 000	213
Regional Days	10 000		-	10 000
Technical Committee	72 500	24 976	26 000	21 524
<b>Total Leadership and Skills</b>	<b>129 213</b>	<b>42 476</b>	<b>55 000</b>	<b>31 737</b>
<b>Institutional Set-ups</b>				
Regional Core Programme	2 419 000	1 500 067	866 433	52 500
Network Strengthening	495 306	269 762	125 544	100 000
Network Operations	170 646	122 726	47 920	(0)
Communications	334 387	271 906	32 481	30 000
<b>Total Institutional Set-ups</b>	<b>3 419 338</b>	<b>2 164 461</b>	<b>1 072 378</b>	<b>182 499</b>
<b>Network Effects</b>				
Knowledge Surfacing & Exchange, Capacity Building and Toolbox	194 170	188 704	28 000	(22 534)
Global Development and Resources	155 236	155 098	45 000	(44 862)
Communities of Practice	25 000	14 363	10 637	0
<b>Total Network Effects</b>	<b>374 406</b>	<b>358 165</b>	<b>83 637</b>	<b>(67 396)</b>
<b>TOTAL STRONG</b>	<b>3 922 957</b>	<b>2 565 102</b>	<b>1 211 015</b>	<b>146 841</b>
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMME</b>	<b>5 826 897</b>	<b>4 047 555</b>	<b>1 529 170</b>	<b>250 171</b>
<b>GLOBAL GOVERNANCE</b>				
25th Anniversary	-			-
Steering Committee	85 000	43 258	-	41 742
Network, SP & FPG meetings	2 000	576	1 400	24
<b>TOTAL GLOBAL GOVERNANCE</b>	<b>87 000</b>	<b>43 834</b>	<b>1 400</b>	<b>41 766</b>
<b>GWPO SECRETARIAT</b>				
Staff	723 754	602 944	120 810	(0)
Travel	18 000	15 499	-	2 501
IT	339 767	239 800	99 968	(0)
Office	369 040	298 992	70 048	0
Audit/Legal/HR Consultancies	250 000	214 355	35 645	(0)
Financial costs/revenues	45 000	34 810	10 190	(0)
Designated: office rent & taxes	350 000	310 751	39 249	0
<b>TOTAL GWPO SECRETARIAT</b>	<b>2 095 561</b>	<b>1 717 151</b>	<b>375 910</b>	<b>2 500</b>
<b>TOTAL GOVERNANCE &amp; SECRETARIAT</b>	<b>2 182 561</b>	<b>1 760 985</b>	<b>377 310</b>	<b>44 266</b>
<b>FORECAST CORE BUDGET</b>	<b>8 009 458</b>	<b>5 808 540</b>	<b>1 906 480</b>	<b>294 437</b>

## 6. List of annexes

Annex A – GWP results (by entity)

Annex B – Cap-Net progress report summary 2023

Annex C – GWP Results Framework

Annex D – Abbreviations and Acronyms; Glossary of Key Terms

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

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

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Our Strategy 2020-2025:

**MOBILISING FOR A  
WATER SECURE WORLD**

