

GWP POLICY ON PARTNERS

Introduction

The Global Water Partnership (GWP) is a global action network with a vision of a water secure world. The term “partnership” in the Global Water Partnership means the group of partner organisations (GWP Partners) that make up the global network. These are the organisations which collectively and individually, in their respective operations, take action in order to advance governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development.

GWP Partners - Definition

A GWP Partner, according to the Global Water Partnership and Global Water Partnership Organisation (GWPO) Statutes Article 3(i) is defined as:

“Any entity, except individuals, may become a Partner of the Network. Partners of the Network may include States, national, regional and local Government Institutions, Intergovernmental Organisations, international and national Non-governmental Organisations, Academic Institutions and Research Institutions, Companies, and service providers in the public sector.”

Further, according to Article (2) any such entity which recognizes the principles of integrated water resources management (IWRM) endorsed by the Network and is committed to these principles (as outlined in the application to be a Partner) may become a Partner of the Network, subject to a decision by the Executive Secretary.

Thus for the GWP, a Partner is an entity that embraces the cross sectoral range of civil organisations, private sector actors, academia and government bodies that have a bearing on the sustainable management of water resources and is committed to an integrated approach. Partners make up the multi-stakeholder group that works together towards improving water security at all relevant levels. For instance, the work that GWP carries out involves actors in the fields of agriculture, law, industry, education, environment, community water users, mining, human resource development, gender equality and so on.

From the above definition of a Partner, it is clear that GWP has adopted a formal institutional definition of a Partner. However, the development of the GWP network has also up to now been based on the strong support from informal or unregistered entities and from individuals.

GWP is not the only action network which has an interest in water security and it therefore welcomes other network organisations or other form of umbrella associations to join GWP as well as a GWP Partner as long as it meets the criteria set out above. An institutional member of a network organisation or umbrella association may also apply to be a GWP Partner in its own right if it so wishes.

Similarly the country and regional offices of international organisations can register as GWP Partners. To distinguish one such entity from another, upon registration as a Partner, such organisations shall always have an extension specifying the region/country in which they operate.

Lastly, the fact that individuals cannot become GWP Partner is to ensure a sustainable and long term contribution towards the Network. Individuals' contributions towards GWP's development and success is recognized through other means within the Network.

Partners and Regional and Country Partnerships

The GWP Partners constitute the inter-connected global network of institutions that are organised on regional and country levels into GWP Water Partnerships. Where there are sub-national groupings of GWP Partners, these are administered by the Country Water Partnerships. These GWP Water Partnerships are the representatives of the Partners at the respective levels and are the basic unit of network organisation through which partners exchange ideas, critical knowledge and information and carry out actions to achieve the sustainable management of water resources. To this effect, the water partnerships are a key administrative functional part of the management of the Network but are not themselves Partners.

The Partners located in the Region or Country make up the constituency for their respective General Assemblies and have certain rights and duties with respect to the governance of the RWP or CWP. It should be noted that as individuals are not GWP Partners, they are not entitled to vote at the RWP or CWP level.

At the the annual Network Meeting, the annual governance meeting of the GWP Partners, the Partners participate in their own right. Only entities which are registered with GWPO as a GWP Partner are entitled to vote at the Network Meeting.

Further clarification of the roles and relationships of Partners within CWP and RWP is given below.

(i) Partners and the Regional Water Partnerships (RWP)

A RWP is comprised of all GWP Partners in a region. This may be at the individual Partner level or through the CWPs. Representatives of registered Partners in a region may be a member of the regional Steering Committee (or equivalent).

The operation of each RWP are based on the Conditions for Accreditation for RWP and guided by the Statutes elaborated upon and agreed by the GWP constituency in the region, and approved by GWPO.

The RWP Secretariat manages day-to-day operations of the partnerships. In most cases the RWP is attached to a host institution which administers funds and employs staff on behalf of the partnership through a Host Institution Agreement with GWPO and the RWP. Further information on RWPs can be found in the Conditions for Accreditation for RWPs and the Note on Legal Registration and Self-Hosting for RWPs.

(ii) Partners and the Country Water Partnerships (CWP)

A CWP is a body that is made up of the Partners in a country. Being a Partner in a country makes it eligible to participate in all network meetings, whether this is at country, regional or global level. GWP Partners representatives may be members of a country Steering Committee (or equivalent).

The operation of each CWP is based on the Conditions for Accreditation for CWP and guided by Statutes elaborated upon and agreed by Partners in the country, and approved by GWPO.

Each CWP shall decide on how formally, or informally, it wishes to act. In order for a CWP to receive funding from GWPO, the CWP must be hosted by another organisation which can give the CWP a legal identity in the country (or have national legal registration as a legal entity under national law), and have the ability to manage funds in a proper and correct manner according to the GWPO principles, values, guidelines and rules.

Some countries, notably India, have established sub-national level partnerships in order to get the IWRM approach adopted at lower levels. These Water Partnerships are often linked to specific geographic areas or river basins. Such Area or Basin Water Partnerships are linked to the Country Water Partnerships. For logistical reasons this level of partnership is not formally linked to the GWP network and there is no direct link to GWPO.

How to apply to become a GWP Partner

All GWP Partners must be registered by GWPO and are placed in the Partners Database managed by the GWPO Secretariat in coordination with the RWP Secretariats.

There are two ways for applying to become a Partner: online or downloading the partnership application form (available in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Russian and Chinese) from GWP's website (www.gwp.org/en/get-involved/become-a-partner).

All applications submitted online to GWPO are automatically shared with the RWP Secretariats, who are responsible for making a consultation with the CWPs or other actors in order to verify the accuracy of the information in the application. Once the application has gone through the GWP and RWP filters, it is submitted to the Executive Secretary of GWPO. For applications coming from countries outside of the 13 RWPs, GWPO makes its own assessment.

CWP and RWP shall share all the applications they may receive unilaterally with GWPO, they shall not exclude any institution from becoming a Partner. If they had an objection to the applicant becoming a Partner, they should clearly spell it out when sharing the application with GWPO Secretariat.

The Executive Secretary, and only the ES, has been given the power to approve the acceptance of a new Partner, Article 3 (2) and Article 11(3) of the GWPO Statutes.

Registration as a Partner of GWP does not involve paying a fee. All GWP Network entities may receive voluntary contributions from Partners in order to build greater commitment and ownership at the relevant level and strengthen the partnership participation in activities. The introduction of fees could exclude or marginalise those Partners who may find it difficult to pay a fee, or could promote differential treatment amongst Partners, which would go against GWP principles and values.

The Benefits, Rights and Obligations of a Partner

Some of the main benefits, rights and obligations of a Partner are provided for in the GWPO Statutes, Article 3(3), as well as in local level statutes. The benefits of being a Partner mostly relate to being part of a global action network to achieve sustainable water resources management.

(i) Benefits to a Partner:

The Network provides a Partner with benefits such as:

- By registering as a GWP Partner, an institution may present itself as a “Partner of the Global Water Partnership.”
- Being part of a global and local level multi-stakeholder platform, with a stronger voice and influence at national and international policy discussions;
- Access a platform through which to establish contact, improve communications, promote synergies and avoid duplication, hence strengthening coordination and optimising the use of limited resources allocated to water resources management at all levels.
- Access to training opportunities and exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices.
- Possible institutional endorsement to mobilise resources to support IWRM initiatives if the latter are aligned to GWP’s strategy and are an integral part of the CWP/RWP work programme.

- be eligible for occupying a position in the CWP/RWP as Steering Committee member.
- An opportunity to match one Partner’s resources with another Partner’s needs.

(ii) Obligations of a Partner

A Partner is obliged to:

- Co-ordinate its relevant activities with other GWP Partners, where possible;
- Share information and experience freely with the other Partners;
- Actively engage in the recruitment of GWP Partners as well as facilitate the Partner’s adherence to GWP principles;
- Give advice and professional contributions to the Network, the Organisation and to other Partners, on such conditions as may be agreed either free of charge up to a reasonable level or at a mutually agreed charge above that level.
- When occupying a position within the CWP/RWP Steering Committee, taking this role with commitment and responsibility.

(iii) Rights of a Partner

According to Article 9 of the Statutes a Partner has the right to:

- participate and vote at the Network meetings (see below);
- be eligible for occupying a position in the CWP/RWP as Steering Committee member.
- submit candidates to the global Steering Committee and be consulted before nominations by the Nominating Committee are made for all positions other than those of the GWPO Chair and the GWPO Executive Secretary, Article 8(4)(b);
- recommend amendments to the Statutes regarding the Network and Organisation;
- vote on a proposal to dissolve the entire Network;
- adopt the strategic directions and policies of the Network and recommend actions to be taken on the basis of the adopted strategic directions and policies;
- review and comment on the annual activity report and financial statement of the GWP Steering Committee;
- consider and recommend to the Network Meeting on the expulsion of Partners from the Network.

(iv) Partners and the GWP annual Network Meeting (Consulting Partners Meeting)

GWP Partners have the right to participate at the annual (and extraordinary) Network Meetings, Article 9(1). Such meetings are called by the GWP Steering Committee. The matters to be dealt with at the Network Meetings are the central issues for the operations of the GWP Network and the GWPO, Article 9(2). In the case of a decision where voting is called, only registered GWP Partners would have the right to exercise a vote.

(v) Expulsion of a Partner

Although it is the Executive Secretary who accepts a Partner as part of the Network, it is only the Network Meeting that can decide on the expulsion of a Partner, Article 9(2)(d). Such a decision is based on a recommendation of the Steering Committee.

It is the GWPO Steering Committee (SC) that will oversee the Partners and ensure that they respect the Principles of the Network and the SC may recommend expulsion if a Partner violates the principles of the Network, Article 7(7)(j).

(vi) Withdrawal

A Partner may withdraw from the Network. Such a decision becomes effective when the notice to withdraw reaches the Country or Regional Chair or the Executive Secretary, Article 18(1).

GWP Partners Database

The GWPO Secretariat shall maintain a complete and up to date register of GWP Partners throughout the world.

To ensure the minimum amount of essential information on Partners and that their contact information is provided across the network, certain fundamental data elements should be included in the Partners Database. The RWP Secretariats have access to the database and should keep GWPO informed of any information changes. However, the responsibility for maintaining and keeping it up to date lays within the GWPO Secretariat.

Use of the GWP Logo

The use of the GWP letterhead and logo is confined for use by the GWPO as well as the RWPs and the CWPs. The GWP Partners may not use the logo, unless given prior permission by the GWPO Executive Secretary, but have the right to present themselves as Partners of the Global Water Partnership. More information about the way the GWP logo and brand can be used can be found in the GWP Branding Policy.