

CWP country leaders, meet your peers! Working towards stronger CWPs

GWP country leaders peer to peer exchange, 21 January 2021

Background

GWP country platforms are fundamental to GWP's structure and to the achievement of GWP's mission - to advance governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development. The country platforms mobilize partners and stakeholders, implement activities, catalyze change, and support knowledge sharing and learning. The 2020 – 2025 GWP strategy identifies the strengthening of country-level multi-stakeholder platforms as one of the key avenues to amplify our convening capacities and actions, and ultimately to drive change in the way water resources are managed and used. To do this, we aim to, in particular, offer support to strengthen facilitation and convening capacities, identify and offer commonly used and effective tools, and create space for learning from each other.

The country platforms across the network share common challenges, related in particular to their institutional set-ups and operational capacity, to the availability of resources, to the mobilization of partners, and to the amplification of their strategic positioning. Many have also developed strategies over the years for growth and success – for example, developing institutional capacity, successfully mobilizing partners, positioning themselves as a key water sector organization in their country, and mobilizing resources. While recognizing there is no “magic bullet” approach that works across all country platforms, it is expected that sharing experiences from different country platforms will help others build on those experiences by adapting them to their own circumstances.

A number of mechanisms exist today for cross-learning between the GWP country platforms beyond the regional level. Country leaders may learn about relevant approaches in other countries through GWP publications and communications, through the annual Network Meeting or ad-hoc targeted exchanges, and through programmatic initiatives such as climate webinars. To amplify exchanges and shared learning, the GWP global secretariat is organizing an online session to initiate further peer-to-peer exchange across GWP country leaders on how to mobilize and engage for stronger CWPs¹. The session will also provide input for future activities aimed at strengthening CWPs.

The session will also be an opportunity to kick-off with the GWP country leaders the celebrations for the Global Water Partnership's 25th Anniversary, which presents a unique opportunity to highlight GWP's values and successes, and everyone who has contributed to them.

Session objectives

- Provide an opportunity for country leaders to learn from their peers and jointly come up with ideas on how to build stronger CWPs for increased impact
- Identify successful strategies and experiences
- Identify shared challenges and harvest suggestions as to how to overcome them
- Inform GWPO and RWPs of approaches to strengthening CWPs
- Enhance country leaders' sense of belonging to, and benefiting from, a global network and a global community

¹ The webinar is open to all GWP country platforms, including both fully accredited CWPs or non-accredited platforms. The terminology 'CWP' is used in the rest of the concept note and is to be understood in a broad manner.

The focus of the session will primarily be on 'how to', including, for example, how to position a GWP country platform with country actors, how to run an effective multi-stakeholder platform and engage a diversified partners base, how to build the institutional capacity of a CWP, and how to mobilize resources. Programmatic work – on SDG 6.5.1 or climate resilience for example – may be discussed, but is not the main focus (other events will be organized related to programmatic work).

Expected results

- Learnings on how to build stronger CWPs for increased impact are shared
- Successful strategies and experiences are identified
- Shared challenges and suggestions as to how to overcome them are identified
- Identification of actions that GWPO and RWPs could undertake to further strengthen CWPs
- GWP country leaders have a stronger sense of belonging to a global network

Participants

- GWP country leaders: Chairs, Executive secretaries, and, as relevant, other individual(s) driving the growth of the country platform
- Regional Chair, Regional Coordinators, and regional secretariat staff
- GWPO staff

Format

- 90 minutes online session.
- Two editions over the same day:
 - o at 9 am CET (for participants especially from Asia, Europe, Mediterranean and Africa)
 - o at 3 pm CET (for participants especially from Europe, Mediterranean, Africa, Caribbean, and Latin America)
- Interpretation shall be provided for plenary segments based on demand (under consideration: Russian for the first session; French and Spanish for the second session).

Indicative agenda

- 10 min welcome/background, including scene setting on CWPs in the GWP ecosystem and a 'meet and greet' in small break out groups
- 5 min: GWP celebrates 25 years
- 30 min: sharing of experience from two CWP leaders followed by Q&A
- 25 min: CWPs recipes for partners engagement - discussions in break out groups to share approaches that have worked with others, exchange ideas, and make recommendations
- 10 min: reporting back
- 10 min: closing, including interest for engagement going forward and next steps

Follow-up

- Feedback survey, including on preferences for future engagements for CWP strengthening
- Recording of the sessions (plenary segments) will be made available to GWP country leaders
- Summary document capturing the exchanges and harvesting successful strategies and experiences, to be shared with all GWP country leaders
- Identification of suggested follow-up activities for CWPs strengthening as an input to STRONG programme (Strengthening Regional Operations and Network Growth)