

SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme

IWRM Acceleration Package

2.A Process description for Stage 2 IWRM Action Planning

October 2021

The **SDG 6 Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Support Programme** assists governments in designing and implementing country-led responses to **SDG indicator 6.5.1**, which measures the degree of IWRM implementation. The Support Programme aims to monitor and measurably accelerate progress towards water-related SDGs and other development goals, in direct support of the official SDG monitoring and reporting processes.

Under the guidance of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and coordinated by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) in collaboration with the UNEP-DHI Centre and Cap-Net, the Support Programme brings together partners in each country representing governments, civil society, academia and the private sector, in the spirit of **SDG 17** "Partnerships for the Goals". The Support Programme is structured according to the following three stages:

Stage 1 – Identifying challenges: Employ the SDG 6.5.1 national monitoring and reporting framework to identify, through multi-stakeholder consultations, critical areas for attention that hinder progress on IWRM. This Stage is completed through the periodic completion by countries of a survey on SDG indicator 6.5.1 designed to allow countries to evaluate the degree of IWRM implementation. Periodic monitoring of this indicator provides a window of opportunity to revisit and revise IWRM Action Plans.

Stage 2 – Developing IWRM Action Plans: Using the key IWRM challenges identified in Stage 1, the aim of this stage is to facilitate a government-led multi-stakeholder process to formulate and prioritise appropriate responses to those challenges. The result of Stage 2 is typically an IWRM Action Plan (the name might be adapted for each country), which includes a series of attractive investment opportunities to systematically guide the implementation of solutions to IWRM challenges.

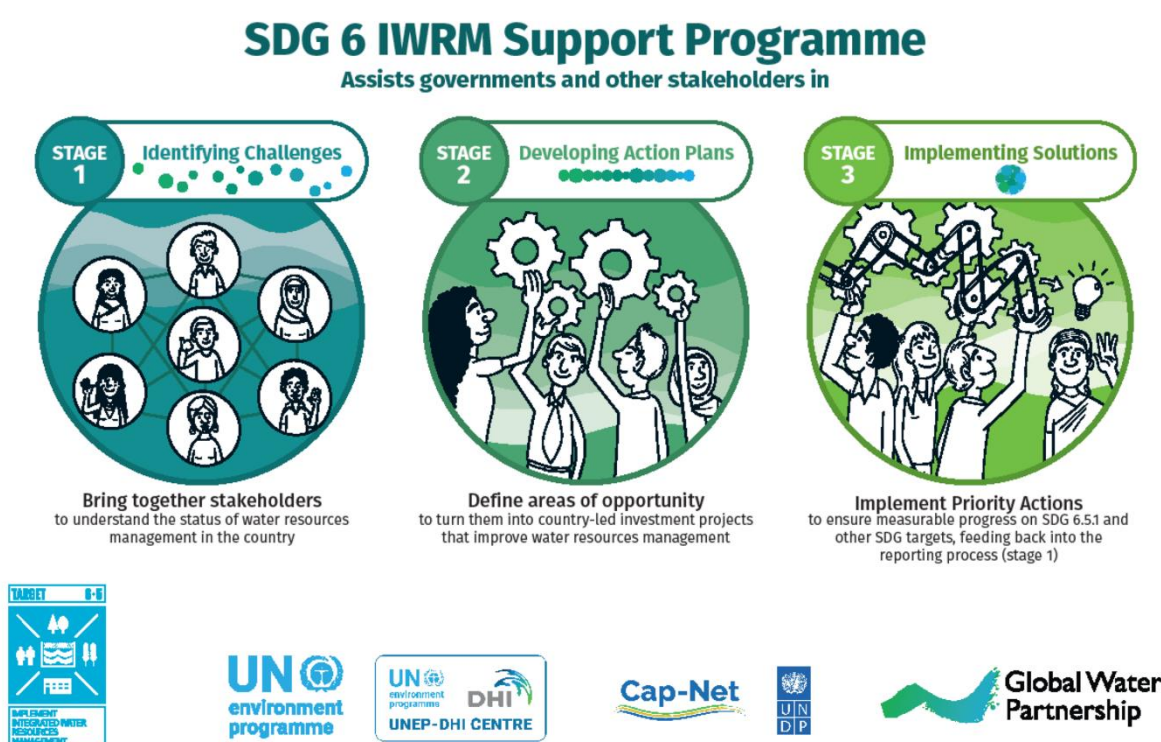
Stage 3 – Implementing solutions: Support countries in implementing IWRM solutions aimed at achieving SDG 6 and other water-related goals as a measurable contribution to progress towards countries' development objectives.

This document is part of the IWRM Acceleration Package, which is intended as guidance for anyone interested in Stage 2 of the Support Programme. Separate packages are available to guide the processes for Stages 1 and 3. The IWRM Acceleration Package contains suggestions on how the process might be carried out, which should be customised to each country's circumstances.

Why is progressing on SDG 6.5.1 so important?

The only way to attain the ambitious 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is through an integrated approach that deals with the interconnected nature of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Integrated water resources management (IWRM) helps to coordinate sustainable development and management of the scarce resource across all uses and levels. With water scarcity and pollution increasing, finding ways to address conflicts and trade-offs is critical to allocate and use water in an efficient, sustainable and equitable manner¹. SDG indicator 6.5.1 on IWRM implementation directly and indirectly supports the achievement of many other SDG targets – including health, agriculture, poverty, energy, climate, the environment, gender and peace², as well as all of the other targets under SDG 6.

Stage 2 in brief



Based on the IWRM challenges reported by each country during the periodic UN-led assessment of SDG indicator 6.5.1,³ **Stage 2** of the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme focuses on formulating appropriate responses to strengthen areas where the country is facing water-related challenges. This is done by designing targeted interventions as a series of investment opportunities. When Stage 2 is finalised, these interventions should be ready to be funded to ensure they can be implemented in Stage 3.⁴ It is important to note that the three stages of the Support Programme represent three tracks

¹ UN Environment (2018). Progress on integrated water resources management. Global baseline for SDG 6 Indicator 6.5.1: degree of IWRM implementation.

² UNEP (2021). Progress on Integrated Water Resources Management. Tracking SDG 6 series: global indicator 6.5.1 updates and acceleration needs

³ Results of both the baseline and the 2020 update can be found on <http://iwrmdataportal.unepdhi.org/>

⁴ Depending on the nature and complexity of the individual actions as defined in Stage 2, more detailed preparatory work may be required prior to their full implementation. Investing in this preparatory work could be part of implementation readiness, when transitioning between Stages 2 and 3.

that may not necessarily be in sequence. This means that you do not necessarily have to finish one stage before moving on to the next, and in some cases, more than one stage can run in parallel.

The objective of the Support Programme is to support country responses to SDG 6.5 on IWRM implementation as an entry point to accelerate the implementation of SDG 6 and other water-related goals, ultimately progressing towards sustainable development. In this sense, the output of Stage 2 is **an IWRM Action Plan**,⁵ which should complement the existing IWRM framework of a country, be aligned with broader development priorities, the SDG landscape, and the climate agenda. The content of Action Plans is explained in more detail in document *2D Action Planning and Prioritisation of Actions*. The IWRM Action Plan should be developed through a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral gender-responsive approach and follow the suggested process as described below.

In Africa, the activities described in this document are implemented through the **Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) SDG Investments Support Programme** (see <https://aipwater.org/sdg-investments/>).

Stage 2 as described in this document contributes to Work Package 7 under the AIP SDG Programme, whereas global Stage 3 contributes to Work Package 8 of the AIP SDG Support Programme.

Suggested Stage 2 process

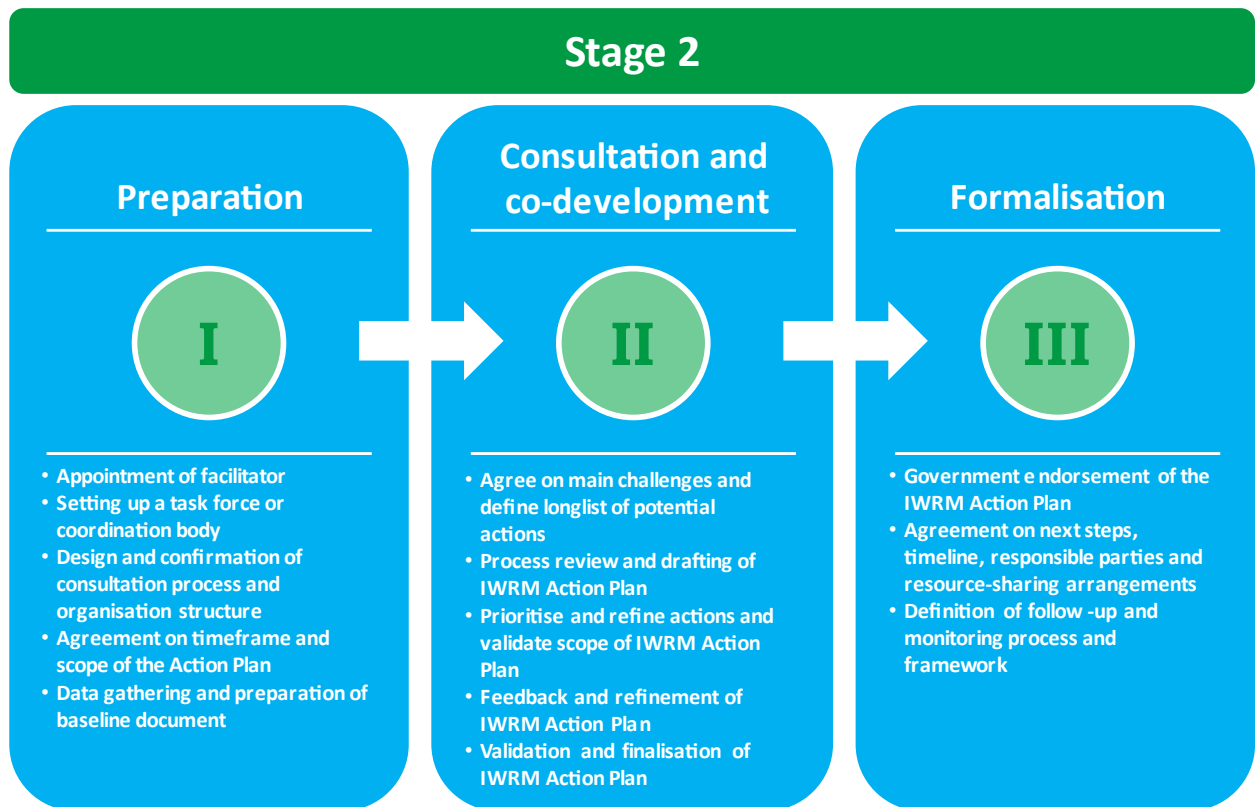
For those countries assisted by the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme, there is a separate application process⁶ for Stage 2 support which must be completed before the formal activities can start. That application process includes the formal request for support from the anchor institution(s) within the country, the completion and approval of a concept note and budget, and the formalisation of the administrative arrangements. Ownership of this process by that/those anchor institution(s) is essential to create meaningful interlinkages with a country's broader SDG/development objectives and ensure the interventions can impact beyond their immediate outputs by contributing to ongoing processes.

Even though it is recognised that this process needs to be adapted to the reality and context of each country, Stage 2 should ideally include some overarching aspects. Once that step has been completed, the following is a suggestion, based on the first 10 country experiences⁷, of how the formal process may be organised.

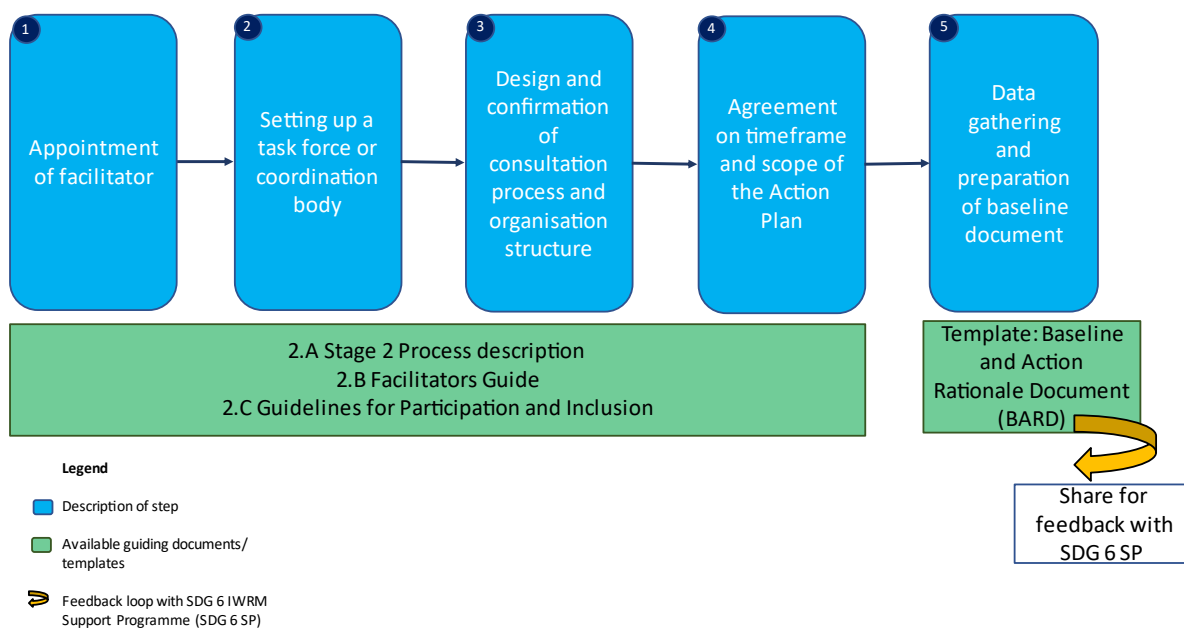
⁵ Different names for the IWRM Action Plan may be employed in different countries, according to what is most appropriate within their national context. IWRM Action Plan will be used as the generic name for these products at the global level.

⁶ The application process is available upon request from the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme, on sdg6iwrmsp@gwp.org.

⁷ More information on the existing Action Plans can be found on [the Support Programme website](#).



Preparation



This paragraph provides an overview of the *preparation*, the first sub-stage of the Stage 2 process.

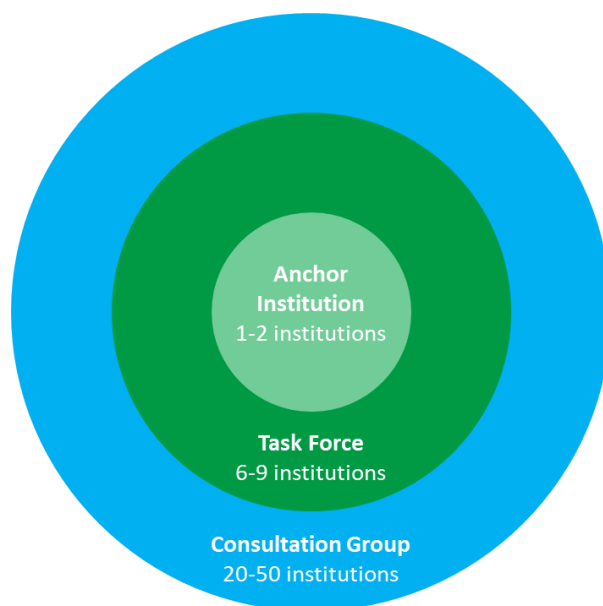
- i. **Appointment of facilitator:** Once the preparation has officially started, normally a process facilitator is appointed. The facilitator will be responsible to operationalize planning,

implement and organize the stakeholder consultations of Stage 2 process, and might also be contributing to the drafting of the IWRM Action Plan. The exact responsibilities and scope of work of the facilitator may vary from country to country, but the *2.B Facilitators Guide* provides a suggested Terms of Reference of the facilitator.

- ii. **Setting up a task force or coordination body:** Once the *preparation* has officially started, the anchor institution(s) should ideally bring together and chair a *task force* or similar coordination body to oversee the process of co-developing the IWRM Action Plan. This task force should include a small number of institutions, with a suggestion for 6-9, such as the ministries of finance and planning, development partners, donors and relevant coordination platforms. Engaging such partners at this stage should ensure their ongoing support through Stage 2 and hopefully Stage 3. If such a coordination body already exists within the country, it may be used for this process.
- iii. **Design and confirmation of consultation process and organisation structure:** The GWP network typically supports the Stage 2 activities and the consultation process and may hire a facilitator for that purpose (see document *2B Facilitators' Guide* for more details). The appropriate **anchor institution(s)** should make the final decisions on the process and organisational structure for Stage 2 based on the views presented by all stakeholders. A possible suggested simple organisation structure for Stage 2 can be viewed below. The composition of the **Task Force** and the definition of the anchor institution(s) is described in the previous paragraph. At this stage, also the detailed list of stakeholders to be consulted (constituting the **Consultation Group**) should be drafted and agreed upon. It is important that stakeholders are invited to participate in the process from both within and outside the water community, including but not limited to agriculture, energy, economic development, environment, urban planning, disaster risk reduction, climate change. Types of relevant stakeholders that might be considered in the consultation group include national and sub-national government institutions,⁸ non-governmental organizations, water and energy utilities, the private sector, academia, UN agencies, representatives of vulnerable and marginalised groups,⁹ parliamentarians, international development agencies, the donor community, etc. The inclusion of mandated institutions and other actors responsible for different SDG targets is highly recommended for creating synergies and coherence across inter-related objectives. Participation in the process should be analysed from a gender and age perspective, to ensure that there is fair representation of men and women, young and old, when defining priorities that leave no-one behind.

⁸ Including public financing and planning institutions and other mandated institutions for sectors affected by, and which affect, water resources

⁹ While these groups will be country-specific, they may include but not be limited to those representing gender groups, young people, indigenous communities, farmers, faith groups, trade unions, etc. Document 2C contains guidance on stakeholder inclusion.



- iv. **Agreement on timeframe and scope of the Action Plan:** As mentioned earlier, an IWRM Action Plan is a shared multi-annual commitment from different stakeholders in the country to advance IWRM implementation as a contribution to achieving the water-related SDGs. The Action Plan should though be limited in time and scope – typically an Action Plan might include a set of around 10-15 priority actions that can be implemented in a timeframe of around 3-5 years.
- v. **Data gathering and preparation of baseline document:** A basic analysis should be carried out that facilitates a common understanding of the overall IWRM context, and which should be summarised in a baseline document, for which the optional *Template Baseline Analysis and Rationale Document (BARD)* is available upon request.

IWRM Baseline and Action Rationale Document (BARD)

The purpose of the BARD is to explain how actions on water governance can help improving the performance of the Water System in a country. This document can serve as a starting point and rationale for Stage 2 of the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme. It frames the possible interventions that different stakeholders might consider as priorities for advancing on water security in the country over the coming years. It provides guidance for: an analysis of the context, functioning and performance of a country's water system; functional analysis of the governance of the water system; and a framework to link governance and performance in order to identify critical governance areas to be addressed.

Whether or not this template is used, the baseline analysis should consider the following as input:

- **the latest status of SDG indicator 6.5.1 on IWRM¹⁰** – the basis for identifying existing water governance challenges and opportunities
- **the Stakeholder Consultation Report¹¹**, if GWP facilitated a Stage 1 workshop in the country in 2017-18 and/or 2020

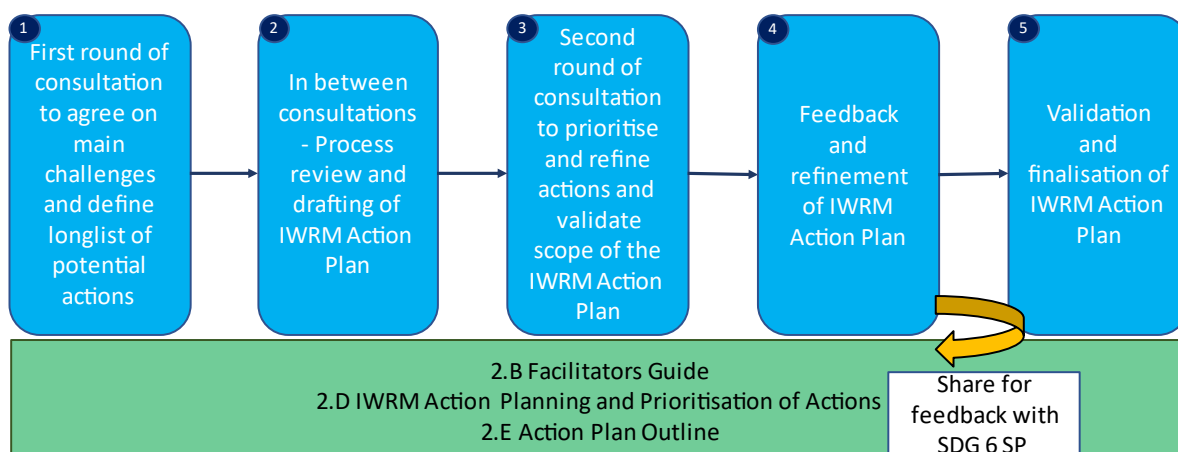
¹⁰ See <http://iwrmdataportal.unepdhi.org/countrydatabase>

¹¹ See <https://www.gwp.org/en/sdg6support/consultations/stage-1-activities/sdg-6.5.1-reporting-in-2020/>

- **Stakeholder mapping/analysis** (if available) of main actors involved in water resources management, at country/ basin/ local level
- **existing water management, climate and development policies, plans and strategies** – the basis for ensuring synergy with national commitments and ongoing initiatives (e.g., existing IWRM planning frameworks/ policies/ institutions/ management instruments/ financing, national climate adaptation programmes, resilience-building plans, ongoing institutional reforms, etc.)
- **other water-related policies, plans, strategies and priorities** – the basis for identifying areas of opportunity in which an IWRM approach could generate significant progress in water-related areas (e.g., sanitation, irrigation, flooding, drought, water quality, freshwater ecosystems, etc.)
- **relevant water management studies and assessments** – the basis for generating a firm evidence base for the identified challenges, priorities and proposed actions (e.g., hydrological surveys, flood-risk assessments, water quality reports, climate risk assessments, etc.)
- **relevant data and information related to the country context** (available stocks of social, economic, and environmental capital, including water resources availability and infrastructures (incl. natural infrastructures)
- **relevant data related to the functioning and performance of the water system** (e.g. 1. *input indicators* such as volume of water withdrawn per water use category, water stress index, annual investments in water-related infrastructure per water use category, operating budget for water resources management system and value created per water use category, volume of wastewater treated per water use category, volume of treated wastewater reused, volume of water distributed not invoiced, irrigated/ equipped surface, rate of withdrawals (per water use category) from fossil aquifer reserves/ overexploitation of aquifers; 2. *outcome indicators* such as current status of other SDG 6 indicators, relevant indicators related to costs of water-related disasters, value of water-related production of goods and services)

The output for this analysis should be a **baseline document** for analysis and approval by the task force and to be subsequently used by participants as reference during consultations and the development of the IWRM Action Plan. This baseline document should outline the IWRM performance- and governance-related challenges and flag areas for possible attention, looking as much as possible at the root causes of the obstacles. It is suggested that this document should be shared with the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme to facilitate review and feedback.

Consultation and co-development



This paragraph provides an overview of the *consultation and co-development*, the second sub-stage of the Stage 2 process.

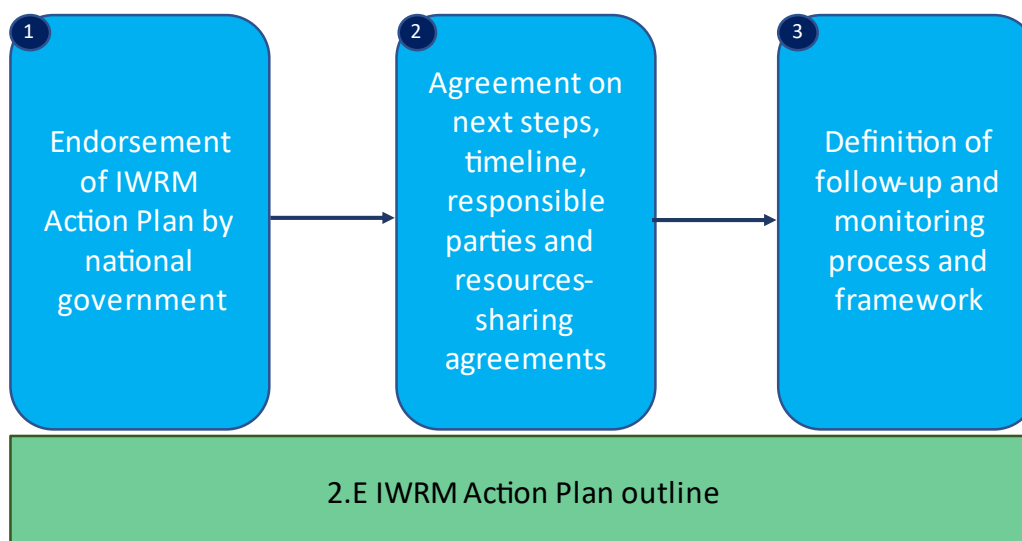
Considering how IWRM relates to many SDG targets and other development frameworks, multi-stakeholder input will be needed from a variety of sectors and levels. This will enable a more holistic assessment of water management benefits, knock-on effects and possible trade-offs across a range of areas and will help to jointly identify relevant interventions. Recommendations on the constitution of the consultation group have already been provided in the chapter about sub-stage *preparation*.

Typically, at least two multi-stakeholder workshops or consultations may be organised during Stage 2, hosted by the government and facilitated by GWP's in-country team and/or the hired facilitator, where appropriate. Such workshops and consultations may be either in-person or online and may be diverse (online virtual sessions, online polling, asynchronous discussion fora, etc.), to facilitate broad and inclusive participation. More details on the use of virtual means of consultation are provided in document 2C. *Guidelines for effective multi-stakeholder participation and inclusion*.

The SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme and its partners are also available to provide input to the stakeholder consultation process, for instance countries that are interested in focusing on water quality or on water-related ecosystems can request a presentation from UNEP on the status and challenges around 6.3.2 and 6.6.1 in the respective country.

- i. **First round of consultation to agree on main challenges and define longlist of potential actions:** Often a first workshop will serve to present the baseline document, receive feedback from different stakeholders on the water-related challenges, prioritise those challenges, and identify a long list of potential actions that would contribute to solving those challenges.
- ii. **Process review and drafting of IWRM Action Plan:** Meetings of the task force may be required between open consultations to refine the process and review the input provided by different stakeholders to produce the draft IWRM Action Plan, following document 2E. *SDG6 IWRM Action Plan Outline*.
- iii. **Second round of consultation to prioritise and refine actions and validate scope of the IWRM Action Plan:** A second workshop or consultation might be organised to prioritise and add input to the actions, as well as to validate the scope of the IWRM Action Plan. A more detailed explanation about the suggested scope and prioritisation of actions can be found in 2D *Action Planning and Prioritisation of Actions*.
- iv. **Feedback and refinement of IWRM Action Plan:** Once the priority interventions have been drafted, but before their formalisation, they should be shared with the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme to facilitate feedback and experience-sharing between countries, and to identify additional opportunities to support them. The draft IWRM Action Plan should then be submitted for review by the task force and then by other relevant stakeholders. The review and approval mechanism may differ in each case but should be transparent for stakeholders who have participated in the process.
- v. **Validation and finalisation of IWRM Action Plan:** Once all additional feedback from stakeholders has been received and reviewed, the IWRM Action Plan should be finalized in close coordination with the members of the task force and the anchoring institution(s) with a view to get the approval of the final IWRM Action Plan by the task force and the coordination group.

Formalisation



This paragraph provides an overview of the *formalisation*, the third and final sub-stage of the Stage 2 process.

- i. **Government endorsement of IWRM Action Plan:** Following approval by the task force and consultation group, the national government should officially endorse the IWRM Action Plan to facilitate its subsequent implementation. The degree of institutional formalisation required will depend upon the circumstances of the country in question but may include publication through official government channels or gazettes, its formal adoption by government platforms, or any other means that express political support for the plan. It may also be officially endorsed by other institutions that commit to supporting its implementation.
- ii. **Agreement on next steps, timeline, responsible parties and resource-sharing agreements:** To ensure this implementation, it will be necessary to agree on the next steps, timeline, responsible parties, and resource-sharing arrangements. That may involve the signing of additional Memorandums of Understanding, collaboration agreements or other contractual documents. The intention is for the interventions in the Action Plan to be funded for implementation as soon as the Action Plan is finalised. It is hoped that the government may formally assign budgetary resources to support the implementation of the plan, which may in turn be used to leverage external financial support. The IWRM Action Plan may also provide input to other existing plans, programmes, project documents or similar, incorporating the identified IWRM-based activities. These may include formal written input to an ongoing SDG or national development process such as a broader SDG 6 action plan, a National Adaptation Plan, the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), local development plans, etc. These mechanisms may in turn contribute to the financial resources necessary for the implementation of the Action Plan. Once completed and approved by the anchor institution(s), the IWRM Action Plan should be shared with the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme, which will post it on the [Support Programme website](#) to promote the actions and share the results, including posting the individual actions on the [IWRM Action Plan Searcher](#). The IWRM Action Plan may be produced in the main language spoken in the country, accompanied by an executive summary in English (please see the template that is included in the Annexe of document *2E. IWRM Action Plan Outline*).
- iii. **Definition of follow-up and monitoring process and framework:** The key to success in implementing the IWRM Action Plan will be a clear, structured method for monitoring, evaluating, and communicating progress with all interested stakeholders. A successful plan will

also ensure accountability for investments made. Further guidance is available in document 2E. *SDG6 IWRM Action Plan Outline* and its associated templates. Incorporating an IWRM approach into water-related governance processes may be medium- to long-term in nature, so outcome-level results may not materialise during the initial intervention period, depending on the type of governance change targeted. In this sense, countries are encouraged to use the opportunity provided by the periodic monitoring and reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.1 to follow up on their Action Plan. However, countries are also encouraged to monitor Action Plan implementation using either existing or newly designed processes and frameworks more suited to the specifics of their circumstances, available resources and priority areas of intervention. That may also potentially include the monitoring of SDG 6.5.1 at the sub-national level, or at the regional or continental level. There is a need to ensure compatibility between different monitoring systems being utilised to monitor IWRM advancement, the IWRM Action Plan, and the water-related SDGs more generally.

Suggested roles and responsibilities

Actor	Role/responsibility
Anchor institution(s): 1-2 government institution(s), including the ministry with a mandate for SDG 6.5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overall ownership of the process • coordination with the task force and consultation group, other governmental institutions and ongoing processes in the country and/or regions • chair of the task force • formal convener of any consultation workshops • should ideally commit budgetary resources to support the implementation of some of the priority actions
Task Force: 6-9 key national stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • oversees the preparation of and approves the IWRM Action Plan • provides input to any consultation workshops/other stakeholder engagement mechanisms • may contribute financially to the Stage 2 process and/or the implementation of some of the priority actions
Consultation group: 20-50 relevant stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is invited to review and provide feedback where appropriate on the baseline document • provides input to the long list of possible IWRM actions and overall direction of the IWRM Action Plan • takes part in the prioritisation effort aiming to finalise the actions • looks to synergise its own activities, studies and analyses with the priority IWRM actions, to support implementation
GWP: Regional or Country Water Partnerships or group of partners (as applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • liaison between the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme and anchor institutions in each country • identification and mobilisation of key stakeholders and coordination structures • preparation and organisation of any workshops or other stakeholder consultations • recruitment and management of external support, such as facilitators or other consultants • support to the overall process and development of the IWRM Action Plan
SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme: UNEP, GWPO, UNEP-DHI, Cap-Net	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coordinates knowledge exchange between countries and reporting on lessons learned • develops and delivers bespoke knowledge materials to support country actors • (when required and available) allocates catalytic funding to support Stage 2 activities • reviews and provides feedback on the list of prioritised actions and draft IWRM Action Plan • promotes the finalised IWRM Action Plan through its communication channels

Indicative Stage 2 timeframe

There is no set timeframe for implementing the whole process of Stage 2, as this will be defined by needs and circumstances in each country. However, based on past experience, it is anticipated that Stage 2 may be completed in 6-9 months. An indicative timeline for this process can be found below:

	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 8	Month 9
Preparation									
Appointment of facilitator	█								
Setting up of task force/ coordination body	█	█							
Design/ confirmation of process and organisation structure		█	█						
Agreement on timeframe and scope of Action Plan		█	█						
Data gathering and preparation of baseline document	█	█							
Consultation and co-development									
1st stakeholder consultation (agree on main challenges, define longlist of actions)			█						
Process review and drafting of Action Plan			█	█					
2nd stakeholder consultation (prioritise and refine actions, validate scope of Action Plan)					█				
Feedback and refinement of Action Plan					█	█			
Validation and finalisation of Action Plan							█		
Formalisation									
Government endorsement of Action Plan								█	█
Agreement on next steps, timeline, responsibilities, resource-sharing arrangements								█	█
Definition of follow-up and monitoring process/ framework								█	█

Budget

The SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme is available to accompany country-led efforts to design and implement their IWRM interventions, and upon request, may provide up to € 20,000 to facilitate Stage 2. It is expected that this process should also be co-funded out of government budgets and/or locally leveraged funds, to at least the same amount as provided by the Support Programme for Stage 2 (up to € 20,000). Such co-funding may be in-kind or in-cash and should be mentioned in the application process and reported after finalising Stage 2. That implies that the overall cost of implementing Stage 2 may be around € 40,000, although this varies according to the relative costs of activities within each country, whether the process is conducted through in-person and/or online means, etc.

If the amount requested from the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme is less than € 20,000 for Stage 2, the difference between the amount requested and € 20,000, plus an additional € 15,000, may be made available upon request to support Stage 3 implementation, to be requested after finalising Stage 2. In that case, it is expected that the Stage 3 implementation should also leverage at least the same amount in funding from in-country sources. In that way, the Support Programme may provide a maximum of € 35,000 combined, for Stages 2 and 3, leveraging a total of at least € 70,000.

Example of funding for Stages 2 and 3

Country X requests € 16,000 from the Support Programme for Stage 2, committing at least the same amount (€ 16,000) for that Stage. Upon completion of the Stage 2 activities, and if required, the Support Programme may provide up to € 19,000 to support Stage 3 implementation (€ 4,000 unused from Stage 2 plus an additional € 15,000), with the same expectation for the country to contribute at least the same amount (€ 19,000) for Stage 3, either in-cash or in-kind.

The financial support will be channelled through GWP's network, including its Regional Water Partnerships, Country Water Partnerships and/or groups of organised partners. The application process and criteria are available upon request from the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme on sdg6iwrmsp@gwp.org.

IWRM Acceleration Package

A suite of guidance materials and templates has been developed to support countries in implementing the methodology in this process description. Referred to as the IWRM Acceleration Package, it includes the following documents:

2A Process Description – describes the purpose and process involved in designing an IWRM Action Plan. It introduces important concepts and methods to build a sustainable process.

2B Facilitators Guide – a basis for hiring the facilitator to manage the process. Describes in detail the key deliverables and activities expected of the facilitator and may be annexed to their contract.

2C Guidelines for effective multi-stakeholder Participation and Inclusion – given the multi-stakeholder nature of the consultations, this document guides the selection of an appropriate set of stakeholders to take part in the consultations.

2D Action Planning and Prioritisation of Actions – describes the details of an Action Plan and useful guidance on prioritising actions.

2E IWRM Action Plan Outline – to facilitate preparation of the Action Plan, each section has guidance on the suggested focus, completion of which can facilitate subsequent implementation of the selected actions.

Finally, the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme provides more in-depth guidance based on the Acceleration Framework through an online course.

Online IWRM Action Planning course - Available through the Cap-Net Virtual Campus from the end of 2021, the course will cover the basics of IWRM action planning as well as useful techniques for facilitation, negotiation and project implementation etc. The course is free of charge and available to anyone interested. The link to the course will be posted when ready.

The IWRM Acceleration Package will be updated periodically, based on the experience gained in implementing it. The SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme coordinators are open to feedback and suggestions that would contribute to its improvement through sdg6iwrmsp@gwp.org.

Support the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme!

The SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme also requires additional financial support to facilitate this process and assist more countries. Interested donors should write to sdg6iwrmsp@gwp.org for more information on how to contribute to the success of the Support Programme.

Key definitions

In this document, some of the key terms employed have a particular meaning to this context. To provide greater clarity on some of these key terms, please refer to the following definitions:

- **IWRM Action Plan**: a shared multi-annual multi-stakeholder commitment towards advancing IWRM implementation, containing a limited number of priority actions. The exact name of this document may vary from country to country.
- **Priority actions (or interventions)**: ambitious investment opportunities that could attract funding and support from the national public and private sectors and international donors. “Actions” could be projects, programmes, reforms, or any other relevant initiative which uses an IWRM approach, on any aspect related to the hardware or software of IWRM.

- **Investments**: time and/or other financial or non-financial resources provided by any organisation or individual when focusing on a particular action.
- **Anchor institution(s)**: key government body/bodies within the national government, typically the body in charge of water resources management, which will lead the Stage 2 and 3 processes. This should include the institution in charge of reporting on SDG 6.5.1.
- **Task Force**: A coordination body with a limited number of members with which the IWRM Action Plan is co-developed. In addition to the anchor institution(s), this may include, for example, the ministries of finance and planning, development partners, donors and relevant coordination platforms.