

# FACT SHEET

## GWP and Transboundary Water



### Why Transboundary Water?

- 310 transboundary lakes and river basins, and 592 identified transboundary aquifers.
- Transboundary water bodies exist within 153 States, serving 2.8 billion people, covering 62 million square kilometers (42%) of the earth's land, and account for 54% of global river discharge.

### Why does GWP work on Transboundary Water?

Transboundary water adds to the existing complexity of addressing conflicting/competing uses of water. Properly managing competing uses can be an opportunity to find win-win solutions for all parties and achieve SDG targets beyond the water sector.

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plays an important role in addressing complexity, thus enhancing cooperation across sectors and states. With IWRM as its signature tool, and using its strength as a multi-stakeholder network, as well as being a knowledge partner in the field, GWP plays the role of facilitator and promoter of transboundary water cooperation.

### What GWP does

GWP works by building **partnerships** among all actors (See map on reverse side for more details).

**Facilitating cooperation at regional, local, basin, and aquifer levels.** GWP works at various governance levels for improved transboundary water cooperation: In Africa, Latin America, the Mediterranean, and Central and Eastern Europe.

GWP works closely with Regional Economic Commissions and basin organisations in facilitating water dialogues and management practices. The work includes establishment of transboundary water commissions, institutional mechanisms, climate adaptation, nexus assessment, basin IWRM plans and strategic action plans, public participation plans, and information management and exchange.

### **Capacity building for better transboundary water**

**governance:** GWP conducts capacity building for practitioners of transboundary water management in Africa, Latin America, and Asia. Key topics include: international water law and governance, water diplomacy, negotiation, and gender mainstreaming. A post-training survey showed 92% of the trainees from Latin America applied knowledge acquired in the programme in their work. Example of policy influence by African trainees include their contributions to the development of the Volta Basin Charter, IGAD's regional water resources use protocol, and Chad's accession to the UNECE Water Convention. These continental level trainings adopt the **South-South learning** approach, fostering relationships and networks among practitioners.

**SDG 6.5:** Through GWP's SDG Support Programme, GWP facilitates a multi-stakeholder approach to SDG planning and monitoring. As an example of SDG work, GWP collaborated with UNESCO and UNECE on SDG 6.5.2 workshop in Central Africa. GWP Ukraine facilitated National Dialogues on Transboundary Waters, SDG 6.5.2 together with UNECE.

## Overview of GWP's work facilitating Transboundary Water Cooperation

### Central America:

Supporting the **Central America Commission for Environment and Development** on Transboundary Water. Knowledge product: IWRM in Central America with focus on Transboundary Waters.

**Mediterranean:** Regional dialogue on waters enabled basin-level interventions. **Drin Basin** MoU establishment and implementation of IWRM/ICZM for **Buna/Bojana River Basin**, Nexus Assessment in **Northwest Sahara Aquifer (NWSAS)**, **Drin and Drina Basins**. Enhancement of cooperation for the **NWSAS**. **Sava River Basin** Public Participation Plan.

**Central Asia and Caucasus: Aral Sea Basin** Interstate Information Exchange, Economic Model for Water Allocation.

**China and Southeast Asia:** Close collaboration with **Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Centre**.

**Pan Asia:** Training on IWRM in Transboundary Waters.

**Central and South America:** Water Governance and International Water Law Training.

**Southeast Asia:** Collaborative Modeling Training with the Mekong River Commission.

**South & Southeast Asia, China:** Learning Delta in Asia Initiative (LDAI)

### West Africa:

Close work with **Economic Community of West African States**. Regional dialogues on Transboundary Aquifers. **Mekrou River** Cooperation Framework Agreement, **Volta Basin** Strategic Action Plan, establishment of **Mono River Basin Commission**. **Cote d'Ivoire and Niger** ratification to the UN 1997 Watercourse Convention.

### Eastern Africa:

Cooperation with **IGAD**. **Kagera Basin** community resilience plan in **Lake Cyoha** region. Cooperation with Nile Basin Initiative under discussion.

**Central and Eastern Europe:** Close work with River Basin Commissions for the **Danube, Sava, and Baltic Sea**, with emerging opportunity to work with others (**Black Sea and Kaliningrad**). National Dialogue on Transboundary Waters, **SDG 6.5.2** workshop in **Ukraine**, collaboration with **UNECE**.

**Central Africa:** Close work with **Economic Community of Central African States**. **Lake Chad Basin Commission** Strategic Action Plan. MoU with **Congo Basin Commission**.

**Southern Africa:** Close work with Southern African Development Community. **Limpopo Basin**, **LIMCOM** IWRM Plan, **Orange-Senqu Basin**, **ORASECOM** Climate Adaptation Action plan and Investment strategy, **Zambezi Basin**, **ZAMCOM** Stakeholder Engagement & Gender mainstreaming.

**Pan-Africa:** Capacity Building on Water Governance and IWL. Capacity building to RBOs through the African Network of Basin Organizations (**ANBO**).