**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.


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.


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

Pan Asia: Training on IWRM in Transboundary Waters.

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

South & Southeast Asia, China: Learning Delta in Asia Initiative (LDAl).

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