GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP

GWP STRATEGY 2026-2030

Transforming Climate-Resilient Water Investments for a Water Secure World

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Abbreviations

AI	Artificial intelligence
AIP	Continental Africa Water Investment Programme
GDP	Gross domestic product
GIP	Global Water Investment Platform
GOC	Global Outlook Council on Water Investments
GWPO	Global Water Partnership Organisation
IGO	Intergovernmental organisation
IWRM	Integrated water resources management
MDB	Multilateral development bank
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
ODA	Official development assistance
PIDA	Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

Executive summary

GWP's Vision is a water secure world.

GWP's Mission is to support countries in the financing, governance, and management of water resources for sustainable, climate-resilient, and equitable development.

The Strategy 2026–2030

With the end date of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) barely five years away, the world remains far from achieving the water secure future envisioned by SDG 6. It will take urgent, audacious action: closing a staggering annual investment gap estimated at over USD 140 billion. In 2025, the intergovernmental Global Water Partnership Organisation (GWPO) and the GWP Regional Water Partnerships responded to the challenge with a Global Transformation Agenda on Water Investments. The outline for that bold new chapter is the GWP Strategy 2026–2030.

Three Strategic Goals

Finance and Investments: Increase the volume, quality, and efficiency of finance and investments to achieve climate-resilient water security for all.

Governance: Improve national water governance and transboundary cooperation in the water and water-related sectors to support the achievement of water security for all.

Knowledge, Capacity, Data, and Digital Transformation: Build and increase the capacity of institutions, professionals, service providers, and systems, and strengthen the generation, sharing, and application of water data and knowledge to accelerate water security for all.

Five Strategic Interventions

Mobilise high-level commitments with G20 countries, multilateral development banks, the private sector and other global leaders, national and sub-national governments to achieve water investments targets.

Build partnerships, capacity, and mutual accountability, including facilitating government commitments to implement data-driven water investment scorecards and voluntary national reviews.

Support regional, transboundary, and national water investment programmes and project pipelines, and develop the capacity of national and river basin organisations to formulate investment-ready project pipelines.

Unlock innovative blended public–private finance, leveraging public and private capital for climate-resilient water services, mobilising large-scale institutional investors, and enabling governments to access cheaper capital for water security.

Advance climate resilience, gender equality, and social inclusion, supporting the integration of water in climate resilience planning and investments, scaling gender-transformative approaches, and strengthening equality and inclusion in water security.

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Global Water Partnership

The Global Water Partnership (GWP) is an international institution with a unique model: it comprises an intergovernmental organisation (IGO), the Global Water Partnership Organisation (GWPO); and a global network of over 2,800 partners, the GWP Network. GWP's nearly 30-year legacy includes uniting water efforts at all levels worldwide, and mobilising and working with governments, multilateral development banks (MDBs), academia, civil society, and many more partners to drive water investments that deliver real results. It is the only IGO exclusively focused on water that has a global network of institutional partners spanning 180 countries across Africa, Asia–Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, and North America.

GWP distinguishes itself with inclusivity, action orientation, and the trust of both government and non-governmental partners. It also holds active partnership agreements with numerous UN agencies, regional organisations, and financiers.

In 2025, GWPO and its Regional Water Partnerships initiated a Global Transformation Agenda on Water Investments. This bold new chapter includes strengthened partnerships with G20 countries, MDBs, global climate finance institutions, the private sector, and regional financial and economic institutions, among others, to scale up impact. It also includes the relocation of GWPO headquarters to the Global South while calling on visionary governments to join the organisation as Sponsoring Partners – an opportunity to renew global water cooperation.

Box 1. Three decades of global impact

GWP was founded in 1996 with the support of the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme, and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. In 2002, GWPO was established as an IGO with a mandate to support and work with the GWP Network of partners, in fulfilment of its vision for a water secure world and to promote sustainable development and management of water resources at all levels. For over two decades, GWPO and its global GWP Network have been at the forefront of promoting adoption of integrated water resources management. Today, GWP comprises 13 Regional Water Partnerships and 77 accredited Country Water Partnerships. Since 2014, GWP has directly and indirectly supported investments and improved governance and policies for water management in over 90 countries.

GWP's Results

GWP's vision is a water secure world. Here are some highlights of GWP's results and impact.

Over EUR2 billion influenced

Since 2014, GWP has directly and indirectly supported investments in water management through:

- Investment-ready water and climate projects
- Improved policies and investment planning to unlock action on the ground
- Strengthened institutional capacity to access climate and development finance

200+ governance improvements

Since 2020, GWP has supported 200+ water-related policies, laws, institutions, instruments, and financing mechanisms, resulting in:

- Stronger cross-sectoral water governance
- Improved water-related decision-making and investment planning
- Access to climate finance to build resilience through water

90+ Countries supported

Over time, GWP has supported water sector reforms in 90+ countries and 25 transboundary basins, contributing to:

- National water policies, laws, and strategies
- Investment plans for water security and climate resilience
- Regional and transboundary cooperation frameworks

1.2 An urgent call for bold investment to achieve water security by 2030

Achieving water security for all by 2030 requires urgent and audacious action to close a staggering investment gap. **For water supply and sanitation only, the annual investment gap estimate is of around USD140 billion[1].** That level of added investment is achievable, and it would have immense social and economic returns, including improved health, food security, gender equality, and climate resilience. Without immediate scale-up in financing, on the other hand, billions of people will remain vulnerable to water scarcity, disease, and economic instability.

Despite concerted global efforts at all levels, water security remains a persistent global challenge. **With increased frequency of water-related risks induced by climate change, the water security challenge is mounting.** While the fundamental nature of water-related challenges has not changed, their scale and complexity have expanded dramatically. Communities and ecosystems continue to suffer from the dual extremes of water: too much, in the form of floods; and too little, in the form of physical droughts or economic scarcity. Additionally, widespread pollution has rendered many water sources unsafe, further compounding access issues. Over-extraction and unsustainable use have led to the degradation of water resources in numerous regions, and climate change is intensifying the frequency and severity of both droughts and floods. While these impacts affect many parts of society, often the most affected in terms of health, learning, productivity, and employment opportunities are vulnerable people such as women, children, the elderly, and the economically poor.

Further, **water insecurity is increasingly linked to geopolitical instability and business risk.** This is unfolding within a broader global context marked by an overall decrease in official development assistance (ODA) for water and accelerating volatility, where change is rapid and direction uncertain, further amplifying the risks around water-related tensions. Conflicts that involve or affect water are on the rise, threatening decades of peaceful cooperation, particularly in transboundary contexts. In some areas, water stress and its related impacts are generating displacement and migration, further straining humanitarian and governance systems as well as ecosystems and biodiversity.

Climate change is causing greater rainfall variability and uncertainty, with the incidence of droughts and floods predicted to progressively increase in many world regions toward the end of this century and into the next[2]. **While we are already experiencing the increased severity and frequency of hydrological extreme events, the ways in which we manage our water resources requires a paradigm shift.** We can no longer rely on many guides for traditional water resources management and development that were based on assumptions of hydrological stationarity and well-characterised uncertainty; they are unsuitable today in light of the increasing unpredictability and uncertainty that comes with climate change.

Meanwhile, demographic shifts and changing patterns of water use – driven by urbanisation, population growth, and technological advancement – are placing unprecedented demands on already stressed water systems. As population groups vie for dwindling water resources, the most vulnerable groups are left behind, unless governance structures are in place to protect them.

Water is central to economic development, poverty alleviation, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), impacting food and energy security, health, education, ecosystem resilience, and livelihoods. **Investments in water security offer broad societal benefits. To maximise these benefits, such investments must be sound – designed and implemented through integrated approaches that address water-related needs in a coordinated manner and contribute to sustainable water management.** Investments must also be resilient to climate change, both withstanding its impacts and contributing to broader climate resilience. Furthermore, many water security investments take place in transboundary contexts, as approximately 60 percent of the world's freshwater flows through shared rivers, lakes, and aquifers. Applying a source-to-sea perspective is essential, recognising that water management practices on land directly affect ocean health – a critical global resource, particularly in the face of a warming climate.

Inaction, conversely, carries substantial costs. The Global Commission on the Economics of Water warns that failure to act could lead to gross domestic product (GDP) declines of up to 8 percent in high-income countries and 10–15 percent in low- and middle-income countries by 2050[3]. **The global water crisis is estimated to threaten USD58 trillion in economic value of water, food security, and sustainability – equivalent to 60 percent of global GDP[4].** Proactive water investments can reduce the immense financial and human costs of responding to climate-related disasters, such as floods and droughts, which account for a large share of disaster-related mortality and economic loss[5]. In Africa, for example, the benefit–cost ratio for climate-resilient water and sanitation investments is estimated at 7:1[6].

Despite growing awareness of these challenges and opportunities, the world remains far from achieving the water secure future envisioned in the SDGs and in regional and national strategies. **The UN mid-term report on SDG 6 indicators shows that progress is off track across all eight targets,** and the current pace of advancement needs to increase by two to six times to meet the 2030 goals[7].

Inadequate investment, weak governance, and insufficient capacity are deeply interconnected barriers to water security, as they constrain the ability of societies to plan, manage, and coordinate the different uses of water in a sustainable, equitable, and resilient way. **INVESTMENT needs to increase significantly to achieve water security,** covering the annual investment gap of over USD140 billion[1]. This will require strong investment business cases to demonstrate the centrality of water in national development, and it will need solid water project proposals and legal and regulatory instruments to attract both public and private investment. An increasing share of public investment will be needed from domestic sources, given the likelihood that ODA will continue declining[9] – although the water sector has the potential to access increasing climate funds. **STRONG GOVERNANCE is a critical enabler for unlocking investment in the water sector.** Critically, water governance involves engaging multiple stakeholders to have their interests considered in decision-making, and holding decision-makers accountable for water management

actions. **CAPACITY underlies all progress toward increased investment and improved governance.** Many of the water sector's challenges stem from not only inadequate funding but also insufficient governance and weak capacity to absorb resources, lead, coordinate action, innovate, regulate, or deliver results.

Achieving water security requires action beyond the boundaries of the water sector. For example, protecting water sources and recharge areas, increasing water retention, maintaining minimum water quality standards, and preserving freshwater ecosystems such as wetlands are critical priorities – yet they depend on coordinated efforts across multiple sectors. Urban development, agriculture, energy, rural planning, and technology all play roles in shaping water governance outcomes. To be effective, the **water sector must actively engage and collaborate with these sectors to align policies, investments, and practices around shared goals.**

Broader systemic factors – including geopolitical tensions, economic instability, rising inequality, social transformations, technological change, and evolving financial landscapes – must also be addressed. These dynamics present both risks and opportunities. As such, **GWP's new strategy is designed to engage with this broader context, enabling intersectoral and collaborative action** by leveraging its global partners and building on its strong track record of mobilising climate-resilient water investments and improved water governance across sectors.

This strategy represents an evolution of IWRM[10] principles; and signals the beginning of IWRM 2.0, an era of digitally connected, citizen-empowered, and climate-resilient water governance. This strategy also responds to the call of the Global Commission on the Economics of Water to treat water as a global common good and drive systemic reform in how water is governed, valued, and financed. GWP will support implementation of the Commission's key recommendations – including revaluing water, phasing out harmful subsidies, and advancing principles of Just Water Partnerships – through its global GWP Network, Country Water Partnerships, and investment-focused transformation agenda.

Photo: Nikolai Kovachev

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VISION MISSION THEORY OF CHANGE

2.1 Vision

GWP's Vision is a water secure world.

A water secure world is vital for achieving the world's sustainable development ambitions, as well as enhancing resilience to climate change-exacerbated such as floods and droughts. Water security is not only essential for enabling inclusive economic growth and development, but also for socio-economic needs, nature, and the health of ecosystems and biodiversity.

2.2 Mission

GWP's Mission is to support countries in the financing, governance, and management of water resources for sustainable, climate-resilient, and equitable development.

GWP's Mission is based on an in-depth understanding of the challenges countries have in achieving water security for all, challenges which are changing and evolving over time. The major challenges range from **mounting pressures on water resources** (climate change, population growth, economic growth, urbanisation, and pollution), **to different claims on water resources** (social versus productive uses and claims on transboundary watercourses), **to poor governance of water resources** (fragmented decision-making and lack of participation, transparency, and accountability), **to increasing water-related disasters** (flooding and droughts), **to insufficient investment** in the solutions needed to achieve water security for all (weak financial systems, low tariffs, weak affordability, and insufficient capacity to implement investments).

For nearly 30 years, GWP has been at the forefront of advancing water security, climate resilience, and sustainable development worldwide. Through its extensive network, GWP has empowered countries, communities, and industries to adapt to growing water challenges, strengthened governance frameworks toward a water secure future, and leveraged billions in climate-resilient water investments.

In early 2025, GWPO and its Regional Water Partnerships initiated the Global Transformation Agenda to accelerate and scale up mobilisation and deployment of climate-resilient water investments. Accordingly, this strategy builds on GWP's long-standing role in advocating for and promoting integrated approaches to water resources development and management, now with a renewed focus on addressing the critical constraint of financing – particularly in the context of the global climate emergency.

Given the essential role of water in a range of other sectors, most importantly agriculture, energy, manufacturing, food processing, technology infrastructure, and disaster risk

reduction, and given the major impacts these sectors can have on the quality and quantity of the water resource base, there is a clear need for increased investments. **Given its unique status as an IGO with a global multi-stakeholder partnership, GWP offers an unbeatable comparative advantage to lead implementation of the Global Transformation Agenda on integrated, climate-resilient water investments:** the ability to mobilise high-level political commitment from states and governments at all levels; as well as from non-state actors, including the private sector, business, and investment communities; while engaging civil society and other relevant stakeholders to contribute to water management at local, national, and global levels.

During the 2026-2030 strategy period, **GWP will enhance its engagement with global and regional partners – including G20 countries, the UN, MDBs, global climate finance mechanisms, financial institutions, and the private sector** – to accelerate support for climate-resilient water investments. These partnerships will prioritize developing investment-ready project pipelines, fostering connections with diverse financing sources, and driving large-scale implementation to accelerate progress on water-related SDGs, advance the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change, and support national priorities, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

To this end, **GWP will assist countries in preparing well-sequenced, prioritised investment pipelines, strengthening water governance and regulatory frameworks, and mobilising innovative public–private financing solutions.**

2.3 Theory of Change

GWP's Strategy 2026–2030 is grounded in a systems-based Theory of Change that addresses three interdependent systemic challenges, all of which constrain the availability of water for social and environmental needs as well as economic sectors and undermine inclusive economic growth and development. These systemic challenges fall within:

a. **Finance and investments:** The low prioritisation of water as an investment is partly due to poor incentives, incoherent policies, and lack of solid project pipelines, which discourage risk-averse financiers and public investors.

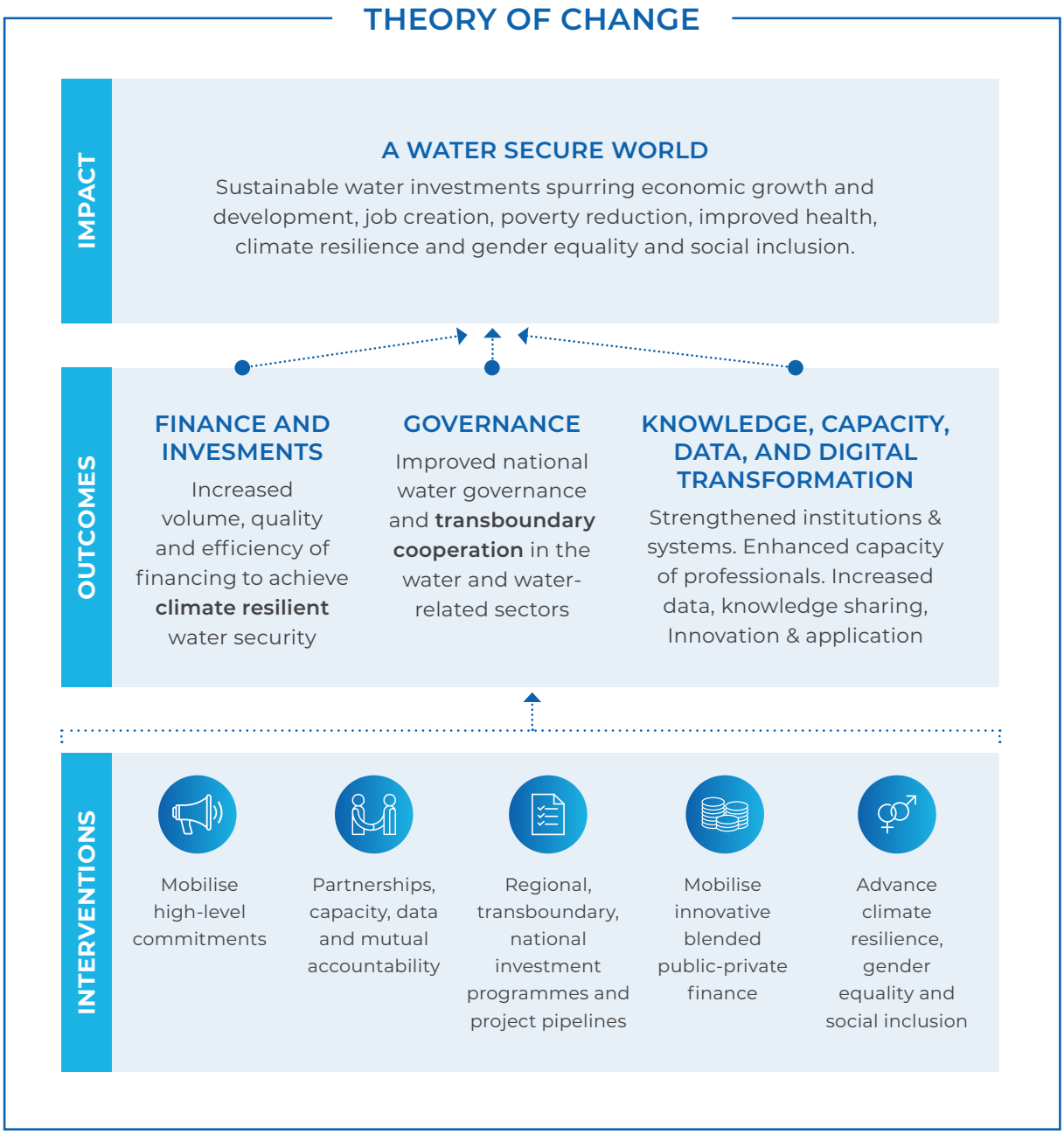
b. **Governance:** Water crises are very often governance crises. Technical solutions often exist, but the challenge is translating them into who does what, at which level, and how – answers that are too often lacking. Water challenges are embedded across the economy and society and are often overlapping. Governance therefore requires an integrated approach, building on the notion of IWRM.

c. **Knowledge, capacity, data, and digital transformation:** The paucity of data to inform investment decision-making processes, and inadequate capacity to plan and absorb investments, challenge the prioritisation and implementation of sustainable water solutions at the scale and pace that is needed to achieve water security for all.

These barriers are deeply interconnected, and none can be effectively addressed in isolation.

GWP's Strategic Interventions are therefore designed as a coherent and mutually reinforcing package – each element essential to unlocking progress in the others. By tackling these barriers in an integrated way, including leveraging digital innovation, water technologies, artificial intelligence (AI) systems, and the private sector as co-implementer and co-investor of water investments, **the strategy aims to catalyse systemic change toward a water secure world** (see Fig. 1). Given the myriad of actions that are needed over medium to long time horizons to bring lasting improvements in water security, it will be necessary to define tailored, sequenced, costed, and prioritised activities, implementing a fully intentional, phased, and impactful set of interventions.

Figure 1. Theory of Change of the GWP Strategy 2026–2030



3

STRATEGIC GOALS

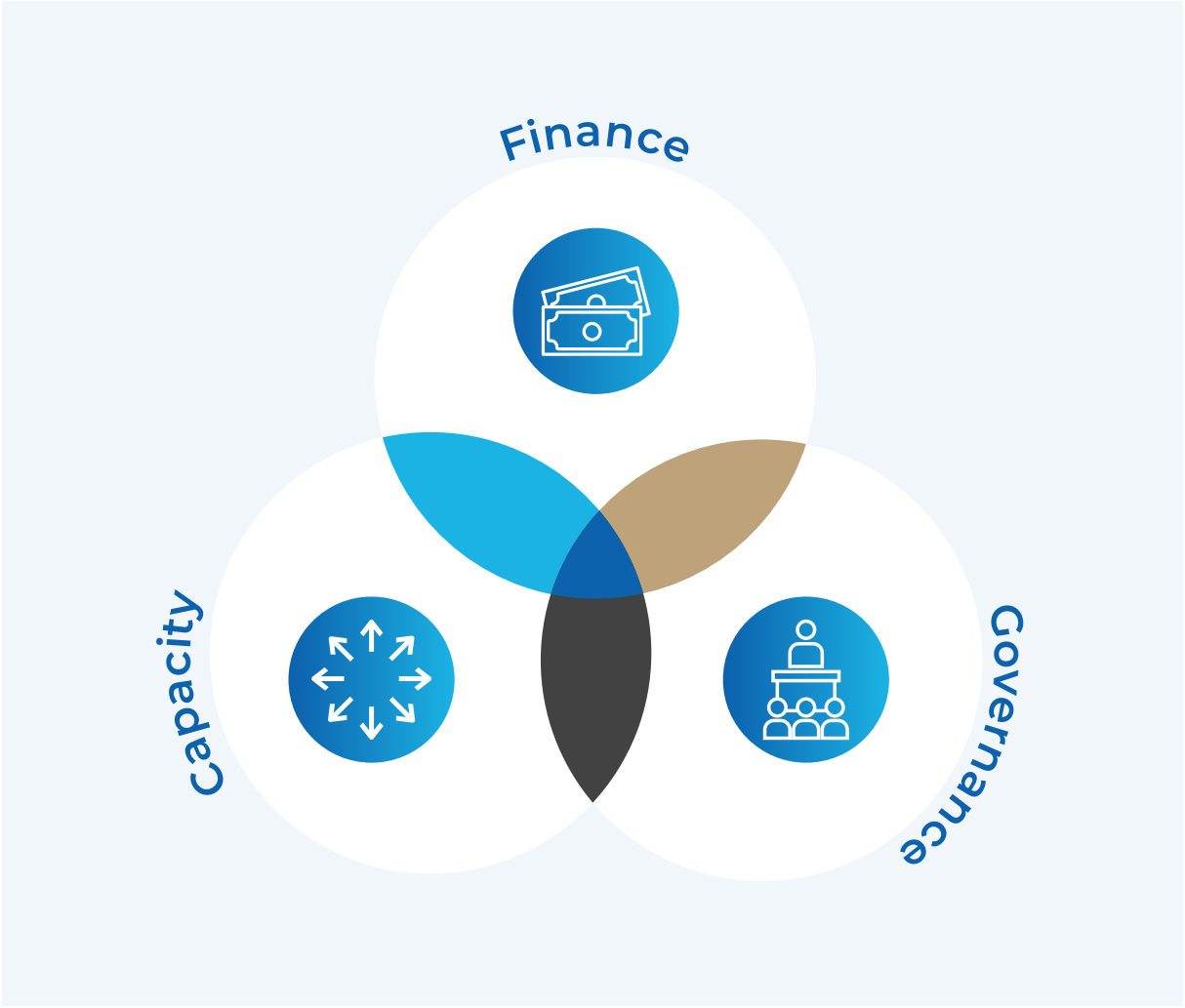
GWP will pursue three overarching Strategic Goals that serve as key enablers for achieving its Vision and Mission.

These goals have been carefully selected based on their central roles in advancing water security for all, as well as the transformative impact GWP will deliver through focused action in these areas.

The three Strategic Goals – **Finance and Investments; Governance; and Knowledge, Capacity, Data, and Digital Transformation** – target the core systemic challenges that limit the availability and sustainable management of water for social and environmental needs and economic development. They are aligned with global priorities, including their recognition as part of the five 'accelerators' identified by UN-Water in the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework[11].

The three goals cover significant domains, each of which has a plethora of sector organisations working on it. Hence, GWP's value-added will be at the intersection of these three goals, leveraging its global network of multi-stakeholder partnerships, digital innovation, water technologies, AI systems, and the private sector as co-implementer of water investments (see Fig. 2).

Figure 2. GWP's added value is greatest at the intersections between finance, governance and capacity.

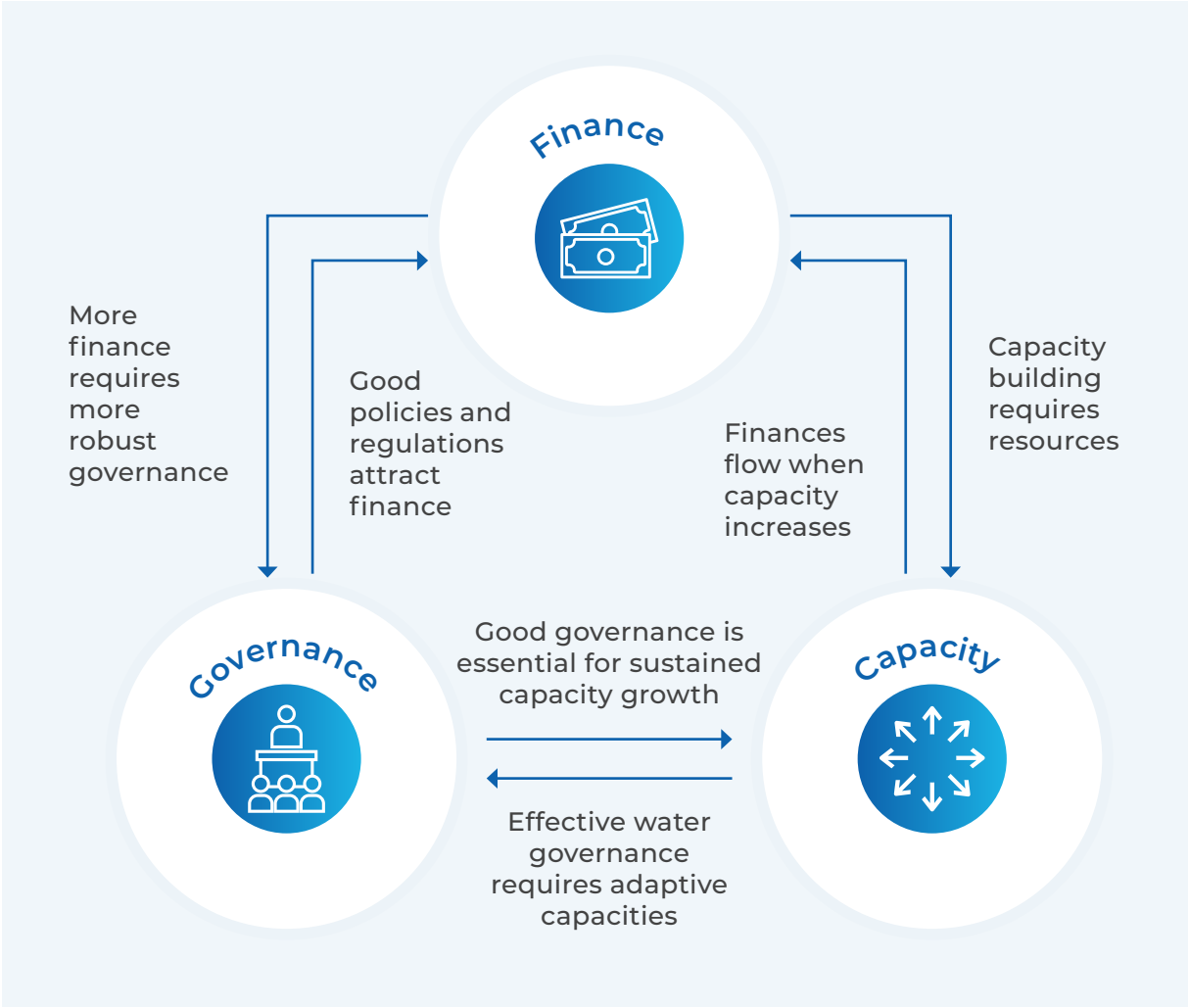


Recognising the breadth of these domains, and the various existing water-related global, regional, and national institutions, **GWP will focus on the critical intersections where these domains converge – points where targeted interventions through partnerships can generate synergistic, scalable, and lasting impact.** Their interdependencies are key: solutions in one area can reinforce and amplify progress in the others.

Importantly, the Strategic Goals operate at different points along the results chain and are causally linked. A lack of capacity undermines effective governance. Deficiencies in capacity, available data, and governance hinder the mobilisation and effective use of financial resources. Conversely, inadequate financing from both the public and private sectors contributes directly to inadequate investments, limited capacity, and weak governance. These interlinkages are illustrated in Fig. 3.

Each Strategic Goal spans all governance levels – from global to regional and transboundary, down to national and sub-national. Conditions at each level influence others, making it essential that GWP's efforts are coordinated across the full spectrum. Among these, the national level is identified as the most critical for long-term capacity building, as it serves as the foundation for influencing broader systems over time. GWP's multi-level presence gives it a unique mandate to lead on capacity development and partnership strengthening.

Figure 3. The three Strategic Goals are interrelated and require interventions that take a systems approach



3.1 Strategic Goal 1: Finance and Investments

Increase the volume, quality, and efficiency of finance and investments to achieve climate-resilient water security for all

Achieving water security in a climate-resilient world requires a substantial scale-up in both investments and recurrent expenditures across water and water-related sectors[12]. Despite rising needs, water remains under-prioritised by governments and the private sector – largely due to weak incentives, fragmented policies, poor governance, a lack of viable project pipelines, and weak capacity to absorb investments resulting in low disbursements in approved projects.

In low- and middle-income countries, estimated annual investment needs for water-related infrastructure and services exceed current spending by over USD140 billion[13]. Without urgent, bold, and transformative interventions, this financing gap is projected to increase well beyond 2030. A major barrier is the low pipeline of investment-ready water projects, often constrained by weak revenue models, limited cost recovery, and inefficiencies – including poor governance – which may absorb up to 26 percent of investments[14]. Another barrier is weakness in business cases and evidence on the significant economic and social returns on water projects, which, if improved, could mobilise high-level commitments and investments for water security.

With declining global ODA for water, **GWP will scale up efforts to mobilise innovative finance through public–private partnerships**, which will leverage ODA and grant finance to de-risk priority water investments using a variety of innovative financial instruments and sources. These include sovereign wealth funds, guarantees, commercial finance, institutional investors, private equity investors, foundations, value-based impact investments, and climate finance.

Water insecurity poses increased risks to business by increasing operational costs, disrupting essential supply chains, and impacting job creation. Data from CDP (formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project), collected from the world's largest and most influential companies, highlights that climate and environmental risks are central to global risk perceptions for the coming decade – and remain the risks for which the world is least prepared. Water risks are just as material to financial institutions; CDP's engagement with institutions including 108 central banks confirms that nature-related risks could have significant macroeconomic implications, and that failure to account for, mitigate, and adapt to these implications is a source of risks for individual financial institutions as well as to overall financial stability. Storms, floods, and droughts could cause economic disruptions and losses of USD5.6 trillion by 2050[15].

Bridging the financing gap also requires democratising access to water-related data and empowering communities, civic actors, and local stakeholders to actively engage in investment decisions, influence project prioritisation, and enhance transparency and accountability in water-related financial flows.

With a global outreach involving the public and private sectors, GWP is positioned to mobilise public–private partnerships, which are essential to connecting the supply of finance from a variety of sources with the demand for finance through investment-ready projects. Such outreach can also **promote the restoration of nature through sustainable finance**, including payment for ecosystem services, water-related debt-for-nature swaps, or water bonds and funds for the protection of water reserves and groundwater recharge areas.

However, unlocking public and private finance hinges on strengthening the enabling environment and project pipelines. Dedicated **project development facilities are needed to generate a pipeline of bankable projects tailored to varied investor profiles** – from commercial investors to concessional funders. Strong financial governance and transparent dissemination of opportunities, including through matchmaking platforms, are critical to attract interest and build investor confidence.

Beyond providing finance, **the private sector must be engaged as a responsible co-implementer in achieving water security,** with clear accountability frameworks that align private investments and water use with broader climate resilience and social impact goals. Significant private sector mobilisation has taken place in recent years to recognise water as both a risk factor – in physical, regulatory, and reputational terms – and an investment opportunity. Much of this mobilisation has generated strong commitments from private sector entities toward achieving a 'net positive water impact' through water replenishment and corporate water stewardship. Given its unique role with the public sector, GWP is well positioned to translate these commitments into public–private investment opportunities that are in line with global frameworks such as the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

At the same time, many public water budgets remain underutilised, with an average execution rate of just 72 percent[16]. **Strengthening financial management systems to improve budget absorption and demonstrate accountability will be essential to justify increased public investment.** Finally, financial regulations and legal instruments – common in other sectors like energy – must be developed or adapted for water to provide incentives (and disincentives), reduce transaction costs, and promote standardisation, thus laying the foundation for a more mature and responsive water finance ecosystem.

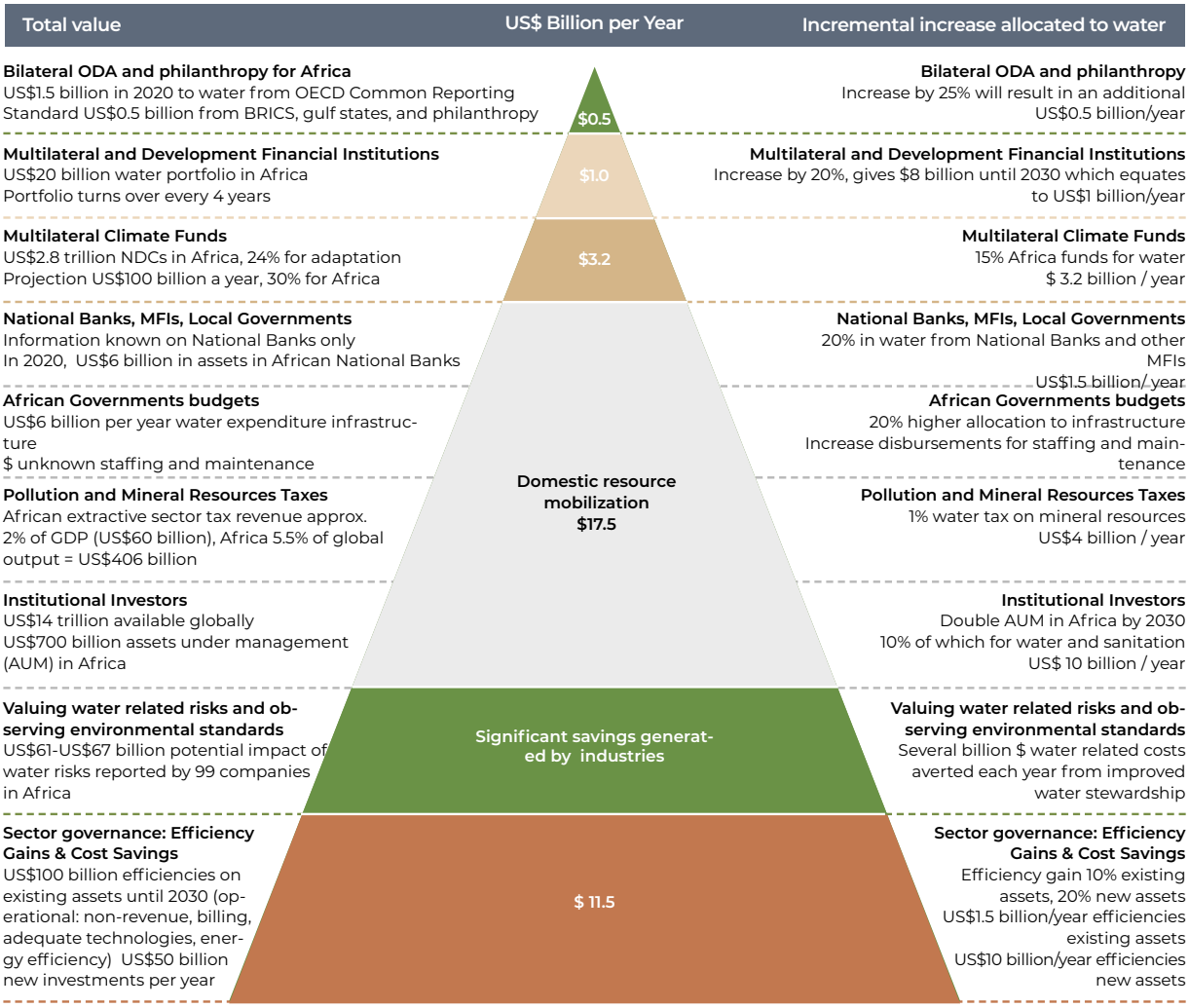
The African Union's **Pyramid of Water Investment Transformation** and its defined pathways will serve as a strategic framework to improve the impact of water investments, leverage finance, and mobilise both domestic and global financing (see Fig. 4). The Pyramid emerged at the UN 2023 Water Conference as a strategic model, outlined by the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme, identifying potential sources of finance that could enable Africa to meet its annual water investment target of USD30 billion by 2030. GWP and its partners will replicate and scale up such transformation initiatives globally, tailored to regional contexts in Asia, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean, to support mobilisation and deployment of water investments. Through this approach, GWP aims to identify priority finance sources and work with countries and partners to strengthen investment readiness, prepare project pipelines, and unlock scaled, long-term financing for climate-resilient water security.

Digital transformation, including AI-informed project diagnostics, real-time financial tracking, and predictive analytics, should be integrated into the water finance ecosystem to improve efficiency, enhance investor confidence, and ensure that financing is aligned with the principles of IWRM 2.0 – a digitally connected, inclusive, and climate-resilient governance.

By 2030, GWP targets to influence USD15 billion and mobilise USD500 million, with at least 30 countries supported to access finance from new sources. It will:

- **Support countries to leverage digital transformation, democratised data platforms, and innovative technologies** including AI to improve water efficiency, reduce foundational inefficiencies, and ensure that water investments are inclusive, transparent, and aligned with long-term sustainability goals.
- **Define and aggregate varied sources of finance** while providing technical assistance in the preparation of investment-ready project pipelines.
- **Engage public, private, and development partners to co-design regional and national water investment programmes and develop pipelines** that bridge the gap between water management financing needs and investor expectations.
- **Facilitate and promote adoption and implementation of blended finance solutions** including investment guarantees to unlock a broader range of funding sources from the private sector while increasing the efficiency and impact of public water-related investments.
- **Equip countries with tools and technical assistance to value water as an economic, social, and ecological asset** – capturing scarcity, ecosystem services, and long-term climate resilience.
- **Work with governments and partners to identify and reform public subsidies** – particularly in agriculture and industry – that lead to overuse, inefficiency, and degradation of water resources.

Figure 4. African Union High Level Panel Pyramid of Water Investment Transformation with finance sources for at least USD 30 billion/year by 2030.[17] [1]



3.2 Strategic Goal 2: Governance

Improve national water governance and transboundary cooperation in the water and water-related sectors to support the achievement of water security for all

Water crises are usually governance crises. Technical solutions often exist, but the challenge is translating them into who does what, at which level, how, and with what resources. Water challenges are embedded across the economy and society and are often overlapping. **Users**

1 ODA: Official development assistance; OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; BRICS: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa; NDC: Nationally Determined Contribution; MFI: Monetary Financial Institution: GDP: Gross Domestic Product.

therefore require an integrated approach to strengthen and improve water governance, building on over two decades of IWRM and promoting nature-based solutions, regenerative approaches, and rehabilitation of ecosystems at all levels. Recognising that water serves as a conduit for pressures from land-based activities on the marine environment, GWP will implement and promote systemic approaches to address challenges across the source-to-sea continuum and support blue economy initiatives.

GWP will focus attention on countries that have not achieved major governance improvements, while also sustaining support to regulatory reforms in countries where progress has been made.

There is limited cooperation in managing transboundary waters, leading to a lack of governance mechanisms to address change and uncertainty, especially during climate crises. This hampers economic growth, human well-being, and environmental sustainability. Additionally, resource variability and weak institutions can fuel political tensions over shared waters.

GWP will mobilise high-level decision-makers, including heads of state and government and business leaders, to undertake essential reforms to improve water governance and the enabling environment for water investments. **GWP will ensure that high-level water-related commitments on water governance at all levels become embedded in national plans and budgets, including NDCs and NAPs.**

The growing availability of new water technologies, including advances in digital technology – from AI and data analytics to remote sensing and real-time monitoring – is transforming the way water is managed. However, the effective deployment of these tools depends on strong water governance. Governance systems set the rules for how data is collected, shared, and used; who has access to technology; and how decisions are made based on digital insights. This is especially true in transboundary water bodies. Well-governed water systems can harness technological innovation to improve efficiency, accountability, and resilience. **Strengthening the interface between governance and technology is therefore essential for realising the full potential of digital transformation in water management.**

The private sector is one of the largest and most influential users of water across multiple industries – including agriculture, manufacturing, energy, and services. As such, it has a direct stake in effective water governance. Poorly governed water systems create operational and regulatory risks, supply chain disruptions, and reputational challenges for businesses. Conversely, strong, inclusive, and transparent governance frameworks can help manage water resources more equitably and predictably; this gives companies the continuity in access to water of sufficient quality and quantity that they need to do business, within the context of the watersheds and communities where they operate. Water governance serves as the critical interface between public interest and private action, shaping how water is accessed, used, and protected across the economy. **Many private companies have committed to being good water stewards, and GWP will collaborate with such companies to align their stewardship strategies with efforts aiming to improve water governance.**

In the context of the current global climate emergency, digital transformation and shifting development paradigm, GWP will initiate global processes to upgrade, strengthen and position IWRM 2.0 at the forefront of a globally relevant, digitally connected, inclusive, and climate-smart water governance paradigm in the post-2030 sustainable development agenda.

The rapid advancement of new water technologies – including AI, predictive analytics, digital twins, remote sensing, and real-time monitoring – is fundamentally reshaping how water is governed and managed. However, realising the full potential of these tools requires more than technical solutions. It demands deliberate efforts to **strengthen governance systems that determine how data is generated responsibly, shared, and used;** who has equitable access to emerging technologies; and how decisions are made based on digital insights.

Beyond technical efficiency, democratising access to water-related data and digital platforms is essential to empower citizens, communities, and marginalised groups so they can engage meaningfully in water governance. Transparent, inclusive governance frameworks that integrate frontier technologies can improve not only efficiency but also accountability, equity, and resilience. Strengthening the interface between governance, digital transformation, and civic empowerment is essential for unlocking the transformative potential of IWRM 2.0.

By 2030, GWP targets to influence 150 water governance improvements and outcomes. It will:

- **Mobilise high-level commitments to improve the enabling environment for water investments** with strong, forward-looking, inclusive, and transparent governance systems as an essential driving force for long-term climate-resilient water investments.
- **Support countries in strengthening water governance policies, plans, and systems for inclusive, equitable, and climate-resilient water management and investments,** creating the conditions necessary for private sector investment co-development at scale.
- **Strengthen water diplomacy, transboundary water management, and cooperation** to enable the sustainable management of shared water resources between countries and communities.
- **Articulate a clear, forward-looking vision for IWRM 2.0 beyond the 2030 Agenda** to position GWP at the forefront of a globally relevant, digitally connected, inclusive, and climate-smart water governance paradigm.
- **Engage the private sector as a responsible user, source of innovation, and responsible co-investor** to support private water use that aligns with broader societal and environmental priorities, minimises negative externalities, and maximises sustainable investment opportunities.
- **Support the deployment and scaling of innovative water efficiency technologies through improved governance mechanisms** that facilitate their adoption and implementation.
- **Support country-led water partnerships** that convene public, private, academic, civil society, and multilateral actors to strengthen water governance and management.

3.3 Strategic Goal 3: Knowledge, Capacity, Data, and Digital Transformation

Build and increase the capacity of institutions, professionals, service providers, and systems, and strengthen the generation, sharing, and application of water data and knowledge to accelerate water security for all

Digital Transformation is a key enabler, integral to advancing finance, governance, and capacity in the rapidly evolving water and climate landscape. **Achieving water security is constrained by a paucity of data, and by inadequate engagement of citizens and communities as active users of data and information** to influence governance and financing decisions, from the local to the national level. Democratisation of data for civic empowerment is essential to inform investment decision-making processes and implement sustainable water solutions at scale.

Strengthened institutions with skilled professionals and supportive knowledge systems[18] can inform decision-making, drive innovation, and sustain implementation. Credible data and readily available information on how the availability or lack of water, of sufficient quantity and quality, will constrain development and investments is essential to inform investment decisions. **Capacity, knowledge, and data require strengthening at different scales, from the individual to the institutional and the sector-wide.** Further, strengthening citizens' active engagement, beyond generic participation, is essential in today's context of shifting global geopolitics, democratic fragility, and the need for bottom-up accountability.

Given their fundamental importance to the achievement of water security for all, capacity and data requirements need to be deeply understood. That requires detailed capacity assessments that not only capture all the different capacity requirements, but also propose realistic ways of developing the required capacities, given the time needed to train cadres and strengthen institutions. In developing capacity, sustainability is a vital consideration; therefore, implementation measures need to have a medium- to long-term perspective.

Achieving water security for all requires stronger collaboration with the public and private sector and across sectors, and clear data and information flows to enable better planning, funding, and partnerships. Capacity development will increase the quality of implementation and make interventions more sustainable. Capacity, knowledge, and data on finance and project pipeline development are particularly important, and cut across all three Strategic Goals.

Institutional and human resource capacity is critical for enhancing the impact of water investments, as well as their sustainability, performance, and efficiency. To nurture and retain talent, institutions need to be able to incentivise career development and adequately remunerate staff. To achieve this, the water sector needs to become better at attracting school leavers and university graduates to choose a career in water.

By 2030, GWP targets to support at least 60 countries with improved data to manage water and inform investment decisions and train at least 500 professionals (50 percent men, 50 percent women). It will:

- **Promote digital transformation as a key enabler to advance finance, governance, data, and capacity** to inform water investment decisions.
- **Develop country capacity to prepare water data relevant for informing water management and investment decision-making,** working with partners to strengthen frameworks for enhanced and robust data, develop water investment dashboards and scorecards, and build up relevant existing country platforms to collect data.
- **Support capacity needs assessments to inform capacity development plans tailored to national and sub-national contexts,** while encouraging skills transfer from public and private actors in adjacent sectors such as finance, digital technologies, data analytics/AI, and system thinking into water institutions.
- **Support long-term institutional strengthening,** including the strengthening and development of project development facilities and strengthening of GWP water knowledge hubs and communities of practices to facilitate knowledge exchange; learning resources will be developed on finance, water governance, project development, data analytics, and climate adaptation.
- **Promote an inclusive water workforce that creates career pathways for women, youth, and underrepresented groups,** while further strengthening communities of practice to promote participation, peer-to-peer learning, exchange of experience, and the co-creation of practical, equitable solutions.
- **Support governments, training institutions, academic partners, and multilateral agencies to design and deliver regional and national capacity development programmes,** tailored to the local needs and contexts.
- **Promote bottom-up accountability through democratisation of data for civic empowerment,** and position citizens and communities as active users of data to influence governance and financing decisions from the local to national level.

Photo: Nikolai Kovachev

4

STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS

The implementation of the Strategic Goals will be achieved primarily through the activities identified under five Strategic Interventions.

Table 1 provides some example topics which GWP will focus on, mapped across the five Strategic Interventions and three Strategic Goals. The five Strategic Interventions are:

Table 1. Five Strategic Interventions to meet the three Strategic Goals

	Strategic Goal 1: Finance and Investments
STRATEGIC INTERVENTION 1: MOBILISE HIGH-LEVEL COMMITMENTS	• Establish cross-sectoral political leadership at the highest level, with commitment to substantially increase public budgets for water. • Influence high-level commitments for water investments. • Mobilise of climate finance commitments and investments in collaboration with MDBs, climate funds, and the private sector. • Mobilise commitments to increase allocation of national budgets for water security and climate resilience programmes. • Use AI and emerging technologies to inform investment decisions-making and financial transparency. • Mobilise the private sector as accountable co-investors in water security, with clear stewardship benchmarks.

Strategic Goal 2: Governance

- Integrate and prioritise water security in national development plans, NDCs, and NAPs.
- Democratise water data, empowering citizens to influence governance and capital allocation.
- Enhance governance frameworks that engage the private sector as responsible contributors to water security.
- Mobilise high-level commitments for strengthened water governance to address the priority needs at local, national, and transboundary levels.

Strategic Goal 3: Knowledge, Capacity, Data, and Digital Transformation

- Generate and sustain commitment to improve capacity development and knowledge management.
- Develop business cases, dashboards, and scorecards to inform high-level decision-makers on water investments.
- Promote sustainable use of AI and digital transformation to track and develop tools for engagement of high-level decision-makers.
- Expand AI and digital transformation as systemic enablers, not just technical tools.
- Develop capacity for communities and civic actors to use data to influence water decisions and to promote and implement local projects for the sustainable management and conservation of water resources and their associated ecosystems.

Strategic Goal 1: Finance and Investments

STRATEGIC INTERVENTION 2:

BUILD PARTNERSHIPS, CAPACITY, AND MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

- Track and report on progress to enhance mutual accountability across the water investment value chain including pipeline development, strengthening enabling environment, realizing financial commitments, achieving financial closure, investment implementation, timely execution of approved projects with successful absorption of financing, and impact monitoring.
- Mobilise financing for innovative water management technologies and land purchases for the conservation of water recharge zones and fragile and biologically important aquatic ecosystems.
- Mobilise finance for data platforms and community engagement tools.
- Engage private sector contributions in transparency and accountability systems to unlock finance flows.

Strategic Goal 2: Governance

- Undertake international (e.g. SDG Voluntary National Reviews) and national (e.g. joint sector reviews) review processes and platforms.
- Implement transboundary and sub-national water management processes.
- Provide SDG 6 monitoring support.
- Promote governance systems that support the sustainable use of AI and the uptake of new technologies.
- Institutionalise open data platforms for civic use in governance processes.
- Strengthen private sector accountability within mutual accountability frameworks.
- Promote ethical AI governance tied to transparent decision-making.

Strategic Goal 3: Knowledge, Capacity, Data, and Digital Transformation

- Promote digital transformation as a key enabler, integral to advancing finance, governance, and capacity.
- Develop and sustain data information systems.
- Develop partnership capacity to strengthen accountability.
- Strengthen capacity for water use efficiency, including using new technologies.
- Instigate knowledge transfer of innovative practices, including from the private sector.
- Develop citizen-oriented data platforms linked to capacity building.
- Train stakeholders in ethical and inclusive application of AI and digital tools.
- Engage the private sector in co-developing capacity programmes.

Strategic Goal 1: Finance and Investments

STRATEGIC INTERVENTION 3:

ACCELERATE REGIONAL, TRANSBOUNDARY, NATIONAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMMES AND PROJECT PIPELINES

- Support development of regional, transboundary, and national climate-resilient water investment programmes and projects.
- Strengthen project development facilities.
- Prepare pipeline of investment-ready projects targeted for funding sources.
- Undertake pre-feasibility assessment of projects for funding.
- Promote implementation and funding for water investment programmes.
- Leverage innovative finance for projects that integrate civic data access and citizen oversight.
- Ensure that financing frameworks foster greater private sector governance commitments.
- Enhance stakeholder participation in project preparation.

Strategic Goal 2: Governance

- Support development and implementation of regional and basin water policies and transboundary water investment programmes.
- Promote and enable the implementation of global conventions for the management of shared water resources.
- Implement and promote systemic approaches to address challenges across sectors and the source-to-sea continuum, and support blue economy initiatives using the water–energy–food–ecosystems nexus and source-to-sea approaches.
- Establish continental and regional partnerships and dialogues, to catalyse action and financing for the management of transboundary water bodies and source-to-sea systems.
- Support countries and river basin organisations in informed decision making through information and data sharing, and the development of decision support tools to enhance cooperation and manage drought and flood risks.
- Support development and implementation of water policies, regulations and plans.
- Strengthen governance structures that enable community-driven monitoring and feedback loops.
- Establish opportunities for the private sector to contribute to governance outcomes in project pipelines.

Strategic Goal 3: Knowledge, Capacity, Data, and Digital Transformation

- Develop capacity to formulate regional and national water investment programmes to close the water investment gap.
- Strengthen institutional capacities, water infrastructure, and information systems to support water management at the national, regional, and local levels.
- Strengthen capacity of project development facilities at the national, regional, and local levels, considering community water and sanitation service organisations.
- Utilise evidence to inform project preparation.
- Strengthen institutional capacity to integrate frontier technologies in project development.
- Build knowledge hubs supporting AI, data, and civic empowerment for modern water management.
- Develop capacities of countries and river basin organisations for transboundary water management, including to negotiate and establish institutional and legal arrangements for cooperation.
- Strengthen institutional capacity to implement systemic approaches for water resources management, such as the water–energy–food–ecosystems nexus and source-to-sea approaches.

Strategic Goal 1: Finance and Investments

STRATEGIC INTERVENTION 4:

UNLOCK INNOVATIVE BLENDED PUBLIC–PRIVATE FINANCE

- Mobilise new sources of funding and innovative finance.
- Support countries to leverage ODA and grant finance to de-risk priority water investments.
- Promote adoption of innovative financial instruments and sources, including sovereign wealth funds, guarantees, commercial finance, institutional investors, philanthropy, private equity investors, foundations, and impact investors.
- Establish matchmaking mechanisms between project pipelines, including water replenishment commitments, and public investment priorities.
- Tie blended finance and private sector participation to measurable water security and social impact outcomes.
- Use AI for real-time tracking of finance deployment and civic monitoring.

Strategic Goal 2: Governance

- Strengthen water sector regulation and efficiency.
- Promote access to cheaper finance through adapted governance mechanisms.
- Institutionalise service provider benchmarking and performance incentives.
- Promote innovative finance and provide viability gap funding for projects that are not commercially viable by leveraging climate finance, ODA, and grant finance.
- Embed governance safeguards ensuring private sector investments align with water security and accountability.
- Regulate AI and digital tools to enhance governance transparency.

Strategic Goal 3: Knowledge, Capacity, Data, and Digital Transformation

- Leverage and strengthen existing project preparation facilities for climate-resilient water investments across the entire value chain of water supply and sanitation.
- Raise capacity to mobilise funding through innovative strategies and aggregate multiple funding sources that can be rapidly deployed to selected projects.
- Establish platforms for AI-driven capacity building linked to financing and accountability.
- Embed private sector collaboration in advancing knowledge on water technologies.

Strategic Goal 1: Finance and Investments

STRATEGIC INTERVENTION 5:

ADVANCE CLIMATE RESILIENCE, GENDER EQUALITY, AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

- Leverage finance and investments for strengthening climate resilience via water, including for flood and drought management.
- Ensure gender and social inclusion criteria in project financing.
- Mobilise resources to support climate-resilient, gender-inclusive, and tech-enabled water solutions.
- Incentivise private sector innovations that strengthen climate resilience and empower marginalised groups within water investments.

Strategic Goal 2: Governance

- Establish gender-responsive flood and drought early warning systems and management plans.
- Support development and updating of inclusive NAPs and NDCs.
- Include gender-transformative principles in water project design.
- Advance gender outcome monitoring.
- Strengthen governance mechanisms for inclusion by providing marginalised groups with data access and engagement platforms.
- Facilitate private sector accountability in achieving gender and social inclusion outcomes.

Strategic Goal 3: Knowledge, Capacity, Data, and Digital Transformation

- Strengthen capacity to formulate the climate rationale of water projects, integrating gender aspects.
- Develop capacity to integrate inclusive climate and water policies and planning processes.
- Promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in water investments.
- Develop tools to assist governments in addressing systemic inequalities in decision-making, planning, and implementation of investments by fostering gender transformation.
- Advance participatory water management.
- Prioritise capacity building in gender.
- Integrate digital inclusion and technology skills into gender-focused capacity building.
- Use AI and data tools to empower women and marginalised groups as agents of change.

4.1 Mobilise high-level commitments

GWP will engage high-level political and private sector leaders to mobilise commitments to scale up climate-resilient investments for a water secure world

The world will not become water secure if political and private sector leaders do not recognise the centrality of water in the achievement of social and economic development and peacebuilding in their countries and operations. It is vital too that political leaders – at all levels from the national down to the local – see the vital role of water security in building resilience to climate change and other natural and human-made disasters. Furthermore, political support has to be translated into robust policies and programmes that are adequately financed. Commitments through key national planning documents (e.g. NAPs and NDCs), similar plans at decentralised and local levels, and international frameworks (e.g. the Paris Agreement, SDGs, and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction) is vital for sustaining political support and enabling assessment through common review mechanisms. They form the basis for mutual accountability (see Strategic Intervention 2).

As an example of mobilising high-level commitments, the International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa was established in 2022, comprising current and former heads of state and global leaders. The Panel's purpose is to establish cross-sectoral political leadership at the highest level, with commitment to substantially increase public budgets and investments for water security and sustainable sanitation. The Panel developed actionable pathways for countries to mobilise at least an additional USD30 billion annually by 2030, and strongly advocates for making water security a national and continental priority[19]. Climate-resilient water investment programmes are being developed and endorsed by heads of state. Such a model is being adapted and upscaled for implementation in other GWP regions.

Success in mobilising national and international commitments will result in:

- Commitments made by national and sub-national governments to achieve water security targets, including greater attention to governance and capacity building and increasing public financing for water security.
- Commitments from the multilateral system to support governments with governance reform, technical assistance, capacity, and financing.
- Development of national climate-resilient water investment programmes endorsed by heads of state.
- Inclusion of water security (in all its aspects) in NDCs and NAPs, e.g. with targets and committed budgets.
- The embedding of water in climate, energy, food security, and economic development agendas.
- Increased water investments in climate and biodiversity finance.
- Budget commitments from riparian countries to support agreed transboundary cooperation arrangements.

4.2 Build partnerships, capacity, and mutual accountability

GWP will work in partnerships, empowering countries to take a data-driven approach to strengthen transparency, efficiency, accountability, and capacity in water governance and investment preparation and financing

Information and data are vital to identify investments that are cost-effective and sustainable and implement governance reforms that are impactful. Hence, appropriate knowledge systems are needed that define, collect, synthesise, and utilise data appropriately. This includes platforms for monitoring, review, evaluation, and dissemination of evidence, which provides transparency, encourages collaboration, and enables accountability.

Financial pledges made to support water security by development finance organisations (e.g. the UN, MDBs, and bilateral agencies) and national governments need to be monitored and agencies held to account for failure to deliver. To implement this requires us to leverage the GWP Network, establishing and maintaining strategic alliances and partnerships with governments, non-governmental organisations, financial institutions, and other water stakeholders to strengthen accountability mechanisms. GWP is well positioned to strengthen the capacity of partners, including civil society groups and industry associations, to support their participation.

Regional, sub-regional, transboundary, and global platforms are needed to strengthen mutual accountability between countries, and also between countries and the communities they serve. These platforms should learn from and harmonise with existing accountability platforms such as the SDG Voluntary National Reviews[20] and the Sanitation and Water for All Mutual Accountability Mechanism[21]. National review processes and platforms such as joint sector reviews need to be strengthened, institutionalised, and informed by SDG 6 monitoring – including indicator 6.5.1[22], which GWP has supported monitoring over the years through its joint programme with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Transboundary water security is vital for equity across nations and fostering peace and security. This should be implemented in cooperation with the emerging Global Transboundary Coalition as well as relevant basin organisations. A crucial dimension of strengthening accountability lies in ensuring transparent, timely, and equitable access to data that enables community participation and supports evidence-based decision-making. Empowering communities with accessible, disaggregated data enhances accountability to drive progress on water resources management.

For example, in Africa, the African Union's Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) and Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) Water Investment Scorecard supports countries to track progress, set benchmarks, identify bottlenecks, and take action to meet each of their water investment needs. The AIP-PIDA Scorecard model is being adapted and upscaled for implementation in other GWP regions.

The appropriate and sustainable use of AI can contribute valuably to these aims. GWP will responsibly promote and use AI for water management, recognising that AI is itself

dependent on water and impacts water resources (see Box 2). AI provides exciting opportunities to manage water more efficiently, reduce costs, and enhance sustainability. GWP will identify needs on the ground for the use of AI (that justify its high water and energy usage) and will selectively use AI, for example, to help collect data for the Water Investment Scorecard; to identify sources of finance and help matchmake suppliers and users of finance; to analyse investment pipelines; and to enhance information availability to different stakeholders.

Success in enhancing mutual accountability will result in:

- Commitments by national governments to implement a Water Investment Scorecard.
- Commitments by national governments to undergo a Voluntary National Review for SDG 6.
- Countries reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.1 in a multi-stakeholder environment.
- Evidence-based water sector reviews and strengthened water review platforms.
- Formal data sharing arrangements established.

Box 2. Potential applications of AI in water management and water service delivery

While many of the following improvements have already been made through technological advances in recent decades, there is significant potential for AI to further enhance efficiency and reduce costs. It may contribute to:

- Improved water demand forecasting.
- Leak detection and prevention.
- Improved water quality.
- Water distribution optimisation.
- Real-time monitoring and analysis.
- Wastewater treatment optimisation.
- Infrastructure management.
- Emergency event prediction and rapid response.
- Smart irrigation systems.
- Predictive maintenance, energy optimisation, and automation.
- Promotion of social equity.
- Identification of fragile ecosystems of great biological importance.
- Water conservation support.

To capture these benefits, significant investments may be needed, such as in sensors, meters, satellite imagery, computing capacity, and human resources. However, these **investments in technological advancements also create opportunities**

to engage youth, foster entrepreneurship, and generate jobs by nurturing a new generation of innovators, technicians, and data-driven professionals in the water sector.

As with all new technologies, **AI comes with challenges and ethical considerations, which must be taken seriously.** Most importantly, the privacy and security of water data must be assured. Transparency and accountability in AI-driven water management systems is required, with human oversight and ability to override AI-managed systems. Also, while AI can create new job opportunities, it is important to address potential job displacement through upskilling and reskilling programmes.

AI is itself dependent on water and impacts water resources: in the mining of raw materials required for computers, phones, and sensors; the production process, transport and packaging for the product; cloud storage (chips and cooling systems); and end of life (dumping, disposal, or recycling). These water demands and impacts need to be fully understood and costed, and measures taken to minimise water impact and environmental impact, including greenhouse gas emissions.

An integrated approach is essential to ensure that the use of new technologies has an overall positive impact on water management and use of natural resources.

4.3 Accelerate regional, transboundary, national investment programmes and project pipelines

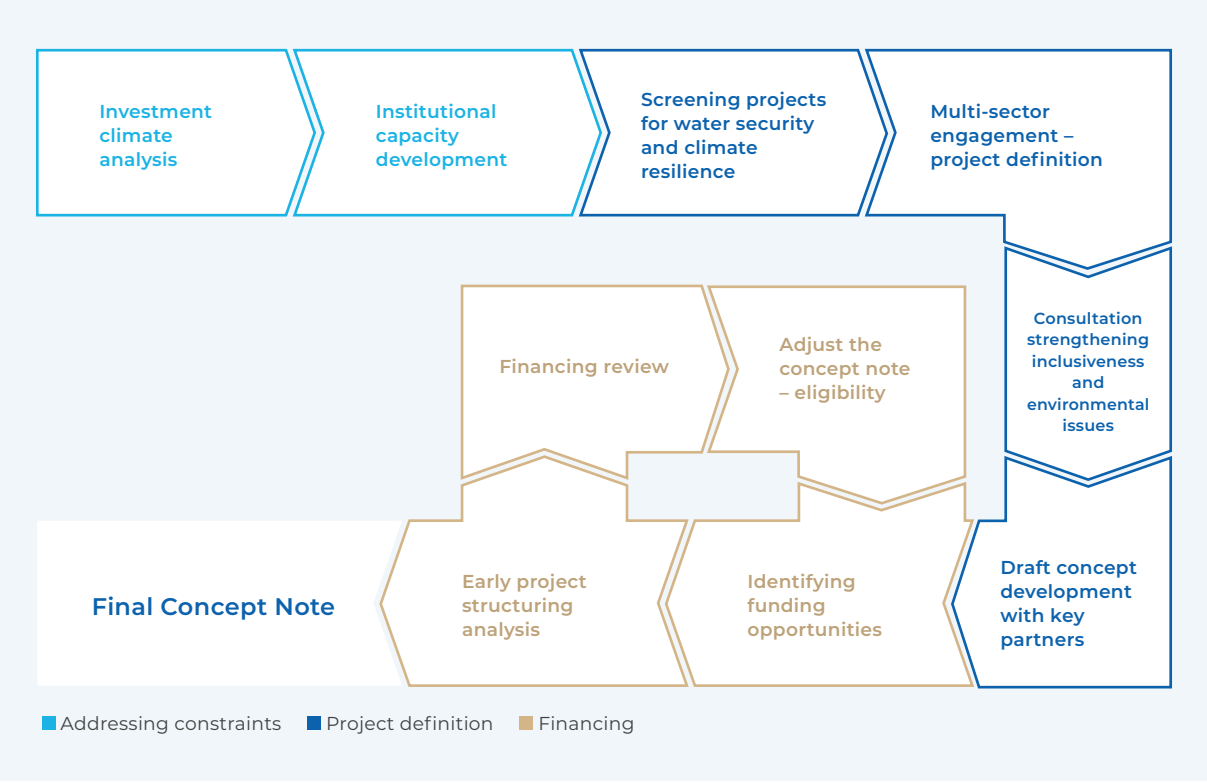
GWP will support the development of regional, transboundary, and national climate-resilient water investment pipelines to attract investment from different financiers

GWP will develop the capacity of national and river basin organisations to formulate investment-ready project pipelines aligned with regional, transboundary, national, and local water investment programmes. The project development cycle of any project includes well-established steps, from initial concept through prefeasibility to feasibility, basic design, financing, detailed design, contracting, construction, commissioning, and operation and maintenance. Specialist support is required to ensure that the cycle responds effectively to local priority needs, enhances the attractiveness of water investment projects, improves upstream project development, and helps attract funding for carrying out detailed feasibility studies.

Based on GWP's experience, key areas of weakness in project preparation are inadequate support for early-stage project development, low stakeholder involvement, and poor prioritisation of vulnerable groups. It is important, therefore, to invest time and resources

into ensuring that the deliverables in the early concept development stage are robust, and to ensure there are enough financial and human resources to support each phase of project development. GWP has developed a framework outlining essential steps to enhance early-stage project conceptualisation and stakeholder engagement and ensure better preparation and financing of projects (see Fig. 5).

Figure 5. Early-stage concept development process support



Source: Africa Water Investment Support Programme to Water, Climate, Development and Gender (AIP WACDEP-G).

GWP will partner with MDBs, the private sector, and other key development finance institutions in advancing project development from early-stage conceptualisation to full feasibility, structuring, and financial close. Working directly with countries, project sponsors, and developers, GWP will support countries to access large-scale project and investment finance through a mix of grants, loans, private equity, and other instruments already in place with MDBs and others (see Strategic Intervention 4).

Success in developing project pipelines will result in:

- Project development facilities set up or strengthened.
- Investible water projects conceptualised and developed.
- Climate-resilient Water Investment Plans supported that incorporate project pipelines and feed into national and sub-national plans and budgets.

4.4 Unlock innovative blended public–private finance

GWP will work with partners to unlock blended finance for water security and climate resilience

Achieving water security requires countries to spend several percent of their GDP, which is a multiple of current spending volumes. To fill the gap, finance will need to be mobilised from several sources – including new ones – depending on their potential in each context. By capturing efficiency gains at water system and service provider levels, the amount needed for investment as well as recurrent expenditure can be reduced considerably[23].

Some investments are better suited to public and concessional finance, while some can attract private investors, and others are amenable to blended finance. In all cases, steps need to be taken to strengthen the enabling environment for water investments, or the 'investment climate', and a range of finance options need to be actively sought and lobbied for. These actions link to Strategic Intervention 3 on project development.

Credible financial vehicles are needed to blend public and private finance from a range of institutions or investor types. Blended investment mechanisms support countries to leverage ODA and grant finance to de-risk priority water investments using a variety of innovative financial instruments. Finance sources include sovereign wealth funds, commercial finance, institutional investors, private equity investors, ODA, foundations, value-based impact investors, and climate finance. Public–private partnership institutional investor model laws exist and can be adopted by countries[24].

Whether as part of these mechanisms or separately, continental and country-level platforms are needed that match funding sources to investment opportunities, projects, and programmes seeking finance. Matchmaking platforms supported by GWP will focus on gender-transformative, climate-resilient, and blended public-private finance, and will match companies' existing commitments, such as 'net positive water impact', with public investment needs. To achieve water security under resource constraints, it is vital that international technical and financial cooperation is better aligned and harmonised behind nationally owned climate-resilient water investment programmes that include regional and transboundary elements (see Strategic Intervention 3). GWP will play a major role in advocating for harmonisation and designing more efficient and equitable international cooperation.

Another key aspect GWP will support is the regulation of the water sector. Regulation and a mandated, independent, and well-resourced regulator give 'teeth' to water laws, policies, and strategies; they incentivise appropriate actions, disincentivise inappropriate actions, and attract water investments. Regulators need to be resourced and incentives have to be in place to stand up to industry lobbyists who seek to minimise penalties or avoid scrutiny. Financial incentives, benchmarking initiatives, and dissemination of good practices on IWRM regulation can positively incentivise water stewardship efforts and ecosystem protection across multiple industries and water users. GWP will therefore help raise awareness and develop the capacity of a range of stakeholders, including the private sector.

Success in innovative finance will result in:

- Leverage of public and private capital for climate-resilient water services.
- Mobilisation of large-scale institutional investors.
- Governments able to access cheaper capital for water security.
- ODA aligned behind climate-resilient water investment programmes.
- Strengthening of the private sector and efficiency measures for service providers.
- Funding agreements for water-responsive NAPs and NDCs..
- Service performance and water user practices improved through regulation.

4.5 Advance climate resilience, gender equality, and social inclusion

GWP will support the integration of water in climate resilience planning and investments and will promote equal opportunities for women, girls, youth, and marginalised groups in the design and implementation of all climate-resilient water investments

To strengthen resilience, GWP will support countries in accessing climate finance for water-related projects by enhancing institutional readiness, facilitating project design, and promoting inclusive, multi-stakeholder engagement. GWP's focus will include both built and natural water infrastructure, institutional capacity, and data systems – critical components for sustainable growth, equity, and ecosystem health. By convening key stakeholders, GWP aims to break down sectoral silos and accelerate coordinated, resilient investment and planning.

GWP will promote integrated planning across the water, climate, development, disaster risk management – in particular floods and droughts – and finance sectors. It will support the integration of water into national climate adaptation and development processes, with particular focus on countries' updates of their NDCs and NAPs.

The inclusive design and implementation of water investments can have a transformative impact on society, not only from the significant proportion of benefits that accrue to women, children, and vulnerable groups, but from the improved development and climate resilience outcomes for economies and society at large. inclusive water projects are proven to be six to seven times more effective when women are actively involved in their design and delivery[25]. Participatory irrigation projects in countries like Ethiopia, Egypt, and Argentina have demonstrated improved governance, greater rule compliance, and more efficient resource use when women are engaged in decision-making[26].

Such transformative outcomes highlight the need for greater integration of women and marginalised groups into institutional decision-making processes – from village-level planning to national infrastructure schemes. The GWP Strategy 2026–2030 builds on the achievements of, and is informed by the lessons from, the Africa Water Investment Support Programme to Water, Climate, Development and Gender (AIP WACDEP-G)

programme, which aims to promote gender equality along with water security and climate resilience impacts[27].

Between 2026 and 2030, GWP's work will, at minimum, adopt gender-mainstreamed approaches. In other words, it will systematically integrate gender considerations into policies, programmes, and projects, to ensure that both women and men benefit and that gender inequality is not perpetuated. Furthermore, wherever possible, it will employ gender-transformative approaches that actively seek to transform power relations, strengthen institutional structures, and empower individual agency to address the root causes of harmful gender norms, roles, and inequalities.

GWP understands that meaningfully harnessing gender equality and social inclusion outcomes requires knowledge and capacity, dedicated human and financial resources, and championing by organisational leadership as well as the highest political levels in countries and regional and global fora. For example, a gender analysis is essential to identify existing and potential inequalities and underlying causes and intersectionalities, while identification of entry points to strengthen equality and potential pathways to target must be informed through an analysis of the political economy of each particular context.

Building on its experience, GWP will from 2026 to 2030 scale out its promotion of gender-transformative approaches around the world, and continue to explore and innovate on strategies and programmatic approaches to strengthen gender equality and inclusion in water security.

Success in climate resilience, gender equality, and social inclusion in water will result in:

- Water and gender integrated in climate-related processes, including NAPs and NDCs.
- Access to climate finance for inclusive, resilience-building water projects.
- Gender-transformative and socially inclusive structures, institutions, policies, and plans for climate-resilient water investments and jobs.
- Stronger knowledge and capabilities among planners to enable gender-transformative and socially inclusive planning and design of climate-resilient investments.
- Embedded inequalities addressed, at the local level, around access to services and the control of resources and assets.
- Gender-transformative projects implemented and inequalities of climate-vulnerable groups addressed.

5

BUILDING ON THREE DECADES OF IMPACT AND RESULTS

The three Strategic Goals and five Strategic Interventions outlined above represent an evolution in GWP's strategic focus, which allows it to build on its two-decade-plus track record, leveraging the partnership's core areas of strength while refocusing attention to better address the major challenges the world faces as well as seize new opportunities. GWP's achievements and results are well recognised, with integrated approaches to water management now enshrined in regional, transboundary, and national water institutions, policies, laws, and regulations. GWP's experience and role in integrating climate-resilient water outcomes cut across all of these achievements:

Over USD2 billion of investments influenced

Over the last 10 years, the estimated value of investments influenced by GWP is over USD 2 billion. GWP has increasingly focused on supporting access to climate-related funds, including the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, Global Environment Facility, and NDC Partnership funds.

Over 200 governance improvements achieved

Since 2020, GWP has supported 200+ water-related policies, laws, institutions, instruments, and financing measures, resulting in stronger cross-sectoral water governance, improved water-related decision-making and investment planning, and access to climate finance to build resilience through water.

For over two decades, GWP has facilitated and supported the delivery of change processes through IWRM implementation across much of the world. GWP has a strong convening power, long-term partnerships, and an inclusive approach with governments, civil society, philanthropic organisations, and other development partners. GWP's long-term engagement, presence on the ground, local expertise, and strong partnerships have enabled it to identify and respond with adapted demand-driven approaches to achieve concrete water security outcomes. GWP has also become a trusted delivery partner to a wide range of international organisations, and has convened multi-stakeholder dialogues at the national, transboundary, regional, and global levels on water governance and security.

Over 90 countries and 25 transboundary basins supported with improved knowledge, connecting partners at all levels from the local to the global

Since its creation, GWP has supported water sector reforms in 90+ countries and 25 transboundary basins, contributing to national water policies, laws, and strategies; investment plans for water security and climate resilience; and regional and transboundary cooperation frameworks.

GWP has achieved this through enhanced knowledge for water management, leveraging the global expertise and knowledge of its partners, including the GWP Technical Committee, the IWRM Toolbox (Water Knowledge Hub), and associated communities of practice. GWP has led South–South and inter-regional knowledge exchanges, developed capacity and learning activities, and published hundreds of knowledge products to accelerate knowledge transfer. With its decentralised approach, GWP is in essence an enormous 'network of networks' within which a huge range of knowledge, skills, and capacities can be sourced. GWP has recently expanded its strategic approach to include both peer-to-peer interaction and the use of AI tools for water data management and governance processes. GWP's accumulated know-how has created a strategic niche which will be further enhanced.

Strengthened collaboration, global cooperation, and partnerships

Since its inception, GWP has focused on building and sustaining multi-stakeholder partnerships, platforms, and dialogues, with a focus on collective action at all scales. GWPO's status as an IGO, along with the Regional and Country Water Partnerships, provide a global network that has enabled connecting and brokering partnerships at all levels, including but not limited to UN-Water and the MDBs. GWP will strengthen engagement with its existing partners[28] as well as forge collaboration with emerging partners such as the Global Water Organization led by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The joint World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and GWP Associated Programme on Flood Management and Integrated Drought Management Programme, the UNEP-GWP SDG 6 Support Programme, and GWP's chairing of the UN-Water Innovation Task Force all demonstrate GWP's convening power and ability to work in partnership. The Secretariat for the African Union's AIP has also been provided by GWP's office in South Africa.

Neutral and impartial advocacy on key issues

As a global multi-stakeholder water network, GWP's role is critical to mobilise increased impact-led, cross-sectoral action to address the growing threats and complexity of multiple water-related challenges. The global to local coverage of GWP's multi-stakeholder water network positions it uniquely to make the climate crisis 'water wise', ensuring water challenges are at the front and centre of climate discussions at national, regional, continental and global fora, and driving further the integration of water in climate policies, strategies, and plans[29]. As a major champion of IWRM, GWP recognises the need for a new impetus behind the approach: aligning it with today's globally integrated agenda; expanding it to integrate new technologies; seeking cross-sectoral, cross-border, and cross-impact solutions; and more effectively engaging the private sector.

6

TURNING VISION INTO REALITY

6.1 Scaling up global engagement and partnerships

This section describes how GWP – through its three Strategic Goals – will contribute to its Vision of water security for all through global partnerships at all levels, and by mobilising leadership in global processes and programmatic vehicles at all levels.

Global Outlook Council on Water Investments – Mobilise G20 and global leadership

In August 2025, GWP supported the first-ever African Union AIP Water Investment Summit, convened under the G20 Presidency of South Africa. At the Summit, H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa and G20 President, launched the Global Outlook Council on Water Investments and the Global Water Investment Platform as the world's premier political and investment mechanisms on water, bringing together Heads of State, global leaders, and senior public and private sector representatives.

Building on the Summit's outcome of mobilising USD 10–12 billion in potential water investments, GWP will advance this G20 Presidential Legacy Initiative by supporting the Global Outlook Council and the Investment Platform to align the efforts of the G20, UN, multilateral development banks, and the private sector — positioning water as a global investment priority.

GWP will sharpen its leadership position as the global impact mobiliser of the water sector, support the vision of the UN Water Envoy, strengthen its engagement and collaboration with UN-Water, and contribute to implementation of UN water processes, including the 2026 UN Water Conference and other global processes to design the post-2030 agenda, building on long-term programmatic partnerships with UN-Water and others. GWP will leverage its global partners to connect water and climate-related global processes with continental, regional, national, and local frameworks, with a focus on the mobilisation and deployment of climate-resilient water investments.

Expand the membership of the GWPO intergovernmental organisation

In June 2025, GWPO officially opened its intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding for signature by new states and governments – for the first time in over 20 years. This marks a historic opportunity to shape global policy for a water secure world and represents a bold new chapter in global cooperation. GWPO will scale up by inviting states and governments to join the IGO and demonstrate the unity required to tackle the water crisis. Multilateral cooperation and mutual accountability are the bedrock of the Global Transformation Agenda – every Sponsoring Partner's contribution counts, and together they will uphold the highest standards of good governance, transparency, integrity, and impact.

In a world going through unprecedented shifts in multilateral and global cooperation, declining international development finance, mounting water crises, and a changing climate, GWPO invites and urges states and governments to unite in a transformative alliance to contribute to a water secure future for all. The stakes could not be higher – and the opportunity for leadership and collective action has never been more urgent.

GWPO will expand its diplomatic engagements through Strategic Partnership Liaison Envoys in key global locations such as Washington, New York, Brussels/London, Beijing, Geneva and Stockholm. Other strategic locations will be considered as may be necessary, including the Gulf region.

Programmatic vehicles

At the country level, overcoming siloed and fragmented approaches is critical to address the water crisis through innovative, cross-sectoral, and multi-stakeholder solutions. GWP has a key role in supporting governments in the formulation of priorities, project pipelines, and demand for financing – including submission of grant applications to MDBs and climate funds.

Accelerating progress on transboundary cooperation, in particular, will require mobilising political will, addressing data gaps, and scaling up capacity development and financing. GWP will continue playing a meaningful role in the transboundary agenda as a neutral global convener.

- **Global Water Investment Platform**

  Inaugurated under South Africa's G20 Presidency in August 2025, the Global Water Investment Platform (GIP) was launched as part of the Global Outlook Council on Water Investments. The GIP will serve as the world's premier high-level political and investment platform for water. It will track progress, unlock finance, report annually and align efforts across the G20, the UN, multilateral development banks, and the private sector.

  The Global Outlook Council on Water Investments will oversee the scaling up of the Africa Water Investment Programme into a Global Water Investment Platform, building on AIP's track record of success. Leveraging its experience in the development and implementation of the AIP, GWP will work closely with the Council to mobilise global and regional partners and establish similar investment programmes in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe, while retaining the AIP as its African pillar.

  The GIP provides a unifying framework to mobilise global leadership, partnerships, and finance for climate-resilient water investments. It will support the implementation of the UN General Assembly's water-related resolutions, the UN 2023 Water Action Agenda, and the priorities of the G20. The Platform will facilitate high-level engagement with G20 leaders and members, multilateral development banks, global climate finance mechanisms (including the Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility, Adaptation Fund, and Loss & Damage Fund), the European Union, UN-Water, and private sector partners to unlock financing and scale up impact.

  Through the GIP, GWP will strengthen national and regional capacity to prepare pipelines of bankable water projects, while facilitating matchmaking between sources of finance and demand for water investments.

- **The Associated Programme on Flood Management and Integrated Drought Management Programme**

  The GWP and WMO jointly established Associated Programme on Flood Management and Integrated Drought Management Programme will continue maintaining and operating their HelpDesks, which serve as comprehensive hubs for knowledge transfer and capacity development, specifically in the areas of managing flood and drought. By responding to requests from governmental bodies, organisations, and individuals, GWP and WMO will provide tailored guidance on mitigation and adaptation measures. Their support will include project development, identifying funding opportunities, and assisting with access to financial instruments. These responses encompass developing solutions like end-to-end early warning systems and establishing resilient frameworks for sustained climate action. WMO's continuous backing via national meteorological and hydrological services, and GWP's regional structures, will continue ensuring that these climate action mechanisms remain robust and adaptable over time.

- **Global Water and Climate Investment Support Programme**

  GWP will strengthen its collaboration with the UNEP-DHI Centre on Water and Environment, Cap-Net, and other partners to scale development of water and climate investments, building on baseline data and information generated from a Global Water and Climate Investment Support Programme aligned with the Global Water Investment Platform. This will build on experiences and lessons from the GWP Global Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP) and SDG IWRM Support Programme to scale up mobilisation and deployment of water and climate investments. It will assist governments in designing and implementing country-led responses to water management challenges, as entry points to accelerate progress toward the achievement of water-related SDGs and other development goals. The Global Water and Climate Investment Support Programme will provide comprehensive support to countries, including in national water and climate SDG monitoring, reporting, formulating appropriate investment solutions to defined challenges, and accessing implementation support for solutions.

- **Water Knowledge Hub**

  Knowledge generation and management will be vital for supporting evidence-based approaches in achieving water security for all. The Water Knowledge Hub is a global knowledge platform designed to support practitioners, policy-makers, and institutions in improving water governance and implementing concrete sustainable water investments. The Water Knowledge Hub will continue offering training materials and learning opportunities, as well as case studies, tools, and guidelines, to strengthen water management capacity and decision-making. The platform hosts communities of practice to exchange experiences and collaborate with a global network of water professionals working to improve water governance and investment strategies. By integrating knowledge with action, the Water Knowledge Hub will empower stakeholders to enhance climate resilience, improve governance, and drive sustainable water investments.

6.2 Strengthening the GWPO intergovernmental organisation and GWP governance

In the context of the Global Transformation Agenda on Water Investments, GWPO undertook a significant strategic and organizational transformation to support the development of the GIP and harness its full potential to serve as a global leader in advancing climate-resilient water investments. In addition, GWP's governance was significantly streamlined for improved decision-making.

At the core of this change is the need to adapt to evolving international funding landscapes, shifting geopolitical priorities, the decentralisation of GWPO, and the urgent need for more effective localised interventions. This shift aims to better serve GWP's Regional Water Partnerships and bring GWPO closer to country partners that are facing increased water risks and challenges.

The transformation includes the relocation of the GWPO Secretariat to the Global South and the establishment of GWPO continental Technical Support Hubs that, together with the GWP Regional Water Partnerships, will serve as engines of a bold transformative agenda on integrated investments in water security and climate resilience. Through a 'One GWP' approach, GWP will work across its Network in a more integrated and coordinated way to deliver on this strategy.

Regional and Country Water Partnerships

The Regional and Country Water Partnerships will continue to play key roles in facilitating cross-border knowledge sharing and stakeholder engagement to address water-related challenges. With an inclusive approach, they will bring together diverse stakeholders to develop locally tailored solutions informed by regional and global best practices.

Figure 6: GWP Network Map

GWP Technical Support Hubs

Technical Support Hubs for Africa, Asia–Pacific, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean will support Regional Water Partnerships' efforts to drive water security investments as part of the Global Transformation Agenda. They will strengthen programming capacity in regions and bring technical operational capacity closer to local contexts, enabling more efficient and responsive action from GWPO.

Global Thematic Platforms

To strengthen engagement of GWP partners globally, and enhance capacity for programming and delivery among GWP regions within the Technical Support Hubs, each Hub will be assigned a global thematic coordination function for prioritised themes and interventions in the GWP Strategy, including climate resilience, transboundary water governance, innovation and knowledge management, public–private blended finance, digital transformation, and gender equality and inclusion. For each theme, Global Thematic Platforms will be established, comprising expert technical institutions, partners, resource centres, and professionals, with a mandate to support global thematic technical leadership; shape thematic policy dialogues; serve as a demand-driven resource for Technical Support Hubs in advancing programme development; and ensure knowledge exchange between strategy, practice, and policy and across Regional Water Partnerships and Hubs globally. The Global Thematic Platforms will be linked to the GWP Technical Committee, GWP Regional Technical Committees, designated GWP Technical Support Hubs, and GWPO.

GWPO's intergovernmental role

GWPO will leverage its IGO status to:

- Facilitate and influence UN global processes, including the UN 2026 Water Conference, and contribute to the design of the post-2030 agenda.
- Support countries to leverage global and regional finance and matchmake the supply of finance with the demand for finance.

- Support programme development in regions and countries.
- Promote cooperation and partnerships at the regional and global levels.
- Provide leadership in knowledge management.
- Promote South–South collaboration.
- Explore the possible growth of the GWP Network to new geographical areas not currently represented, such as North America, Western Europe, and Oceania.

GWPO Strategic Partnership Liaison Envoys

The Liaison Envoys will lead GWPO's diplomatic engagement and leverage its status as the world's leading IGO on water. The Envoys will be located in the following strategic locations to maintain strong relationships with donor organisations, multilateral agencies, and international institutions:

- GWPO United States Envoy in Washington, D.C. and New York, USA: diplomatic relations with the World Bank and UN.
- GWPO European Union Envoy in Brussels, Belgium: diplomatic relations with the European Union.
- GWPO China Envoy in Beijing, China: diplomatic relations with China, South Korea, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand.
- GWPO Swiss Envoy in Geneva, Switzerland: diplomatic relations with WMO, UN agencies, and Switzerland.
- GWPO Nordics Envoy in Stockholm, Sweden: diplomatic relations with Sweden and the other Nordic countries, as well as non-European Union countries including the United Kingdom and Canada.

Overall governance of GWPO

The **GWP Steering Committee** acts as supervising board of directors and decides on strategy and operational issues, along with the **Sponsoring Partners**, which are the nation states and international organisations that formed GWPO in 2002. The Sponsoring Partners are the ultimate governing body for GWPO. As part of the Global Transformation Agenda, GWPO will seek to expand the representation of countries in the group of Sponsoring Partners. The global **Technical Committee** is an essential actor in advising GWPO's governing bodies to ensure that GWPO's programmatic priorities are well aligned with current research and related policy developments.

Photo: Nikolai Kovachev

7

THE FOUNDATIONS OF SUCCESS

7.1 Planning, monitoring and reporting

The GWP Strategy 2026–2030 will be accompanied by multi-year work programmes that specify programming priorities, work processes, and budgets for both GWPO and the Regional Water Partnerships. GWPO will guide all GWP entities, which will adopt the Theory of Change and a standard indicator set for which annual targets will be set.

The five-year Strategy will be implemented in a phased and progressive manner, first with a two-year and then a three-year work programme. Having a shorter initial work programme will allow for a learning period during this period, after which GWP will be ready to plan for the longer time horizon of three years.

The multi-year work programmes are further elaborated in detailed annual workplans that guide the allocation of both staff work time and financial resources. Given the transformational agenda GWP is undertaking, the building blocks will be laid in the early years of the strategy, which most importantly includes human resource capacity development, programme development, and fundraising.

GWP will implement a step change – focused on the mobilisation and delivery of measurable results in climate-resilient water investments, improved governance, and capacity – anchored in a rigorous monitoring and evaluation framework. A robust planning framework will guide GWP's efforts at both global and regional levels, integrating qualitative objectives with quantitative targets to measure the results and impact of its interventions. GWP will monitor direct outputs and evaluate its additionality: how its work influences the investment decisions of governments and the private sector, key stakeholders, and improvements in water governance frameworks, polices, and plans. Relevant indicators will be included to track progress on all interventions, including gender and youth inclusion. A mid-term review will be conducted to inform the implementation of the second half of the strategy. **GWP's structured annual reporting and results analysis will support continuous learning, enhance its adaptive capacity, and strengthen organisational interventions.**

7.2 Budget and financing

GWP will mobilise at least EUR500 million by 2030 for implementing the GWP strategy in the context of the GIP and leverage at least USD 15 billion in climate resilient water investments and project pipelines. This target will be reviewed during the mid-term strategy evaluation and revisited as needed. Core funding will be used as seed funding to leverage programmatic funding. Programmatic funding will be the vehicle for attracting larger amounts of funding, as has been previously achieved by some parts of the GWP Network. The sources of additional funding for existing and new programmes will be further elaborated in the multi-year work programmes and the annual work plans.

The focus for the organisation is climate change-related funding, which is increasing as the demands and requirements of mitigation and adaptation to climate change are increasing[30]. GWP has already demonstrated its role as an effective actor on climate change across many countries of the world and has a strong track record to build on. Climate change is a priority for most countries. Development cooperation is increasingly prioritising addressing climate change while water is not identified as a discrete priority area for many funding mechanisms. The urgent need to strengthen climate-resilient water security across many parts of the world provides a compelling reason to build on its current climate resilience portfolio across the GWP Network.

Funding sources in the next strategic period are also expected to include the private sector, philanthropy, and individual sponsorship programmes, as well as traditional ODA. In addition, an increasing number of emerging economies have their own international aid programmes. GWPO will strengthen engagement with the G20 countries to secure core funding contributions for the GIP. In this, it will emphasise the clear importance of water security and climate resilience in advancing the G20 and UN global development agendas.

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