

GWP ACCREDITATION

Country Water Partnership

Conditions of Accreditation

Contents

Introduction	1
Basic conditions of accreditation to GWP as a Country Water Partnership	2
Procedures for accreditation.....	2
Non-compliance and Dissolution of a Country Water Partnership	3
Guidelines for establishment of a Country Water Partnership	4
1. Definition of Country Water Partnerships (CWPs)	4
2. GWP principles and values	4
3. Roles and responsibilities	4
4. Governance structures and operational principles	6
5. Application to existing Country Water Partnerships	7

Conditions of Accreditation for Country Water Partnerships

Introduction

The Global Water Partnership (GWP) is a global network of member institutions and organizations, called GWP Partners. The GWP Network was created in 1996 to bring together a range of stakeholders in order to support the sustainable development and management of water at all levels across the globe.

The GWP Organisation (GWPO) is an intergovernmental organisation established in 2002. GWPO includes the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners, GWP Steering Committee, the Nomination Committee, the Technical Committee and the Global Secretariat based in Stockholm, Sweden. GWPO is the legal representative of the GWP Network and they are both governed by the same Statutes (appended).

In order to attain GWP's vision of a water secure world, the GWP Network of Partners work to support their countries and regions through implementation of the GWP Strategy. They establish neutral platforms to share knowledge, to help develop policy and implement programmes and projects. Since 1996, the GWP Network has grown to over 2,700 Partners and a structure has evolved within which Partners organise themselves as autonomous Regional Water Partnerships (RWP), Country Water Partnerships (CWP), and Area Water Partnerships (AWP) under the umbrella of the GWP name and logo.

It is in this context that the main purpose of creating a GWP Country Water Partnership is to bring Partners and stakeholders together who have common concerns within a national context, to support the fulfilment of GWP's mission.

In light of this purpose, GWPO, as the custodian of the GWP name and logo, has established these Conditions of Accreditation. They provide an explanation of the set of minimum standard a Country Water Partnership needs to fulfil in order to be able to use the GWP name and logo. Consistency and coherence throughout the worldwide GWP Network, as well as sound governance, is fundamental in order to safeguard GWP's name and maintain its high reputation and credibility as a Network and Organisation.

This document is an updated version of the Conditions of Accreditation for Regional and Country Water Partnership which entered into force in November 2005 and amended in November 2011. Previously accredited Country Water Partnerships (CWPs) agreed to comply with any updated and approved versions. This amended version was approved by GWP Steering Committee on xx December 2012 and, should be read in conjunction with the following documents of the GWP:

- GWPO Statutes
- GWP Policy on Partners
- GWP Graphical Policy
- GWP Financial Guidelines.

All the documents mentioned above can be found on the GWP website as well as the RWP websites, or requested from the GWP Secretariat.

Conditions of Accreditation for Country Water Partnerships

Basic conditions of accreditation to GWP as a Country Water Partnership

In order to be accredited as a GWP Country Water Partnership and to benefit from the rights and privileges which are integral parts of the use of GWP's name and logo, the CWPs must formally commit to abide by the conditions stated in this document. To function under the GWP name and logo, each Country Water Partnership is required to abide by:

- a) the GWP principles and values** as stated in section 2 of Annex 1.
- b) the GWP Policy on Partners.**
- c) the GWP Graphical Policy.**
- e) the Statutes of the CWP** as outlined in these Conditions for Accreditation, in particular section 4 of Annex 1.
- f) the GWP Financial Guidelines.**
- d) the need to establish a neutral platform** for dialogue where all stakeholders within the country are given a voice and access to knowledge.
- g) the requirement to prepare and implement annual work plans that promote the GWP Vision and Mission.**
- i) the requirement to ensure high quality technical content** in the SCP activities and publications.
- j) any amendments to these Conditions of Accreditation.**

Procedure for accreditation

Even though the establishment of a Country Water Partnership is a decision taken by GWP Partners, its accreditation as a GWP CWP is a decision taken by the Executive Secretary, as delegated by the GWP Steering Committee.

The procedure is as follows:

1. Agreement by GWP Partners in a country to seek establishment of a GWP Country Water Partnership.
2. Adoption of a governance structure that conforms to GWP's principles and values.
3. Election of a Steering Committee or Council by the country constituency.
4. Upon completion of steps 1.3, review by the Regional Water Partnership (RWP) where applicable, together with the GWP Global Secretariat, with recommendations, if necessary to the CWP.
5. Application for Accreditation submitted to the GWP Global Secretariat with copy to the Regional Water Partnership (if relevant) by an authorized representative, accompanied by the CWP statutes, the names and organisations of the elected Steering Committee and list of Partners.
6. Recommendation by the RWP Regional Steering Committee or Council to the GWP Secretariat to approve Accreditation.

Conditions of Accreditation for Country Water Partnerships

7. Decision by the GWP Executive Secretary to accredit the Country Water Partnership.
8. Letter of Accreditation signed by the GWP Executive Secretary and sent to the CWP with a copy to the RWP.

Non-compliance and Dissolution of a Country Water Partnership

On application for accreditation to GWP, Interim Accreditation may be granted in order to enable the RWP/CWP to operate, while adjusting its governance structure in order to ensure compliance with these Conditions for Accreditation. The status of the Interim Accreditation will be reviewed on a regular basis by the GWP Global Secretariat, and recommendations made for progress to full Accreditation.

If a fully accredited CWP fails to meet the GWP Conditions of Accreditation at any point in time, GWPO and the relevant RWP are responsible for advising the CWP on the necessary steps to ensure that improvements are implemented.

In the event that improvements are not made by the Country Water Partnership, the Executive Secretary shall recommend to the GWP Steering Committee that the Accreditation be withdrawn. If the GWP Steering Committee agrees with such a recommendation, the accreditation shall be withdrawn, including the use of the GWP name and logo.

Partners that comprise the CWP may decide to dissolve the Country Water Partnership according to mechanisms provided for in the Statutes of the Country Water Partnership.

ANNEX 1

Guidelines for establishment of a Country Water Partnership

1. Definition of Country Water Partnerships (CWPs)

The core of the GWP Network is its Partner organisations. A Country Water Partnership (CWP) is a grouping of registered Partners of GWP which operate at country level in accordance with the national context and needs.

The CWPs are not Partners of the GWP Network in themselves but an integral part of the Network's institutional arrangements in their cooperation with the GWP Partners, Regional Water Partnership (RWP), and/or GWPO directly.

A CWP is encouraged to expand its funding from local sources, in addition to seed funds which may be received from GWPO (through the RWP), in order to be able to create effective neutral platforms for dialogue and activities for programme implementation for the GWP Partners in a country.

2. GWP principles and values

All GWP Partners, and therefore all CWPs, agree to adhere to the guiding *principles* of integrated water resources management and development adopted by GWP in pursuing its Vision and Mission. These guiding principles stem from the 1991 Dublin conference, the 1992 Earth Summit (Agenda 21, Chapter 18), the Millennium Assembly (2000) which gave rise to the Millennium Development Goals, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002) Plan of Action, reaffirmed by the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). GWP has adapted and elaborated these principles to reflect international understanding of “equitable and efficient management and sustainable use of water”. These guiding principles are:

- Freshwater is a finite and vulnerable resource, essential to sustain life, development and the environment.
- Water development and management should be based on a participatory approach involving users, planners and policy-makers at all levels.
- Women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water.
- Water is a public good and has a social and economic value in all its competing uses.
- Integrated water resources management is based on the equitable and efficient management and sustainable use of water and recognises that water is an integral part of the ecosystem, a natural resource and a social and economic good, whose quantity and quality determine the nature of its utilisation.

The main *values* that all GWP Partners, and therefore all CWPs strive for, are **inclusiveness, openness, transparency, accountability, respect, gender sensitivity and solidarity**.

3. Roles and responsibilities

In the implementation of GWP's strategy through national activities by CWPs, GWPO and the accredited CWP will have the following roles and responsibilities.

a) GWPO

GWPO is the custodian of the values, credibility and name of the GWP Network. It provides guidelines and advice with regard to the governance of CWPs and the management and use of funds, to the extent that this may affect the overall reputation and operations of the GWP Network.

GWPO will:

Operations

- Co-ordinate the development and implementation of a multiyear Global Strategy for the implementation of the GWP Vision and Mission, in a participatory manner.
- Oversee the development and implementation of annual work plans and budgets for the operations of the CWPs as part of regional processes or when required by specific funding arrangements. This includes approval of GWPO funded activities.
- Monitor and consolidate the activities and outcomes of the GWP Network in order to produce annual reports as necessary.

Fundraising

- Conduct fund raising activities at the global level for the operations of the GWP Network.

Support

- Support implementation of the GWP Strategy by providing guidance on technical matters depending on demand and available resources.

Knowledge

- Foster international dialogue, and promote experience and lessons sharing at all levels.
- Promote linkages between the GWP Technical Committee and Country Water Partnerships in order to foster bi-directional knowledge flows.

Accreditation

- Through cooperation with RWPs, track compliance by the CWPs with the Conditions of Accreditation and recommend corrective action as appropriate.
- Review all applications for accreditation as a CWP according to these Conditions.

b) Country Water Partnerships

Operations

- Develop agreed multi-year work programmes within the broad framework of the GWP Global Strategy.
- Develop an annual workplan and budget, and engage qualified staff as appropriate.
- Coordinate feedback to be included in the overall regional annual workplan, budget and reporting (see Annex 1 for reporting requirements).
- Plan country activities involving GWP Partners and other key stakeholders (with special emphasis on the national government).
- Implement the country activities as set out in CWP workplans and budgets, in order to achieve the best possible outcomes, tangible results, and impact on the ground.
- Broaden the base of GWP Partners within their respective country, ensuring representation of various categories of stakeholders (including national and local government, the private sector, and civil society), with a special emphasis on inclusion of the youth.

Fundraising

- Raise resources in addition to any seed funding and other resources from GWPO in order to implement the workplan,.

Monitoring and reporting

- Monitor outcomes and the effectiveness of activities in line with a programme management

Conditions of Accreditation for Country Water Partnerships

system put in place by the GWPO, and engage in learning and knowledge sharing within the country and the RWP.

- Prepare periodic narrative progress reports as required by GWP Secretariat or the RWP, in order to disseminate knowledge to implement IWRM at national level and in order to track progress of the work carried out by GWP as a whole.
- Ensure sound financial and administrative management, including preparation of financial reports and audited accounts, in line with the requirements of the GWP Financial Guidelines and any other CWP funders.

Knowledge

- Make professional contributions to the GWP Network, GWP Secretariat and other GWP Partners (on a voluntary basis or according to mutually agreed conditions).

Accreditation

- Comply with the Conditions of Accreditation.

4. Governance structures and operational principles

a) Legal registration

At present, it is not necessary for a CWP to have legal personality and it does not have to be legally registered in order to use the GWP name and logo. However, there are certain benefits to be gained from registering the CWP as a legal entity, especially in conjunction with local fundraising and in relation to entering into legally binding contracts for a CWP's operations.

Local laws and regulations have to be followed and the type of entity chosen has to be of a kind that allows the CWP to operate effectively, does not contradict any requirement in these Conditions of Accreditation, and enables all GWP Partners in the country to be members.

A CWP may have host institution arrangements, however legal registration does not mean that the CWP has to be self-hosted. A registered CWP can be hosted by another organisation if that is the most efficient manner by which the CWP can operate.

b) Governance arrangements and structures of the CWP

Each CWP should establish its own governance structure which dictates how the CWP will operate. The basic foundation of the structure must be stated in **statutes** that are agreed upon by the GWP Partners in the country concerned. The statutes should set out important aspects of governance including inter alia the following:

- Functions of the different governance bodies of the country structures and their relationships with the GWP Partners within the country.
- Terms of Office of all the Country Water Partnership representatives, and the roles and responsibilities for representatives and office staff.
- Linkages of the country governance structure to the Regional Water Partnership, GWPO and to other entities within the GWP Network.
- Roles and responsibilities of other bodies within the Partnership, including a technical group of experts.
- Mechanisms for direct participation and/or representation of any GWP Partner in the country.

The CWP is accountable to GWP Partners, within the framework of the CWP statutes and the Conditions of Accreditation. Each CWP should hold a **General Assembly** with GWP Partners once a

Conditions of Accreditation for Country Water Partnerships

year, as stated in its statutes and according to budget availability. Notices and announcements should be given in advance of these meetings, providing a draft agenda for review and comment by the Partners.

CWPs should establish **Country Steering Committees or Councils** (referred to as Steering Committee below) - the highest governing body responsible for providing overall strategic direction to the CWP. The CWP Steering Committee should comprise a majority of elected/appointed representatives from the GWP Partners in the country, through an open and transparent process, seeking a balanced composition across relevant disciplines, stakeholder groups, geographic area and gender. The Chair should preferably be elected from among the GWP Partner institutions and be appointed by the General Assembly or the Steering Committee members, as set up in the CWP statutes, with each CWP designing its own process for selection.

The Term of Office of every member of the Steering Committee (including the Chair) is expected to be between one and three years. A Steering Committee member or Chair may be elected for a maximum of six years in total (or two three-year terms of office). The terms of office do not have to be consecutive. If consecutive, a phasing out system should be worked out to ensure a smooth transition and continuity within the Steering Committee. No Steering Committee member or Chair may hold more than one position within GWP at any one time.

Members of the CWP Steering Committee should not carry out any paid work that arises from decisions they have made on a given assignment, as this is considered a conflict of interest. If a SC member is willing to undertake a remunerated activity, this member should declare his/her interest and excuse him/herself from related deliberations and decisions. The CWP will follow competitive and transparent procurement procedures in which such SC members could participate on equal terms as any other external service provider.

It is strongly recommended that the administrative function of the CWP Steering Committee is established in one place within the country, to ensure institutional memory and the stability of the work of the CWP.

5. Application to existing Country Water Partnerships

These Conditions are binding on all existing GWP CWPs. Other Water Partnerships operating at sub-national level, for example, Area Water Partnerships (AWPs) or Urban Water Partnerships (UWPs) are not covered under these Conditions for Accreditation but operate under the auspices of the appropriate CWP.

For existing CWPs which have not received confirmation of their accreditation status, the GWP Global Secretariat, together with the RWP (where relevant), will assess compliance with these Conditions and will provide feedback to the GWP Executive Secretary with status on progress towards accreditation. During this process the CWP will be granted Interim Accreditation.