

SUMMARY REPORT

GWP Network and Consulting Partners Meeting 2012

“Water Security as a Catalyst for Climate-Resilient Development”

26 August 2012, Clarion Hotel, Stockholm/Södermalm, Sweden



www.gwp.org

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Introduction

On 26 August 2012, the GWP network came together for the annual Network and Consulting Partners meetings. The main purpose of the meetings is to monitor the implementation of the network's strategic direction, as set out in GWP's 2009–13 strategy.

STATUTORY NETWORK MEETING

The Statutes of GWP/GWPO state that the Partners of GWP shall hold an annual Network Meeting. At this meeting the Partners exercise formal functions such as receiving and commenting on the yearly activity and financial reports, and deciding on statutory changes, if any. Only GWP Partners may participate in decisions, however, observers are welcome.

CONSULTING PARTNERS MEETING

This year's Consulting Partners Meeting explored the overarching theme "Water security as a catalyst for climate-resilient development". Climate change disrupts the global hydrological cycle, exacerbating drought risks, threatening the world's most heavily populated deltas, and endangering development gains. In delivering the GWP Strategy 2009-2013, the focus on water and climate change has evolved in response to these increasing risks, encompassing advocacy within the global climate change negotiations and at country level, and establishing the Water, Climate and Development Programme in Africa. Building water security is a cross-cutting, integrated approach to ensuring our greater resilience to climate risks. The challenge to GWP at this point is to scale up action, supporting countries and communities in preparing for increasing climate variability and extreme events.

The objectives of the 2012 Consulting Partners Meeting were:

- To present a framework for global, regional and national climate-resilient development through building water security
- To prepare for scaling up collaboration with GWP Partners and key strategic allies, and the implementation of climate risk-related programmes at region and country level
- To set the context for GWP's 2020 vision of a water secure world

[Click here for Presentations, pictures and more information.](#)

2012 Network Meeting

Report from the GWP Chair

Dr. Letitia A. Obeng

Dr. Obeng welcomed the participants present at the venue and to those following the meeting via live stream.

She reported that in 2011 she visited three regions and participated, inter alia, in different events and workshops including one interregional workshop. She was impressed with the depth of participation by GWP Partners in activities wherever she went. The depth, breadth and range of national and regional actors with whom the RWPs and CWP were engaged, and the excellent quality of these engagements were striking. She expressed her hope for more interregional exchange and noted that those planned for 2013 will serve more than strategy development, further facilitating the engagement of Partners and enriching the work of the Partnership.



Dr. Obeng noted that despite a challenging financial environment, strategy implementation proceeded effectively. She said that the 2011 Mid-Term Review was a useful contribution to completion of the current strategy and preparation of the new one. The Steering Committee had determined eight focus areas for attention which were addressed during the 2012 Regional Days just before this meeting. Dr. Obeng observed that the Regional Days are a great opportunity for the 13 Regions and GWPO to dialogue, review strategy implementation and discuss progress.

Dr. Obeng continued to serve on the Strategy Advisory Group of the Joint Monitoring Program and GLAAS – for water supply and sanitation. She contributed to a conference on mega disasters in Japan and represented GWP in the 10 year anniversary of the Flood Management Program. She hoped that the new Integrated Drought Management Program will be as successful, if not more. She represented GWP at the Bonn Nexus Conference on Water Supply and Sanitation Security, Food Security and Energy Security – all connected by water resources - where she presented a review commissioned for the Conference and also contributed as a Nexus Ambassador.

Dr. Obeng thanked the GWP Partners and Country Water Partnerships that worked hard to contribute to the [UN-Water Status Report on the Application of Integrated Approaches to Water Resource Management](#) during 2011. The findings, in reaffirming the value of integrated management of water resources for development, provides new opportunities for GWP.

Given that this was her last Network and Consulting Partners meeting, Dr. Obeng ended with a few comments about the future. GWP has built on the past and moved forward on many fronts. Although there has been progress in the engagement of those who use water for development (agriculture, energy, water supply and sanitation, industry, etc.) in managing water in an integrated way, there is still much to be done. “We are a work in progress and the best is yet to come!” She is sure that the Network and Partnership will work with her successor to attain new and better heights

towards realizing the vision of a water secure world. The upcoming International Year of Cooperation provides a unique opportunity for GWP to further demonstrate by example what cooperation, collaboration among sectors, countries and organizations is all about.

Dr. Obeng concluded by expressing her gratitude to Dr. Ania Grobicki, Dr. Mohamed Ait Kadi, the Staff of the GWPO Secretariat, the GWPO Technical Committee, her fellow Steering Committee members and other partners, for working closely with her and with dedication over the past five years. She said, “It has been a real honor to serve this amazing Partnership”.

Report from the Executive Secretary

Dr. Ania Grobicki, GWP Executive Secretary

Dr Grobicki presented the annual report of activities, based on [GWP in Action 2011](#). She invited CP participants to contribute in the following discussion by elaborating on their stories. She underlined the progress made by GWP on climate change issues through the launch of the Water, Climate and Development Programme in Africa, as well as through the international negotiations process, where GWP continued to highlight the link between water and climate change adaptation, especially in extreme climate events such as droughts and floods. She also pointed out that water and food security linkages should be enhanced in future through the MoU which had been signed in 2011 with FAO, with the aim of promoting collaboration at regional and country level between GWP and FAO. 2011 also saw the launch of the Global Soil Partnership, set up to protect soil resources through a multi-stakeholder and integrated approach. The fact that the Global Soil Partnership was structured to mirror the Global Water Partnership was a vote of confidence by the international community in the way that the GWP family was succeeding in carrying out its mission.



[Click here for the presentation.](#)

Report from Chair of GWP Technical Committee

Dr. Mohamed Ait-Kadi, GWP Technical Committee Chair

Dr. Ait-Kadi outlined the Committee’s roadmap:

1. Creating useful knowledge through an ambitious publication portfolio
2. A new engagement with the Regions through regional workshops and making the Knowledge Chain work
3. Influencing the international debate by participating in major regional and international events and engaging with Partners such as WWAP, UNWATER, etc.



He noted that two new series of papers were initiated:

1. *Perspective Papers* which are part of the implementation of the knowledge chain intended to galvanize discussion in the network and global development community.
2. *Technical Focus Papers* which are aimed at harnessing and sharing knowledge and experiences generated by Knowledge Partners and Regional/Country Water Partnerships through the GWP Knowledge Chain.

[Click here for the presentation.](#)

Annual Financial Report

Catharina Sahlin-Tegnander, Head of Finance & Administration

The Annual Financial Report is on the website [here](#) and contains:

- a one-page summary 'income statement' summarising all financial transactions
- the balance statement, which provides a snapshot of the financial situation on 31 December.

Ms. Sahlin-Tegnander noted GWPO's gratitude for the contributions made by all its Partners and Sweden for hosting GWPO. In-kind contributions totalled 2.7 EUR million in 2011, and globally raised general income amounted to 5.2 EUR million. More than 40 organizations contributed 3.0 EUR million in locally raised funds.



[Click here for the presentation.](#)

Discussion and comments

The first question raised was about the role of Regional Water Partnerships in distributing publications to national governments. Regional Water Partnerships are encouraged to translate GWP publications and disseminate them among senior policy-makers. In addition, information flow should be two-way with Regional Water Partnerships receiving feedback on papers produced in the region.

One participant noted the importance of communication for the network and said that even though in some regions there are problems with communications, in 2011 there was training in how to create websites using the global platform which marked a significant step forward.

A delegate from Bangladesh provided additional info on the flood management framework developed for Dhaka. Dr. Grobicki noted that the GWP-WMO Flood Management HelpDesk contains a tool specifically for urban flooding issues, and that this was the most popular tool by far with many requests and downloads.

A request was made that future financial reports to the meeting show an overview of the previous five years and indications for future years.



2012 Consulting Partners Meeting

Keynote speech by Michel Jarraud, Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization

The Global Framework for Climate Services

Mr. Jarraud covered a broad range of issues regarding the complexity of the climate system and pointed out that many of the climate issues are related to the hydrological cycle. Moreover, he noted, the climate system has a major impact on all socio-economic sectors.

There has always been a natural variability in climate, but climate change introduces additional complexity and uncertainty. The past is no longer a trustworthy predictor of future climate.

Key anticipated climate change impacts on water:

- Altered precipitation regimes at different latitudes
- Regional variations in flooding and drought
- Water stored in glaciers and snow cover projected to decline
- Induced changes in soil moisture and evapotranspiration
- Mounting salinity intrusion through sea-level rise

Mr. Jarraud observed how economic losses related to disaster are increasing and yet, because of improved warning systems, we are saving more lives.

The Global Framework for Climate Services is needed to help improve decision-making through providing better climate information, packaged in the right way. We need to have more understanding of user needs and develop better interfaces between users and providers.

Initial activities and projects would be to:

- Establish a framework for leadership and management
- Define national needs in climate services provision
- Strengthen capabilities in disaster risk reduction
- Improve communication between climate, agriculture and food security communities
- Enhance partnerships between climate services and water resources management
- Involve GWP in the design of the User Interface Platform

[Click here for the presentation.](#)

Delivering Climate Compatible Development

Sam Bickersteth, CEO, Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN)

Mr. Bickersteth defined Climate Compatible Development as development that minimizes the harm caused by climate impacts while maximizing the many human development opportunities presented by a low emission, more resilient future.



He said that we are very likely going to overshoot the 2 degrees C temperature goal so we are heading for a warmer world. In addition, the frequency of heavy rainfall events is likely to increase 4-fold by end of century. Changes in the climate could seriously affect water resources management systems, especially water storage infrastructure.

He suggested the following in structuring a response:

- We need better evidence
- Information needs to be accessible to decision-makers
- Mobilize citizens to take actions
- Capacity-building of institutions
- Collaboration and coordination across countries and sectors
- Integrating adaptation and disaster risk management approaches
- Determine a risks acceptance threshold

[Click here for the presentation.](#)

Framework for Water Security and Climate Resilient Development

Mr. Alex Simalabwi, GWP Senior Network Officer and GWPO Climate Focal Point

Mr. Simalabwi said the Framework was developed to provide guidance on the development of no/low regrets investments and financing strategies for water security. The Framework outlines three types of investments:

1. climate justified: a poor rate of return unless climate change occurs
2. Climate change risky: good rate of return but reduced by the impacts of climate change
3. No/Low regret: good rate of return under all scenarios

The Framework comes in three parts: the Framework itself, five Policy Briefs that emanate from the Framework, and a Technical Background Document.

[Click here for the presentation.](#)

Water, Climate and Development Programme

Mr. Andrew Takawira, WACDEP Senior Programme Officer, Africa

Mr. Takawira presented the programme in the context of lessons learned from GWP's work in the past and as a contribution to implementing GWP's current strategy. The goal of WACDEP is to promote water as a key part of sustainable development, which is linking the water, climate and economic development agendas.



Overview of WACDEP activities and progress:

- To be piloted in 8 countries and 5 transboundary basins
- Demonstration Projects include the Bugasera Project focusing on taking forward transboundary water management commitments in shared basins
- Capacity development: cooperation with CDKN and Cap-net
- Knowledge management: Collaboration with UNFCCC

[Click here for the presentation.](#)



Workshop Reports: “Regional and national solutions for building climate resilience”

Feedback from the workshops, panel discussion, and questions from the audience.

- Are the current and proposed programmes effective in building water security and climate resilience for the future?
- Who would be the ideal partners for collaboration during programme implementation?
- What results and impact can be achieved, and over what timeframe?

Report from Workshop 1: Building Resilience through Managing Drought Risks—developing the GWP-WMO Integrated Drought Management Programme

Integrated Drought Management should be a complement to IWRM, and desertification is a separate issue that needs to be considered in the regions and countries where it applies. Other issues discussed:

- Drought preparedness measures
- Drought policy
- Incentives in the agricultural sector
- Irrigation
- Drought monitoring and early warning systems
- Transboundary Drought Issues

The first global conference on drought policy will be organized in 2013 and GWP will be a partner with WMO in this conference, where the Integrated Drought Management Programme will be launched.

Report from Workshop 2: Building climate resilience in the world's deltas—managing for effective water solutions

Deltas are very dynamic areas, vulnerable and threatened, supporting a high proportion of the world's population. Don't waste time on trying to define deltas, as each one has different challenges. Climate change is threatening the deltas of the world, but also other issues such as population growth and salinization of groundwater. Salinization is quite a problem for food security, as deltas are highly fertile areas. There could be a 3-step approach to creating a programme to address the priorities of delta countries:

- Realize the complexity: Pollution that takes place in a river does not end there, the delta is affected by everything taking place in the river. This raises transboundary issues and needs for collaboration.
- Assessment: Need to both start acting and keep analyzing.
- Identify measures: very local characteristics have to be taken into account. One size fits all never works. Also, delta management is not just a technical issue but also a cultural issue.

Report from Workshop 3: Building Resilience through regional Water, Climate and Development programmes

The general understanding was that many GWP regions are still in the beginning of incorporating a program such as WACDEP and to build climate change resilience in everything they do. Central America and Caribbean have strong regional institutions that GWP can work with. Not every region has this advantage. WACDEP is both a bottom-up and top-down approach.

Selected comments from the plenary after feedback from workshops

- We have seen we are good at developing tools but we still have not been able to upscale programs as much as we would have like to. How are we making the connection between GWP Partners at country level?
- There are great opportunities for interregional experience-sharing in drought management.
- As for deltas, what about benefit sharing up-stream and down-stream?
- How well (or not) have we used the flood management program? Before pursuing a drought management program, maybe first evaluate the flood management one.
- What about Small Island States? The issue of water security is huge there, but not considered globally relevant.
- Gender issues and youth involvement needs to be in everything done by GWP.

Dr. Grobicki challenged the audience with a question: over the next year, can you think of one other Partner who is not in the room, but should be brought in? Can you think of other organizations that should be brought in and why?

Before the Consulting Partners meeting was closed with formal thanks by Dr. Obeng and Dr. Grobicki, [a short video](#), produced by Vox Naturae, was shown that illustrates the effect of climate change on glaciers.



2012 Annual Lecture

Margaret Catley-Carlson, GWP Patron

“2020 Vision: The Future of Water”

Ms. Catley-Carlson, a former GWP Chair, remarked how proud she was to see the growth of GWP over the last 5 years.

She covered a wide range of topics. The following is a selected summary of points (see below for links to her presentation, and video clips).

- “Twenty years from now, we will still be managing water badly.”
- Solve problems on the ground, don’t just serve up policies and frameworks. But never belittle putting a water policy in place. Progress in policy changes is being made and it is vital.
- Water-Food-Energy nexus (so-called) simply recalls the integrated approach, how important it is. Integrate water, energy, and better agricultural management.
- Mega-conferences, mega-resolutions a la Rio+20 are no longer effective. It’s the end of an era for that kind of approach. Still essential to set policy umbrella, but not successful on action.
- There are and will be more threats to water sources, such as urban growth and industrialization. Water is like other infrastructure... you have to maintain it and improve it and replace it.
- Important things to do:
 - Reduce demand
 - Invest in research
 - Develop and implement tools
 - Take an integrated approach to policy making



Some thoughts for GWP:

- You are looking at the right issues
- Get excellent at partnerships
- Acquire real expertise in implementation
- Study success – talk about it, make it the central focus. Even if it is not GWP's. What made it happen? Failure is always studied. But through success you give a sense of hope.
- Solve problems – not just policies and framework. Sell the solution not the framework.

[Click here for presentation.](#)

[Watch video clips.](#)

The lecture was followed by comments and questions from the audience.

GWP Chair Dr Letitia A Obeng, Patron Margaret Catley-Carlson, and Executive Secretary Dr Ania Grobicki.



A Farewell Cocktail Reception followed for Dr. Obeng who was attending her last Network and Consulting Partners Meeting in her role as Chair.

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Presentations, pictures and more information are available here:

<http://www.gwp.org/en/About-GWP/Partners/Consulting-Partners-Meeting/Welcome-to-the-GWP-Consulting-Partners-Meeting-2012/>