Global Water Partnership

GWP IN ACTION

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

ABOUT GWP

The Global Water Partnership (GWP) is a multi-stakeholder action network and intergovernmental organisation dedicated to working with countries towards the equitable, sustainable, and efficient management of water resources. We comprise 3,000-plus partner organisations in over 180 countries. Our network of Regional and Country Water Partnerships convenes and brokers coordinated action by government and non-government actors. A long-time advocate of integrated water resources management, we draw on implementation experience at the local level and link it across our Network and to global development agendas.

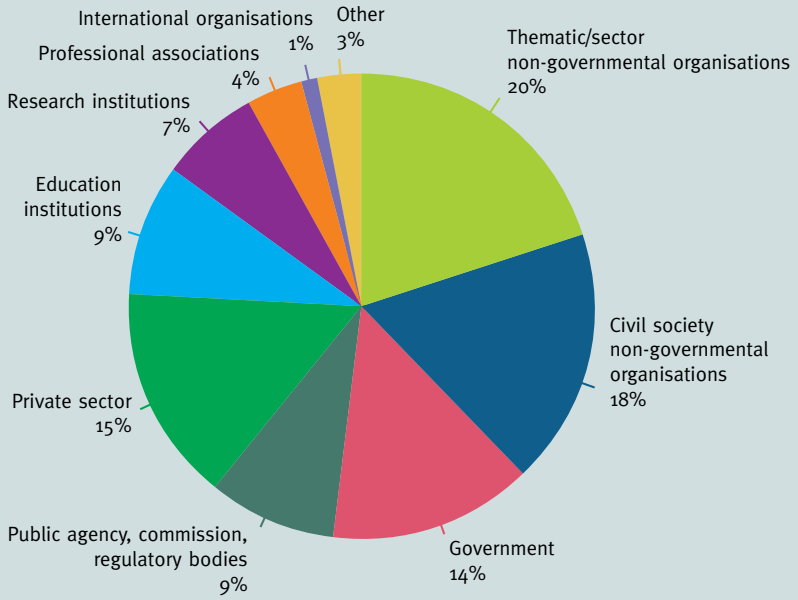
Integrated water resources management is a process that promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land, and related resources to maximise economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.

The GWP Network is open to all organisations that recognise the principles of integrated water resources management endorsed by the Network. It includes states, government institutions at all levels, non-government organisations, academic and research institutions, private companies, and service providers in the public sector. GWP's diverse and inclusive Network is a platform for policy dialogue and bottom-up development of action plans and programmes, providing a voice for communities on water management.

At the end of 2020, the Network had 13 Regional Water Partnerships, 68 Country Water Partnerships, and 3,324 Partners located in 183 countries.

Cover: The photos represent winners in the Water ChangeMaker Awards from Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Indonesia, and Mexico (see feature on Generating and Communicating Knowledge)

GWP PARTNERS BY TYPE



COUNTRY WATER PARTNERSHIPS

Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mali, Moldova, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam.

GWP REGION	COUNTRIES	PARTNERS
Caribbean	24	113
Caucasus and Central Asia	9	148
Central Africa	7	180
Central America	7	206
Central and Eastern Europe	12	194
China	1	96
Eastern Africa	10	304
Global	33	319
Mediterranean	25	98
South America	10	378
South Asia	7	411
Southeast Asia	10	266
Southern Africa	13	366
West Africa	15	245
TOTAL	**183**	**3,324**

Our vision is for a water secure world.

Our mission is to advance governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development.

Our unique value: A network of networks, we ensure the 'voices of water' influence local, national, regional, and global development priorities. GWP instigates systems change through its unique combination of social capital, shared values, credibility as a neutral convener, bottom-up orientation, and expertise.

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MORE THAN 20 **LEARNING EXCHANGES** HELD

ALMOST **60** **KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS** PRODUCED

INVESTMENTS WORTH AROUND
€120 MILLION
CAN BE LINKED TO **GWP'S WORK**

GWP MOBILISED ABOUT
€17.5 MILLION
FOR CLIMATE, TRANSBOUNDARY, AND OTHER INITIATIVES

WELCOME TO GWP IN ACTION 2020

Message from the Chair

Welcome to GWP in Action 2020, our latest annual report. Here, we showcase some of our achievements over the past year. It was certainly a year of unprecedented challenges, with major disruptions to many aspects of daily life and work that we had previously taken for granted.

The coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic presented a particular hurdle to GWP, an organisation with networking and communication at its heart. Travel restrictions effectively put a stop to all face-to-face meetings, requiring GWP to rapidly adjust its planned approach 'to mobilise, to learn, and to act', as outlined in the 2020–2025 Strategy. Based on experience gained through hosting online annual Network Meetings over the past two years, we immediately mobilised our staff and partners to operate virtually so we could deliver on our 2020 commitments to the greatest extent possible.

This worked. We successfully continued our support to countries in their efforts to achieve the water-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDG 6 integrated water resources management (IWRM) Support Programme assisted the governments of 61 countries to organise stakeholder consultations on IWRM implementation, with the majority of events taking place virtually, or with a mix of online and face-to-face engagement. We also launched the new GWP–Global Environment Facility massive open online course on governance for transboundary freshwater security. You can read more about these initiatives in the following pages.

Looking ahead, GWP will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2021. Our convening power and experience of mobilising stakeholders gained over the past quarter of a century – including through virtual communication channels – underlines the fact that no other organisation in the world has the reach of GWP in the water sector. We can offer something that the sector generally lacks: a coherent view and vision of how to move towards a more water secure world and achieve SDG 6. As we emerge from the global pandemic, GWP will continue to be a node for building coherence through a sustained focus on strengthening partnerships, building bridges, and mobilising action across the globe.

Howard Bamsey

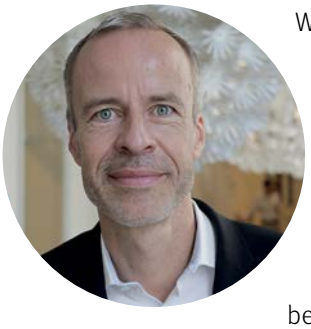
COVID-19 and the GWP response

The pandemic presented an unprecedented challenge to GWP operations, with common problems including shifts in the focus of mandated actors (e.g. government ministries) leading to delays in targeted governance processes; communication problems in areas with poor internet provision; inability to move field visits and other community engagement activities to virtual formats; and delays in finalising local funding agreements.

GWP responded to the global pandemic by reorganising and repositioning the means by which it provides support. Specific examples include:

- The Working in Virtual Environments (WiVE) initiative provided training and support for global, regional, and country staff to strengthen their skills in organising and facilitating virtual events.
- GWP provided guidance to the network on where to focus attention under the rapidly changing circumstances via an internal paper entitled GWP Positioning in a COVID-19 World.
- Regular conference calls with Regional Coordinators helped to prioritise needs and responses.
- GWP supported regional assessments of the impact of COVID-19 on the water sector; for example, working with the Southern African Development Community and Regional Technical Committee in the Caribbean.
- Savings on the travel budget were reallocated to Network-strengthening activities.

A word from the Interim Executive Secretary



We began 2020 with an ambitious three-year business plan and an annual workplan to operationalise our 2020–2025 Strategy: Mobilising for a Water Secure World. This included launching new initiatives on gender equality and Network strengthening, as well as building on our existing programmes relating to the SDGs, transboundary water management, and climate resilience through water. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic meant that we unexpectedly had to rethink and adapt our business to the unprecedented circumstances.

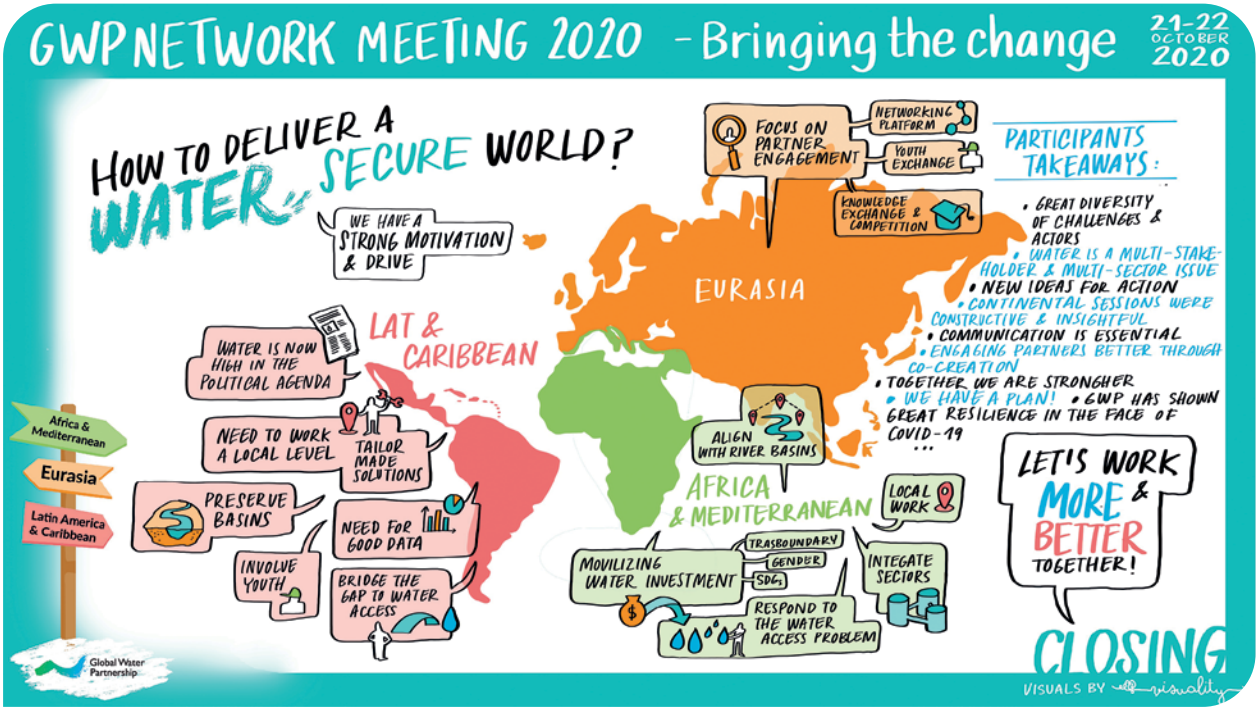
I am pleased to say that we were able to rapidly develop our organisational capacity, skills, and tools to operate virtually, with most planned activities continuing and substantial results being achieved despite the limitations imposed by not being able to travel or meet in person. One highlight was the Working in Virtual Environments (WiVE) initiative, launched as soon as the pandemic restrictions became apparent. Through WiVE, we rapidly built capacity across the GWP Network to organise and facilitate workshops, meetings, and consultations through virtual media, thereby continuing our valuable work to deliver global and regional activities.

More than 300 GWP Partners signed up for the annual Network Meeting, with additional stakeholders watching on the Facebook live feed. The theme Bringing the Change encompassed both the new GWP Strategy (2020–2025) and the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the difficult new reality, discussions were generally positive about the future. Many Partners mentioned the emergence of new opportunities, such as virtual meetings, which allow greater inclusion in discussions and deeper interregional collaboration.

In 2020, GWP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) increased their collaboration on Cap-Net and continued their strategy of integration. This global water management capacity-building network is implemented by UNDP and has been administered by GWP since early 2019. Specific 2020 activities included joint SDG project preparation, organisation of a webinar series on climate and water policy, and development of a training-of-trainers course on managing multi-stakeholder consultations.

Finally, I would like to thank all participants in the GWP Network who have applied effort and commitment to exploring alternative means of supporting key stakeholders, facilitating consultations, delivering workshops, and engaging partners around the world. Not only has this ensured that the 2020 workplan has been implemented to a large extent, but it has also laid strong foundations for innovative new ways of working that will reduce convening costs and cut the carbon footprint of the organisation in the post-pandemic world.

Peter Repinski



Visual summary of the closing session of the GWP 2020 Network Meeting

From the Chair of Regional Chairs

Effective operation of the GWP Regional and Country Partnerships is the key to achieving the ambitious goals enshrined in the new GWP Strategy. The networks need to mobilise capacity, relationships, and human and financial resources to ensure effective programme implementation.

In many ways, the implications of the coronavirus pandemic have been most marked at the regional and country levels. While at the global level it has been possible to complete many planned activities virtually, this has not always been the case in the regions, where there has traditionally been a need for travel and in-person activities to deliver results due to the challenges of poor internet connectivity. Even so, with help from the GWP WiVE team, we were able to hold a wide range of virtual events, including a project launch in eastern Africa, transboundary negotiations in southern Africa, and a pan-Asian consultation on SDG 6 monitoring.

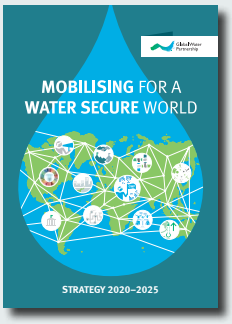
In 2020, GWP launched a Network strengthening initiative to support implementation of the new Strategy. The Strengthening Regional Operational Network Growth (StRONG) programme builds on previous GWP successes, aiming to enhance the capacity of the Regional and Country Water Partnerships to deliver results in a consistent, reliable, and agile way. Its three pillars – based around leadership and skills, institutional set-up, and network effects – will unlock the barriers to further progress posed by a lack of capacity, finance, institutions, knowledge, and network connectivity. We have made an excellent start, despite COVID-19 restrictions, holding a number of online training events and workshops, revamping the GWP ToolBox knowledge-sharing platform, overseeing the Water ChangeMakers awards, and mobilising stakeholders to access climate funding through a series of webinars.

In early June, we organised the annual Regional Days meeting, which convenes all 13 Regional Water Partnerships and GWP head office staff. For the first time, this was organised entirely online, providing new opportunities to explore virtual learning. The event used participatory online platforms to ensure as many participants as possible could engage fully, interact person-to-person, and air their diverse views. As a result, many participants will be taking these techniques and tools forward, using them in other relevant activities.

Trevor Thompson

New Executive Secretary

GWP has appointed Mr Dario Soto-Abril as its new Executive Secretary. Dario, a native of Colombia, took up his position on 1 March 2021. After spending the first part of his career as a corporate lawyer, he worked for 14 years as the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of The Trust for the Americas, the non-profit affiliate of the Organization of American States. During this time, he led the Trust's expansion from 3 to 22 countries, building coalitions and public–private partnerships around free trade, workers' rights, and human rights. He therefore brings to GWP extensive experience from a network with similar dynamics, and has a proven track record of successful resource mobilisation and motivating staff across different continents.



The GWP Strategy 2020–2025 aims to leverage global policy frameworks to build momentum and change complex systems (see GWP in Action 2019 for details on the strategy and how it was developed).

There are **three anchor areas**:

Water solutions for the SDGs

Transboundary water cooperation

Climate resilience through water

And **three cross-cutting areas**:

Contributing to gender equality

Mobilising youth

Engaging the private sector

MEASURING RESULTS

To realise the vision of a water secure world, GWP supports countries to advance the governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development. This work is guided by the principles of integrated water resources management and is fully aligned with measuring progress towards SDG 6, indicator 6.5.1: degree of implementation of IWRM. The work is applicable to all water-related SDGs and their targets, and structured according to the following chain of results.

Firstly, activities are implemented with the aim of influencing targeted stakeholders, such as national governments, regional economic development bodies, river basin organisations, and community-based organisations. Some of these actors are then instrumental in the development of key water governance outcomes. A new water policy, a national adaptation plan, a transboundary management agreement, an investment plan or strategy, strengthened legislation, a regional planning framework, and institutional reform are examples of such outcomes.

The implementation of these water governance outcomes leads to socioeconomic benefits among the target populations through increased investment in appropriate infrastructure, empowerment of vulnerable groups, and more sustainable use of resources.

To achieve such outcome- and impact-level results, GWP organises its work around three dimensions, as outlined in the 2020–2025 Strategy:

1. An operational dimension: Catalysing change in policies and practice

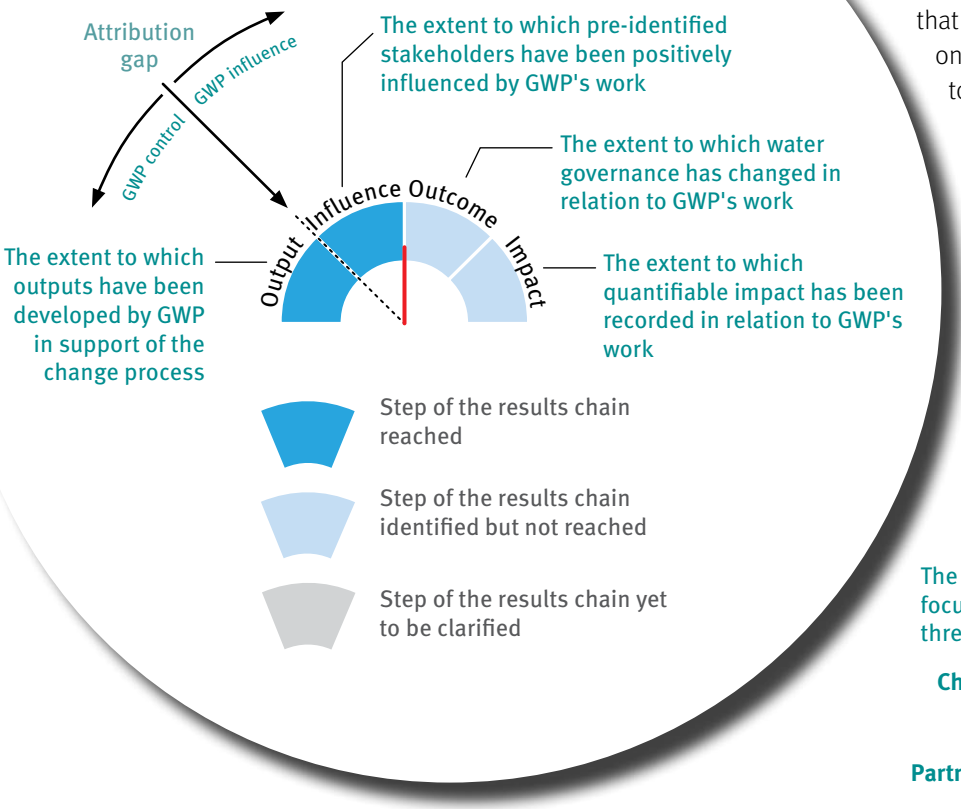
We Act

2. A knowledge dimension: Generating and communicating knowledge

We Learn

3. A partnering dimension: Strengthening partnerships

We Mobilise



Some of the stories in this report describe initiatives that are at the initial stage of development, where higher-level results have yet to materialise. Others reflect contributions to processes, often supported over a number of years, that can be linked to tangible impact on the ground. The graphics applied to each story (and explained below) indicate the point along the GWP results chain (output › influence › outcome › impact) that had been reached at the end of 2020. The graphics also illustrate how GWP's work was roughly distributed across the three dimensions (We Act, We Learn, We Mobilise) to achieve the results.

The number of drops shows the relative focus of GWP intervention according to the three dimensions:

Change process – We Act 💧💧💧 (high)

Knowledge – We Learn 💧💧 (medium)

Partnerships – We Mobilise 💧 (low)

FEATURE: ADVANCING INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT THROUGH GLOBAL FRAMEWORKS

It is estimated that water scarcity already affects more than 40 percent of the global population, with increasing drought and desertification likely to exacerbate the problem in the future. At the same time, climate change is causing more extreme rainfall events, resulting in flooding, erosion, and pollution of water supplies. Urgent and coordinated action is needed, right around the world, to promote sound and integrated water resources management, and ensure access to clean water for all.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and other global commitments offer substantial opportunities to promote cooperation on global priorities towards a more sustainable future. High-level endorsement of the GWP approach (for example in SDG target 6.5) has provided GWP with a global framework and specific entry points within which to structure its support to countries and regions. The GWP Strategy for the next six years is therefore anchored in three global priorities: the SDGs, efforts to advance transboundary cooperation on water, and the imperative to support climate change adaptation.

Water solutions for the SDGs

SDG 6 has focused global attention on the value of adopting an integrated approach to water resources management. Such high-profile endorsement has provided GWP with a global framework within which to structure its support to countries and regions, with target 6.5 (and its associated monitoring activities) providing the entry point. By working with mandated national institutions, GWP fosters water governance reform through an integrated approach, involving stakeholders at all levels. In addition to supporting progress towards SDG 6, this work furthers the achievement of the SDGs relating to gender equality, food, energy, health, sustainable cities, and climate.

The SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme assists governments in designing their national responses to the implementation of integrated water resources management, as measured by SDG indicator 6.5.1. The Support Programme is administered by GWP and operated in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNEP-DHI Centre, and Cap-Net (see 'GWP and UNDP Cap-Net align their expertise' for more information on Cap-Net). Countries complete a self-assessment every three years, and this identifies governance challenges and opportunities. The role of GWP is to support these assessments through multi-stakeholder consultations, and to help design and implement the resulting action and investment plans, leading to measurable improvements in IWRM.

- **SDG 6:** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- **Target 6.5:** By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

Global **progress towards target 6.5** is monitored through two indicators:

- **6.5.1:** Degree of implementation of IWRM
- **6.5.2:** Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation

The work is implemented predominantly by the Country Water Partnerships, and is structured in three stages: (1) convening multiple stakeholders to monitor and report on challenges; (2) formulating appropriate responses to water resource management challenges; and (3) implementing IWRM solutions, including mobilising funding.

In 2020, GWP provided support on government request to 61 countries to report on the status of SDG indicator 6.5.1. This support included hosting multi-stakeholder consultation workshops and providing guidance materials in different languages. GWP also helped to finalise six Stage 2 IWRM Action Plans, and supported implementation of another seven Stage 3 activities. The work included assisting India, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Nicaragua, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan to report on IWRM implementation for the first time. Stage 3 activities in Kazakhstan have encouraged the government to integrate the new IWRM Action Plan with the existing State 2030 Water Management Programme. Kazakhstan has also developed a new version of its Ecological Code, which embraces the recommendations of the IWRM Action Plan.

GWP has helped to secure financing of US$0.5–1 million from the national treasury to implement actions identified in Kenya's IWRM Action Plan. Around US$200,000 was leveraged in UNDP funding for new Stage 3 projects in Armenia and Viet Nam.

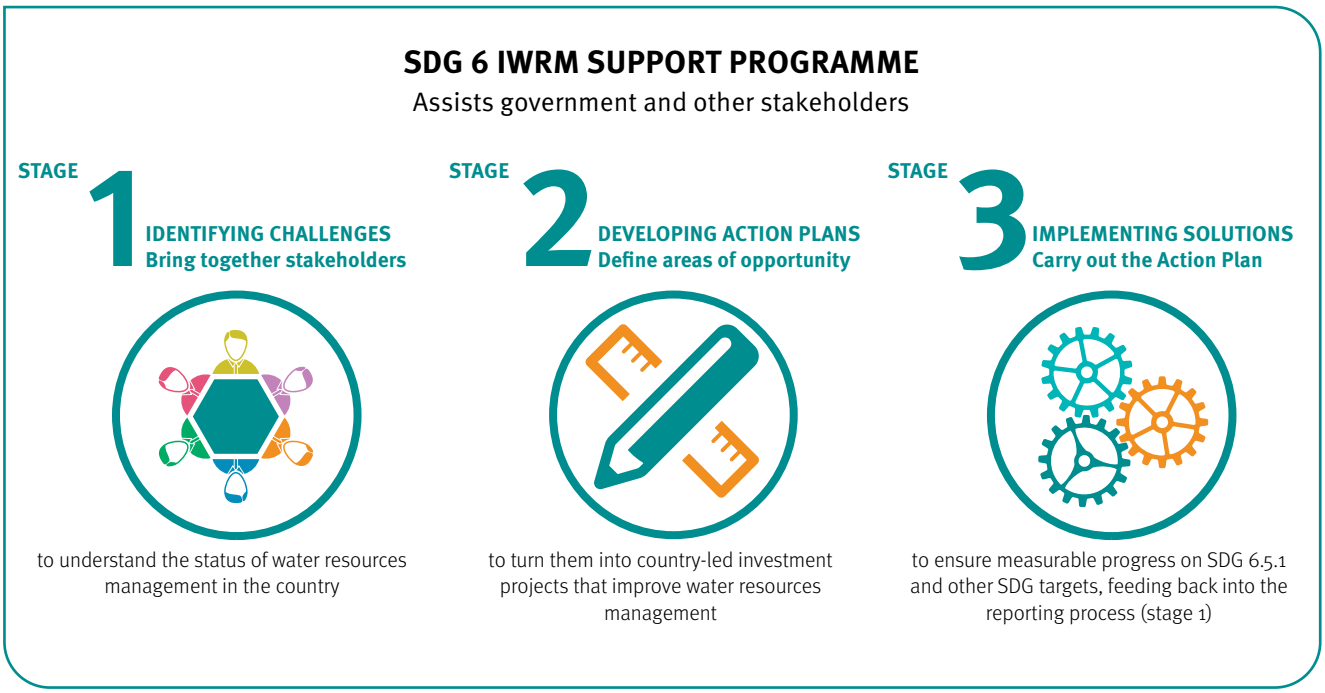
A GWP online training course for workshop facilitators was applauded by participants, with 96 percent reporting the course as 'good' or 'excellent'. Organisers of the national consultation were similarly impressed, providing a 'good' or 'excellent' score of 94 percent.

About IWRM monitoring

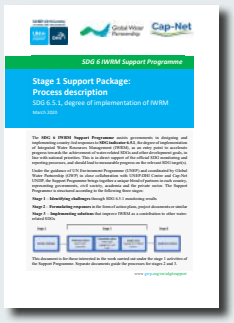
IWRM monitoring calls for a participatory approach in which representatives from across sectors are brought together to discuss and validate data, paving the way for coordination and collaboration beyond monitoring. Under the SDG umbrella, IWRM monitoring falls under the SDG 6.5 target, for which UNEP is the appointed custodian agency.

SDG indicator 6.5.1 tracks the degree of IWRM implementation by assessing the four key components of IWRM: enabling environment; institutions and participation; management instruments; and financing. It takes into account the various users and uses of water, with the aim of promoting positive social, economic, and environmental impacts at all levels, including the transboundary level, where appropriate.

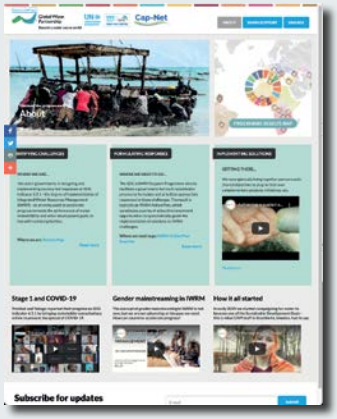
Data on 6.5.1 is collected through a questionnaire and responses are consolidated through consultations between relevant stakeholders. These include national and subnational line ministries and institutions involved in water resources management, and other stakeholders such as non-governmental organisations, academic institutions, international organisations, and businesses. Through the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme, GWP has assisted UNEP by facilitating two rounds of multi-stakeholder consultations (in 2017 and 2020).



SDG 6 IWRM support programme materials produced in 2020



SDG 6 IWRM Stage 1 Support Package: Produced to support the second round of reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.1 in 2020, this includes a process guide and annexes to support specific aspects, e.g. stakeholder inclusion and online facilitation. Available in English, French, and Spanish.



SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme minisite: Provides a range of resources, including videos, infographics, interactive map, and a database of actions on IWRM.

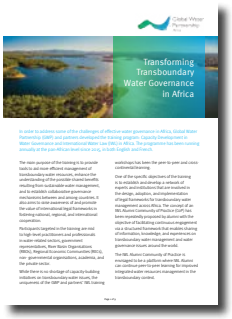
Transboundary water cooperation

River basins spanning two or more countries account for around 60 percent of global freshwater resources, with 2.8 billion people relying on shared waters. Transboundary water cooperation is therefore critical to GWP's mission to advance the governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development.

Regional dialogues and knowledge-sharing

Regional dialogues can facilitate more open discussions than meetings focused on specific water bodies. By looking at solutions, they also help to identify entry points for cooperation. GWP experience shows that regional dialogues are effective in leading stakeholders towards basin-level cooperation on water management. For example, in 2020, GWP worked with the Central American Commission for Environment and Development to organise a second regional dialogue. This was held in parallel with a high-level meeting of government ministers from Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama, allowing the ministers to participate in the dialogue. All participants welcomed the dialogue as a valuable tool for coordination. They pledged to continue the collaboration by developing regional guidelines for the management of transboundary waters across Central America.

At the regional level, GWP has provided annual pan-African training events on water governance and international water law since 2015. In 2020, the impact of these events was enhanced and further cooperation was built by adopting a more structured approach to knowledge dissemination and sharing. A survey was sent out to gather feedback from past participants, with the results published as a short report: Transforming Transboundary Water Governance in Africa. The report and a proposed new capacity-development programme were presented in November to more than 50 people, including African Union officials, managers from the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), and members of river basin organisations. In addition to widening the reach of the training, the new approach will help to build a more extensive network of water professionals and decision-makers.



Basin-level cooperation

Building on discussions over several years, in 2020 the riparian countries of the Drin river basin (Albania, Greece, Kosovo, Montenegro, and North Macedonia) jointly developed and signed a strategic programme outlining more than 100 actions to overcome obstacles and promote sustainable water resources development.

In Southern Africa, GWP helped to mobilise €5 million from the Global Environment Facility for a new project on managing competing water uses and protecting ecosystems in the Buzi, Pungwe, and Save river basins, which are shared by Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Building on a close pre-existing collaboration with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) on enhancing transboundary collaboration in the region, GWP provided technical backing to ECCAS to submit eight transboundary water projects for funding under PIDA. This programme is backed by the African Union and aims to accelerate the development of key water infrastructure projects.

Sharing transboundary water management knowledge

GWP has a well-established capacity-building programme in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, developed with a wide range of partners and targeted at practitioners and legislators involved in transboundary water management. At the global level and working with key partners in the transboundary water space, GWP and the Global Environment Facility International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network developed a massive open online course (MOOC), Governance for Transboundary Freshwater Security. The course opened at the end of August 2020 and, as of April 2021, more than 2,000 learners from 145 countries have participated. The MOOC was also featured in a pan-Asian online workshop on monitoring SDG indicator 6.5.2 in response to participants' requests for capacity-building support.

Climate resilience through water

Water is the key to the world's ability to cope with climate change. Water scarcity and extreme flood events adversely affect food security, employment, economic growth, energy production, and health. GWP has achieved significant results in building climate resilience around the world through its work to leverage investment and increase access to climate finance. This work revolves around support to countries to achieve their goals and targets under the Paris Agreement. The new strategy period brings an increased focus on incorporating gender equality into all national adaptation planning processes and climate investments.

Climate planning and access to finance

In 2019, GWP was appointed as a delivery partner by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and became the go-to organisation to help countries access funding through the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme. In 2020, GWP received formal requests for proposal development support from nine countries (Burundi, Central African Republic, Eswatini, Libya, Montenegro, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, and Zambia). The total value of GCF projects currently in the pipeline exceeds €25 million. The goal of these proposals is to further develop and implement national climate resilience commitments, including National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), in line with the Paris Agreement. Since a number of countries have missed the original deadline for completion of NAPs (2020), GWP will continue to play a significant role in furthering progress in this area.

NDCs lay out the priorities for national climate action, and have the potential to guide efforts to build climate resilience. NDCs can be developed into country-level strategies and/or approaches for mobilising finance for climate-resilient infrastructure projects, and for enhancing supportive policy and regulatory frameworks. GWP is providing practical support to countries to develop NDCs through the NDC Partnership, which has granted funding of almost €1 million to finance GWP support to five countries (Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Paraguay, Somalia, and Sudan).

In April 2020, GWP launched the Continental Africa Water Investment Support Programme on water, climate, development, and gender. This promotes a gender-transformative approach to development, which means ensuring gender equality becomes a cornerstone in all planning, decision-making, and institutional development towards climate-resilient water management. The project team has completed gender analyses (including a literature review, online surveys, consultations, and focus groups) for each of the pilot countries (Benin, Cameroon, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zambia).

Mitigating risk from floods and droughts

GWP is playing an increasing role in incorporating the topic of water management into the global debate on disaster risk reduction. In 2020, this included providing input to the High-Level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP) Draft Principles to Address Water-related Disaster Risk Reduction under the Covid-19 Pandemic. This was followed up with an Asia-wide consultation meeting with more than 100 participants, which gathered thoughts and opinions on how to implement the principles in practice. The meeting also provided a platform where decision-makers, experts, and practitioners could exchange views on how to enhance preparation for combined water and health emergencies.

GWP has a long history of collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), including the joint programmes on flood and drought management that champion an integrated, cross-sector approach to the management of extreme events. In 2020, both programmes organised a series of virtual meetings to help their partners to continue sharing knowledge during a time of social distancing. The Integrated Drought Management Programme worked with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Cap-Net on the development of knowledge products, as well as providing input to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Special Issue on Drought (to be published in 2021).

Regarding resource mobilisation, GWP Central Africa is working with the Lake Chad Basin Commission and WMO to develop a concept note for submission to the Adaptation Fund for strengthening flood and drought early warning systems. Another submission aimed to boost the resilience of Mekong river communities by improving decision-making networks for better disaster risk management, agricultural productivity, and hydropower generation.

In 2020, GWP mobilised around €17.5 million to support ongoing initiatives in climate change and transboundary cooperation.

Vehicles try to drive through a flooded street in Dhaka, Bangladesh, July 2020

GWP SUPPORT FOR SDG MONITORING AND CLIMATE ACTION: HIGHLIGHTS IN 2020

Global:
- Support to 61 countries on SDG indicator 6.5.1 reporting
- Six National IWRM Action Plans finalised
- Course on climate resilience for water, sanitation, and hygiene developed with UNICEF

Central Asia:
- Support to adapt SDG 6 targets to the local level in Armenia, with US$70,000 funding leveraged from UNDP
- Drought risk management strategy approved in Afghanistan

Asia:
- Regional SDG 6.5.2 workshops organised

Caribbean:
- Workshop on water quality and IWRM communications strategy in Grenada
- Support to the government for flooding projections as part of the NDC submission in the Dominican Republic

Central America:
- Drought training courses held in six countries

Southern Africa:
- US$2.2 million mobilised from GCF for developing NAP for Zambia

Eastern Africa:
- Training in accessing climate finance for key government ministries in Uganda
- Over US$500,000 mobilised to implement Kenya's National IWRM Action Plan
- Knowledge sharing on IWRM and presentation on draft national water resources strategy in Somalia

South America:
- Support for consultations on setting the IWRM baseline in Argentina

Central Africa:
- Collaboration with UNICEF, ECCAS, and Ministry of Water on a national water and sanitation policy and strategy for Central African Republic
- Project concept on climate resilience in Lake Chad basin submitted to Adaptation Fund

- Support for monitoring SDG 6.5.1 (IWRM)
- Support for monitoring SDG 6.5.2 (transboundary cooperation)
- Support for climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction

More than 180 representatives of NGOs, academia, youth centers, schools, and media participated in the 2020 Drin Day celebrations throughout all riparian countries, while more than a few thousand attended online due to this year's COVID-19 pandemic-imposed limitations

AFRICA REGIONAL STORIES

Transforming Africa's water investment outlook

Population growth, urbanisation, and the impacts of climate change are contributing to the imperative to develop Africa's water infrastructure. The African Development Bank estimates that investment of US$164 billion is required annually to meet the vision of water security for all by 2025. However, current investment is lagging behind the continent's economic and social needs, with the actual figure only around $10–19 billion per year.

The Continental Africa Water Investment Programme will address this gap by leveraging finance for sustainable water supply and sanitation, while also supporting business development, job creation, gender equality, and climate resilience. The goal is to mobilise US$30 billion in investments by 2030 across Africa, while creating 5 million jobs. The programme was formally adopted by all African Union heads of state in February 2020. GWP is providing technical backstopping for programme activities through the Africa Coordination Unit.

The three main parts of the programme are:

- **Transboundary investment support:** to accelerate project preparation, financing, and implementation. In 2020, GWP support resulted in a fivefold increase in transboundary water projects being shortlisted in the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) priority action plan.
- **Climate and gender:** to mobilise partnerships and implement gender-transformative investment. In 2020, GWP initiated activities in five pilot countries and five transboundary basins, conducting consultations to inform the overall approach.
- **SDG water investment:** to catalyse leadership support for coordinated climate-resilient water investment, inclusive growth, and job creation.

GWP helped to develop the investment scorecard, which will be introduced as a tool to mobilise the high-level political leadership required to achieve the programme objectives. It will also monitor countries' progress in delivering essential water services and attracting further investment to water infrastructure.

AFRICA INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

Programme targets by 2030

US$ 30 billion
leveraged towards climate-resilient water and sanitation investments

250 million
people benefit from resilient water investments and economic opportunities

1 million
direct jobs created through investments in climate-resilient water and sanitation

4 million
indirect jobs for the vulnerable, youth, and women

AIP impacts will not be delivered by GWP alone. AIP partners have committed to contribute collectively to the achievement of these impacts by 2030.

Programme partners

- African Union Development Agency
- Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa
- African Development Bank
- Africa Water Facility
- African Ministers' Council on Water
- Infrastructure Consortium for Africa
- Global Water Partnership

More information: www.aipwater.org

Central Africa

National water and sanitation policies in Central African Republic and Republic of the Congo

With access to the Congo river and inland wetlands and lakes, Central Africa is relatively well endowed with freshwater supplies. However, these resources are unevenly distributed and generally undeveloped, with rapid population growth and climate change creating an urgent need for improved water governance and management planning. GWP supported the development of a regional water policy in 2009, and this provided a framework to help governments to develop their national policies.

In November 2020, the Government of the Central African Republic approved a national water and sanitation policy, following a multi-stakeholder process supported by GWP Central Africa, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The process followed on from the development of an Africa regional report for monitoring IWRM implementation led by the African Ministers' Council on Water that was launched at the end of 2018. The elaboration process for the national water policy provided a roadmap for the water and sanitation review process and ensured the key stakeholders had a common understanding of both the key activities and their roles and responsibilities. The new policy will improve awareness of the principal water-related issues and foster greater coherence in public and private investment. It will generate action towards more integrated and sustainable management of critical water resources in the country, as well as addressing climate change impacts.

GWP Central Africa in collaboration with UNICEF also supported the Government of the Republic of the Congo in developing a draft national water and sanitation policy as part of the country's SDG 6 achievement programme. Stakeholders gathered in November 2020 for a two-day consultation workshop, where they discussed and approved the draft policy document. The participants included representatives from GWP Congo, the Ministry of Energy and Water, non-governmental organisations, civil society, the private sector, and academia. The document has been submitted to the government for formal adoption.

Stakeholder engagement in transboundary cooperation in Cameroon and Republic of the Congo

GWP is supporting several countries in Central Africa in the monitoring and reporting process on SDG indicators 6.5.1 on IWRM and 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation. To assess progress made on transboundary cooperation, GWP Cameroon worked with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Cameroon Ministry of Water Resources and Energy to organise a two-day multi-stakeholder consultation workshop in September 2020. Twenty stakeholders from various government ministries met with members of civil society organisations to develop the capacity of the participants on the monitoring process, approve the national SDG 6 questionnaire, and brainstorm how to promote further cooperation on water resources governance and management.

The Republic of the Congo took a major step forward in boosting cooperation on transboundary rivers, lakes, and aquifers by hosting a validation workshop for the national report on SDG indicator 6.5.2. The event was organised by GWP Congo, the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, and the UNESCO country office, with the number of participants restricted to 20 due to the need to respect COVID-19 safety measures.

SDG 6.5.2 training session in Cameroon

National SDG 6.5.2 workshop in the Republic of the Congo

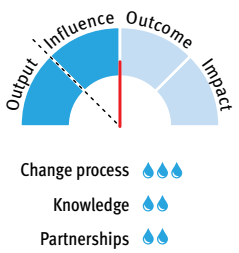
Eastern Africa

Reducing the negative impacts of climate change in Somalia and Sudan

Somalia and Sudan have both signed up to the Paris Agreement on climate change by committing to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions through assessment of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). In 2020, GWP facilitated efforts in both countries to assess carbon emissions from the different sectors and establish baselines. Due to COVID-19, many activities were conducted online, with some implementation schedules affected by reduced mobility. However, key lessons were captured from experiences in both countries, with national experts engaged to enhance national capacity for documentation and knowledge sharing.

Enhancing the resilience of communities and ecosystems in Uganda

Located in central Uganda, the Katonga catchment area includes several lakes, rivers, and wetlands. These important ecosystems are extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change, which in recent years has delivered more intense and erratic rainfall, and frequent periods of drought. In 2020, the Adaptation Fund committed US$2.25 million for a project to enhance the resilience of communities and protect fragile ecosystems in the Katonga catchment. The project will increase food and water security by promoting investment in appropriate water storage solutions. It will also improve community livelihoods by establishing nature-based enterprises. Further activities will help stakeholders learn about and share knowledge on adaptation to climate change. Based on its extensive experience in building partnerships for water resources management and climate resilience, GWP will support the Ministry of Water and Environment in the implementation of the capacity building and knowledge management components of the project.



Addressing a women's group in Kenya

Southern Africa

US$2 million for national climate adaptation planning in Zambia

In 2020, following several years of collaborative activities, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) awarded over US$2 million to the Government of Zambia to develop its National Adaptation Plan. This is one of several GCF initiatives designed to build resilience to climate change in the country. GWP, as a designated GCF delivery partner, will support the implementation of the project through GWP Southern Africa, working directly with the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources. The work will strengthen systems for integrating climate change adaptation into major planning and budgeting processes, and prioritise adaptation actions that are linked to financing strategies.

"The support is timely as the government is in the process of preparing a legal framework to address climate change in the country, as well as revising its NDCs for submission under the Paris Agreement," said Jean Kapata, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources. The funding will also help Zambia to secure the funding needed to implement the NDC strategy and build a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy.

Alex Simalabwi, GWP Southern Africa Executive Secretary and Global Head for Climate Resilience, said: "The funding is great news for the country. It comes at a time when Zambia is experiencing unprecedented climate risks, with droughts having recently devastated parts of the country, while more recently, floods are destroying roads, bridges, and public infrastructure in the midst of an unprecedented global COVID-19 crisis."

SADC ministers agree to coordinate planning on water, energy, and food security

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Water-Energy-Food Nexus Governance Framework was formally adopted by the SADC ministers responsible for energy and water in October 2020. Developed with technical assistance from GWP Southern Africa, the framework will guide coordination among the three sectors at the policy- and decision-making levels. The 'nexus' approach highlights the interdependencies in achieving security of water, energy, and food, while ensuring sustainable resource use. GWP Southern Africa will coordinate implementation of the next phase, which supports dialogue among ministers and other key stakeholders.

At the online meeting of ministers, Her Excellency Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, SADC Executive Secretary, stressed the importance of coordination in these sectors to advance regional integration in efforts to reduce poverty and promote socioeconomic development, environmental protection, peace, and stability.

Zambezi River, Zambia

West Africa

Additional funding for youth projects in West Africa

Working to promote youth voices has been one of the main focus areas of GWP West Africa over the past ten years. In continuation of its support for these efforts, the Government of Quebec, Canada has committed nearly CA$0.5 million in funding for a second phase of the #tonfuturtonclimat (Your Future Your Climate) project. The first phase ran for three years from 2017 and supported projects to promote water security and build adaptation to climate change. These projects were run for and by youth associations in Benin, Burkina Faso, and Togo. The second phase will allow youth to continue building their capacity as entrepreneurs in sustainable employment and business development.

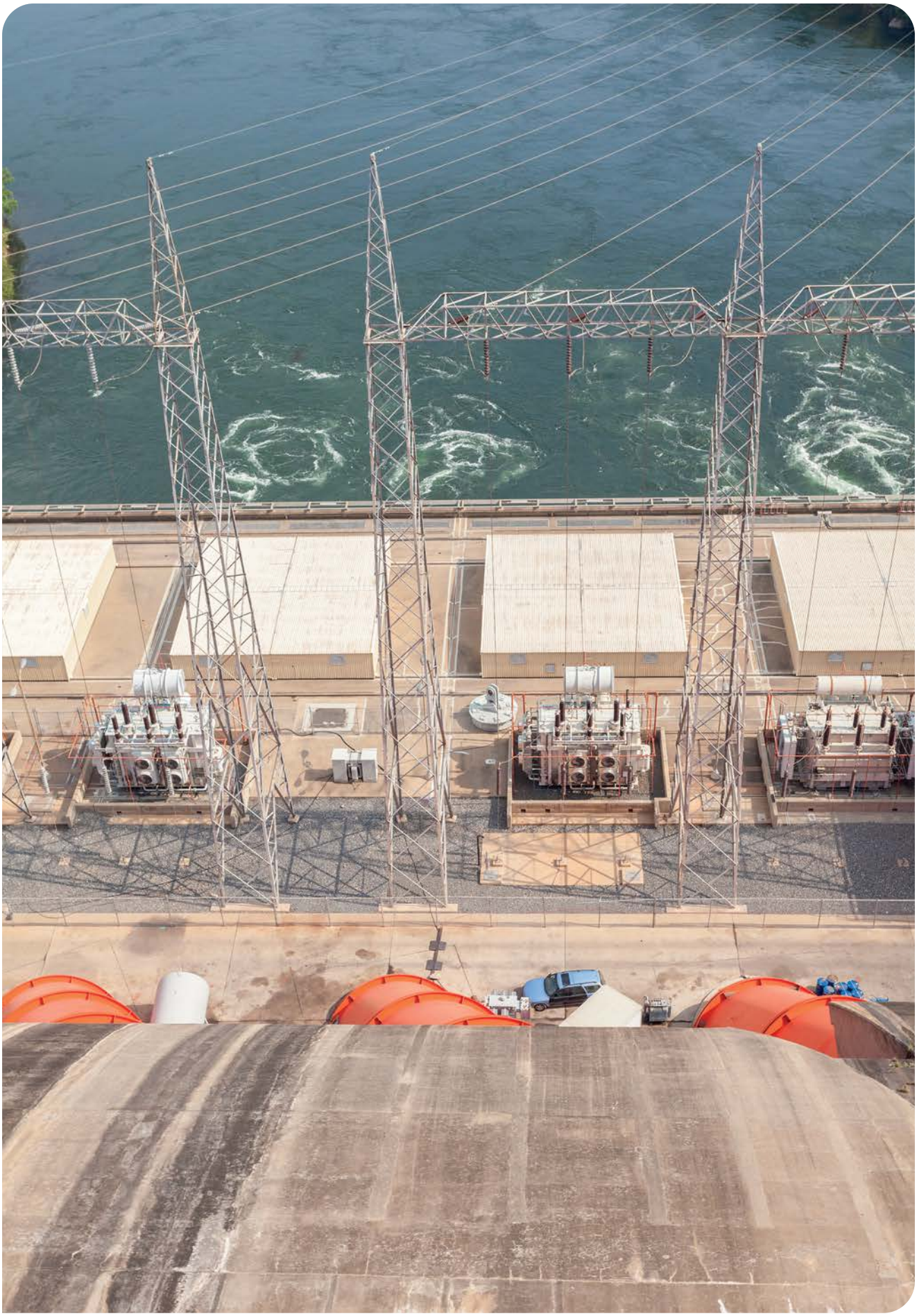
Water integrity action plans for municipalities in Benin

Promoting integrity and fighting corruption in water management has important benefits for human dignity, health, and equitable access to resources. It also supports economic growth and investment. With funding from the Netherlands, GWP Benin is working to improve transparency and accountability in the water and sanitation sector by organising advocacy and technical support to key decision-makers at the municipal level. Training has also been offered to members of local drinking water associations. Sixty-three of the country's 77 municipalities have now taken part in these activities. In 2020, this knowledge was put into practice, with five municipalities implementing integrity action plans for water supply and sanitation. The direct benefits for citizens included reductions in the cost of drinking water and repairs to broken infrastructure. In addition to raising awareness among decision-makers, the plans have provided a platform for citizen feedback and scrutiny.

Implementing IWRM in Niger

The European Union has committed €1 million to GWP West Africa to support green economic growth and poverty reduction in Niger's part of the Mékrou river basin, contributing to the implementation of Niger's National IWRM Action Plan. The funding supports the second phase of the project entitled Water for Growth and Poverty Reduction in the Mékrou Transboundary Basin, which began in 2014. In the second phase, a development and management plan for the national portion of the transboundary basin of the Mékrou river in Niger will be formulated. This will be aligned with the master plan for water development and management in the whole transboundary basin, which is shared by Benin, Burkina Faso, and Niger. Local interventions will also be implemented. The project will bring together all water-related sectors, including agriculture, environment, transport, infrastructure, planning, finance, and security, while inviting equal participation in decision-making from all stakeholders, including women, youth, and the private sector.

Irrigation in Niger



Akosombo Hydroelectric Power Station on the Volta River supplies energy to almost the whole of Ghana and half of Togo, West Africa

FEATURE: PRIORITY ACTION ON GENDER AND YOUTH

GWP expresses its unique value in its efforts to "ensure the 'voices of water' influence local, national, regional, and global development priorities". This means fully integrating gender and youth aspects in the overall work programme in line with the cross-cutting nature of these issues in the context of water resources management.

Gender inclusion in water resources management

GWP's activities on gender inclusion are guided by the Action Piece: Gender Equality and Inclusion in Water Resources Management, developed in 2017. In 2020, successful resource mobilisation efforts allowed a major project to commence in Africa (see box). In Ecuador, funding from the NDC Partnership helped GWP to support the Ministry of Environment and Water in generating technical inputs for the identification, selection, and prioritisation of information, indicators, and criteria for carrying out climate risk analysis focusing on priority groups and gender considerations.

A baseline analysis for SDG indicator 6.5.1, conducted in 2020, showed that countries have different levels of understanding on gender inclusion, with gaps in the availability of gender-disaggregated data. GWP therefore prepared specific guidelines to improve the reporting process, enhance common understanding, transfer knowledge and experiences, and replicate examples of good practice.

GWP Caucasus and Central Asia began a subregional initiative to strengthen the capacity of women in non-governmental organisations concerning natural resource management and climate change adaptation through training and knowledge sharing. GWP and the Geneva Water Hub jointly prepared a comparative study, Empowering Women in Water Diplomacy in the Middle East and North Africa. This led to the launch of a related initiative aiming to strengthen the role of women in water diplomacy and transboundary water cooperation in the region (see Mediterranean regional stories).

In South Asia, GWP Country Water Partnerships participated in a consultation meeting on how to best support gender transformation at the national level. In Southern Africa, GWP helped to develop a gender action plan for the Limpopo Watercourse Commission as part of its support to mobilise funding from the Global Environment Facility.

Addressing gender inequality in Africa

African women have traditionally shouldered the burden of providing water for their families, but their views are still largely ignored in decision-making on water resources management. Gender equality is essential for ensuring food and water security, and for building climate resilience, so action is needed to ensure a more gender-sensitive approach to investment and institution building on water and climate change across the continent.

GWP is working with the African Union Development Agency and other high-level African institutions to implement the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP). A key focus of AIP is to address gender inequality, and the programme encompasses a specific gender-focused component. The AIP Support Programme on water, climate, development, and gender aims to trigger the long-term change required to ensure the preparation, development, governance, and management of climate-resilient water investments address gender equality at all levels. Activities take a holistic approach, addressing the social barriers that prevent women from fully participating in all aspects of the water and climate sector.

In 2020, the project team conducted initial gender studies in Benin, Cameroon, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zambia. They reviewed existing systems, gaps, and drivers, which helped them to identify opportunities and prioritise interventions that would contribute to a gender-transformative approach to strengthening water security and climate resilience.

African women sell fresh fish on the street market, Zambia

Water solutions for youth engagement

GWP's portfolio of youth engagement projects continues to expand, with activities based on sharing lessons and amplifying impacts. Activities include supporting youth-led initiatives and organisations, building technical capacity and leadership skills, and facilitating youth participation in water management processes and GWP governing bodies.

In 2020, despite COVID-19 restrictions, GWP facilitated youth participation in global events, including dedicated online sessions at Stockholm Water Week and continuing preparations for the 9th World Water Forum to be held in 2022. Youth webinars provided another opportunity for engagement around the impacts of the pandemic. The year also saw GWP Central Africa, Central America, and Southern Africa include youth representatives in the country workshops organised for monitoring SDG indicator 6.5.1.

GWP South America launched a competition to encourage youth participation, which was won by VITALIS, a GWP Partner from Venezuela. VITALIS was awarded funding for a specific project to mobilise youth and support their role as agents of change in promoting more integrated and sustainable management of water resources.

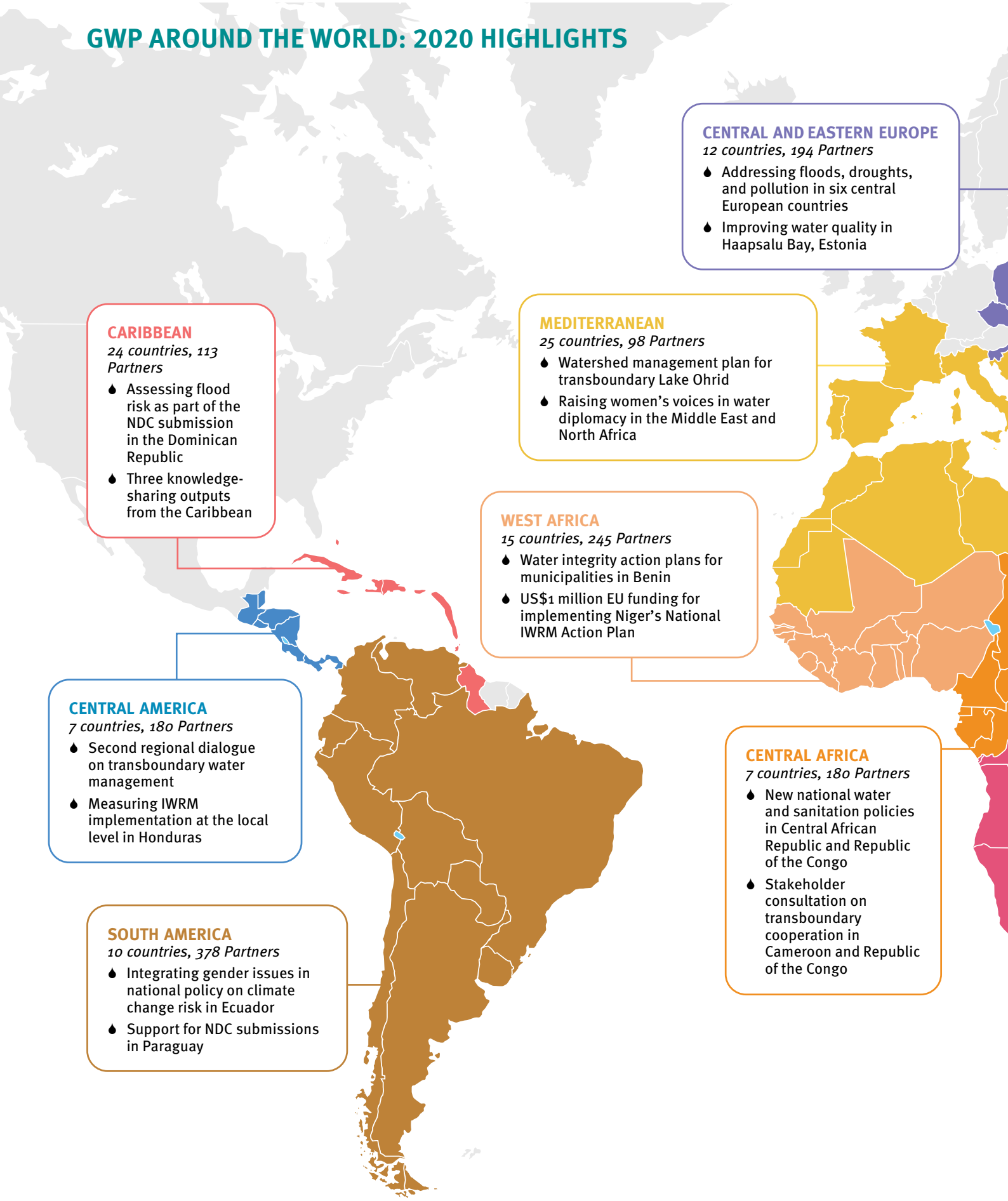
Capacity-building support is a key thread within GWP youth activities. In 2020, GWP Central and Eastern Europe secured funding from the European Union to boost youth employment and build capacity for accessing project funding. In South America, GWP launched a new training initiative specifically for young professionals on integrated water management and how to mobilise resources. In West Africa, funding was secured for a second phase of the #tonfuturtonclimat (Your Future Your Climate) project, which is increasing the capacity of young people to become agents of change for water and climate resilience (see West Africa regional stories).

Promoting green entrepreneurship in Tunisia

The Ghar El Melh is a Ramsar wetland, recognised for its ecological and cultural heritage. Sustainable development and integrated management of this important water resource are vital to preserve its status into the future. The Conservation and Sustainable Development of Coastal Wetlands with High Ecological Value (GEMWET) project, supported by the MAVA Foundation, aims to assist economic, sociocultural, and ecological development, including boosting green job opportunities for the youth living in the greater wetlands area of Ghar El Melh. Continuing its activities despite the COVID-19 pandemic, GWP Mediterranean organised a series of webinars for local participants aged 25–35 on opportunities for green entrepreneurship. The youth put forward their business plans for developing sustainable organic agriculture, processing of local fisheries products, waste recycling, ecotourism, and distillation of aromatic and medicinal plants. Several of these business ideas employ smart technologies to tackle environmental challenges and turn them into job opportunities. The webinars were followed by one-to-one coaching and mentoring for a selected group of 13 young people, helping them to develop their ideas further.

Tunisian youth participate in training for green entrepreneurship skills, organized by GWP Mediterranean

GWP AROUND THE WORLD: 2020 HIGHLIGHTS



CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE
12 countries, 194 Partners

- Addressing floods, droughts, and pollution in six central European countries
- Improving water quality in Haapsalu Bay, Estonia

CARIBBEAN
24 countries, 113 Partners

- Assessing flood risk as part of the NDC submission in the Dominican Republic
- Three knowledge-sharing outputs from the Caribbean

MEDITERRANEAN
25 countries, 98 Partners

- Watershed management plan for transboundary Lake Ohrid
- Raising women's voices in water diplomacy in the Middle East and North Africa

WEST AFRICA
15 countries, 245 Partners

- Water integrity action plans for municipalities in Benin
- US$1 million EU funding for implementing Niger's National IWRM Action Plan

CENTRAL AMERICA
7 countries, 180 Partners

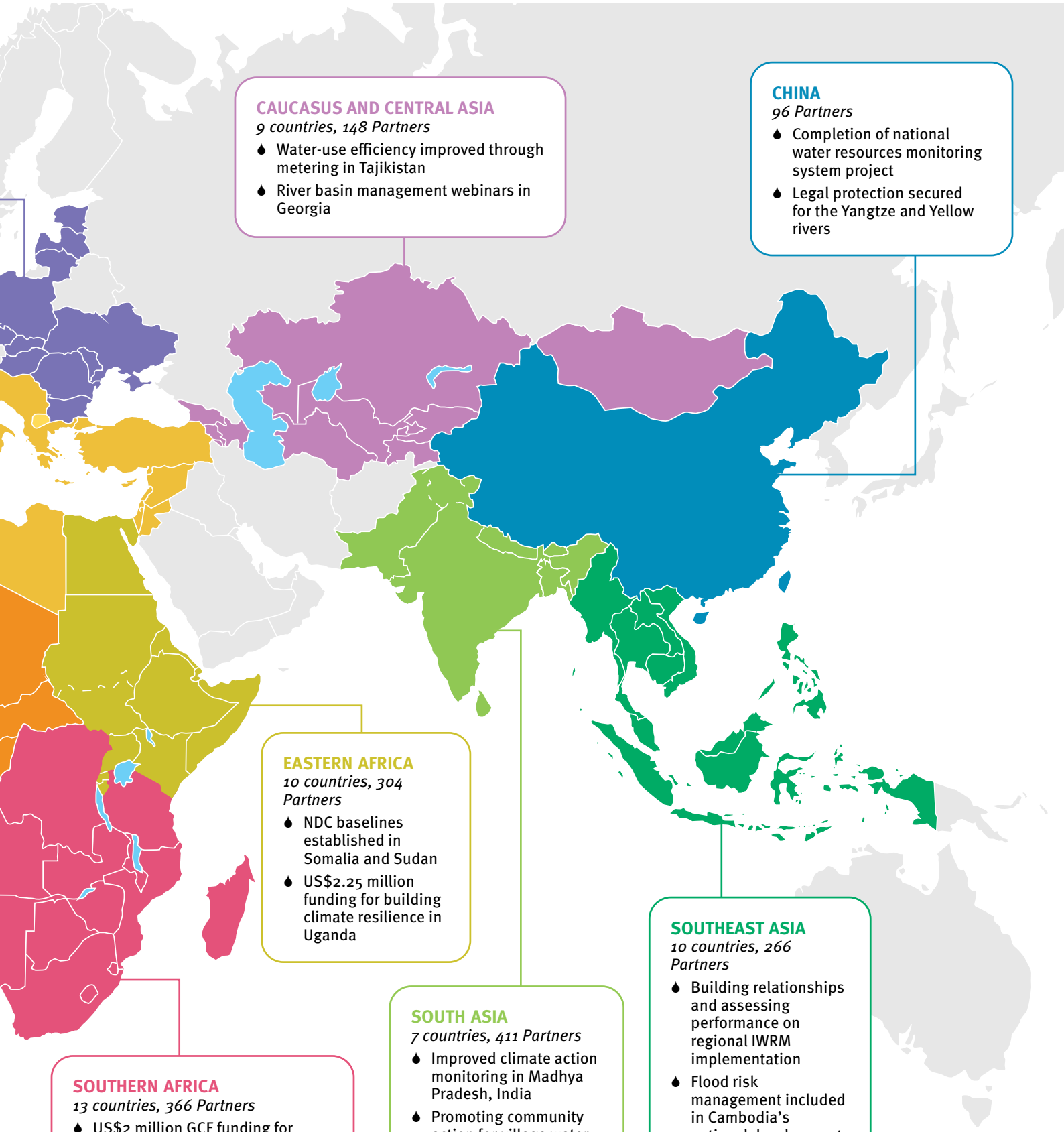
- Second regional dialogue on transboundary water management
- Measuring IWRM implementation at the local level in Honduras

CENTRAL AFRICA
7 countries, 180 Partners

- New national water and sanitation policies in Central African Republic and Republic of the Congo
- Stakeholder consultation on transboundary cooperation in Cameroon and Republic of the Congo

SOUTH AMERICA
10 countries, 378 Partners

- Integrating gender issues in national policy on climate change risk in Ecuador
- Support for NDC submissions in Paraguay



CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA

9 countries, 148 Partners

- Water-use efficiency improved through metering in Tajikistan
- River basin management webinars in Georgia

CHINA

96 Partners

- Completion of national water resources monitoring system project
- Legal protection secured for the Yangtze and Yellow rivers

EASTERN AFRICA

10 countries, 304 Partners

- NDC baselines established in Somalia and Sudan
- US$2.25 million funding for building climate resilience in Uganda

SOUTH ASIA

7 countries, 411 Partners

- Improved climate action monitoring in Madhya Pradesh, India
- Promoting community action for village water security in Bihar, India

SOUTHEAST ASIA

10 countries, 266 Partners

- Building relationships and assessing performance on regional IWRM implementation
- Flood risk management included in Cambodia's national development plan

SOUTHERN AFRICA

13 countries, 366 Partners

- US$2 million GCF funding for national climate adaptation planning in Zambia
- SADC ministers agree to coordinate planning on water, energy, and food security

Guilin, China

ASIA REGIONAL STORIES

Connecting countries, disciplines, and sectors across Asia

In 2020, GWP expanded its commitment to interregional collaboration by supporting several events designed to link stakeholders from different disciplines and sectors across Asia.

Water-related disaster risk reduction

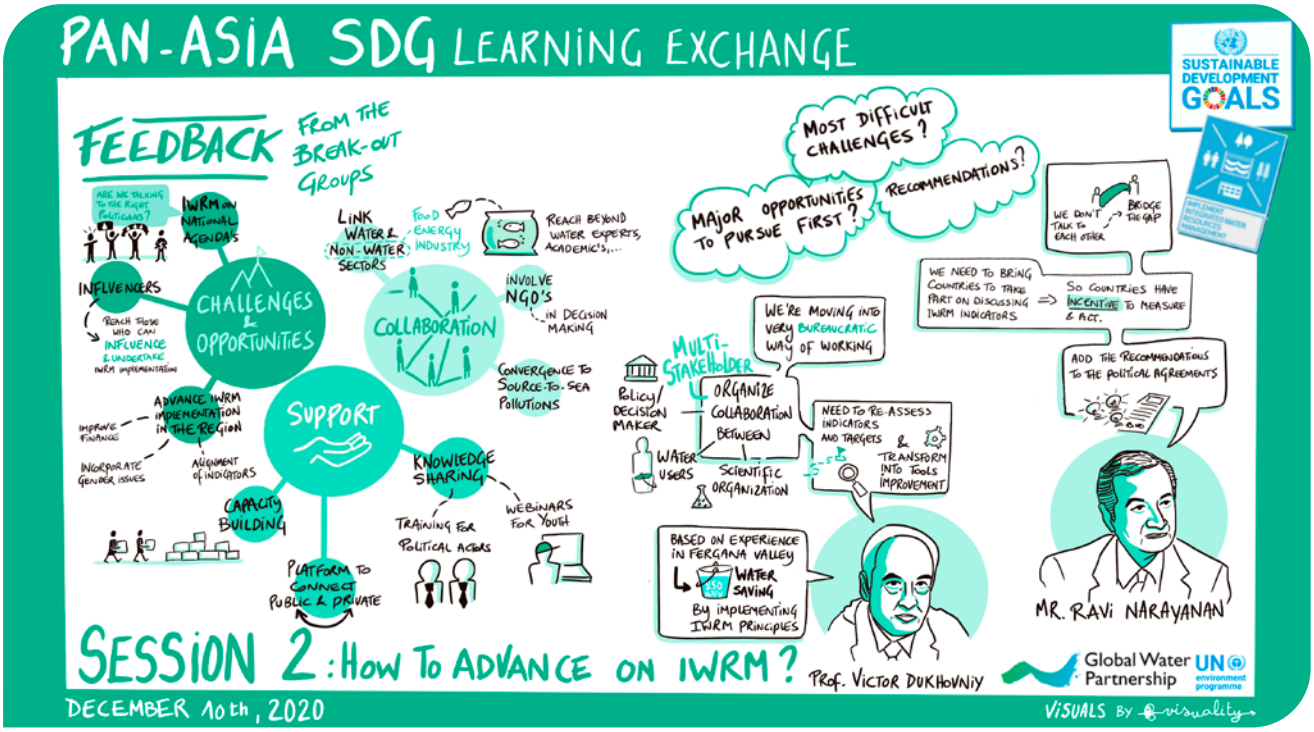
In July, GWP joined with the High-Level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP) in organising an online consultation for more than 100 participants from all over Asia. The aim was to devise a strategy to address key water-related disaster risks under the conditions imposed by COVID-19. Emerging areas of consensus revolved around the need for good national leadership in science-based decision-making and the importance of raising awareness among sectors not traditionally regarded as having responsibility for water. The participants suggested launching a special fund to convert risk into insurance products and obligations.

Regional workshop on monitoring transboundary water cooperation

In September, GWP and partners organised an online workshop on monitoring the implementation of transboundary water cooperation across Asia. The 64 participants exchanged experiences on the monitoring and reporting process, and identified opportunities for future improvement. As part of its effort to address the commonly cited problem of lack of technical capacity and limited data, GWP introduced the new massive open online course on governance for transboundary freshwater security (see the feature on water solutions for the SDGs for more).

Learning exchange on monitoring IWRM

In December 2020, GWP and the United Nations Environment Programme co-organised a learning exchange event to share experiences on monitoring and accelerating the degree of implementation of IWRM (SDG indicator 6.5.1). A total of 76 people from 21 countries took part. The workshop connected country focal points with regional organisations, with representation from the Asian Development Bank, Asia-Pacific Water Forum, and Scientific Information Centre Water Commission of Central Asia. The key recommendations included the suggestion to build a community of practice that would further knowledge exchange, facilitate dialogue between the youth and decision-makers, and promote links among water and non-water sectors. Participants also stressed the need to develop national capacities for raising finance (including from the private sector) and ensuring political commitment to water reform goes beyond the IWRM assessment for 2020.



Summary from the pan-Asia SDG learning exchange

Caucasus and Central Asia

Information system promotes water-use efficiency in Tajikistan

As a mountainous country, Tajikistan has relatively abundant water resources. However, with more than 50 percent of the population relying on agriculture-based livelihoods, the country's sustainable and equitable socioeconomic progress will depend on developing fully integrated water management solutions. In 2013, the World Bank launched a project to address key issues in the management of water resources in the Kofarnihon river basin. The Kofarnihon is one of the major tributaries of the Amu Darya, a key source of irrigation water for the dry steppe of Central Asia. In 2020, the project team created a database and information management system designed to improve water-use efficiency in the Kofarnihon irrigation systems. GWP Tajikistan played a key role in implementing this initiative, which facilitated automation of the water metering system in 3 districts, encompassing 19 pumping stations and 26 water user associations. After introducing the metering system, water supply increased by 20 percent, with a 25 percent saving in water use.

Second public consultation on river basin management in Armenia

The European Union Water Initiative Plus (EUWI+), running from 2016 to 2020, is a major EU commitment to aligning the water legislations of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine to EU policy on water management. It focuses on improving water resources management, particularly in transboundary river basins. As part of this project, GWP Armenia organised two stakeholder consultations with a view to developing management plans for the Sevan and Hrazdan rivers in Armenia, which are part of the Kura-Aras river basin. The first public consultation, held in 2019, gathered more than 50 local stakeholders, who aired their views on the main challenges facing water sharing, drinking water quality, pollution, and human health. The second event, held in June and July 2020, took place virtually due to COVID-19. Questionnaires and information videos were used to provide information and to gather input from stakeholders.

River basin management webinars in Georgia

Georgia is undergoing a process of water reform and has committed to introduce a new water law. This includes a requirement for the development and implementation of river basin management plans. As part of this process, and with assistance from the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme, GWP Georgia organised a series of webinars for stakeholders from two key river basins, the Mtkvari (also known as the Kura) and the Enguri-Rioni. Representatives from 20 municipalities took part in 12 webinars in October and November 2020. Each event included a question-and-answer session in which the participants raised their concerns (e.g. over drinking water tariffs and groundwater abstraction licences). They also discussed water reform within the new draft water law. Those attending said that the webinars had expanded their knowledge on IWRM and helped them to connect theoretical knowledge to practice. They are now better equipped to be fully involved in the development of their river basin management plans.

Webinar on key river basins in Georgia

China

National water management information system

In September 2020, the Ministry of Water Resources of China organised an event to assess the influence and outcomes of the National Water Resources Monitoring System project. GWP China was involved in providing technical support to the development of IWRM plans for this eight-year project, which was completed in 2020. GWP China assisted in designing national IWRM frameworks, formulating monitoring and reporting indicators, and improving capacity for mobilising funding. In responding to water management challenges, GWP brought together river basin management agencies, provincial administrators, and construction teams, involving 19,000 water users and 43,000 online monitoring stations.

Legal protection for the Yangtze and Yellow rivers

GWP China took a leading role in the formation of the Yangtze river basin organisation in 2018. In 2020, this support culminated in President Xi Jinping signing a decree to enact the Yangtze River Protection Law, which came into effect on 1 March 2021. This is China's first legislation on a specific river basin and addresses a range of topics, including water resource planning, protection, and control; prevention of pollution; restoration of ecologies; green development; and legal responsibilities.

This successful outcome has inspired water stakeholders in the Yellow river basin to advocate a similar law. GWP has acted as the principle convenor, bringing together representatives of the government agencies from the nine Yellow river riparian provinces. Through transboundary cooperation, it is hoped a Yellow river protection law will be drafted to ensure the integrated, sustainable, and equitable development of its valuable water resources.

Sharing knowledge on environmental protection

In November 2020, GWP China brought together a team of experts to provide an online training course on monitoring and protection of the ecological resources of rivers and lakes. The two-day course attracted more than 600 scholars, including 83 students from 15 countries outside China. The course was based on decades of experience and research on aquatic ecological monitoring in the Yangtze river basin. Several Chinese academic institutions have linked to form a joint training centre and will be offering similar courses over the next two years.

"Online training provides a useful way to learn from China's river and lake ecosystem monitoring technologies and methods," said Dr James Rhodes from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, who during the course shared Kenya's problems with environmental degradation in the Tana river basin. "Through learning, we can seek better methods for monitoring … and new ways to restore ecological functions."

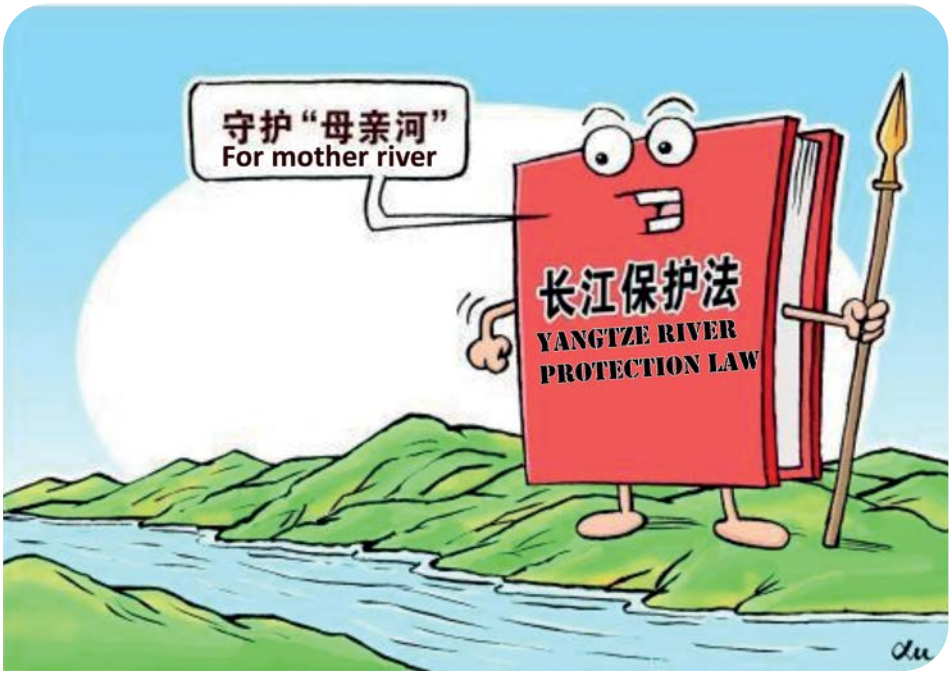


Illustration from the Yangtze River Protection Law of the People's Republic of China

South Asia

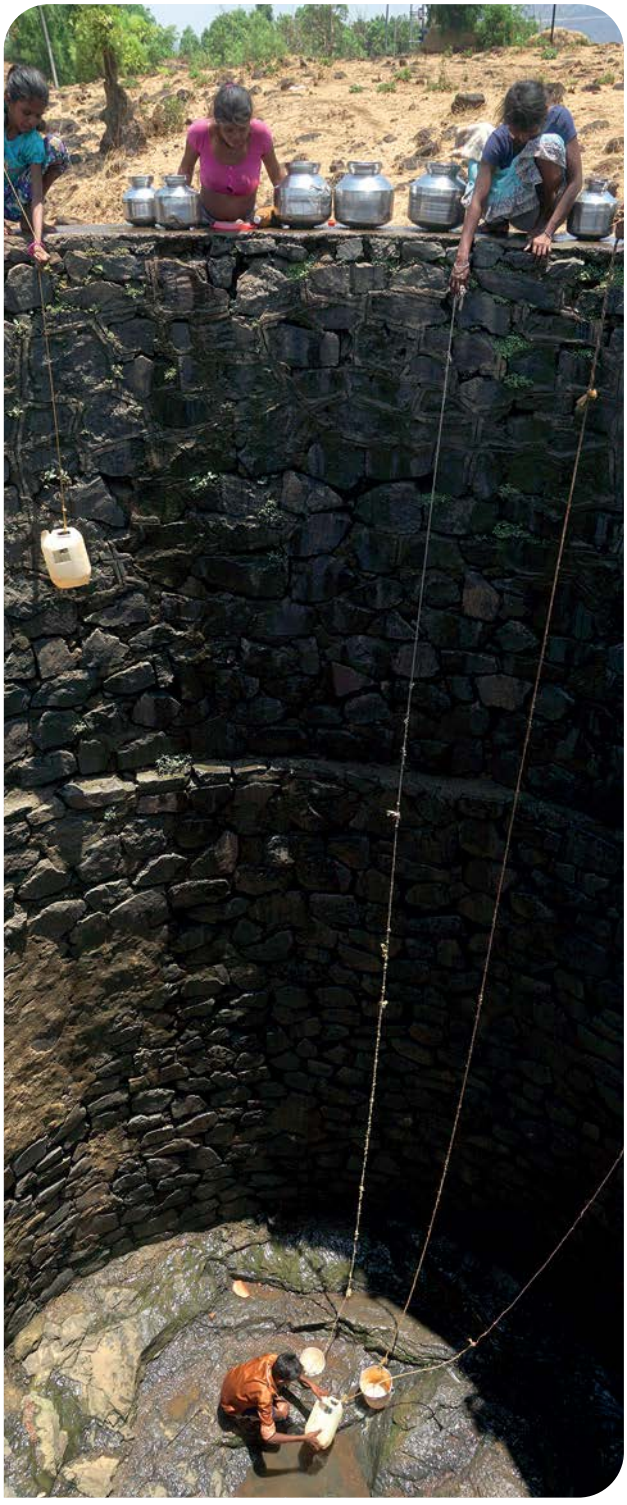
Monitoring progress on climate change in Madhya Pradesh, India

GWP India provided financial and technical support for a consultation on the State of Madhya Pradesh monitoring framework for SDG 13 on climate action. The aim was to produce recommendations and suggestions on how to improve it. Stakeholders were drawn from the state government departments of environment, planning, and health, as well as from academic institutions and international development agencies. The event highlighted the need for better data management and sharing to permit accurate monitoring. This led to recommendations to adopt a more integrated approach to national data management, initiate local-level and multi-stakeholder data collection platforms, and standardise data collection and analysis tools. An online dashboard was suggested as a key tool for data integration and dissemination, along with systems for capacity building and knowledge exchange. Finally, participants recommended better integration of climate action planning within frameworks for achievement of the other SDGs. The participants' views will be integrated in the development of the monitoring framework.

Promoting community action for village water security in Bihar, India

The Pandai river, a tributary of the larger Gandak, marks a short stretch of the border between India and Nepal and provides water for many small villages in both countries. However, just before the monsoon season, river flows are reduced to a mere trickle, resulting in disputes over water availability and sparking conflict between the two countries. In 2020, GWP India supported a project designed to promote dialogue and build cooperation among the villagers who depend on the Pandai/Gandak, an important transboundary water resource.

Cooperation and community engagement were the key, with downstream stakeholders in India learning how to engage peacefully with their upstream neighbours in Nepal, and to encourage them to allow water to flow even during periods of scarcity. At the same time, downstream users were supported to find alternative solutions, including rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge. Discussion platforms included all community members, including women and youth. Capacity building was provided to local non-governmental organisations for effective mediation and arbitration. The project benefited almost 10,000 people in 11 villages. The resulting documented successes and educational materials will be used to inform similar projects elsewhere.



A well in Maharashtra, India

Southeast Asia

Support for IWRM implementation

GWP Southeast Asia coordinated the first round of consultations on the SDG indicator 6.5.1 questionnaire in 2017, learning important lessons along the way. One of these was the need to allow sufficient time and provide adequate support for the process. So, in preparation for the 2020 survey, the Regional and Country Water Partnerships worked closely with their national focal points, helping them to understand the methodology and building a stronger relationship as a result. GWP also supported the data collection process through online consultation workshops. These activities were appreciated by all stakeholders, including government representatives.

GWP Southeast Asia also organised an IWRM implementation performance assessment in 2020, which amassed data from seven countries in the region. This was designed to identify the water management gaps and priorities as a means to improve IWRM implementation in the short, medium, and long terms. The results will be used as the basis for seven country-level IWRM conferences in 2021, which will engage a wider group of stakeholders and donors in the development of a multi-stakeholder IWRM action plan.

Development plan for Cambodia's central floodplain

GWP Cambodia has been working with local partners since 2018 to develop a Green Climate Fund application for the implementation of integrated water resources management as part of flood risk management planning in the central floodplain. The work included stakeholder consultations and meetings with key decision-making bodies, including the National Mekong Committee and the National Council for Sustainable Development. In 2020, the Mekong Committee recognised the value of this work, due to its basin-wide significance and multi-stakeholder support. Following a second stakeholder consultation, the project was incorporated into the country's national development planning process, with funding committed by the Ministry of Finance.

Stakeholders at the Green Climate Fund application workshop in Cambodia

FEATURE: GENERATING AND COMMUNICATING KNOWLEDGE

Message from the Chair of the Technical Committee

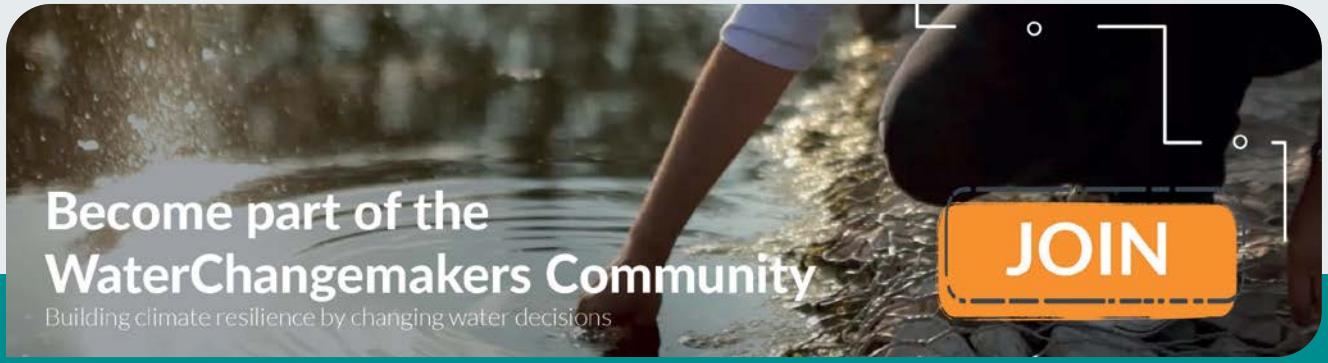
While 2020 was a transition year for GWP (the start of a new strategy period), the Technical Committee continued its process of reform and repositioning to engage more directly with the activities of the network.

In 2020, the GWP Network produced almost 60 publications, including Nationally Determined Contributions country reports and a flagship report on water and climate. The Technical Committee produced a major perspectives paper with the International Water Management Institute: Storing water: A new integrated approach for resilient development. It highlights the fact that increasing storage gaps will limit socioeconomic development, and that different types of storage solutions are available and need to be better integrated with overall water infrastructure.

Technical Committee members assisted greatly with the design and implementation of the Water ChangeMaker Awards process (see box).

All Technical Committee members were engaged to some degree in mentoring and helping partners in the regions. For example, members provided online lectures for the GWP transboundary massive open online course, the GWP online course in IWRM for Somalia, and the GWP transboundary law course in Central Asia. We also assisted in the preparation of various regional papers and studies on transboundary management, COVID-19, and water resources management and insurance. Finally, the Technical Committee enhanced its role in providing strategic advice to the Executive Secretary, Acting Executive Secretary, and Chair during the year.

Jerome Delli Priscoli



Water ChangeMaker Awards

GWP launched the Water ChangeMaker Awards in March 2020. This novel and exciting initiative gathers stories of change and innovation (from the GWP Network and beyond) that have shaped decisions about water governance and helped to build resilience to climate change. It was launched together with 28 partners.

In response to a call for stories, more than 350 submissions were received from over 80 countries. The technical jury (comprising experts from global and regional organisations) then selected 78 semi-finalists, and a second thought-leader jury selected 12 finalists. The winners were determined by a panel of climate leaders at the Global Adaptation Commission virtual summit held in January 2021. The 78 semi-finalist change stories are available online at: www.waterchangemakers.org.

These stories show good examples of how smart solutions and active participation can help teams or organisations to achieve changes in mindsets and policies to build climate resilience. Mobilising women was one of the key elements highlighted in many of the change journeys. In addition to celebrating the strengths of teamwork, the Water ChangeMaker Awards connect stakeholders from around the world, and promote collaboration and shared learning as a route to stimulating long-term change. In November 2020, GWP hosted online the first gathering of the changemaker community.

The Water ChangeMaker Winners 2020 were announced by GWP Chair Howard Bamsey at the Climate Adaptation Summit, a platform with 18,000 participants.

1ST The Masungi Georeserve story: Restoring forgotten watersheds through youth-led movements (Philippines). The story proves that youth can be effective agents for change in the most difficult and politically sensitive circumstances. A holistic approach to dealing with ecosystem degradation led to cooperation on the restoration of forests and wetlands, thus preserving biodiversity, improving water quality, and increasing resilience to climate change.

Change journey submitted by: Masungi Georeserve Foundation Inc. (MGFI), Philippines

JOINT 2ND Water Producer Project in the Pipiripau watershed: Building resilience in a water conflict area (Brazil). The project demonstrates how water can be an instrument for conflict resolution through good governance and integrated management. It demonstrates the power of collaboration and stakeholder participation.

Change journey submitted by: Regulatory Agency for Water, Energy and Basic Sanitation of the Federal District – ADASA, Brazil

JOINT 2ND Watersheds and cities: Social participation to improve the health of ecosystems and water provision (Mexico). This journey strengthened the vital link between humans and nature, encouraging local ownership of watersheds and instilling shared responsibility for ecosystem health.

Change journey submitted by: Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza A.C. (FMCN), Mexico

3RD Watershared Bank: Funding the conservation of water factories in the tropical Andes (Bolivia). This case focused on accessing funding for indigenous communities to carry out conservation programmes and build resilience to climate change.

Change journey submitted by: Fundacion Natura Bolivia

People's Choice Winner: Mother parliaments advocate for climate-resilient WASH facilities (Bangladesh). This category was run in parallel to the jury process, in which the public could vote for their favourite finalist. This People's Choice winner documented the extreme vulnerability to climate change experienced by people living in the coastal delta region of Bangladesh and highlighted the steps being taken by women to be advocates of the health of their communities.

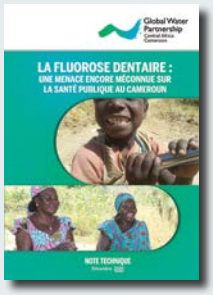
Change journey submitted by: HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, Bangladesh

Knowledge products 2020

Global

Storing water: A new integrated approach for resilient development: This Perspectives Paper is intended to galvanise discussion within the GWP Network and the larger water and development community on the role of water storage in managing water and building resilience to climate change. Available in English.

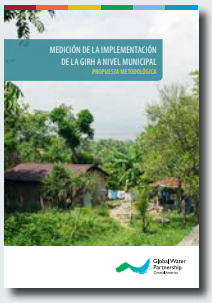
GWP Central Africa



La Fluorose Dentaire: une menace encore méconnue de la santé publique au Cameroun: Published by GWP Cameroon, this report highlights the work done so far by GWP and partners in identifying solutions to the issue of dental fluorosis, a little-known disease in Central Africa. Available in French.

GWP Central America

Guidelines for the development of municipal water policies: The document is designed for technicians working at municipal level and aims to advance local water security. Available in Spanish.



Measurement of IWRM at the municipal level: The document offers guidelines to help to replicate experience gained through pilot workshops in six municipalities of Honduras. Available in Spanish.

GWP Mediterranean

Mediterranean Coastal Wetlands Governance Handbook: This practical guide can be used to inform the management of any coastal wetland. GWP Mediterranean provided technical input. It was published in English and French by the Priority Action Programme with support from the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the MAVA Foundation for Nature.

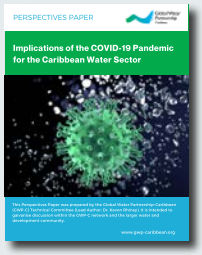
The North Western Sahara Aquifer System, shared by Algeria, Libya, and Tunisia, is North Africa's largest groundwater reserve. A new assessment carried out by GWP and partners: Reconciling resource uses: Assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in the North Western Sahara Aquifer System, analyses cross-sector dynamics and identifies integrated and sustainable water resources management solutions. Available in English and French, the report is accompanied by a policy brief (also in English and French).

GWP Central and Eastern Europe

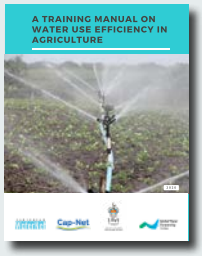
Outputs from the FramWat project, which aimed to establish a common regional framework for flood, drought, and pollution mitigation by increasing the buffer capacity of the landscape:

- The FroGIS geographic information system tool: a publicly available web application for the analysis of needs and potential for water retention systems.
- Practical guidelines on planning natural and small water retention measures: this addresses the knowledge gap and issues relating to the integration of water retention measures into river basin management plans in line with the EU Water Framework Directive.
- Decision support system for planning natural (small) water retention measures: a tool to facilitate and customise stakeholders' needs and preferences for water resources planning.

GWP Caribbean



Implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for the Caribbean Water Sector: This Perspectives Paper explores access to safe water and sanitation, preparing for the impacts of climate change, promoting science-based solutions, water payment options, and wastewater monitoring. Available in English.



Water Use Efficiency in Agriculture: This training manual aims to build capacity for improved water management by maximising water-use efficiency. Available in English.

Aquaculture for Caribbean Small Island Developing States: Another training manual, this aims to build capacity to develop sustainable water-related food production systems and thereby protect the marine environment. Available in English.

GWP and UNDP Cap-Net align their expertise

Cap-Net is a global network of IWRM capacity-building actors and institutions, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In 2019, it was decided that the initiative should be managed administratively by GWP. One of the main goals is to use Cap-Net's expertise to implement the training components of the GWP regional and country work programmes. In 2020, the two organisations increased their collaboration through the following:

- Joint preparation of an SDG indicator 6.6.1 pilot project on the integration of freshwater data into sector-wide decision-making to improve the protection and restoration of freshwater ecosystems in three countries, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme.
- Joint organisation of a webinar series on coordinating, implementing, and financing national climate and water policy frameworks together with the UNDP–Stockholm International Water Institute Water Governance Facility, and the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation.
- Development of a training of facilitators course targeted at organisers of the multi-stakeholder consultation processes organised under the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme in relation to country reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.1.
- Collaboration on the alignment of the monitoring and evaluation systems of the two organisations.
- Joint activities at regional and country levels in the Caribbean, China, and Southern Africa.

An agricultural worker resting in a rice field in Bali, Indonesia

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL STORIES

Caribbean

Flood risk assessment for the Dominican Republic

GWP Caribbean is supporting the Government of the Dominican Republic to implement a series of activities to inform the country's submission for the second round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). In early 2020, this work included a flood risk study. Based on projections of rainfall under conditions of climate change, the study provided an estimate of the increased risk of flooding and landslides. The process included three online stakeholder consultations to validate the rainfall projections and share the process of risk assessment, before and after a flood or landslide. Stakeholder participation provided useful data and feedback, as well as improving general knowledge of risk assessment processes. Further training will be offered through capacity-building workshops in 2021.

Creating and sharing knowledge for water security in the Caribbean

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted many GWP activities around the world. However, it has also provided an opportunity to reinforce commitment to adopting a more integrated approach to water resources management. To support this process, GWP Caribbean prepared a paper entitled Implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic for the Caribbean Water Sector. This explores access to safe water and sanitation, preparing for the impacts of climate change, promoting science-based solutions, implementing water payment options, and wastewater monitoring. The publication also discusses the importance of regional cooperation and the future outlook, including opportunities to promote integrated water resources management.

Working with the Caribbean WaterNet (Cap-Net) and the University of the West Indies, GWP Caribbean also produced two training manuals. The first, Water Use Efficiency in Agriculture, aims to build capacity for improved water management by maximising water-use efficiency. The modules cover water resources and climate change, crop water use, irrigation technologies and monitoring, and alternative production systems. The second, Aquaculture for Caribbean Small Island Developing States, aims to build capacity to develop sustainable water-related food production systems and thereby protect the marine environment. The modules cover the choice of species, systems, and sites; stock management, harvesting and processing; water budgeting and waste management; and cash flow. Both sets of training materials include lecture presentations.

Rice cultivation in the Dominican Republic

Central America

Ministers welcome drought management workshops

In 2020, GWP Central America coordinated a series of workshops on integrated drought management. This was part of a regional project implemented by the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) to increase capacity for flood and drought risk reduction and promote climate resilience in six countries of Central America. High-level officials from the ministries of environment of Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua participated in the reporting-back sessions, in which GWP presented a summary of the events. The ministers appreciated being informed about the participants' feedback, which included recommendations for priority actions in future national drought management policy.

"This workshop coincided with preparation of the National Plan for the Reduction of Drought Risks and it gave us many ideas for actions to include in the plan. The experiences of other countries and having a broader perspective was also very useful," said Ivis Meza, Operator of Geographic Information Systems and Databases, General Directorate of Water Resources of the Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment of Honduras.

Freddy Chiroy, Vice-Minister of Environment of Guatemala, said that the ministry had prioritised water resources in their agenda and, therefore, the feedback was very much aligned to their needs. "The results strengthen what the ministry has visualised, and support the integration of the public strategies we are developing regarding this issue," he said.

Regional dialogue on transboundary water

Central America has 25 international watercourses and 18 transboundary aquifers. Equitable water resources planning and management therefore depends on finding mutually acceptable ways to share cross-border water resources. Following a successful event in 2019 that catalysed the process, GWP Central America and CCAD organised a second regional roundtable in Honduras in February 2020. Participants were drawn from six Central American countries, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic, and included representatives from government ministries of foreign affairs and environment, cross-border commissions, river basin organisations, academic institutions, non-governmental organisations, and private sector companies. The event was held in parallel with a meeting of the Council of Ministers of CCAD, which enabled the ministers of environment to contribute to the discussions. In addition to pledging their support for continued dialogue, the participants agreed to form a regional community of practice as a mechanism for further coordination, priority setting, and information exchange.

Regional dialogue on transboundary waters in Central America

Methodology for measuring IWRM implementation at local level in Honduras

Working at the municipal level is a priority in Central America, to advance the implementation of IWRM. In 2019, GWP Honduras helped to organise a series of six workshops to build the capacity of local actors for measuring the implementation of IWRM (SDG indicator 6.5.1). These experiences have been synthesised in a guide (in Spanish): Measurement of IWRM at the municipal level, and can now be shared with others. The guide complements a second publication (also in Spanish): Guidelines for the development of municipal water policies, which proposes a process to follow and is designed for use by municipal technicians. The publication was compiled with information gathered through a webinar for participants from six countries across Central America.

SDG 6.5.1 workshop in Honduras

South America

Big data to support water resources decision-making

GWP South America led a webinar series in 2020, with sessions throughout the year attracting participants from most countries in the region. The events were designed to answer the question, can big data improve water research in Latin America? The webinars were based on a detailed literature review of more than 30,000 articles, conducted by researchers from the University of California, Davis. The interdisciplinary team was looking to identify opportunities for water resources research in Latin America and the Caribbean, secure equal access to data sources, and promote academic collaboration. Based on the review, the researchers identified potential areas of progress in integrated water resources management for each country in the region and compiled a data-sharing platform. GWP played an important role in sharing the platform with researchers and non-academic stakeholders, and in gathering feedback on priority issues. It is hoped that the data platform will help to create collaborative projects across the region.

"Our GWP project partners have been key in recruiting and identifying key researchers and decision-makers who have helped us in building the water platform," said Dr Samuel Sandoval, project leader. "In simple words, this project would not have the scope and design of the platform without the support of GWP South America."

Action on climate change in Ecuador and Paraguay

GWP South America is collaborating with Ecuador's Ministry of Environment and Water, the NDC Partnership, and other agencies to support implementation of the country's NDC, focusing particularly on the inclusion of gender in climate-resilient development. In 2020, this work included developing the capacity of stakeholders to incorporate gender perspectives in planning and implementation tools. Building on the country's ongoing work to develop climate hazard identification and risk assessment, GWP and partners will develop indicators to measure gender-related issues. The knowledge gathered on effective approaches to gender inclusion in climate adaptation will be shared widely through the GWP Network.

"GWP's expertise has allowed us to maintain an articulate and agile workplan," said Rosa González, Climate Change Adaptation Specialist, Undersecretariat of Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment and Water of Ecuador. "GWP's technical advice etc. has allowed us to generate fluid and effective results."

GWP Paraguay has signed an agreement with the national government to coordinate activities towards the second round of NDCs to be presented in 2021. The agreement includes technical support to prepare a baseline for the country's current level of adaptation to climate change from a sector and area perspective. GWP will also help to formulate adaptation goals in line with the Paraguay national plan for climate adaptation, ensuring integration with the country's national development plan and other SDG processes. GWP will also be tasked with building the capacity of stakeholders and coordinating input to an implementation and financing plan for climate adaptation.

Border between Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay at the confluence of the Iguazu and Parana rivers

MEDITERRANEAN AND CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE REGIONAL STORIES

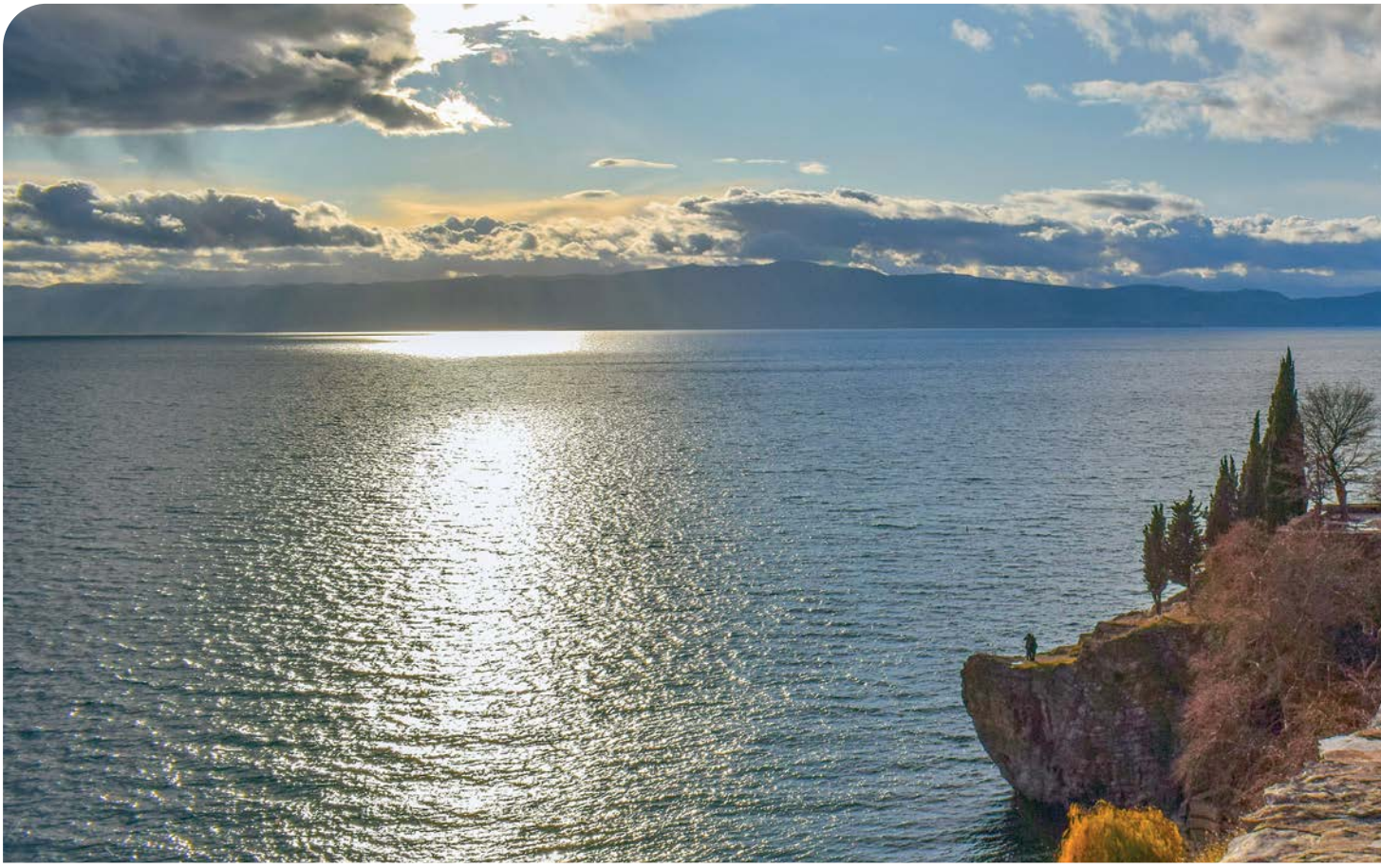
Mediterranean

Watershed management plan for Lake Ohrid

Lake Ohrid is a transboundary water resource shared by Albania and North Macedonia. In addition to being designated as a World Heritage site, the lake is a biodiversity hotspot (with more than 300 endemic species) and supports important economic activities. Recent years have seen increasing challenges associated with declining fish stocks, eutrophication, habitat destruction, and poor water status. GWP Mediterranean has been working to address these problems and promote a more integrated approach to the management of the lake resources.

In November 2020, the transboundary Lake Ohrid Watershed Management Plan was approved by the two littoral countries and endorsed by the joint management body, the Lake Ohrid Committee. This success followed a two-year development process under the coordination of GWP Mediterranean within the framework of the Drin Project, funded by the Global Environment Facility.

The Lake Ohrid management plan was informed by transboundary data gathering, including joint water quality surveillance and monitoring, an economic analysis, and an analysis of ecosystem services. The plan is the second transboundary management plan developed in accordance with the European Union Water Framework Directive in south-east Europe. It includes more than 100 measures designed to prevent further deterioration of water resources and ecosystems, promote sustainable water use, and improve water and ecosystem quality. The plan is an important instrument for promoting transboundary cooperation and contributes to more integrated management of water resources throughout the entire Drin river basin.



Lake Ohrid, Albania and North Macedonia

Empowering women in water diplomacy in the Middle East and North Africa

GWP Mediterranean and the Geneva Water Hub joined forces to strengthen the role of women in water diplomacy in the Middle East and North Africa by conducting analytical mapping work, based on surveying and interviewing women in water-related institutions. This evolved into a comparative study on empowering women in water diplomacy, supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency within the Water Matchmaker Project. The study compared the status of and challenges to women as decision-makers in water diplomacy and transboundary water cooperation settings in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Palestine. It also identified capacity building needs in terms of the skills needed by 21st century water diplomats.

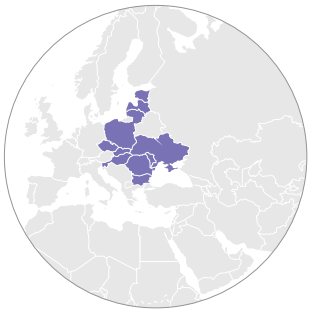
In July 2020, the study was discussed with almost 100 women who had responded to the country surveys. This elucidated feedback, with further reflections received from regional and global events, and from targeted meetings with diplomats and transboundary experts. Importantly, a community of practice across the country respondents was set up, and this evolved into an initiative on empowering women in water diplomacy in the region, facilitated by GWP Mediterranean and the Geneva Water Hub. With guidance from the six study authors, the initiative contributed to the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Water Policy Framework for Action 2030.

GWP works in close cooperation with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) for the purpose of advancing the implementation of the UfM Water Agenda.

Wastewater management decision support tool for the Drin basin

GWP Mediterranean was instrumental in the development of a new decision support tool to assist wastewater management in the Drin basin. This transboundary water resource is shared by Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, and North Macedonia. In July 2020, more than 30 local planners and other experts from the riparian countries took part in an online consultation meeting to discuss the new tool. Modelled on the case of Shkodra city, the tool is designed to identify environmentally sustainable and cost-effective solutions for new wastewater treatment solutions. Voltana Ademi, the Mayor of Shkodra, was directly involved in the tool's development. She values both the practical implementation aspects of the tool, and its importance for communication: "We can use this model to present scenarios and calculations, helping people of all backgrounds to understand the costs and benefits of alternative options in wastewater treatment."

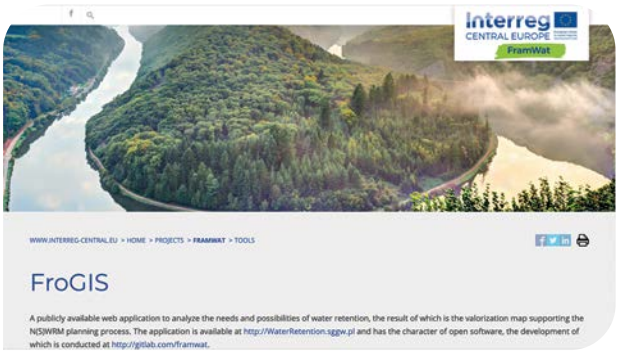
Central and Eastern Europe



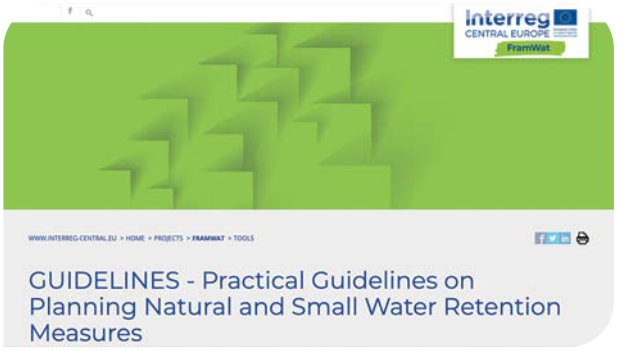
Addressing floods, droughts, and pollution in six countries

GWP Central and Eastern Europe provided valuable input on policy integration and economic instruments to the FramWat project, which aimed to establish a common regional framework for flood, drought, and pollution mitigation by increasing the buffer capacity of the landscape. In addition to GWP, the project partners included government ministries and academic institutions from Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia. The main thrust of the project was to introduce natural and small water retention measures into standard river basin management practice throughout the region. Running from 2017 to 2020, the project involved initial stakeholder consultations, national training events, and the development of guidelines and action plans with policymakers. There were three main outcomes:

- The FroGIS geographic information system tool: this is a publicly available web application for the analysis of needs and potential for water retention systems.



- Practical guidelines on planning natural and small water retention measures: based on analyses conducted within the project and tested in pilot catchments in six countries, this publication addresses the knowledge gap and issues relating to the integration of water retention measures into river basin management plans in line with the EU Water Framework Directive.



- Decision support system for planning natural (small) water retention measures: a tool to facilitate and customise stakeholders' needs and preferences for water resources planning.

Improving water quality in Haapsalu Bay, Estonia

Haapsalu is a shallow bay with a muddy bottom that contains significant amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus, and herbicide residues. In accordance with the European Union Water Framework Directive, water quality in the bay is required to be improved by 2027. GWP Estonia is working with local stakeholders towards the goal of supporting economic activities while protecting existing ecosystems and water quality. Activities organised by GWP in 2020 to discuss possible ways forward included a stakeholder seminar held in February, when recent research and potential solutions were proposed for discussion. In August, there was a panel discussion on the Baltic Sea environment and, in December, the case of Haapsalu Bay was discussed with the Coalition Clean Baltic working group, with feedback received from Finland, Poland, and Sweden.

Haapsalu Bay, Estonia

FINANCIAL REPORT 2020

The complete audited accounts are available at www.gwp.org.

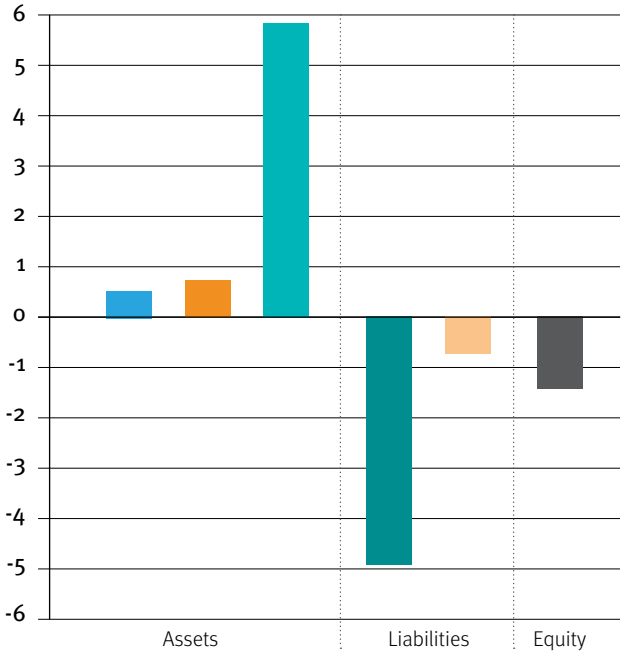
Income through GWPO

In 2020, 15 Financing Partners provided funds through the GWP Organisation (GWPO): Austria, China, European Commission, Germany, Green Climate Fund, GRIPS, Hungary, Netherlands, SICA, Sweden, Switzerland, UNEP, UNDP, UNESCO, and World Resources Institute. They contributed a total of €9.6 million, of which €2.2 million was for designated activities. (In 2019: 16 Financing Partners contributed €10.3 million, of which €2.5 million was for designated activities.)

Locally raised income

The regions and countries are encouraged to raise their own funds. During 2020, €3.1 million (€4.4 million in 2019) was raised by the regions/countries. In some cases, locally raised funding might be labelled as globally raised because GWPO signed the agreement with the donor, but it was the region or country which secured the funding.

Balance 31 December 2020 (€ million)



Receivables donors	€0.5
Other receivables	€0.7
Bank balance	€5.8
Advances donors	(€4.9)
Other liabilities	(€0.7)
Equity	(€1.4)

GWP appreciates the continued support of our funding partners, and welcomes the Green Climate Fund, Hungary, the NDC Partnership, and SICA as new funding partners in 2020.

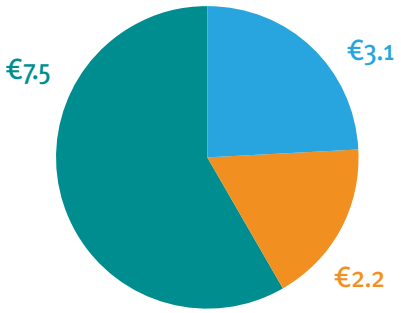
For example, the Drin Project, funded by UNDP, is a project initiated by GWP Mediterranean.

In-kind contributions

The income reported in the Annual Financial Report does not include funds provided in kind from governments, organisations, or individuals. Nevertheless, in-kind contributions are gratefully recognised as a substantial source of funding. GWPO received in-kind contributions from France, which seconded a senior specialist to GWPO, as well as approximately €0.7 million from other sources, of which the largest share is from the World Meteorological Organization through the jointly implemented programmes on flood and drought management.

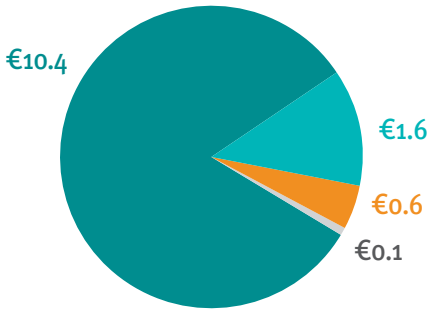
GWP Regional and Country Water Partnerships reported in-kind contributions of €2.4 million during 2020 (€4.0 million in 2019).

Income 2020 (€ million)



Globally raised	€7.5
Locally raised	€3.1
Globally raised – designated	€2.2
Total income	**€12.8**

Expenditure 2020 (€ million)



Programme activities	€10.4
Global Secretariat	€1.6
Global Technical Support/KM	€0.6
Global Governance	€0.1
Total expenditures	**€12.7**

WHO'S WHO IN GWP 2020–2021

GWP PATRONS

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf,
Former President of Liberia

Letitia Obeng,
GWP former Chair 2008–2012

Margaret Catley-Carlson,
GWP former Chair 2001–2007

Ismail Serageldin,
GWP founder, former Chair 1996–2000

GWP SPONSORING PARTNERS

GWP Sponsoring Partners are states and international organisations that signed the Memorandum of Understanding establishing the Global Water Partnership Organisation (GWPO) in 2002 – the intergovernmental organisation that is the legal representative of the GWP Network.

The Sponsoring Partners appoint the Chair and members of the Steering Committee.

- Argentina
- Chile
- Denmark
- Hungary
- Jordan
- Netherlands
- Pakistan
- Sweden
- The World Bank
- World Meteorological Organization

GWP STEERING COMMITTEE

CHAIR
Howard Bamsey

APPOINTED MEMBERS – INDEPENDENT
Gunilla Björklund, Academia
(until 30 November 2020)
Michael Campana, Academia
(until 30 November 2020)
Mina Guli, Civil society
(until 30 November 2020)
Ross Hamilton, Private sector
(reappointed for a second term as of 1 December, 2020)
Atem S Ramsundersingh,
Resource Mobilization/Renewables
(as of 1 December 2020)
Naima Siddiqui, Finance
(as of 1 December 2020)
Stacy Swann, Climate Finance
(as of 1 December 2020)

APPOINTED MEMBERS – NOMINATED BY REGIONS
Pablo Bereciartua (South America)
(as of 1 December 2020)
Frederika Deare (Caribbean)
(until 30 November 2020)
Asli Duale (Eastern Africa)
José Fábrega (Central America)
Mathias Fru Fonteh (Central Africa)
József Gayer (Central and Eastern Europe)
R K Gupta (South Asia)
Qiuchi Shi, Vice-Chair (China)
(until 30 November 2020)
Tom Raymond Soo
(Caucasus and Central Asia)
(as of 1 December 2020)

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE
Jamilla Sealy
(as of 1 December, 2020)

FINANCING PARTNERS REPRESENTATIVE
Klaus Leroch (Austria)

EX-OFFICIO
Monika Weber-Fahr, GWP Executive Secretary (until June 2020)
Peter Repinski, Interim GWP Executive Secretary (as of June 2020)
Amadou Hama Maiga, Chair of GWP Regional Chairs
(until July 2020)
Trevor Thompson, Chair of GWP Regional Chairs
(as of August 2020)
Jerome Delli Priscoli, GWP Technical Committee Chair
Chair of UN-Water or delegate

PERMANENT OBSERVERS
The World Bank
United Nations Development Programme
World Water Council

GWP NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Jerome Delli Priscoli, Chair
(as of January 2020)

Frederika Deare
José Fábrega

Mathias Fonteh
Lindsey Aldaco Manner

Oyun Sanjaasuren
Hongqi Shang

GWP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Jerome Delli Priscoli, Chair
Adrian Cashman, The University of the West Indies
Nicola Fohrer, Kiel University
Dustin Garrick, University of Oxford
Barbara Janusz-Pawletta, Kazakh-German University
Kenji Nagata, Japan International Cooperation Agency
Tom Panella, Asian Development Bank
Winston Yu, The World Bank

GWP REGIONAL SECRETARIATS

REGION and location	CHAIR	COORDINATOR
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Central Africa Yaoundé, Cameroon	 Sylvain Guebanda	 Hycinth Tah Banseka
Central America Tegucigalpa, Honduras	 Miguel Araujo	 Fabiola Tábora
Central and Eastern Europe Bratislava, Slovakia	 Tjasa Bulc (January 2021)	 Konstantin Ivanov
China Beijing, China	 Cai Qihua	 Jiang Yunzhong
Eastern Africa Entebbe, Uganda	 Peter Macharia	 George Sanga Kavulunze

REGION and location	CHAIR	COORDINATOR
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South America Montevideo, Uruguay	 Leandro Diaz	 Alejandra Mujica
South Asia Colombo, Sri Lanka	 Nilufa Islam	 Lal Induruwage
Southeast Asia Jakarta, Indonesia	 Inthavy Akkharath	 Fany Wedahuditama
Southern Africa Pretoria, South Africa	 Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete	 Alex Simalabwi
West Africa Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	 Amadou Hama Maiga	 Armand Houanye

NEW PARTNERS IN 2020

Official country	Organisation name
Algeria	Amenagement Environnement et Hydraulique
Argentina	Administración General de Recursos Hidricos Instituto Provincial del Agua
Australia	Ecoseal Developments Pty Ltd Institute for Study and Development Worldwide World Youth Parliament for Water
Azerbaijan	IHP Azerbaijan NGO Meliorator-Design-Survey Limited Liability Company
Barbados	Caribbean Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Livelihoods FarmFinder Global
Brazil	Departamento de Solos - Universidade Federal de Santa Maria
Bulgaria	Climate, Atmosphere and Water Research Institute at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Cameroon	Watchman Relief Association Global
Canada	International Secretariat for Water
Congo	Developpement Sans Frontiere
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Front Commun pour la Protection de l'Environnement et des Espaces Protégés
Denmark	VIA University College
El Salvador	Universidad Dr José Matías Delgado
Eswatini	National Disaster Management Agency Eswatini Sanitize Eswatini
Grenada	GEF Small Grants Program Grenada St. Andrew's Development Organisation
Guadeloupe	Conseil d'Architecture de l'Urbanisme et de l'Environnement de la Guadeloupe
Guatemala	Ecofiltro Fundación Accion Contra el Hambre Instituto Privado de Investigación sobre Cambio Climático Living Water International
India	Quality Analyst & Labs Pvt Ltd Raah Foundation Vassar Labs IT Solutions Pvt Ltd
Indonesia	Anwar Muhammad Foundation
Kenya	WASH Alliance Kenya
Lebanon	Berytech
Lesotho	Serumula Development Association Water and Sewerage Company
Malawi	Global Partnership Against Child Exploitation National Commission for Science and Technology
Malaysia	Society of Certified Risk Professionals
Mali	Action pour la Solidarité, l'Urgence et le Développement International
Mexico	Instituto de Investigaciones en Medio Ambiente 'Xabier Gorostiaga S.J.' de la Universidad Iberoamericana de Puebla Vitalis Latinoamérica Seicsa Proyectos Ambientales SA de CV Wasser Prozesse, SA de CV

Official country	Organisation name
Namibia	Consortium Engineers and Project Managers Department of Water Affairs Green Team Consultants Knight Piesold Namib Desert Environmental Education Trust Namibia Fundraising Institute Namibia Nature Foundation Namibia Water Corporation Namibian Chamber of Environment NAMU Consulting Engineers & Project Managers Ohlthaver & List Rockbreaking and Demolitions Namibia Sunco Investment Namibia CC Windhoek Goreangab Operating Company
Nepal	Environmental Solution and Research Center Organization of Women Scientists
New Zealand	Our Future Water
Nicaragua	Asociación de Profesionales para el Desarrollo Integral de Nicaragua Asociación Nicaragüense de Ingeniería Sanitaria y Ambiental Pueblo Indígena de Jinotega Water For People
Nigeria	Children and Young People Living for Peace Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities
Serbia	Salvos NGO
Slovakia	Institute of Landscape Ecology, Slovak Academy of Sciences
South Africa	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research SBS Global Solutions (Pty) Ltd
Spain	Oiko Logica
Switzerland	Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Hydrology and Civil Engineering Service Water Environment & Human Development Initiative Zurich University of Applied Sciences/Institute of Natural Resource Sciences
Togo	Youth Engaged Organization for Sustainable Development
Ukraine	Krok-1
United Arab Emirates	Dake Rechsand
United Kingdom	Airquatic
United States of America	Asociación Latinoamericana de Desalacion y Reuso de Agua FACE Africa JB Dondolo, Inc. Piasecki Water Resources Consulting Swampy, Inc. Youth for Global Health and Social Justice
Uruguay	Universidad Tecnológica del Uruguay
Venezuela	Enviro-Water Soluciones CA Fundación +Verde +Humano Venezuela Grupo Ambing, CA Ingeniería Servín, CA
Yemen	International Youth Council
Zimbabwe	Strain Engineering Pvt Ltd

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