

Implementing the GWP Strategy 2009-2013

Report on the Global Water Partnership Consulting Partners Meeting

15-16 August 2009, Stockholm, Sweden

The annual Global Water Partnership Consulting Partners (CP) meeting took place in Stockholm on 15-16 August 2009. With a Network of more than 2000 Partners located in 149 countries, a consultative approach in which Partners recommend actions to be taken is essential to the work of GWP. Gathering around 150 participants from 56 countries, the theme of the meeting was “**Implementing the GWP Strategy 2009-2013.**”



The objectives of the CP meeting were to:

- Learn from each other on how to implement GWP’s global strategy with a focus on:
 - the two operational goals (Goal 1 & 2) and the key strategic messages arising from those goals that we need to communicate (Goal 3)
 - working with strategic allies
 - building fundraising capacity
- Receive and comment on the annual activity and financial report of the GWP Steering Committee.



GWP Chair Dr. Letitia A Obeng (left) opened the meeting saying that “In order to reach out, we have to engage with people who are not water people and engage with those who work and rely on water.” Dr Obeng mentioned climate change as one key area for GWP: “We have to build resilience through water security, and building water security is about building our future together. Better water management is key to climate change adaptation and we will have to learn how to live with climate change.”

GWP Executive Secretary Dr Ania Grobicki (right) said that the “accountability and transparency that GWP stands for has created a basis of trust” and that “our reputation is our capital.” GWP must be close to the development agenda, and part of developing it.



Dr Grobicki concluded: “We are going forward together! Now more than ever, we need to continue showing engagement, linking with Partners and stakeholders and acting with integrity.”

For the first time, the Consulting Partners meeting was broadcast using live streaming online. All recordings are here: <http://consultingpartners.gwpforum.org/>

Presentations are available here:

<http://www.slideshare.net/globalwaterpartnership/tag/cp-meeting-09>

The full annotated agenda is here:

http://www.gwpforum.org/gwp/library/CP_Meeting09_Intro_Agenda.pdf

Highlights and Messages

Participants worked in plenary sessions as well as in three workshops:

- Workshop Goal One: Promote water as a key part of sustainable national development
- Workshop Goal Two: Address critical development challenges
- Workshop: Technical Function

The second day consisted of three sessions:

1. Strategic Allies Panel: Cap-Net, SIWI, GEF, WMO, GW-Mate and IWMI spoke about mutual cooperation
2. Fundraising: presentation by Per Stenbeck of WaterAid Sweden, followed by discussion
3. Report on 2008 GWP annual activities and financial report
 - o The GWP in Action 2008 Annual Report can be found here: http://www.gwpforum.org/gwp/library/GWPinAction2008_AnnualReport.pdf
 - o The GWP 2008 Financial Report can be found here: http://www.gwpforum.org/gwp/library/AnnualFinancial_Report_Audit_report2008.pdf

A total of 17 presentations at the CP showed a broad range of interventions, actions and projects all related to how to achieve the ambitious goals of the Strategy. The following is a summary of highlights and main messages.

Day 1:

Opening Plenary

Key plenary presentations about Goal 1 were made by Alex Simalabwi (GWPO) and Khalid Mohtadullah (GWP Advisor). The presentations showed lessons learnt in IWRM planning at national and regional level in Africa and local interventions and rural development in China. Both presentations concluded that having an adopted IWRM plan is a promising beginning, although challenges now are how to implement these plans in practice. Also, both presentations illustrated that the specific form IWRM takes varies from country to country and region to region.

A focus of Alex Simalabwi's presentation was on national interventions made by African Regional Water Partnerships and lessons learnt from programs implemented under PAWD initiatives. A main lesson learnt is that IWRM Plans should be linked to national development plans and address critical challenges such as climate change, food security and overall water security for development.

Khalid Mohtadullah concentrated on the importance of ownership by grassroots partnerships and how these partnerships feed into national development programs. He showed that improvement of water delivery at the local level could be combined and linked to a broader aim of improved water efficiency in agriculture.

Key plenary presentations regarding Goal 2 were made by Mike Muller (GWP Technical Committee), Simon Thuo (East Africa) and Vadim Sokolov (Central Asia and Caucasus). The presentation of Mike Muller and Simon Thuo ("COP-15 and Beyond") highlighted that water is a key medium through which the impact of climate change will be felt, thus a proper implementation of IWRM processes is key to reducing impacts of climate change and adapting to climate variability. There is a strong argument that GWP advocacy for IWRM is relevant at the highest levels in the global arena at events such as COP 15. The GWP Strategy recognizes this need and a variety of interventions at all levels is taking place.

Vadim Sokolov presented another critical development challenge regarding transboundary water related conflicts. Central Asia is a place where GWP is able to provide a neutral platform in conflict resolution between upstream and downstream uses and different users. He stressed that GWP CACENA has the potential to bring conflicting parties together and in addition to mobilize financial resources to improve capacity development in the region.

Workshop One: Promote water as a key part of sustainable national development

Following the two presentations in the opening plenary, four presentations were made in this workshop addressing Goal 1 of the global strategy.

- Institutional reforms presented by Djoko Sasongko (Southeast Asia)
- Legislative frameworks presented by Elisa Colom (Central America)
- Regional water policy presented by Chi Christopher Tamu (Central Africa), and
- Groundwater aspects presented by Marvan Ladki and Vangelis Constantianos (West Africa and Mediterranean).



All presentations dealt with GWP interventions and projects regarding the creation of an enabling environment for national or regional policies for better water resources management. Discussions demonstrated that GWP has a strong basis niche in facilitating dialogues, creating awareness and fostering cooperation with Partners at regional and national levels.

The highlights of the Workshop 1:

- GWP can hold dialogues at central, provincial, and local or basin level for institutional reforms at national, and where appropriate, regional level for IWRM implementation.
- There are many players, e.g., governments, donors and other international organisations who are implementing IWRM with more resources than GWP but none has such a comprehensive approach and knowledge as GWP. GWP can use this to work with the governments, donors and regional institutions.
- Cooperation of GWP with various donors like ADB and other international organisations can help GWP to implement IWRM in the countries and the regions.
- GWP can help countries and regions create awareness among legislators advising them to prepare water laws and acts, and, where there are already water acts, to enforce them.
- Some regions such as Central Africa, Central America and West Africa are in the process of developing regional policies for IWRM or integration of groundwater management in water policies. GWP can help these regions have regional policies in place or fill gaps in water policies and help other regions like South Asia, Latin America, and Caribbean to work towards development of regional policies on implementing IWRM.
- Some regions such as Central America attempt to harmonise water laws in their countries for successful implementation of IWRM at national and transnational level. Such harmonisation of laws is also needed in other countries and regions.

The main messages are:

- Institutional reforms, and the adoption and enforcement of water-related legislation are needed at country and, where appropriate, regional level to implement IWRM and ensure good water governance
- Regional Economic Communities should be actively engaged to promote and develop regional policies
- Greater and urgent attention is needed for groundwater management and protection as a part of IWRM policy at sub-national, national and transboundary level
- Land use has a critical influence on water resources and as such has to be an integral part of IWRM policy

Workshop Two: Address critical development challenges

The most critical development challenges identified by the GWP Strategy include climate change, water conflicts, transboundary issues and food security. Workshop 2 elaborated on critical issues of climate change linked to other economic sectors such as food production, tourism, and transboundary issues. Three workshop presentations showed a broad arsenal of methods and initiatives that RWPs undertook in the first year of the strategy. Important questions dealt with the role of GWP particularly in the climate change agenda.

The following contributions were presented:

- Climate change and food security presented by Suresh Prabhu (South Asia)
- Climate change and tourism presented by Jacob Opadeyi (Caribbean)
- Transboundary in Southeast Europe presented by Michael Scoulos and Milan Matuska (Mediterranean and Central and Eastern Europe).

It was pointed out that GWP should be a pioneer in identify emerging issues and position itself vis-à-vis these challenges.

The main messages from this workshop are:

- IWRM planning at national level is a prerequisite for successful transboundary management, and GWP has a high potential to facilitate transboundary processes
- GWP needs to play a stronger role in addressing food security in relation to water
- Water adaptation for tourism and adaptation of tourism for IWRM (including climate change) needs to be addressed hand-in-hand.
- There is a critical role of GWP to ensure that adaptation plans are integrated into the IWRM process.

Workshop Three: Technical function

Four presentations were given to show a complex set of functions that need strengthening:

- Overview of Technical Functions presented by Martin Walshe (GWPO)
- Perspectives on the Technical Function of GWP Southern Africa presented by Michael Mutale (Regional Technical Committee, Southern Africa)
- Technical functions in West Africa presented by Dam Mogbante (West Africa)
- Latin American Technical Support Group presented by Ana Virginia Machado (South America)

Technical functions are core functions of GWP. Different regional perspectives illustrated that regional professional networks provide important links between countries within the region; they also link the region to global processes. Therefore, GWP must build on technical expertise and intellectual leadership in regions and countries in order to better articulate global messages. At the same time, products and messages of the GWP Technical Committee should satisfy needs in regions and countries. Sharing expertise across regions could be as helpful as receiving expertise from the Technical Committee. Most participants expressed a need and interest in inter-regional cooperation and knowledge exchange. In addition, the knowledge outreach of GWP should actively include non-water areas (such as food security, biodiversity, forestry, climate change, and public participation).

The discussion brought several important issues to be incorporated in the paper on the Technical Function, as follows:

- GWP Secretariats (global and regional) should coordinate, rationalise and prioritise operational and thematic linkages between global and regional technical committees
- Global GWP Secretariat should strengthen the capacity of regional secretariats for knowledge generation through resource allocation, to leverage locally sourced funding
- It is important to involve RTECs in the development of Technical Committee documents
- Strengthen the technical capacity of regional secretariats especially in the area of knowledge management.

Day 2:

The second day comprised four plenary sessions:

- Working with strategic allies
- Fundraising
- Activity & Financial Reports
- Closing

Working with Strategic Allies

The following representatives of key GWP allies presented their views on opportunities to cooperate with GWP at global, regional, basin or local levels:

- Avinash Tyagi (Associated Programme on Flood Management)
- Paul Taylor (CapNet)
- Steven Foster (Ground Water –MATE)
- Ivan Zavadsky (GEF)
- David Molden (IWMI), and
- Jakob Granit (SIWI).



Panelists summarized past joint activities and introduced future plans. A clear expression of the desire and need to work more closely with strategic allies was discussed and agreed. The types of activities, targets and themes are enormous, thus there is the challenge of resourcing potential cooperation and operationalising it. Nevertheless it is important that GWP seeks specific areas to enhance its ways of working with strategic allies to improve the quality of outcomes and impacts at global, regional, country and local levels.

Fundraising

The plenary session brought four cases of fundraising successes and challenges. The session was complemented by a presentation by Per Stenbeck, executive director of WaterAid Sweden. He summarised: be ready, think big and be patient.

The issue of fundraising at national and regional levels needs to be looked at together with capacities available at GWP and other external factors (such as legality of GWP structures). Therefore, it is important to develop the professional fundraising skills of regional and global secretariats. Is GWP ready to coordinate regional (and cross-regional) programs? That was discussed in light of experience from Africa. PAWD should be analyzed in the context of lessons learnt regarding fundraising and capacities to effectively manage grants.

GWP should also think about diversifying funds from traditional to non-traditional possibilities. But first it is important to map donors and their programs. Second, it is important to map allies and Partners with whom joint programs could be carried out. Issues of credibility, transparency and reliability were discussed frequently by participants. Finally, it was stressed that RWPs should elaborate a fundraising strategy.

During a lively discussion, several practical recommendations were made. GWP needs to:

- build capacity (human, financial) to fundraise at all levels
- work on its profile and credentials
- invest in partnership and institutional development
- show how funds are used
- map donors to understand criteria and focus on individual donors if appropriate
- strengthen relationship with political bodies.

Activity & Financial Reports

Martin Walshe, Deputy Executive Secretary, presented the activity report for GWP for 2008. This was followed by a presentation of the 2008 GWPO Financial Report by Catharina Sahlin-Tegnander, GWPO Head of Finance.

Closing Plenary session

The richness of GWP is in networking. Letitia Obeng made a quick survey through the audience. It was estimated that roughly 50% of participants were able to meet with more than five participants they did not know before.

Hartmut Bruehl, GWP Technical Committee interim chair, summarized that the Technical Committee is known by their publications among which the recent Background Paper No. 14 regarding climate change adaptation is an excellent contribution to the new Strategy. He also pointed out that the ToolBox is a central part in knowledge sharing and dissemination. This relates directly to Goal 3 of the Strategy. New themes where the Technical Committee will deal are on equity, groundwater and financing. Also, new challenges are on how to operationalise the ideas in the paper on the technical function. He concluded by saying that the Technical Committee also works closely with partners such as OECD, UNDP, and SIWI.

Ania Grobicki and Letitia Obeng closed the meeting and thanked all participants and organizers for fruitful inputs.

General conclusion

There is an increased desire by regions to share and present their activities, exchange ideas and learn from others. Two of the greatest expressed needs are to increase the capacity of the Network to:

- manage and share knowledge, and
- fundraise and capitalize on seed funds.