

Report for the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Meteorological Congress

# GWP Activities Contributing to the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)

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### Introduction

This document has been prepared following an invitation of the World Meteorological Organization to the Global Water Partnership (GWP) to submit a report of the activities of GWP that contribute to the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) for the 17<sup>th</sup> session of the World Meteorological Congress.

### Brief background on the Global Water Partnership (GWP)

The Global Water Partnership Organization is an intergovernmental organization with full legal personality under international law. GWP was founded in 1996 by the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) as a partnership for sustainable development, in order to foster integrated water resource management (IWRM). The UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro and the informal adoption of the Dublin Principles established the basis for founding GWP in 1996.

GWP is a dynamic, not-for-profit network which currently has over 3,000 Partner organisations in 172 countries around the world. The network has accredited 86 Country Water Partnerships and 13 Regional Water Partnerships. The network is open to all organisations involved in water resources management: developed and developing country government institutions, agencies of the United Nations, bi- and multi-lateral development banks, professional associations, research institutions, non-governmental organisations, and the private sector.

### Introduction to GWP's engagement with the Global Framework for Climate Service

The Global Water Partnership's vision is for a water secure world. Its mission is to advance the governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development. Particularly through its programmes GWP has been actively engaged with the GFCS priority areas. GWP is primarily focused on supporting the creation of the User Interface Platform, however GWP aims to contribute to all five pillars of the GFCS implementation plan, i.e. the User Interface Platform; Climate Services Information System; Observations and Monitoring; Research Modelling and Prediction; and Capacity Building.

This engagement of GWP has been in the area of (1) capacity development, linking climate service users and providers, Developing national capacity in developing countries and strengthening regional climate capabilities; (2) High-profile projects to address gaps across pillars and priority areas; (3) Promoting partnerships across sectors and disciplines for addressing gaps and priorities; (4) Governance, leadership and management capacity to take the GFCS Framework forward. GWP has become a member of the GFCS Partner Advisory Committee.

The programmes with which GWP contributes to the efforts of the GFCS are:

- a) The Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP) supports the integration of water security and climate resilience in development planning and decision making processes, through enhanced technical and institutional capacity and predictable financing and investments in water security and climate change adaptation.
- b) The WMO/GWP Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) supports countries in the integrated management of floods, in the overall context of IWRM to maximize net benefits from the use of their floodplains and minimize loss of life.
- c) And its sister programme, the WMO/GWP Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) supports countries and communities in the integrated management of droughts, in the overall context of IWRM, through supporting stakeholders at all levels by providing them with policy and management guidance through globally coordinated generation of scientific information and sharing best practices and knowledge for integrated drought management.

The APFM and IDMP constitute the recently designated GWP/WMO Joint Office on Climate and Water of the GFCS. All three programmes are aiming to facilitate climate-smart decisions.

The GWP regional and country water partnerships have also actively contributed to the Climate Outlook Forum processes in various regions, particularly South Asia and Central America, and in the first National Climate Outlook Forum in Mozambique to ensure that the water community as one of the main users of climate services is part of the dialogue.

### Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP)<sup>1</sup>

In an effort to address the twin challenges of water security and climate change a Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP) was initiated by the Global Water Partnership in 2011. The programme was developed as a response to the November 2010 African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) request for GWP to support the implementation of the climate change commitments included in the 2008 African Union Sharm el-Sheikh Commitments for Accelerating the Achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa<sup>2</sup>.

The goal of WACDEP is to promote water as a key part of sustainable regional and national development and contribute to climate change adaptation for economic growth and human security. The overall objective is to support integration of water security and climate resilience in development planning and decision-making processes through enhanced technical and institutional capacity, predictable financing and investments in water security, better drought and flood management, and climate change adaptation. Expected outcomes include:

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.gwp.org/en/Our-approach/Thematic-Areas/Climate-Resilience-and-Water-Security/Global-Water-and-Climate-Programme/>

<sup>2</sup> Assembly of the African Union, Eleventh Ordinary Session, 30 June – 1 July 2008, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt – Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XI)

- Water security and climate resilience integrated in development planning
- Capacities of partnerships, institutions and stakeholders enhanced to integrate water security and climate resilience in development processes
- “No regrets” investment and financing strategies and plans for water security, climate resilience and development formulated and governments enabled to access funding from new and emerging climate funds
- National adaptation plans (NAPs) formulated and integrated in development plans
- Better national drought and flood management policies designed
- Improved knowledge and access to scientific understanding of droughts and floods, risk assessment, monitoring, prediction and early warning

Initially launched in the five GWP African regions in 2012, climate resilience projects following the WACDEP model are now ongoing in all GWP regions. Results achieved to date are focused around the key areas targeted by the programme, namely:

- **Capacity development:** The Capacity Development Initiative on Economics of Adaptation, Water Security and Climate Resilient Development has been implemented in eight WACDEP Africa countries in collaboration with AMCOW, CDKN, UNDP-GEF, CapNet, and GWP regions and countries. Around 100 institutions have benefitted from the training which has targeted government planners across line ministries such as Economic Planning, Finance, Water Resources, Agriculture, Environment, Energy, Health and Infrastructure. Each participant is connected to an ongoing initiative in their own line of work – such as the implementation of a disaster preparedness plan in Mozambique (Ministry of Local Administration), the development of Medium Term Development Plans in Ghana (Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development), and the management of the FONERWA environment and climate change fund in Rwanda (Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources) – through which they receive relevant technical assistance in response to specific information and knowledge needs with the aim of supporting and encouraging each participant in applying a climate resilience development approach in their daily work through on the job training and mentorship.
- **Transboundary cooperation:** Through WACDEP, GWP works closely with transboundary institutions in a number of river basins, including the Aral Sea, Kura-Araks, Lake Chad, Danube, Yellow River, Lake Victoria, NW Saharan Aquifer, Orange-Senqu, Volta, Amazon and Limpopo. In the case of the Limpopo, GWP has developed a methodology for disaster risk reduction (DRR) to assist community and household responses to DRR through considerations of livelihood and economic activities. The district survey based tool will guide on the type of impacts and how to respond/mitigate. Meanwhile GWP’s Country Water Partnerships in the riparian states of the Limpopo are implementing in-country consultations to determine how countries are carrying out water related disaster risk reduction, highlight gaps and discuss the most relevant role for the Limpopo Watercourse Commission in DRR. A

basin-wide stakeholder workshop will use the country consultations and associated desk review report to develop DRR strategies for the forthcoming Limpopo basin action plan.

- **National development planning:** Support to incorporate climate resilience into national planning processes is a key target area for WACDEP. Examples of processes that are benefiting from WACDEP support include the Cameroon National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), the Niger Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth Strategy (SDDC), the Jamaica National Water Policy and the ongoing development of National Adaptation Plans in a number of countries including Malawi, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Burundi and Nepal. In Zimbabwe WACDEP was instrumental in the development of the National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS), particularly in the formulation of the water section through WACDEP facilitated consultations with non-water sectors (agriculture, energy, etc.).
- **Investment planning:** In many cases, WACDEP support to investment planning follows a sequence of steps starting with support to policy development and planning (see national development planning above), followed by the identification, prioritisation and costing of implementation measures, which in turn manifest themselves as formally approved investment plans through which plans are implemented. Support is also provided to raise funds to contribute to the implementation of the approved investment plans. Examples of investment planning processes supported by WACDEP include Sector Investment Planning for the National Strategic Plan for Water Resources Management in Rwanda, an investment plan for the implementation of the National IWRM Plan in Burundi, and an investment plan for the Nakanbé basin in Burkina Faso.
- **Demonstration projects:** A number of demonstration projects are being implemented under WACDEP with the aim of piloting and scaling up innovative pro-poor and gender sensitive 'green' solutions for addressing critical water security challenges such as water, food, and energy, to enhance climate resilience of countries and communities. Examples include improved catchment management through alternative energy sources (biogas) and reforestation in the transboundary Lake Cyohoha catchment in the Bugesera region (Burundi and Rwanda), adoption of decentralised wastewater treatment and reuse technology in Parakar Village, Armenia, drilling of boreholes and installation of solar powered pumps for water supply in the Mayo Tsanaga sub-catchment of the Lake Chad Basin (Cameroon), and rainwater harvesting in schools in Guatemala City.

## WMO/GWP Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM)<sup>3</sup>

The Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) is a joint initiative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Global Water Partnership (GWP). Its objective is to

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<sup>3</sup> [www.floodmanagement.info](http://www.floodmanagement.info)

support countries in the implementation of Integrated Flood Management (IFM) within the framework of Integrated Water Resources Management to maximize net benefits from the use of their floodplains and minimize loss of life. Since the establishment of the GFCS it has incorporated an additional emphasis on climate services related to floodplain management.

The HelpDesk on Integrated Flood Management has been operational for 6 years providing guidance on flood management policy, strategy and institutional development, as a demand driven facility. It draws on the expertise of over 20 organizations in supporting practical implementation of integrated flood management through tailor made advice in well over hundred and the provision of technical guidance in thousands of instances.

During Phase I (August 2001 - July 2006) of the APFM, the principles of Integrated Flood Management have been established through the IFM Concept Paper, which is supported by the Flood Management Policy Series. The programme has conducted various regional and country demonstration projects, has collected and synthesized flood management case studies and established a website to offer a variety of information including various products and a set of databases on flood management. The outcomes of Phase I have been widely disseminated at various international conferences, workshops and meetings, which facilitated dialogue and involvement of institutions and individuals. This also helped initiate a global network or knowledge base to support countries in their efforts to adopt IFM.

Phase II of the programme (August 2006 - March 2010) was designed to consolidate these gains. It sought to develop capacities in the countries by supporting local and regional actions that advocate, support or demonstrate the IFM principles. The advocacy for IFM has been achieved through capacity development and by providing long-term support in the form of IFM HelpDesk and information services. The IFM HelpDesk is based on voluntary contributions from 23 Support Base Partners.

Phase III of the APFM started in April 2010 for a period of four years until 2014. Phase III aimed to improve the field-effectiveness of IFM practices and the APFM outreach, covering a wide range of demand-driven applications of the IFM principles.

The recently started Phase IV is focused on mainstreaming IFM into policy and practice. In order to achieve this, three key strategic areas were identified to achieve APFM's mission:

- Help Countries maximize benefits and minimize loss of life and damage in floodplains
  - Assisting countries, regions and communities in the implementation of IFM
- Advance the development of the IFM approach
  - Collecting and disseminate knowledge on IFM
  - Advocating for IFM
- Sustain an effective and well governed programme with active partners
  - Growing and reinforcing a network of partners for cooperation on IFM to increase technical, institutional, and financial contributions to IFM
  - Efficiently and effectively manage APFM

These areas are aligned with both WMO and GWP's guiding principles and they mark the way in which APFM aims to fulfil its tasks, by collecting, disseminating, and helping implement knowledge on the IFM approach. This is achieved through cooperation with National Meteorological and Hydrological

Services, GWP's Regional and Country Water Partnerships, emergency services & civil defences organizations, and partner organizations.

### WMO/GWP Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) <sup>4</sup>

The Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) was launched at the High Level Meeting on National Drought Policies in March 2013. It builds on long-standing cooperation of WMO and GWP and inspired by the Associated Programme on Flood Management. 26 organizations that are active in drought management have expressed an interest to work with the IDMP.

The IDMP's objective is to support stakeholders at all levels by providing them with policy and management guidance through globally coordinated generation of scientific information and sharing best practices and knowledge for integrated drought management. The IDMP especially seeks to support regions and countries to develop more proactive drought policies and better predictive mechanisms. While the spatial scope is global, the results of the programme are aimed to be practical and policy relevant - tailored to specific regional and national needs and requirements

Drought management has often been neglected due to a drought's slow onset, largely non-structural nature spread over large areas, difficulty of the assessment of its impact and the fact that mitigation actions are less obvious. The responses to droughts in the past have been, similarly to floods, characterized by emergency relief and a lack of long term planning that, rather than reducing, often increases the vulnerability to the next extreme event. The IDMP is developing an Integrated Drought Management HelpDesk to provide a platform, in which organizations with expertise in managing droughts, can offer their services to help move practice from a reactive to a proactive management of droughts, based on risk management principles in support of the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

Guidelines on National Drought Management Policies have been developed and further resources are being worked on. A drought management library has been established based on an in-depth review of existing publications. All resources and an up-to-date list of activities can be accessed at the IDMP website at [www.droughtmanagement.info](http://www.droughtmanagement.info)

To put the concept of Integrated Drought Management into practice a number of regional initiatives have been launched:

**IDMP Central and Eastern Europe**, based at GWP offices for Central and Eastern Europe, is already well established and is providing practical advice on how droughts can be managed with the goal increase capacity and ability of countries in Central and Eastern Europe for adaptation to climate variability and change by enhancing resilience to drought. Outputs that are coming forward range

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<sup>4</sup> [www.droughtmanagement.info](http://www.droughtmanagement.info)



from • Guidelines for the preparation of drought management plans within river basin management plans according to European Union Water Framework Directive • National consultation dialogues to discuss preparation of drought management plans • Compendium of good practices • Drought information exchange platform • Demonstration projects testing innovative solutions for better resilience to drought • Capacity building trainings and workshops on national and regional levels

Recently the **IDMP in the Horn of Africa** and the **IDMP in West Africa**, each based in the regional offices of GWP in Uganda (GWP Eastern Africa) and Burkina Faso (GWP West Africa) have been launched. Both programmes are aiming to close the gap and provide an impetus to existing drought management initiatives in these regions. The GWP Country Water Partnerships as well as the Regional Climate Centres will play a crucial role to bring the key actors not only from the water community but also from the agriculture and energy community together.

The **IDMP Horn of Africa** will focus on Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. **IDMP West Africa** will focus its work firstly on Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali and then share lessons learned with other neighbouring countries through the Country Water Partnerships.

In **South Asia** the IDMP is collaborating with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and GWP South Asia in developing a **South Asian Drought Monitoring System (SA DMS)**. A needs and capacity assessment of the involved countries kicked off the work. A first workshop with government representatives from South Asia on the system was held as part of the 5th South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF-5) Climate Service User Forum workshop in Pune, India in April 2014 and the progress in the development of the SADMS is shared in a workshop linked to the 6<sup>th</sup> South Asia Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF-6) in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

In **Central America** a first workshop on droughts was held under the auspices of the IDMP with support from Spain's State Meteorological Agency (in Spanish: *Agencia Estatal de Meteorología (AEMET)*) and GWP Central America for the National HydroMet Services from the region in November. Several recommendations have emerged and trainings on the Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) have followed. It is a contribution to the collaborative platform for improved climate information of the Central American HydroMet Integration Centre (in Spanish: *Centro de Integración Meteorológica Hidrológica de América Central (CIMHAC)*) of the national HydroMet Services in Central America supported by GWP Central America.

The Government of **Turkey** has requested the IDMP through WMO to hold an *International Integrated Drought Management Workshop* on 03 and 04 of March 2014. Discussions for supporting the Turkish Government in developing a national drought policy are ongoing.

The Government of **Mexico** is supported by the IDMP in its undertaking to develop a national drought programme (PRONACOSE).

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