

Preparing to implement SDG 6 in Honduras



#IniciativaODS6

The Government of Honduras is committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda and has begun a process to prepare for the implementation of SDG 6 "Clean water and sanitation" - called the "SDG 6 Initiative". This summary provides a brief overview of the work conducted to date.

The overall objective of this initiative is to establish the process to be carried out at the institutional, sectoral cabinets, international cooperation agencies, stakeholder and other levels.

This process has included a planning phase, the selection of themes at the inter-institutional, inter-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and comprehensive levels, to fulfil the principle of "leaving no one behind".

The approach has been multi-dimensional and participatory, involving all possible stakeholders in the development of the Initiative.

This summary includes a brief characterization of the water sector's overall situation in the country, and the steps developed so far in the process, proposed next steps, and finally, conclusions, opportunities and challenges regarding the process.

THE WATER SECTOR IN HONDURAS

According to information from the last hydrological balance generated in 2003, the total water supply for Honduras has been estimated at 87,653 Mm³.

Honduras has a significant water supply; however, the current demand for drinking water only uses 5 per cent of the existing supply. By 2022, 9,451 cubic hectometres of water will be required, which is equivalent to 10.9 per cent of national supply (Government of Honduras,

2010), because of the additional 400,000 hectares under irrigation and the hydroelectric sources intended to meet 80 per cent of power demands.

The country does not have the infrastructure to estimate or calculate the actual demand. Because of the lack of regulation, storage infrastructure and flow regulation, the demand specifically for drinking water in the country is not met, as reflected in statistics.

SDG Preparedness Facility: GWP is committed to support implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 6, which is dedicated to water. To help countries implement the SDGs, GWP set up a SDG Preparedness Facility (SDG-PF). The overall goal of the GWP SDG-PF is to support countries in their commitment to the post-2015 Development Agenda through practical support for a rapid start to implementing SDG 6 and other water-related SDGs. In Central America, GWP has been working with Honduras, with the possibility of working with other countries. The process described in this executive summary is part of the SDG-PF.

As for water quality, it is important to mention that the country does not systematically monitor water bodies. However, it can be said that the Choluteca, Chamelecón

and Ulúa rivers are the most sensitive cases pollution-wise because the largest cities in the country (Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula) are along their routes.

WATER SECTOR NORMATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The General Water Law, approved in December 2009, establishes that the ownership of the administration, use, exploitation, and development of water resources, as well as exploitation or use of ecosystems and related resources, will be administered by the State through the governance of the Water Authority, as a decentralized body of the Ministry of Energy, Natural Resource, Environment and Mines (MiAmbiente).

At present, the General Water Law is not effectively enforced. In practice, it is the legislation in force within the Constitution of the Republic, as well as sectoral and secondary legislation, which regulate and determine the different users and uses of water. This entails the participation of an important institutional framework that must be involved in core aspects of the management of water resources and of their services.

Table 1: Public Institutional Framework and Water Resource Use¹

INSTITUTION	ROLES	WATER USES
MiAmbiente	Responsible for the formulation, coordination, implementation and evaluation of policies related to water resource protection and utilization, as well as of pollution research and control services.	Environmental
DGRH-MiAmbiente / Water Authority	Develops aspects related to water management, including its measurement, evaluation or conservation, and authorization or concession for utilization.	Multiple uses
COPECO	Involved in risk prevention and management, including those stemming from floods and other contingencies. At the national level, it is responsible for generating meteorological information and is part of the national meteorological network.	Risk
SESAL	Public entity responsible for sanitary control and surveillance of water, including discharges and monitoring of water quality. It also heads CONASA.	Drinking water
CESCCO-MiAmbiente	Control and prevention of pollution in its various forms, including studies and research on water quality.	Environmental
SAG	Involved in management of water for agricultural purposes, through the General Irrigation and Drainage Directorate.	Agriculture/Livestock
SANAA	Autonomous entity responsible for the delivery of public services in different localities. It is authorized to use national waters for that purpose.	Drinking water
ENEE	Autonomous entity authorized to use national waters for electricity generation purposes.	Energy
ERSAPS	Decentralized agency authorized to regulate, control and sanction the indicated APS services.	Drinking water
ICF	Involved in watershed and protected area management.	Agriculture/Livestock Environmental
IDECOAS-FHIS	Promotes community development projects, to strengthen self-management and community engagement focusing on sustainability.	Drinking water
Municipalities	Local authorities authorized as owners and providers of public drinking water and sewage services; or to outsource or authorize their provision by Water Boards, which are community-based organizations governed by self-management principles; or by other public, mixed or private authorized providers.	Drinking water Environmental

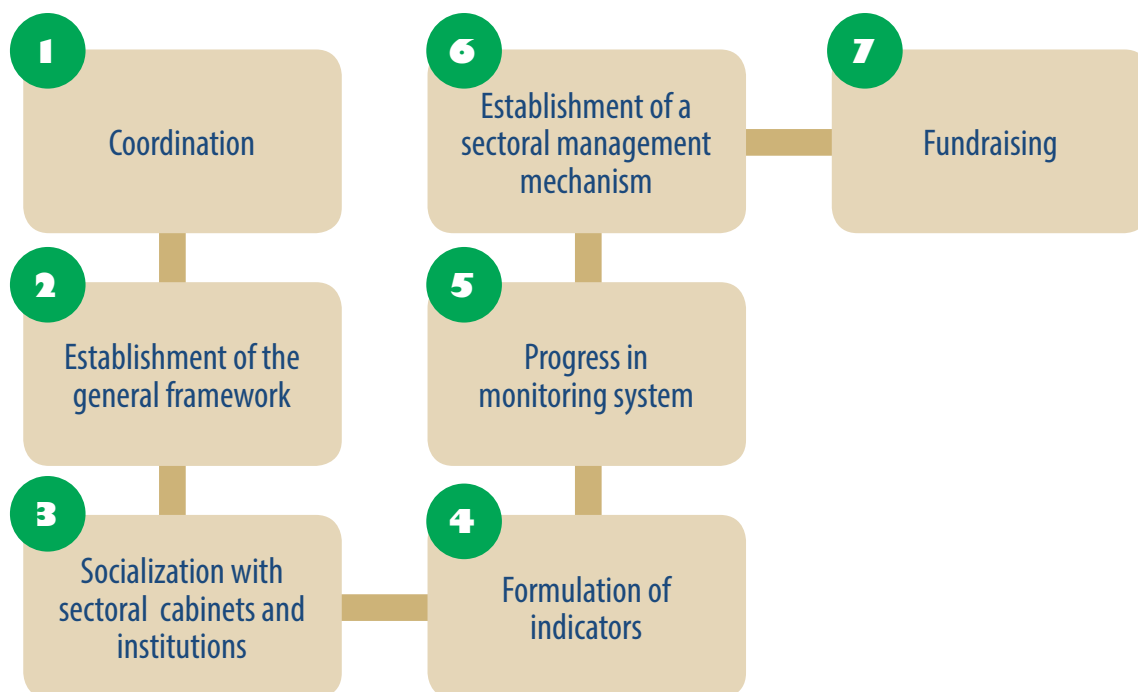
¹ Meaning of acronyms in Table 1: MiAmbiente- Ministry of Energy, Natural Resource, Environment and Mines; DGRH- General Water Resource Directorate; COPECO- Permanent Contingencies Committee; SESAL- Health Secretariat; CESCCO- Centre for Pollution Research and Control; SAG- Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock; SANAA- National Autonomous Aqueducts and Sewer Service; ENEE- National Electric Power Company; ERSAPS- Drinking Water and Sanitation Service Regulating Entity; ICF- National Forest Conservation Institute; IDECOAS- Community Development, Water and Sanitation Institute; FHIS- Honduran Social Investment Fund.

WORK DONE UP TO DATE OF THE SDG 6 INITIATIVE

The schematic description of the process carried out for the Initiative is presented in order to provide an understanding of the various steps followed as well as to show its dynamic nature. It also shows that

fundraising is continuous, with a view to garnering the support of various stakeholders to achieve SDG 6 and achieving the prioritization of its related targets and have these become part of the national SDG Agenda.

Figure 1: SDG 6 Initiative process



1 Step 1. Coordination

The way entities would be coordinated was determined, defining coordination and joint call roles as well as the facilitation and systematization of the process and logistical and financial support for the activities under the Initiative.

It was agreed that the process should be led by the Ministry of Energy, Natural Resource, Environment and Mines (MiAmbiente), a government institution attached to the Economic Development Cabinet and responsible for promoting sustainable development in Honduras through formulation, coordination, implementation and evaluation of public policies aimed at achieving the preservation of natural resources and conservation of the environment; in conjunction with the General Government Coordination Secretariat (SCGG) and with support from GWP Central America.

This involved an initial analysis and reflection by the key stakeholders promoting the work agenda, considering the institutional context and dynamics in the country.

This has allowed determining the general framework for the process, based on four specific objectives:

1. Including SDG 6 within the country's political and planning frameworks;
2. Supporting the creation/strengthening of monitoring systems for SDG 6;
3. Strengthening institutional capacities for the implementation of SDGs; and
4. Supporting the country in its access to funding for the implementation of SDGs.

Additionally, three key criteria were agreed upon to implement the Initiative:

1. Participatory: This involves and requires promoting a participatory process that would initially focus on active participation by the public entities that have responsibilities in water resource management, which would include the holding of meetings and workshops at the inter-institutional level.

2 Step 2. Establishment of the general framework

The general framework for the process that would be driving the SDG 6 Initiative was proposed following the joint coordination agreement established in Step 1.

2. Flexible: The process is permanently assessed based on its progress, and the methodology is subject to possible adjustments so as to ensure better progress toward the achievement of the proposed management objectives.
3. Results-oriented: The process is not subject to a specific deadline. It is developed according to the time and pace that the public institutional framework requires to perform the analyses, tasks and exercises required to achieve the expected objectives and results.

socialization of SDGs with sectoral cabinet offices (Social Development and Inclusion, Economic Development, Productive Infrastructure, Governance and Decentralization, Economic Governance and Regulation, Foreign Affairs) and public institutions with responsibilities in water management.

Initial socialization activities consisted of inter-sectoral and inter-institutional workshops focused on:

1. *Socializing the 2030 Agenda and the analysis performed by SCGG regarding the linking of SDGs with national planning. The following is an example of SDG 6 alignment with National Goal 1 contained in the Country's Vision and Nation Plan, as well as with the Government Plan and the Sectoral Plan for Social Development and Inclusion.*

3 Step 3. Socialization with sectoral cabinets and institutions

The definition of the specific objectives of the SDG 6 Initiative leads to the next step, which is the

Table 2: SDG 6 alignment with national planning instruments

COUNTRY VISION AND NATION PLAN		SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS			GOVERNMENT STRATEGIC PLAN		SECTORAL PLANS	
Objectives "Country's Vision"	Targets "Country's Vision"	Nation Plan Indicators	Sustainable Development Goals	Sustainable Development Targets	14 Overall Results in the Government Strategic Plan	Government Strategic Plan Indicators	Sub-sectoral Results	Sectoral Plan Indicators
National Goal 1: A Honduras that is educated, healthy and with no poverty, with consolidated social welfare systems.	1.2 Reduce the percentage of households living in poverty to less than 15%.	Percentage of households living in poverty.	Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.	6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all. 6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations. 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.	The percentage of households with unmet basic needs will have dropped from 40.8% to 36.8%.	% households with UBN	Expanded coverage and quality of drinking water and basic sanitation.	% of the population with drinking water supply service. % of population with access to basic sanitation.

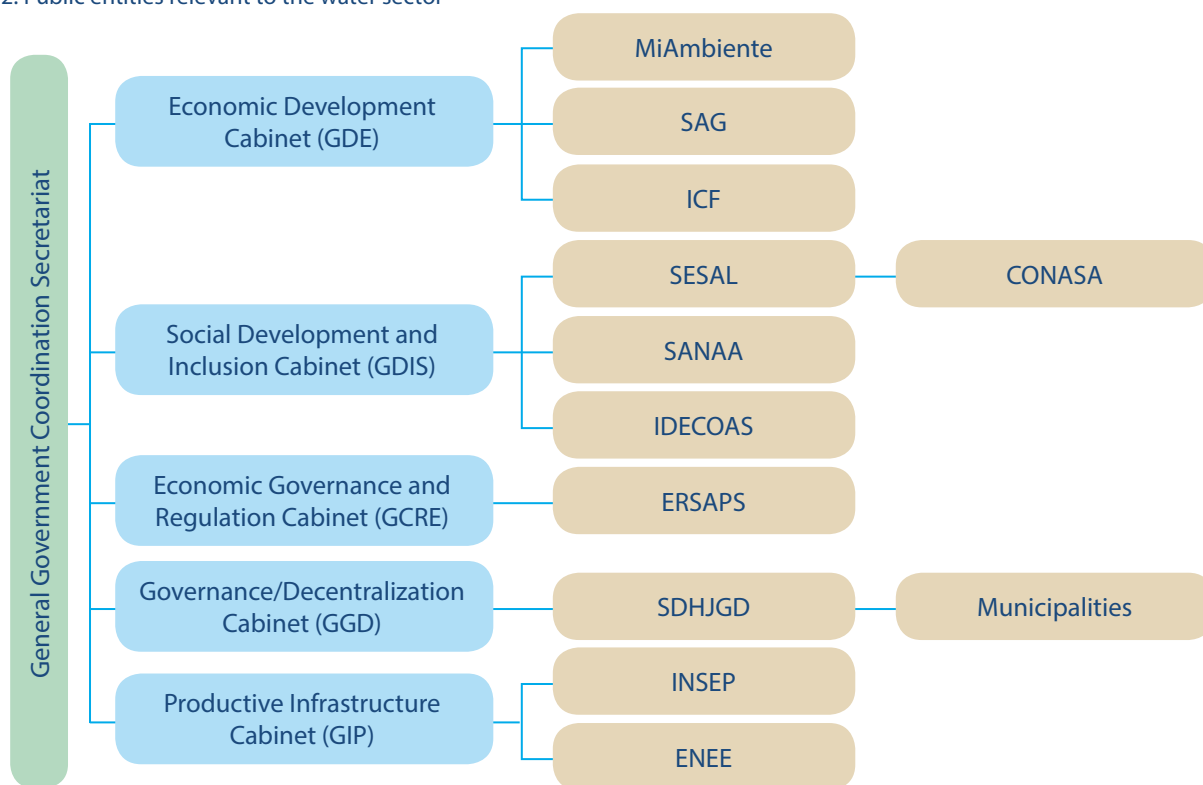
2. *Socialize the SDG 6 Initiative with public entities relevant to the water sector, classified by Sectoral Cabinet Office and establishment of work agreements for the process.*

Participation by the public institutions most relevant and directly related to the water sector makes it possible to establish the following agreements:

- Establish a common information base on the new 2030 development agenda;

- Initial analysis by institutions of their relationship with and contribution to SDG 6 fulfilment, through their jurisdictions and powers;
- Need to strengthen coordinated sectoral and inter-agency work so as to advance towards fulfilment of SDG 6 and its targets;
- Agree on an initial inter-institutional work mechanism to assist participatory construction of the Roadmap for SDG 6 fulfilment.

Figure 2: Public entities relevant to the water sector



3. *Conduct an initial institutional analysis among entities related to water management regarding their relationship with SDG 6 and its targets.*

The initial institutional alignment analysis was an internal exercise by institutions with their Sectoral Cabinet Offices, based on their jurisdictions or mandates, priority programmes or projects, and

identification of their involvement in the achievement of SDG 6 targets. This exercise showed that in the majority of cases, participating entities are framed within national planning and that depend both on national financial resources and on financial resources from international cooperation to effectively implement SDG 6. The following matrix reflects the institutional analyses:

Table 3: Institutional analysis related to SDG 6 targets

TARGET	CABINET
Target 6.1 y 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.	GCRE, GDIS, GGD
Target 6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.	GCRE, GDIS,GGD
Target 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally by X%.	GCRE, GDIS, GDE,GGD
Target 6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.	GCRE, GDIS, GDE, GIP,GGD
Target 6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.	GDE,GRI
Target 6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.	GCRE, GDE, GIP,GGD
Target 6.6 a. By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies.	GDE, GIP,GGD,GRI
Target 6.6 b. Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.	GCRE, GDIS, GDE,GGD

4 Step 4. Formulation of institutional indicators

This step aims to:

- Provide training on indicator formulation to cabinet offices and institutions, in order to establish common criteria for developing indicators.
- Work on a first proposal for indicators, in groups organized by sectoral cabinets and institutions in order to review, adjust, prioritize and define

the indicators based on key criteria for proper indicators.

Institutions such as MiAmbiente, CONASA, SANAA, SAG, ICF, SESAL, ERSAPS, SDHJGD and SRE have formulated their indicators, which are being reviewed and validated at the inter-institutional and General Government Coordination Secretariat levels.

PROPOSED INDICATORS INCLUDE:

1. % of basins that have basin organizations trained in integrated water resource management (IWRM).
2. % of municipalities that have development plans that include integrated water resource management.
3. % of transboundary basins that have inter-country agreements linked to integrated water resource management (IWRM).
4. Percentage of population consuming and using disinfected water adequate for human consumption (PPCADACH).
5. Continuity of Piped Water Service (CSAT).
6. Percentage of people with access to adequate basic sanitation systems (PPSSA).
7. Percentage of household wastewater treated in sewage systems (PARDT).
8. Number of municipalities managing water and sanitation systems in accordance with Sector Framework Law (NMASA).
9. % of micro-watersheds with management plans that include climate risk management programmes.
10. % of hectares in which ecosystem restoration measures are applied.
11. % of utilization of hydropower (Hydroelectric Energy) from State-owned Hydroelectric Power Plants.
12. % of hectares under drip irrigation against the total area under irrigation.

Table 4: Example of an indicator's profile "Continuity of Piped Water Service (CSAT)"

SECTORAL CABINET	ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AND REGULATION / SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INCLUSION
Institution	Governing Entity ERSAPS and CONASA
Sector Strategic Result	Expanded coverage and quality of drinking water and basic sanitation
Beneficiary Population	At the national level
Indicator 6.1.1.c	Continuity of Piped Water Service (CSAT)
Description	Corresponds to the average number of hours of service per day provided by a service provider to beneficiaries with access to piped water systems. UNICEF/UNDP international recommendations state that continuity of water should allow for no more than two days a week with interruption of service, which translated into continuous service corresponds to 17.6 hours a day.
Unit of measure	Average number of hours per day
Variables	Amount of water supplied, average provision
Calculation Formula	Continuity (CSAT) = M^3/day (average annual supply) x 24 hours / Population x daily supply x daily demand factor
Baseline	TBD
Data sources	The Drinking Water and Sanitation Service Regulatory Entity (ERSAPS) and the National Drinking Water and Sanitation Council (CONASA)
Baseline at the municipal level	TBD
Data source(s) at the municipal level	Provider of potable water and sanitation services in urban communities and community providers in rural populations
Collection methods	Water supply per community and projected water demand by community will be determined from data obtained from ERSAPS providers' information systems for urban areas and by SANAA's SIASAR for rural areas.
Breakdown (by sex and age, if possible)	Metropolitan, Urban and Rural
Institutional Indicator Targets	TBD
SDG	Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
SDG Target	Target 6.1. By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
SDG Indicator	6.1.1: % of population using safely managed drinking water services
Remarks	The Framework Law for the Water and Sanitation Sector defines continuity as the quality of the potable water and sanitation service provided on a continuous basis and accessible to all users. There are technical, administrative and financial differences between urban and rural communities, so the indicators are obtained separately to project the national indicator.

5

Step 5. Progress in monitoring system to report fulfilment of SDG 6 targets

In order to implement an SDG 6 monitoring system under a results-based management approach, it is necessary to first make a significant investment in actually knowing the status of water resources in terms of both quantity and quality at the national level, both in surface watersheds and in aquifers. This baseline information or updated water balance would then have to be used to design a water information system that enables planning for water use, regulation and effective management thereof, and facilitates reporting progress toward the achievement of medium-term goals for both the subsector and for implementing SDG 6.

It will also be necessary to have better records of the actual coverage of drinking water and sanitation services at the urban and rural levels, which will require strengthening water and sanitation sub-sector institutions as well as fostering coordination with other national entities to strengthen the sectoral information system. This monitoring mechanism should be aligned to the system that determines reporting by Sectoral Cabinets involved in this issue, and the basis will be the final indicators that are approved as a result of the previous stage.

6

Step 6. Establishment of a sectoral management mechanism

When analysing the work agenda for the water sector and its main actions, there is no evidence of the existence of an integrated work approach at the inter-institutional level. Therefore, the mechanism proposed to monitor SDGs is a High-Level Commission which will approve everything related to the implementation of

the 2030 Agenda. Sectoral Cabinet Offices, MiAmbiente and CONASA will be part of this Commission, and implementation will be reported back to SCGG as the coordinating entity in national planning and development.

From an institutional role standpoint, the main implementation responsibilities will fall to DGRH-MiAmbiente, for coordinating the execution of actions for water resource management related targets; and to CONASA, for targets related to water and sanitation services. These bodies may submit suggestions to the High-Level Commission or to any other mechanisms established for that purpose.

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Step 7. Fundraising

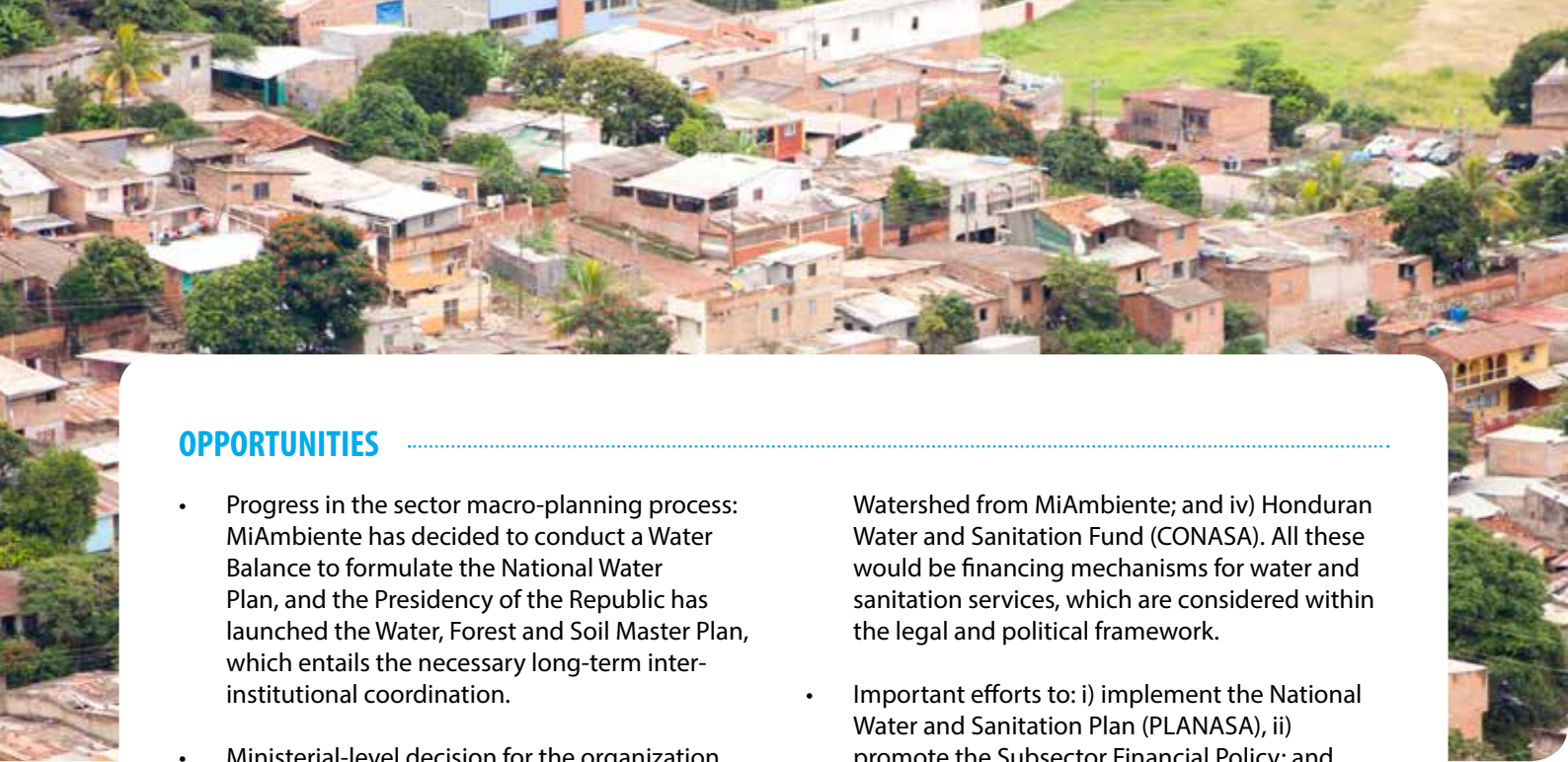
SCGG has been proposed to lead the fundraising process with support from the Economic Development and the Social Development and Inclusion Cabinets. This initial proposal is based on three components to support the implementation of SDG 6.

- Component 1: Policy, funding and monitoring improvement
- Component 2: Knowledge and capacity-building
- Component 3: Partnership Strengthening

These initiatives will also be supported by GWP Central America and submitted to cooperation agencies working on the water issue at the national level. This is an activity that is being developed throughout the process, sharing the results obtained at different levels as well as opportunities for action.

CONCLUSIONS

- SCGG's coordination role in the process to prepare for implementation of SDG 6 in the country has been instrumental in achieving the active participation of the various sectors and institutions linked to SDGs. It has also contributed to the incorporation of the SDG into national development planning and to alignment with instruments in place for this purpose.
- The development of inter-institutional and inter-sectoral workshops has been essential to understanding that the implementation of SDG 6 is a shared responsibility, which will require a coordinated effort and an integrated vision at the institutional and sectoral levels.
- Capacity building in aspects related to indicator formulation led to the development of better indicators and a better understanding at institutional level of the information requirements, gaps and challenges for measuring these indicators. In addition, presenting the proposed indicators in participatory workshops made it possible to visualize the need for coordination between the various institutions to formulate and fulfil them.
- The participation of Sector Cabinet Offices in the workshops that were held as part of the process ensures that the SDG 6 process is included in the structure defined at the government level to ensure effective coordination at inter-sectoral and inter-institutional levels.



OPPORTUNITIES

- Progress in the sector macro-planning process: MiAmbiente has decided to conduct a Water Balance to formulate the National Water Plan, and the Presidency of the Republic has launched the Water, Forest and Soil Master Plan, which entails the necessary long-term inter-institutional coordination.
- Ministerial-level decision for the organization, establishment and strengthening of Watershed Councils at the national level.
- There are proposals for the design and implementation of economic instruments for water management: i) Updating of Water Fees; ii) National Water Resource Fund; iii) Funds by Watershed from MiAmbiente; and iv) Honduran Water and Sanitation Fund (CONASA). All these would be financing mechanisms for water and sanitation services, which are considered within the legal and political framework.
- Important efforts to: i) implement the National Water and Sanitation Plan (PLANASA), ii) promote the Subsector Financial Policy; and iii) implement the capacity building strategy for water and sanitation providers, headed by CONASA, ERSAPS and the Honduran Association of Municipalities (AHMON). The strategy focuses on the strengthening and sustainability of the subsector.

CHALLENGES

- It is necessary to formulate a cooperation agenda whose priorities include the elements that will enable the achievement of prioritized indicators.
- It is necessary to secure financial and non-financial resources to achieve SDG 6 targets and fulfil SDG 6 indicators.
- The complexity of the Honduran water sector, characterized by the multi-dimensional and multi-target nature of its impact on social, economic and environmental development, requires that important efforts be made to strengthen the institutional framework of the water sector, implementing existing regulations and the management instruments established therein.
- There is an urgent need to establish the national water balance (supply and demand) so as to support planning and investments in the sector. This will enable the State to have the capacity to plan and develop its first National Water Plan, and to monitor the progress or challenges in the use of the water resources and support the measurement of SDG 6 indicators.
- It is necessary to update the fee and establish financial mechanisms to protect and preserve water resources in basins prioritized for human supply and production for food security.
- Design a cooperation management strategy and agenda for climate financing and to access the Green Climate Fund, to promote programmes and projects that support climate change adaptation where water management is a core aspect.

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GWP is an international network of organisations involved in water resources management. GWP’s vision is a water secure world. Its mission is to support the sustainable development and management of water resources at all levels.