



GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP SOUTH ASIA (GWP SAS)

WORKING GUIDELINES

Abbreviations:

CWP	Country Water Partnership
GWP	Global Water Partnership
GWP SAS	Global Water Partnership South Asia
IWRA	International Water Resources Association
IWRD	Integrated Water Resources Development
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
RCO	Regional Coordinator
RFPG	Regional Financial Partners Group
RPE	Regional Pool of Experts
SAS	South Asia
SAWAF	South Asia Water Forum
UNCED	United Nations Commission on Environment and Development
WB	World Bank
WP	Water Partnership
WWC	World Water Council

Clause 1. **Preamble**

Water is a renewable natural resource, but finite in quantity. With the runaway growth in population and rapid economic development, especially in the developing countries, demand for water has increased steadily making it a scarce resource. Recognizing that water is essential for the very survival of civilization, GWP was created at the initiative of IWRA, WWC and WB. GWP is envisaged as a mechanism to follow-up the water management principles adopted at the 1992 Dublin Conference and in chapter 18 of agenda 21 adopted at UNCED, Rio de Janeiro. GWP is a working partnership between organisations concerned with water resources. Since problems of water resource management is country and region specific, GWP has promoted regional WPs. One such is GWP-SAS, which provides an opportunity for the countries in the SAS region to work together to manage the region's water resources sustainably. The mission of GWP - SAS is to promote a holistic approach and IWRD and to support the countries in their sustainable management. GWP-SAS would be a regional network of Partners.

Clause 2. **Objectives**

South Asia Water Vision 2025 articulates the need for and goals of water resources development in the region. To achieve these goals, GWP-SAS will promote the principles of IWRM for sustainable and mutually beneficial water resources development in the countries in South Asia.

Clause 3. **Functions**

GWP-SAS will strive to

- i. translate the general principles for sustainable water resources management as evolved from the Dublin/Rio principles into facilitative instruments for action including development of effective solutions to problems common to integrated water resources management, suggestions for practical policies and best practices.
- ii. strengthen transparent mechanisms for sharing information and experience;
- iii. co-ordinate its activities in water resources management with those of other organisations
- iv. establish contacts through which to interact with GWP partners in other regions.
- v. identify the demands for strategic assistance for sustainable water resources management and propose programmes to meet this demand and monitor such programmes.
- vi. promote exchange of experience and know-how within water resources management from the international level to the regional and country levels, as well as between different regions.

- vii. undertake such other activities that are relevant to the achievement of the programs in hand.
- viii. carry out such other functions as may be necessary and appropriate to achieve the goals of South Asia Water Vision 2025.

Clause 4. **Admission of Partners**

Eligibility criteria for admission of partners to GWP-SAS shall be consistent with that laid down criteria for admission of partners to GWP.

Clause 5. **Functional Structure of GWP-SAS**

The GWP-SAS shall function through a General Assembly (GA), a Regional Council (RC), a Regional Pool of Experts (RPE), a Regional Financial Partners Group (RFPG) and a Secretariat. General Assembly of the GWP-SAS will meet at least once in two years to deliberate on policies, strategy and programmes. The South Asia Water Forum (SAWAF) will be held along with the General Assembly.

However, in case it is not possible to hold SAWAF for three years for any reason, then Regional Council (RC) will take appropriate decision regarding holding a meeting of General Assembly at least once in three years.

Clause 5.1 **General Assembly**

All partners admitted to GWP-SAS will be the members of the General Assembly.

Clause 5.2 **Chairperson of GWP-SAS**

Chairperson of GWP-SAS would be selected by rotation from each South Asian country in the same sequence to be determined by a one-time draw of lots. The country would nominate a Chairperson either from within its sitting members of RC or from outside. In case the sitting member has been nominated as Chairperson then he has to relinquish his RC seat and would be replaced by another member nominated by Country Water Partnership.

Clause 6. **Regional Council (RC)**

Clause 6.1 **Composition**

The Regional Council shall consist of two nominees (one nominee from each sex) from every CWP (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka). Each CWP shall send four names (two males and two females) to the two posts of RC Members. Whenever a new CWP is formed in any of the remaining South Asian Countries, it would also be eligible to have two RC seats following the criteria. These names will be scrutinized by the RC or its constituted committee keeping in view disciplines, gender, and generational balance. Depending on issues and financial situation, both or one member could be invited for a Regional Council Meeting. When only one member

is requested to attend the RC meeting, the selection of the member will be responsibility of the concerned CWP. When necessary, CWP Chairs may be invited to attend RC meetings. Members of the GWP Steering Committee and GWP-SAS regional pool of experts may be invited for RC Meetings, subject to availability of funds. GWP Network Officer (NO) would be permanent invitee to RC Meetings.

Clause 6.2 **Council Chairperson**

The chairperson of GWP-SAS would be the Chairperson of the Regional Council.

Clause 6.3 **Terms of the Chairperson and Members of the Regional Council**

The term of the Chairperson and the Members of the Regional Council would be for a period of three (3) years. One third of the Council members would retire at the end of first year and another one third at the end of second year. Voluntary retirement is accepted, but if no Volunteers, lots would be drawn to select retiring members. A member completing his/her term in the RC will not be eligible for reappointment immediately after his retirement.

Clause 6.4 **Observers**

Observers nominated by the Country Water Partnerships can attend the Council meetings with the prior approval of the Chairperson. Chairperson would generally allow limited observers from each country ensuring the Council meetings do not get over crowded.

Clause 6.5 **Meetings & Venue**

The Regional Council will meet not less than once a year at a place in a Regional Country or any other place as agreed in the preceding RC Meeting. In addition to RC Meetings, decisions can also be taken electronically as and when necessities arise.

Clause 6.6 **Decision Making Process**

Any decision of RC should generally be taken by consensus.

Clause 6.7 **Functions**

The Regional Council will

- i. suggest and overview the implementation of the strategic policies and take administrative and funding decisions;
- ii. receive and consider reports given by the Regional Coordinator;
- iii. receive and consider the Auditor's report;
- iv. consider and approve strategy documents;
- v. appoint the Regional Coordinator;
- vi. support action at local, national, regional or trans-boundary river-basin level that follows principles of sustainable water resources management;
- vii. help match needs to available resources;

- viii. monitor the regional programs associated with water;
- ix. identify donors and propose their induction into RFPG;
- x. setup sub-committees for carrying out specified functions and report the same to the General Assembly.
- xi. perform such other functions as may be conferred by the GWP-SAS;

Clause 6.8 **Proceedings of Meetings**

There shall be minutes of each meeting, to be approved in the next meeting. These minutes shall reflect the decisions taken at the meeting and include the background documents or written proposals as attachments.

Clause 7. **Regional Coordinator (RCO)**

There shall be a full time RCO to look after the affairs of GWPSAS Regional Office. The RCO may initially be appointed for a maximum term of 3 years. A RCO who has completed his 3-years term successfully may be re-appointed for another term. The RCO shall be the head of the Regional Office and shall be responsible to the Regional Chair and Regional Council for:

- i. convening GWP-SAS and RC meetings including preparation of agenda, etc. under the directions of the chairpersons;
- ii. implementing the programs of the GWP-SAS as determined by the RC;
- iii. issuing statements in the name of GWP-SAS;
- iv. maintaining accounts of the GWP-SAS finances;
- v. signing all obligations as authorised by the RC;
- vi. appointing all staff of the Secretariat under procedures approved by the RC; and
- vii. maintaining minutes of the GWP-SAS, RPE, RC and RFPG meetings and circulating these as necessary.
- viii. Maintaining contacts with GWP, RPE, CWPs and other regions as determined by the RC.

Clause 8. **Secretariat**

- i. The Secretariat office would be located at a place keeping in view the offers in respect of office space, logistics and salary payments and other incidental costs;
- ii. The Secretariat office, however, may shift to another place in the region as deemed necessary by the RC.
- iii. The Regional Secretariat would carry out activities in the following areas: coordination, finance, information/communication and programs. It will support GWP-SAS associated bodies such as the RPE, the RFPG, the Country Water Partnership (CWPs) structures and other GWP-SAS bodies as formed from time to time.

- Clause 9 **Regional Pool of Experts**
A Regional Pool of Experts (RPE) will be set up by the GWPSAS-RC comprising persons who have wide knowledge and experience in water resource development, conservation, management, research and allied fields. The RPE would offer technical advice on matters referred to it by the Regional Chair GWP-SAS. No fees will be paid to such experts but travel and other expenses will be reimbursed on actual basis. The RC may formulate further guidelines in this connection.
- Clause 10. **Regional Financial Partners Groups**
There will be transition in the financial status of GWP-SAS from total dependence on GWP funding to full self-generation of funds, in course of time. To support the activities of GWP-SAS, there is a need for RFPG.
- Clause 10.1 **Composition**
Regional Financial Partners Group may be composed of all donor agencies interested in water resources development in SAS bilateral and multi-lateral financial support groups, private trust funds and government contributions.
- Clause 10.2 **Functions**
The Financial Partners Group will
- i. consider activities of RC for Funding
 - ii. consider the programs as recommended by RPE for funding.
 - iii. provide a forum for discussing and harmonizing priorities and strategies for donors interested in supporting programs in water resources and
 - iv. ensure sustained funding for GWP-SAS.
- Clause 10.3 **Meetings**
The Regional Financial Partners Group (RFPG) may meet at least once a year, preferably in connection with the South Asia Water Forum. The meeting shall be organized by Regional Coordinator. Chairperson RC may attend the meeting and it is open to observer. The Regional Coordinator will record the proceedings of RFPG and take follow up actions.
- Clause 10.4 **Reports**
The RCO will report the proceedings of the RFPG to GWP-SAS and the RC and take follow up action.
- Clause 11. **GWP-SAS Outputs**
GWP objectives will be supported by two main outputs of the GWP-SAS:
- i. Establishment of platforms for cross-sectoral, multistakeholder dialogue at all levels.
 - ii. Provision of strategic assistance in integrated water resources management

To produce these outputs, GWP-SAS associates itself with several separate and autonomous governance structures such as Country Water Partnerships and Associated Programmes.

Clause 12. **Country Water Partnerships**

Country Water Partnerships are autonomous bodies and may use the name of GWP as long as they work within the framework of the GWP. Guidelines for CWPs refers to Annexure-I.

Clause 13. **South Asia Water Forum (SAWAF)**

GWP-SAS may request one of the CWPs to organize the Forum on its behalf at least once in three years. The forum provides an opportunity to all partners of GWP SAS to participate in its proceedings. Annual General Assembly of GWP-SAS will be held as far as possible along with SAWAF.

Clause 14. **Financial Management and Audit**

The Regional Coordinator is responsible for establishing finance management procedure and for ensuring that the legal requirements of business operation are met. The Regional Coordinator shall ensure that an audit is performed according to legal practices of the host organization of the Secretariat, and submit the Auditors' report to the RC.

Clause 15. **Amendments**

These Guidelines may be amended by the GWP-SAS RWP during the meeting of the General Assembly by a written resolution moved by a partner or by the Regional Council. In case of urgency, amendments may be made by the GWP-SAS RC with the consensus of the CWP and get it approved at the GA.