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**Regional Workshop on “Training Needs and Gaps Assessment**

**on Adaptation and Resilience to a Changing Climate in South Asia”**

4-5 September 2013

Hotel Annapurna - Kathmandu, Nepal

The 8 SAARC countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will be represented at the upcoming regional workshop on “Training needs and gaps assessment on adaptation and resilience to a changing climate in South Asia”, to be held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 4-5 September 2013.

Global Water Partnership South Asia (GWP SAS) and Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) will conduct this 2-day workshop focused on assessing the gaps and needs in climate change resilience in South Asia in water. Furthermore, this workshop will contribute to the need for formalized channels of information sharing centred specifically on climate change adaptation, which will be critical in building climate change resilience in South Asia.

Around 20 international participants and 15 local participants from government agencies in eight countries of South Asia and international agencies will discuss ways to improve the resilience of vulnerable states, including by assessing climate change impacts, identifying capacity gaps, and finding ways to overcome these gaps and reduce residual impacts.

In the emerging global and regional scenario, climate change adaptation (CCA) and coping with disaster is interwoven and crucial to the success of initiatives in the water sector, impacting all countries in the South Asian region as an identified global hot spot.

Adaptation to climate change converges on the goal of water security for all in addition to harnessing the social and productive potential of water and limiting its destructive force. IWRM will be the key for water security and coherent policies or strategies and an institutional framework will play a significant role in climate resilience and adaptation in the water sector.

By examining the literature and assessing case examples of adaptation in the region, it becomes apparent that there are a number of gaps in knowledge, capacity, and experience. These include a lack of information on climate impacts in some of the region’s most vulnerable areas, which are hotspots of climate change and a lack of research and knowledge across a range of interconnected issues.

**Expected outputs:**

1. Assess the gaps and needs to improve the absorption capacity in national planning systems
2. Increase level of awareness on the relevance of water security and IWRM for CCA initiatives
3. Build familiarity with various success stories and progress on water security from the region and how these can be further replicated or used
4. Improve knowledge sharing and increase networking between the participants following the workshop
5. Improve understanding of coherent policies and strategies of cross-cutting concerns that CCA initiatives intend to address.

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