

FEATURE: GENERATING AND COMMUNICATING KNOWLEDGE

Message from the Chair of the Technical Committee



While 2020 was a transition year for GWP (the start of a new strategy period), the Technical Committee continued its process of reform and repositioning to engage more directly with the activities of the network.

In 2020, the GWP Network produced almost 60 publications, including Nationally Determined Contributions country reports and a flagship report on water and climate. The Technical Committee produced a major perspectives paper with the International Water Management Institute: [Storing water: A new integrated approach for resilient development](#). It highlights the fact that increasing storage gaps will limit socioeconomic development, and that different types of storage solutions are available and need to be better integrated with overall water infrastructure.

Technical Committee members assisted greatly with the design and implementation of the Water ChangeMaker Awards process (see box).

All Technical Committee members were engaged to some degree in mentoring and helping partners in the regions. For example, members provided online lectures for the GWP transboundary massive open online course, the GWP online course in IWRM for Somalia, and the GWP transboundary law course in Central Asia. We also assisted in the preparation of various regional papers and studies on transboundary management, COVID-19, and water resources management and insurance. Finally, the Technical Committee enhanced its role in providing strategic advice to the Executive Secretary, Acting Executive Secretary, and Chair during the year.

Jerome Delli Priscoli



Water ChangeMaker Awards

GWP launched the [Water ChangeMaker Awards](#) in March 2020. This novel and exciting initiative gathers stories of change and innovation (from the GWP Network and beyond) that have shaped decisions about water governance and helped to build resilience to climate change. It was launched together with 28 partners.

In response to a call for stories, more than 350 submissions were received from over 80 countries. The technical jury (comprising experts from global and regional organisations) then selected 78 semi-finalists, and a second thought-leader jury selected 12 finalists. The winners were determined by a panel of climate leaders at the Global Adaptation Commission virtual summit held in January 2021. The 78 semi-finalist change stories are available online at: www.waterchangemakers.org.

These stories show good examples of how smart solutions and active participation can help teams or organisations to achieve changes in mindsets and policies to build climate resilience. Mobilising women was one of the key elements highlighted in many of the change journeys. In addition to celebrating the strengths of teamwork, the Water ChangeMaker Awards connect stakeholders from around the world, and promote collaboration and shared learning as a route to stimulating long-term change. In November 2020, GWP hosted online the first gathering of the changemaker community.

The Water ChangeMaker Winners 2020 were announced by GWP Chair Howard Bamsey at the Climate Adaptation Summit, a platform with 18,000 participants.



1ST The Masungi Georeserve story: Restoring forgotten watersheds through youth-led movements (Philippines). The story proves that youth can be effective agents for change in the most difficult and politically sensitive circumstances. A holistic approach to dealing with ecosystem degradation led to cooperation on the restoration of forests and wetlands, thus preserving biodiversity, improving water quality, and increasing resilience to climate change.



Change journey submitted by: Masungi Georeserve Foundation Inc. (MGFI), Philippines

JOINT 2ND Water Producer Project in the Pipiripau watershed: Building resilience in a water conflict area (Brazil). The project demonstrates how water can be an instrument for conflict resolution through good governance and integrated management. It demonstrates the power of collaboration and stakeholder participation.



Change journey submitted by: Regulatory Agency for Water, Energy and Basic Sanitation of the Federal District – ADASA, Brazil

JOINT 2ND Watersheds and cities: Social participation to improve the health of ecosystems and water provision (Mexico). This journey strengthened the vital link between humans and nature, encouraging local ownership of watersheds and instilling shared responsibility for ecosystem health.



Change journey submitted by: Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza A.C. (FMCN), Mexico

3RD Watershed Bank: Funding the conservation of water factories in the tropical Andes (Bolivia). This case focused on accessing funding for indigenous communities to carry out conservation programmes and build resilience to climate change.



Change journey submitted by: Fundación Natura Bolivia

PEOPLE'S CHOICE WINNER: Mother parliaments advocate for climate-resilient WASH facilities (Bangladesh). This category was run in parallel to the jury process, in which the public could vote for their favourite finalist. This People's Choice winner documented the extreme vulnerability to climate change experienced by people living in the coastal delta region of Bangladesh and highlighted the steps being taken by women to be advocates of the health of their communities.



Change journey submitted by: HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, Bangladesh