

GWP Response to A Stake in Water Final Evaluation

27 April 2023

This GWP Response is in relation to the Final Evaluation Report of the A Stake in Water project.

The Response includes reflections and comments on the Strategic and Operational Recommendations, provided in the final evaluation report.

I. Overall project recommendations

Recommendation	GWP's response	Follow up action	Timeline	Means of verification
<p>R1: Focus on project contributions rather than attributions.</p> <p>This evaluation has highlighted that project attribution is a known challenge and is very difficult to determine. Focussing on the ASiW project activities, intermediate outcomes and specific contributions would be a constructive step to help the project determine its effectiveness and impacts. An example has been included in Figure 3.</p>	<p>We agree with the finding that it is a challenge to connect specific high-level results achieved at regional/country level with global level knowledge-based activities. We also agree with the emphasis on understanding better the intermediate outcomes and the relationship between these and subsequent impacts. GWP has in place a comprehensive M&E system that enables such an approach and this can be further utilized to both overcome the attribution challenge and improve linkages across the entire results chain in relation to ASiW accomplishments.</p>	<p>GWP will incorporate a comprehensive review of project results into the final ASiW report due in June 2023. This will make use of data from the full GWP M&E system with the aim of capturing qualitative information around targeted change processes and the influence of external factors.</p>	<p>June 2023</p>	<p>Evaluation of results within the Stake in Water final report</p>

<p>R2: Develop a strategy for action-research. GWP works in many different contexts and at different levels (transboundary, national, river basin and local levels). Alongside the various workshops and training sessions that are held, GWP is well-placed to support more action research. This would allow different Multi-Stakeholder Platforms and water sector players to test, research and document experiences of applying the tools in practice as well as looking at specific water resources management issues that are of importance, such as establishing hydrometric monitoring networks or the role of citizen science.</p>	<p>In general, we agree that there is scope for GWP to do more on action research and the promotion of innovative technological solutions (in partnership with relevant experts) targeted at locally identified problems. The planned second phase of ASiW is intended to provide opportunities to use the communities of practice in the target locations to explore how alternative approaches and more sustainable technologies can be promoted and upscaled at the local level.</p>	<p>GWP will incorporate an aspect of applying research into practice within the design of the communities of practice planned for the Volta Basin, Albania, and Bhutan in the second phase of ASiW</p>	<p>Mid-2023</p>	<p>ASiW 2 inception report</p>
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II. MSPs

Recommendation	GWP's response and follow up action	Follow up action	Timeline	Means of verification
<p>R3: Extend support to help Multi-Stakeholder Platforms overcome the finance challenge. This recommendation is to devote considerable time to</p>	<p>Agreed in principle. The GWP Strengthening Regional Operations and Network Growth (StRONG) programme has a particular focus on enhancing capacity and increasing</p>	<p>Continued implementation of the GWP StRONG programme with a focus on strengthening the country level, including establishing a</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>GWP annual workplans; GWP annual progress reviews; ASiW 2 annual reports</p>

<p>helping Multi-Stakeholder Platforms overcome the challenge of limited finance. GWP should develop a clear understanding of Multi-Stakeholder Platform finances so their potential to support the management of water resources in an equitable manner can be assessed in detail. It would also be helpful if GWP knew what the indicative costs are of implementing many of the tools and instruments that have been developed. This could be achieved through practical research and documenting costs. Only then can Multi-Stakeholder Platforms decide which interventions can maximise impact. It would also be helpful to explore whether host Governments are willing to assist with the recurrent financing of Multi-Stakeholder Platforms.</p>	<p>financial sustainability among the network’s country level entities (which are most vulnerable to the issue of limited finance highlighted in the recommendation). This continues to be pursued in the second half of the GWP global strategy (2020-2025).</p> <p>Projects such as ASiW contribute greatly to both strengthening the global level support available to the country platforms as well as gathering intelligence on the existing capacity (or lack thereof) and the associated support and investments needed to overcome many of the common barriers.</p> <p>The recommended option of exploring whether host governments can assist with financing goes counter to the role of GWP MSPs as neutral platforms. But certainly stronger partnerships with governmental agencies can bring a lot of value to the relevance and credibility of the partnerships with subsequent benefits in terms of fund raising.</p>	<p>Community of Practice for country leaders. ASiW 2, as a key contributor to StRONG, will be an important vehicle to advance further the CWP strengthening.</p>		
<p>R4: Benchmark the performance of Multi Stakeholder Platforms The two main ways for Multi-Stakeholder Platforms to demonstrate effectiveness and transparency are to refer to (a)</p>	<p>Agreed. GWP has methodologies in place to monitor the performance of both Regional and Country Water Partnerships (the latter being reported on via the logframe in ASiW, the former being captured in</p>	<p>Improve the comprehensiveness of reporting around RWP/CWP health metrics and explore the option of re-running the</p>	<p>End 2023</p>	<p>GWP Progress Review 2023; GWP Workplan 2024</p>

<p>evidence – in the form of action research and case studies, and (b) sector good practice. Alongside its current accreditation process, GWP should consider developing in summary form what they believe constitutes good Multi-Stakeholder Platform practice to enhance the management of water resources. The benchmark paper would form a reference point against which the performance of Multi-Stakeholder Platforms can be judged. If this is done in a participatory manner, then the leaders of different Multi-Stakeholder Platforms should accept what is considered good practice and any self-appraisals should be reasonable and rational. The documentation of programme experiences and learning is one example of a benchmark criteria and there should be a focus on how lessons are identified, captured and shared to influence governance.</p>	<p>the GWPO KPIs). Guidance documents describe these methodologies in detail and the data used is quantified and transparent. Scope exists to further test these methodologies and to document better the findings from their use and shared learnings. There is also merit in bringing in a more subjective view from the country level MSPs to better determine how perceptions of added value differ across the network and how these considerations can be used to strengthen the methodology (this exercise was last carried out across all regions in 2016).</p>	<p>2016 CWP assessment and mapping exercise.</p>		
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III. Gender mainstreaming

Recommendation	GWP's response and follow up action	Follow up action	Timeline	Means of verification
<p>R5: More and better gender support at global and regional levels An important component of the ASIW project is a focus on gender equity and transformation. This component is particularly challenging and appears to have lagged behind work on the IWRM toolbox and Multi-Stakeholder Platforms. GWP should place stronger emphasis on this component, which includes having gender disaggregated data across its Multi-Stakeholder Platforms and data on other category of individuals that are being assisted as a result of project work by Multi-Stakeholder Platforms. We acknowledge the gender lead left the project in 2022, which has affected continuity. The ASIW project could focus on better gender resourcing at regional levels so that more frequent field visits to Multi-Stakeholder Platforms can be undertaken.</p>	<p>Agreed. Gender transformation processes take time, and GWP is continuing with our efforts via a range of ongoing programmes across the network. We acknowledge that significant resources and leadership buy-in are needed to achieve this and GWP management at global and regional levels are fully committed in their support. In the second phase of Stake in Water we are considering hiring a gender specialist in at least one of the three pilot areas, in addition to global gender specialist supporting and coordinating the gender activities in the regions. We plan to provide the GWP CWP (which are MSPs) with guidance on gender disaggregated data, its collection and application.</p>	<p>Continued incorporation of the knowledge and capacity building material on gender transformative approaches generated through A Stake in Water into the wider GWP programme and programme development.</p> <p>Recruitment/mobilisation of gender specialists through A Stake in Water 2 to further coordinate, facilitate, and learn from gender actions across the network</p>	<p>Ongoing; Summer 2023</p>	<p>Achievement of specific gender targets in the GWP results framework; Recruitment of a global gender specialist</p>

IV. IWRM Toolbox

Recommendation	GWP's response and follow up action	Follow up action	Timeline	Means of verification
<p>R6: Ensure the IWRM toolbox is accessible through increased translation of tools and instruments.</p> <p>The FGD's and some of the survey respondents identified language as a barrier to accessing the ToolBox platform. This may be because they are unaware of the translation function. The translation of tools and instruments into other languages help to improve uptake and make the IWRM Toolbox platform more appealing for stakeholders whose first language is not English. Accessibility issues for people with visual or hearing impairments should also be considered.</p>	<p>Noted. We understand the importance of the knowledge shared in the platform being accessible by everyone and we understand the need to highlight it and prompt better the users to use it. We will make the translation feature more visible and will promote it among the users, incl. adding a question on it in the user surveys.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add a sentence on the translation feature in the introduction of the platform and mention it in all texts about the platform. • Include a question on the translation in the different user surveys. • Promote the translation feature via the Communities of Practice. 	<p>October 2023</p>	<p>Platform</p>
<p>R7: More case studies to demonstrate action research insights.</p> <p>The risk of the IWRM Toolbox platform becoming static was</p>	<p>Noted. We are putting a lot of efforts into moving away from the static content via the Communities of Practice, user engagement techniques and the Case Studies. We</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a process for collection of case studies in the 3 pilot areas (Albania, Bhutan, Volta River Basin) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 2023 • October 2023 • Annually 	<p>Case studies section on the platform</p>

<p>highlighted as a future concern. Alongside the many tools and instruments, there is a desire for more case studies (linked to R4). These will provide very practical examples of tools and instruments being applied in practice and highlighting what important issues need to be considered. It will also enable tools and instruments to be updated based on new learning and experience.</p>	<p>fully agree with the need to collect more case studies and this is embedded in the strategy for further development of the platform. While we plan to use the three pilot areas to collect impactful case studies relating to different tools directly from the water actors engaged there, we also plan to have call-outs for case studies with a different thematic focus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a system to incentivise users to submit case studies• Organize at least 1 call-out out per year for case study collection		
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