

## *SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme*

# IWRM Acceleration Package

## Process description for Stage 2 IWRM Action Planning

April 2021

The **SDG 6 Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Support Programme** assists governments in designing and implementing country-led responses to **SDG indicator 6.5.1**, which measures the degree of IWRM implementation. The Support Programme aims to monitor and measurably accelerate progress towards water-related SDGs and other development goals, in direct support of the official SDG monitoring and reporting processes.

Under the guidance of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and coordinated by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) in collaboration with the UNEP-DHI Centre and Cap-Net, the Support Programme brings together partners in each country representing governments, civil society, academia and the private sector, in the spirit of **SDG 17** “Partnerships for the Goals”. The Support Programme is structured according to the following three stages:

**Stage 1 – Identifying challenges:** Employ the SDG 6.5.1 national monitoring and reporting framework to identify, through multi-stakeholder consultations, critical areas for attention that hinder progress on IWRM. This Stage is completed through the periodic completion by countries of a survey on SDG indicator 6.5.1 designed to allow countries to evaluate the degree of IWRM implementation. Periodic monitoring of this indicator provides a window of opportunity to revisit and revise IWRM Action Plans.

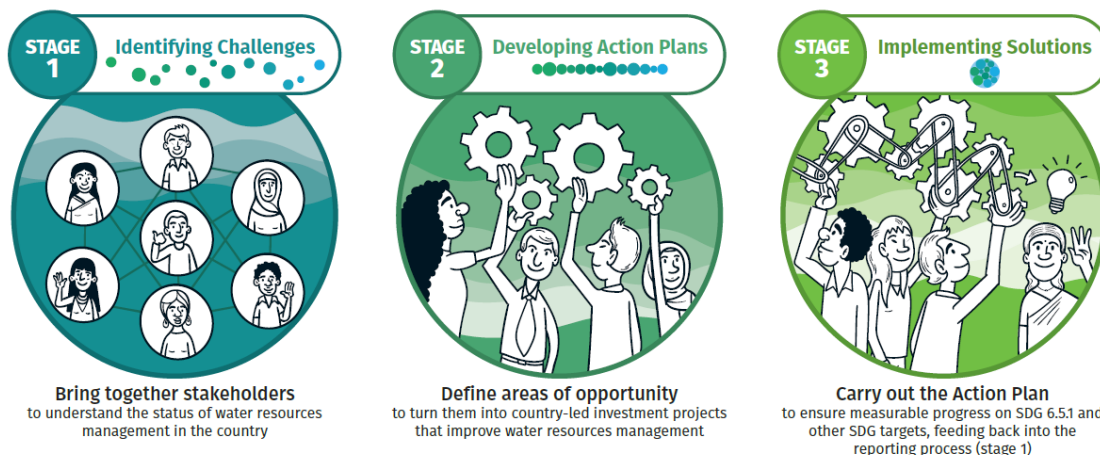
**Stage 2 – Developing IWRM Action Plans:** Using the key IWRM challenges identified in Stage 1, the aim of this stage is to facilitate a government-led multi-stakeholder process to formulate and prioritise appropriate responses to those challenges. The result of Stage 2 is typically an IWRM Action Plan (the name might be adapted for each country), which includes a series of attractive investment opportunities to systematically guide the implementation of solutions to IWRM challenges.

**Stage 3 – Implementing solutions:** Support countries in implementing IWRM solutions aimed at achieving SDG 6 and other water-related goals as a measurable contribution to progress towards countries’ development objectives.

This document is part of the IWRM Acceleration Package, which is intended as guidance for anyone interested in Stage 2 of the Support Programme. Separate packages are available to guide the processes for Stages 1 and 3. The Stage 2 Package contains suggestions on how the process might be carried out, which should be customized to each country’s circumstances.

## SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme

Assists governments and other stakeholders in



### Stage 2 in brief

Based on the IWRM challenges reported by each country during the periodic UN-led assessment of SDG indicator 6.5.1,<sup>1</sup> **Stage 2** of the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme focuses on formulating appropriate responses to strengthen areas where the country is facing water-related challenges. This is done by designing targeted interventions as a series of investment opportunities. When Stage 2 is finalised, these interventions should be ready to be funded to ensure they can be implemented in Stage 3.<sup>2</sup> It is important to note that the three stages of the Support Programme represent three tracks which may not necessarily be in sequence. This means that you do not necessarily have to finish one stage before moving on to the next, and in some cases more than one stage can run in parallel.

The objective of the Support Programme is to advance IWRM as a means to advance towards sustainable development, as seen through progress towards SDG 6.5, other SDG 6 targets, and water-related goals. In this sense, the output of Stage 2 is an **IWRM Action Plan**,<sup>3</sup> which should complement the existing IWRM framework, be aligned with broader development priorities, the SDG landscape, and the climate agenda. The IWRM Action Plan should be developed through a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral gender-sensitive approach.

In Africa, the activities described in this document are implemented through the **Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) SDG Investments Support Programme** (see <https://aipwater.org/sdg-investments/>). Stage 2 as described in this document contributes to Work Package 7 under the AIP SDG Programme, whereas global Stage 3 contributes to Work Package 8 of the AIP SDG Support Programme.

<sup>1</sup> Results of both the baseline and the 2020 update can be found on <http://iwrmdataportal.unepdhi.org/>

<sup>2</sup> Depending on the nature and complexity of the individual actions as defined in Stage 2, more detailed preparatory work may be required prior to their full implementation. Investing in this preparatory work could be part of implementation readiness, when transitioning between Stages 2 and 3.

<sup>3</sup> Different names for the IWRM Action Plan may be employed in different countries, according to what is most appropriate within their national context. IWRM Action Plan will be used as the generic name for these products at the global level.

## What is an IWRM Action Plan?

An IWRM Action Plan is a shared multi-annual commitment from different stakeholders in the country to advance IWRM implementation as a contribution to achieving the water-related SDGs. It should contain a limited number of priority interventions designed to help solve some of the country's greatest water-related challenges. These actions should be ambitious investment opportunities that shift the needle on SDG 6.5.1 and other water-related SDGs. They should attract funding and support from national public and private sectors and international donors. The Action Plan should be realistic and business-like in its framing and approach.

The IWRM Action Plan should not be a new fully-fledged national IWRM plan, but rather be subordinate and supportive to the existing policy framework for IWRM. It should contain a portfolio of government-endorsed IWRM actions defined through a multi-stakeholder dialogue process. It should also not be a stand-alone document, separate from ongoing efforts to reach the water-related SDGs, climate adaptation goals, biodiversity targets and other relevant frameworks. Since each country presents a different set of circumstances, there is no one-size-fits-all "recipe" for producing an IWRM Action Plan. If a country has an existing national IWRM plan or similar, Stage 2 may focus on identifying the appropriate implementation pathway for some aspects of that plan – for example, in fostering multi-stakeholder support to accelerate interventions from that plan that may be quick wins or "low-hanging fruit". If a country has no national IWRM plan, Stage 2 may identify the need to formally establish such a plan, among other interventions which may be contemplated in Stage 3. Similarly, if a country has an outdated national IWRM plan, the updating of that plan could be a Stage 3 activity.

The Action Plan should contain a *shortlist* of priority actions that can be feasibly implemented within an agreed timeframe (a separate "long list" of other actions identified through the Stage 2 process can be maintained for future consideration). The Action Plan's ambition should be balanced with realism, acknowledging that full IWRM implementation and outcome-level results may take much longer than the suggested timeframe of the Action Plan (typically 3-5 years, with a quarterly or twice yearly follow-up to ensure proper monitoring and evaluation). The shortlist of actions should have a logical framework of how they would contribute to solving water-related challenges. That logical framework may be defined at the level of individual actions, for groups of related actions, or for the entire Action Plan, depending on the thematic and geographic relationship between actions.

Priority interventions contained in the IWRM Action Plan may focus, among others, on legal or policy frameworks, monitoring and data management systems, governance or cooperation schemes, means of increasing stakeholder participation, financial innovations, field projects, or any other relevant activity that helps solve the identified water-related challenges. They may be national, sub-national or transboundary in scope. The Action Plan should explain the context of these interventions, responsible actors, human resources, timeframe and potential or actual funding sources, as well as an appropriate management framework and coordination mechanism(s) to facilitate their implementation, follow-up and evaluation. Action data sheets are included as an annex to the Action Plan, and additional concept briefs may be prepared to present the actions in an attractive manner, improving their bankability.

The IWRM Action Plan should build on existing national plans, programmes, processes and priorities, to help ensure that the solutions contribute to existing commitments, thus increasing resource efficiency and impact. The extent to which the work engages with aspects beyond SDG 6.5.1 is at the discretion of each country. Examples of the entry points that the Stage 2 process might link to, include:

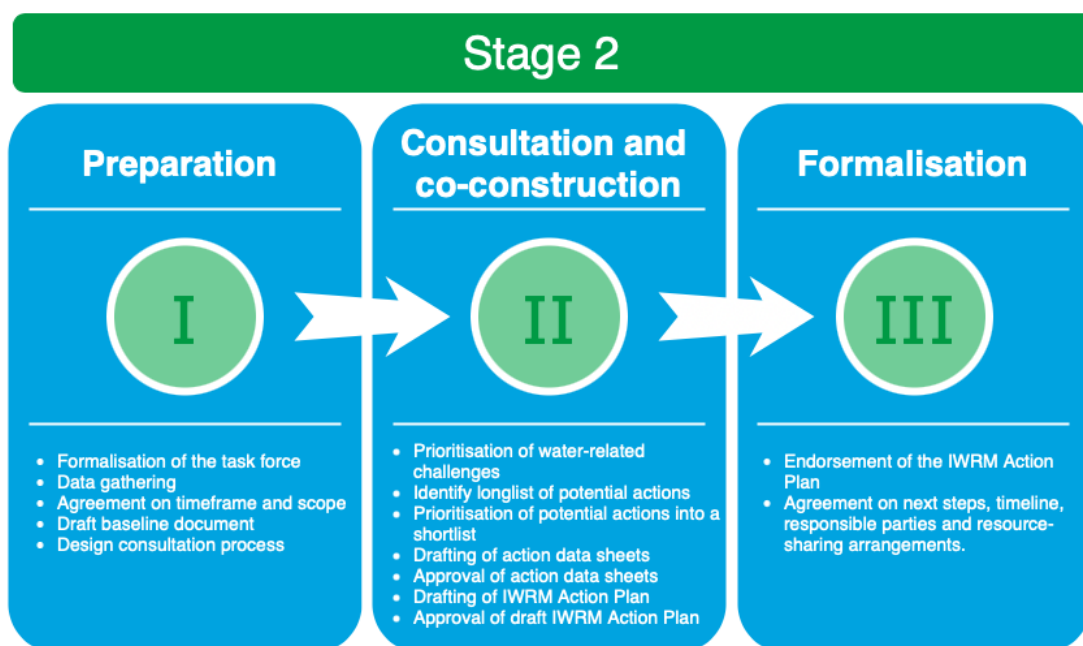
- formal existing or planned national water governance-related initiatives, such as national or sub-national IWRM plans
- climate-related priorities, as exemplified by the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) or Green Climate Fund projects, among others

- other national and regional sustainable development frameworks and investment programmes or natural capital commitments
- related socioeconomic development projects either under implementation or in the pipeline
- ongoing governance reform processes and/or capacity development programmes.

The Support Programme has a strong emphasis on multi-stakeholder engagement and dialogue to achieve a holistic perspective on water management challenges, increasing the likelihood of buy-in from a wide range of actors. **It is therefore anticipated that the IWRM Action Plan should strongly reflect the results of stakeholder input from in-person and/or virtual stakeholder consultations or workshops.** In particular, given the important role that women play in water resource management, it is important that the process and the outcomes of Stage 2 are gender sensitive and respectful of all communities affected by the potential actions. They should aim to mainstream gender into IWRM at all stages.<sup>4</sup> Recognising this multi-stakeholder nature, each action may be supported and implemented by one or more organisations, in coordination with the central government.

### Suggested Stage 2 process

While recognising the need for this process to be adapted to the reality and circumstances of the country, there are some overarching aspects to Stage 2 that are likely to be needed. The following is a suggestion, based on the first 10 country experiences<sup>5</sup>, of how the process may be organised:



#### I. Preparation

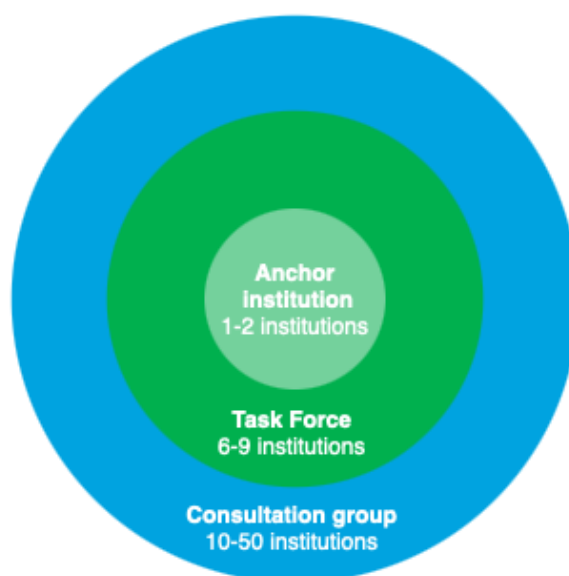
The starting point of the process is an official written communication from a high-ranking official from the mandated government institution(s) for water resources management (the “anchor institution(s)”), requesting the collaboration of the Support Programme on Stage 2. Ownership of this process by that/those anchor institution(s) is essential to create meaningful interlinkages with a

<sup>4</sup> See [www.gwp.org/en/About/more/news/2021/sdg\\_gender\\_consultation/](http://www.gwp.org/en/About/more/news/2021/sdg_gender_consultation/) for the rationale and means of mainstreaming gender in IWRM.

<sup>5</sup> More information on the existing Action Plans can be found on [the Support Programme website](#).

country's broader SDG/development objectives, and ensure the interventions can have an impact beyond their immediate outputs by contributing to ongoing processes.

Once the process has officially started, this/these anchor institution(s) should ideally bring together and chair a *task force* or similar coordination body to oversee the process of co-developing the Action Plan. This task force should include a small number of institutions, with a suggestion for 6-9, such as the ministries of finance and planning, development partners, donors and relevant coordination platforms. Engaging such partners at this stage should ensure their ongoing support through Stage 2, and hopefully Stage 3. When such a coordination body already exists within the country, it should be used for the purpose of this process. The GWP network typically contributes to the facilitation of the Stage 2 activities and may hire a facilitator for that purpose (see document *2B Facilitators' Guide* for more details). The appropriate anchor institution(s) should take the final decisions on content of the plan based on the views presented by all stakeholders. A possible suggested simple organisation structure for Stage 2 can be viewed below.



To reach a shared agreement among task force members, it will be important to carry out a basic analysis that facilitates a common understanding of the overall IWRM context, including the following:

- **the status of SDG indicator 6.5.1 on IWRM<sup>6</sup>** – the basis for identifying existing water governance challenges and opportunities (e.g. weak legislative framework, lack of institutional capacity, inefficient management tools, inadequate financing, etc.)
- **the Stakeholder Consultation Report,<sup>7</sup>** if GWP facilitated a Stage 1 workshop in the country in 2017-18 and/or 2020
- **existing water management, climate and development policies, plans and strategies** – the basis for ensuring synergy with national commitments and ongoing initiatives (e.g. existing IWRM planning frameworks, national climate adaptation programmes, resilience-building plans, ongoing institutional reforms, etc.)
- **other water-related policies, plans, strategies and priorities** – the basis for identifying areas of opportunity in which an IWRM approach could generate significant progress in water-related areas (e.g. sanitation, irrigation, flooding, drought, water quality, freshwater ecosystems, etc.)

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<sup>6</sup> See <http://iwrmdataportal.unepdhi.org/countrydatabase>

<sup>7</sup> See <https://www.gwp.org/en/sdg6support/consultations/stage-1-activities/sdg-6.5.1-reporting-in-2020/>

- **relevant water management studies and assessments** – the basis for generating a firm evidence base for the identified priorities and proposed actions (e.g. hydrological surveys, flood-risk assessments, water quality reports, climate risk assessments, etc.)

This analysis should be complemented by conversations with key stakeholders to identify any other key water-related challenges. The output for this analysis should be a **baseline document** for analysis first by the task force, and subsequently by participants during consultations and development of the IWRM Action Plan. This baseline document should outline the challenges and flag areas for possible attention, looking as much as possible at the root causes of the challenges. It is suggested that this document should be shared with the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme to facilitate review and feedback.

### **II. Consultation and co-development**

Considering how IWRM relates to many SDG targets and other development frameworks, multi-stakeholder input will be needed from a variety of sectors and levels, to holistically assess water management benefits, knock-on effects and possible trade-offs across a range of areas, both within and outside the water community (including but not limited to agriculture, energy, economic development, environment, urban planning, disaster risk reduction, climate change, etc.) and jointly identify relevant interventions. Types of relevant stakeholders that might be considered in the consultation group include national and sub-national government institutions,<sup>8</sup> non-governmental organizations, water and energy utilities, the private sector, academia, UN agencies, representatives of marginalised groups,<sup>9</sup> parliamentarians, international development agencies, the donor community, etc. The inclusion of mandated institutions and other actors responsible for different SDG targets is highly recommended for creating synergies and coherence across inter-related objectives. The overall scope of the work and how far it extends beyond SDG indicator 6.5.1 will be defined by each country.

One or more multi-stakeholder workshop(s) or consultation(s) should be organised during Stage 2, hosted by the government and facilitated by GWP's in-country team and/or the hired facilitator, where appropriate. Such workshops and consultations may be either in-person or online and may be diverse in nature (online virtual sessions, online polling, asynchronous discussion fora, etc.). More details on the use of virtual means of consultation are provided in Annex 1 of document *2B. Facilitators' Guide*. Often a first workshop will present the baseline document, receive input from different stakeholders on the water-related challenges, prioritise those challenges, and identify a longlist of potential actions that would contribute to solving those challenges. A second workshop or consultation might be to prioritise and add input to the actions, as well as the scope of the IWRM Action Plan. Meetings of the task force may also be required between open consultations to refine the process and review the input provided by different stakeholders, in order to produce the draft IWRM Action Plan, following document *2D. SDG6 IWRM Action Plan Outline*.

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<sup>8</sup> Including public financing and planning institutions and other mandated institutions for sectors affected by, and which affect, water resources

<sup>9</sup> While these groups will be country-specific, they may include but not be limited to those representing gender groups, young people, indigenous communities, farmers, faith groups, trade unions, etc. Document 2C contains guidance on stakeholder inclusion.

Key to the success of this process is the **prioritisation** of appropriate interventions to face the water-related challenges identified. While the prioritisation criteria for potential interventions might differ from one country to another, the following graphic suggests a simplified set of four criteria. One suggested means of transparently engaging stakeholders in this prioritisation is to use a simple spreadsheet or online voting system for participants to rank the potential actions against these criteria (or others of the country's choice). Those scoring above a pre-defined total (perhaps 75 per cent) would be the most likely to generate the desired impacts, and would therefore be the priority interventions considered for the IWRM Action Plan. When prioritising actions, it is suggested that the Valuing Water Principles (see box) could be considered as inspiration.

### Valuing Water Principles

These principles may be considered when prioritising the potential interventions (see [here](#) for more information):

1. Recognize and embrace water's multiple values
2. Reconcile values and build trust
3. Protect the sources
4. Educate to empower
5. Invest and innovate



Once the priority IWRM interventions have been drafted, but prior to their formalisation (i.e. potentially between the two workshops), they should be shared with the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme to facilitate feedback, experience-sharing between countries, and to identify additional opportunities to support priority actions. The draft IWRM Action Plan should also be submitted for review by the task force and other relevant stakeholders. The review and approval mechanism may differ in each case but should be transparent for stakeholders that have taken part in the process.

### III. Formalisation

The IWRM Action Plan should be officially endorsed by the national government to facilitate its subsequent implementation. The degree of institutional formalisation required will depend upon the circumstances of the country in question, but may include publication through official government channels, its inclusion on official government platforms, or any other means that expresses political support for the plan. Ideally it should also be officially endorsed by other institutions that commit to support its implementation.

Additionally, to ensure this implementation, it will be necessary to agree on the next steps, timeline, responsible parties, and resource-sharing arrangements. That may involve the signing of additional Memorandums of Understanding, collaboration agreements or other contractual documents. The

intention is for the interventions contained in the Action Plan to be ready to be funded for implementation as soon as the Action Plan is finalised.

Once completed and approved by the anchor institution, the IWRM Action Plan should be shared with the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme, which will post it on the [Support Programme website](#) to promote the actions and share the results. The IWRM Action Plan may be produced in the main language spoken in the country, accompanied by an executive summary in English.

## Follow-up and monitoring

Key to success in implementing the IWRM Action Plan will be a good logical framework and a clear, structured method for monitoring and evaluation and communicating progress during Stage 3 implementation with all interested stakeholders. A successful plan will also ensure accountability for investments made. Having a clear logical frame, and ideally a defined set of SMART<sup>10</sup> indicators, will allow for a smoother implementation of the Action Plan. Further guidance is available in document 2D. *SDG6 IWRM Action Plan Outline* and its associated templates.

Incorporating an IWRM approach into water-related governance processes may be medium- to long-term in nature, so outcome-level results may not materialise during the initial intervention period, depending on the type of the governance change targeted. In this sense, countries are encouraged to use the opportunity provided by the periodic monitoring and reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.1 to follow up on their Action Plan. However, this does not prevent countries from monitoring Action Plan implementation using either existing or newly designed processes and frameworks more suited to the specifics of the country’s circumstances, available resources and priority areas of intervention. That may also potentially include the monitoring of SDG 6.5.1 at the sub-national level. There is a need to ensure compatibility between different monitoring systems being utilised for the monitoring of IWRM advancement, the IWRM Action Plan as well as the water-related SDGs more generally.

## Suggested roles and responsibilities

Actor	Role/responsibility
<b>Anchor institution(s):</b> 1-2 government institution(s), including the ministry with a mandate for SDG 6.5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• overall ownership of the process</li> <li>• coordination with task force and consultation group, other governmental institutions and ongoing processes in the country and/or regions</li> <li>• chair of the task force</li> <li>• formal convener of any consultation workshops</li> <li>• should ideally commit budgetary resources to support the implementation of some of the priority actions</li> </ul>
<b>Task Force:</b> 6-9 key national stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• oversees the preparation of and approves the IWRM Action Plan</li> <li>• provides input to any consultation workshops/other stakeholder engagement mechanisms</li> <li>• may contribute financially to implement some of the priority actions</li> </ul>
<b>Consultation group:</b> 10-50 relevant stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provides input to the longlist of possible IWRM actions and overall direction of the IWRM Action Plan</li> <li>• takes part in the prioritisation effort aiming to finalise the actions</li> <li>• looks to synergise its own activities, studies and analyses with the priority IWRM actions</li> </ul>
<b>GWP:</b> Regional or Country Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• liaison between the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme and anchor institutions in each country</li> <li>• identification and mobilisation of key stakeholders and coordination structures</li> </ul>

<sup>10</sup> SMART is an acronym for targets or indicators that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound. See [https://eca.state.gov/files/bureau/a\\_good\\_start\\_with\\_smart.pdf](https://eca.state.gov/files/bureau/a_good_start_with_smart.pdf) for more details.



Partnerships or group of partners (as applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• preparation and organisation of any workshops or other stakeholder consultations</li> <li>• recruitment and management of external support, such as facilitators or other consultants</li> <li>• support to the overall process and development of the IWRM Action Plan</li> </ul>
<b>SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme:</b> GWPO, UNEP-DHI, UNEP, Cap-Net	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• coordinates knowledge exchange between countries and reporting on lessons learned</li> <li>• develops and delivers bespoke knowledge materials to support country actors</li> <li>• (when required and available) allocates catalytic funding to support Stage 2 activities</li> <li>• reviews and provides feedback on the IWRM Action Plan</li> <li>• promotes the finalised IWRM Action Plan through its communication channels</li> </ul>

## IWRM Acceleration Package

A suite of guidance materials and templates has been developed to support countries to implement the methodology contained in this process description. Referred to as the IWRM Acceleration Package, it includes the following documents:

<p><b>2A Process Description</b> – describes the purpose and process involved in designing an IWRM Action Plan. It introduces important concepts and methods to build a sustainable process.</p> <p><b>2B Facilitators Guide and ToR</b> – a basis for hiring the facilitator to manage the process. Describes in detail the key deliverables and activities expected of the facilitator and may be annexed to their contract.</p> <p><b>2C Guidelines for Participation and Inclusion</b> – given the multi-stakeholder nature of the consultations, this document guides the selection of an appropriate set of stakeholders to take part in the consultations.</p> <p><b>2D IWRM Action Plan Outline</b> – to facilitate preparation of the Action Plan, each section has guidance on the suggested focus, completion of which can facilitate subsequent implementation of the selected actions.</p>
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Moreover, a set of **templates** designed to be inserted directly in the relevant sections of the Action Plan is available to aid countries in completing the Stage 2 process. These templates are **not** mandatory. Countries are free to use their own templates or tools, if they prefer. The templates are:

<p><b>Template 1: IWRM Action Plan Budget</b> – helps facilitators and key stakeholders construct an overall budget for the implementation of the Action Plan</p> <p><b>Template 2: Results framework</b> – presents a logical framework that may be used during implementation of the Action Plan</p> <p><b>Template 3: Risk</b> – presents a means of assessing positive and negative risks in implementation of the Action Plan, as a basis for preparing risk management strategies</p> <p><b>Template 4: RASCI</b> – helps key stakeholders to identify their roles and relationships to one another, following completion of the Action Plan</p> <p><b>Template 5: Timeline</b> – keeps track of the different activities throughout implementation of the Action Plan.</p>
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The IWRM Acceleration Package will be updated periodically, based on the experience gained in implementing it. The SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme coordinators are open to feedback and suggestions that would contribute to its improvement, through [sdg6iwrmsp@gwp.org](mailto:sdg6iwrmsp@gwp.org).

## Indicative Stage 2 timeframe

There is no set timeframe for the implementation of the full process of Stage 2, as this will be defined by needs and circumstances in each country. However, it is anticipated that Stage 2 may be completed in 6-9 months. An indicative timeline for this process can be found below:

	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 8	Month 9
<b>I. Preparation</b>									
Formalisation of the task force									
Data gathering									
Agreement on timeframe and scope									
<b>II. Consultation and co-construction</b>									
Drafting of potential interventions									
Workshop 1: stakeholder input									
Drafting of the IWRM Action Plan									
Workshop 2									
Development of implementation roadmap									
Finalisation of the IWRM Action Plan									
<b>III. Formalisation</b>									
Endorsement of the IWRM Action Plan									

## Budget

The SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme is available to accompany country-led efforts to design and implement their IWRM interventions, and upon request, may provide up to € 20,000 to facilitate Stage 2. This process should ideally be co-funded out of government budgets and/or locally leveraged funds, to at least the same amount as provided by the Support Programme for Stage 2 (up to € 20,000). Such co-funding may be either in-kind or in-cash, and should be mentioned in the initial request, and reported after finalising Stage 2. If the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme provides less than € 20,000 for Stage 2, any remaining amount, up to the limit of € 20,000, plus an additional € 10,000, may be made available upon request to support Stage 3 implementation, to be requested after finalising Stage 2. In that way, the Support Programme may provide up to a maximum of € 30,000 for Stages 2 and 3.

### Example of funding for Stages 2 and 3

Country X requests € 13,000 from the Support Programme for Stage 2, committing at least the same amount (€ 13,000) for that Stage. Upon completion of the Stage 2 activities, and if required, the Support Programme may provide up to € 17,000 to support Stage 3 implementation (€ 7,000 unused from Stage 2 plus an additional € 10,000), with the same expectation for the country to contribute at least the same amount (€ 17,000) for Stage 3, either in-cash or in-kind.

The financial support will be channelled through GWP’s Regional Water Partnership. The country selection process and criteria are available upon request from the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme. Funding provided by the Support Programme and in-country should cover expenses related to the activities, including workshops, facilitator(s), logistical expenses, travel expenses, per diems, auditing costs, host institution fees, etc., as appropriate. Funds coming from the Support Programme shall not cover government staff time. Also, per diems will not be covered by the Support Programme unless they are associated with travel out of the city of residence for more than a working day. If such expenses are considered necessary by the country, payment should be made by other sources (for example, the Government or from locally raised funds).

The SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme also requires additional financial support to be able to facilitate this process in support of more countries. Interested donors should write to [sdg6iwrmsp@gwp.org](mailto:sdg6iwrmsp@gwp.org) for more information on how to contribute to the success of the Support Programme.

## Key definitions

In this document, some of the key terms employed have a meaning which is particular to this context. To provide greater clarity on some of these key terms, please refer to the following definitions:

- **IWRM Action Plan:** a shared multi-annual multi-stakeholder commitment towards advancing IWRM implementation, containing a limited number of priority actions
- **Priority actions (or interventions):** ambitious investment opportunities that could attract funding and support from the national public and private sectors and international donors. “Actions” could

be projects, programmes, reforms, or any other relevant initiative, on any aspect related to the hardware or software of IWRM.

- **Investments**: time and/or other financial or non-financial resources provided by any organisation or individual when focusing on an action
- **Anchor institution(s)**: key government body/bodies within the national government, typically the body in charge of water resources management, which will lead the Stage 2 and 3 process. This may be the institution in charge of reporting on SDG 6.5.1, for example.
- **Task Force**: A coordination body with a limited number of members with which the IWRM Action Plan is co-developed. This may include, for example, the ministries of finance and planning, development partners, donors and relevant coordination platforms.
- **Online IWRM Action Planning course**: The course, available through the Cap-Net Virtual Campus from July 2021, will cover the basics of IWRM action planning as well as useful techniques for facilitation, negotiation, monitoring and evaluation, planning, risk assessment, etc. The course is free of charge and available to anyone interested. It is estimated that one working day will be required to complete the course. The link to the course will be posted when ready.