

GWP Annual Progress Review for 2024

Monitoring and Reporting progress

Version of 17 December 2024



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Introduction

This *Annual Progress Review for 2024* summarises the monitoring, learning and reporting within the Global Water Partnership's (GWP) Work Programme Cycle (see Annex C). The Review draws on the regular monitoring data and information collected throughout the year. First and foremost, the report informs the Steering Committee in seeking their endorsement of the *Annual Progress Review for 2024*. It is also used for dialogue with the Financing Partners Group. This report serves as a tool for GWPO and the 13 Regional Water Partnerships to identify challenges that need to be addressed to refine the delivery of the 6-year Strategy and to prepare their future workplans and work programmes.

This *Progress Review* uses the full range of GWP's Outcome Mapping monitoring and reporting tools, along with other reporting sources, in order to review progress in implementing the 6-year GWP Strategy by workstream, and by each of three thematic anchor areas and three cross-cutting areas of the current Strategy. It is intended to form the basis for "GWP in Action", the 2024 annual report to be published in 2025, which will include audited financial information.

The report is structured as follows:

- **Section 1** provides an overall review of progress in implementing the Strategy, including the highlights and the challenges found in thematic and regional activities.
- **Section 2** contains the review of target achievement against the results-based management logical framework indicators.
- **Section 3** contains the 2024 expenditure report.

A collection of annexes provides further background information. This includes Annex A, which documents results according to GWP entities, presented through detailed monitoring and evaluation datasheets of planned and actual progress in 2024.

1. Overall review of progress

The implementation of the 2020-2025 GWP Strategy in 2024 remained on track, with overall target achievement largely following the trends of recent years. At the impact level, the target for the value of water-related investments influenced was exceeded. At the outcome level, GWP influenced 62 water governance improvements, the highest number since the beginning of the Strategy. This significant increase is closely linked to financing-related outcomes, particularly in supporting countries to access climate finance. However, when reviewing the logframe, outcome-level target achievement was mixed, reflecting optimistic target setting and the unpredictable nature of governance processes, which are beyond GWP's control.

At the output level, most targets were achieved or exceeded, demonstrating strong performance in GWP's programmatic delivery. This is especially notable given the challenging conditions GWP faced, including global-level difficulties, leadership transitions in nearly half of its regional offices and at GWPO, and the need to adapt to new funding models (a decrease in unrestricted funding and an increased reliance on programmatic funding). Despite these challenges, GWP's ability to continue delivering impactful results and influencing water governance improvements demonstrates the quality of its programmatic delivery, the strength of its partnerships, and the remarkable adaptability of the GWP Network.

This section provides a summary of the main achievements and reflections on progress in 2024:

- **Investment planning and mobilisation:** The estimated value of investments influenced by GWP in 2024 is worth approximately €142 million. An important contribution to this result was the approval by the GCF of a USD 94.9 million project on climate resilient agriculture with FAO as accredited entity. The project was prioritised from Somalia's first GCF Country Programme, developed by the Federal Government of Somalia with GWP support. With GWP's increased focus on investment planning and support to concept note development, along with continuous capacity of in-country stakeholders to understand the modalities and requirements for accessing climate finance, it is expected that such type of results will continue materialising in the coming years.
- **Integrated planning and investments for climate resilience:** Since the beginning of the Strategy, GWP has increasingly focused on supporting access to climate-related funds, including from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund, Global Environment Facility, and NDC Partnership, among others. In 2024, the GCF approved a GWP-supported multi-country Readiness Project worth USD 6.2 million to be implemented in 15 countries of the African Union. The project mainly focuses on the development of national Climate-Resilient Water Investment Programmes. The GCF also approved a USD 800,000 Readiness Request from Montenegro with GWP as Delivery Partner. GWP's support to the development of GCF investment projects continued in Southern Africa through the implementation of the \$1.5 million Project Preparation Facility under the Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) (see Section 3.1.1).

Support for NDC implementation in Latin America was provided through NDC Partnership funding in Peru, Paraguay, Chile, and El Salvador, with a new project secured for Panama. In collaboration with the WMO, the preparation of seven proposals advanced targeting the Adaptation Fund, creating a pipeline worth EUR 79 million. The proposed projects primarily

focus on integrated flood and drought management, as well as the establishment of early warning systems. Proposals for the Lake Chad basin, the Drin basin, and the Zambezi basin aim to strengthen climate adaptation at the basin level while promoting transboundary cooperation.

- **Global climate resilience agenda:** During the UNCCD COP16, the Parties adopted a decision explicitly inviting GWP and the IDMP to assist in enhancing drought monitoring, establishing early warning systems, and advancing knowledge on drought impact assessments. The Secretariat for the Water and Climate Coalition, which was previously based at WMO Headquarters in Geneva, was moved to GWP's offices in Southern Africa. This transition is seen as an opportunity to upscale efforts in national climate-resilient water investment planning, leveraging the success of the African Union's Continental Africa Water Investment Programme.
- **Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP):** The AIP joined the Paris Pact for People and the Planet (4P). Led by global leaders, the 4P aims to reform the international financial system to support vulnerable countries in addressing climate and poverty challenges. The African Union Water Investment Platform and the AIP International Blended Water Investment and Knowledge Facility were launched. These initiatives aim to support the aggregation of projects and funding sources, promote new sources of finance and use grant funding to de-risk investments.
- **Knowledge and learning:** The GWP Technical Committee (TEC) launched the AI Lab – a global initiative to explore the potential of artificial intelligence in accelerating water security. TEC's series of online dialogues with the GWP network continued in 2024, as an avenue to surface and explore emerging global trends where GWP could take a leadership position in developing and disseminating knowledge. The IWRM Action Hub reached more than 3,600 registered users from 169 countries, adding around 100 users on average per month. This growth was largely driven by the new Communities of Practice launched this year, such as the addition of four new regional communities to UNCCD's Communities of Learning and Practice on Drought Management.
- **GWP governance reform:** Implementation of the governance reform action plan was initiated in 2024. The plan was formulated in 2023 as a result of an external review that analysed GWP's structure in the context of the evolving water-related challenges and needs. The action plan contains a mix of adjustments, some of which are already being implemented, such as specific recommendations regarding the design of the Network Meeting. Other measures require longer-term processes, including statutory revisions, which will continue to be addressed in the coming years.
- **Formulation of the 2026-2030 Strategy:** The 2026-2030 global strategy development process was launched in mid-2024. GWP Partners, Chairs of Regional Water Partnerships and staff around the world were given the opportunity to provide input on GWP's priorities for the future. Informed by the inputs received, a Framework document was produced which presents a general structure for the strategy document, and some indications regarding the strategy's likely content. Unforeseen events (see below) led to a pause in the process while new institutional parameters needed to be taken into account.

- **Dealing with an ill-informed media campaign against GWP:** Between 15 and 25 October 2024, a Swedish newspaper published a series of articles presenting a one-sided and highly erroneous picture of GWP’s Secretariat (GWPO), which were then amplified and spread globally by an anonymous email campaign. These articles were refuted in detail by GWPO (see GWP website). The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) also independently published a review correcting factual errors of the newspaper’s articles¹.
- **GWPO Host Country Agreement:** In October 2024, the Government of Sweden announced its intention to withdraw from GWPO as a Sponsoring Partner and to end the Host Country Agreement with GWPO, the Intergovernmental Organisation that services as the GWP network. The process of withdrawal – which requires the approval of Sweden’s Parliament followed by a 12-month notice period – is expected to take a minimum of 1.5 years. The Swedish government’s intention to withdraw is driven by a strong political shift in Sweden’s development aid policies and priorities. The media articles mentioned above also played a role in the political backdrop for Sweden’s decision.

¹Styrelsen för internationellt utvecklingssamarbete, Granskning av Global Water Partnership i Svenska Dagbladet, <https://www.sida.se/om-sida/nyheter/granskning-av-global-water-partnership-i-svenska-dagbladet>

2. GWP at work – Selected 2024 Results

This section highlights some of the achievements of the 13 GWP regions and GWPO in implementing the 2024 workplan. More information is presented in subsequent sections, within the context of GWP's regions and anchor areas through which these efforts are delivered.

The highlighted results are presented according to the GWP Results Framework (see Annex C). Results reported include those achieved with funding raised by GWPO, as well as with funding raised by regional and country water partnerships, either separately or jointly.

2.1 Impact and outcomes: mid- to long-term achievements

GWP works towards its Strategy mission and vision according to a chain of results. Activities and outputs designed to promote IWRM principles are implemented in support of targeted stakeholders who have a mandate for water governance. The GWP M&E system documents the different steps of this results chain and analyses how the organisation's work has contributed to governance change across the attribution gap.

The top level of the results chain relates to impact, i.e., the assumption that water governance and management changes at the outcome level will lead to sustainable socio-economic benefits among the target populations through more sustainable use of water resources. All water governance outcomes to which GWP has contributed are expected to result in increased water security.

The attribution of quantified impact (e.g., measured on 2 proxies: investments leveraged and number of people who benefit) takes time. For example, the development of a National Adaptation Plan in 2024 will only result in increased investment and improvements in people's lives once the plan is under implementation, perhaps 1-3 years after its approval.

GWP documents such impact by linking it to investments. In 2024, it is estimated that **investments worth more than €142 million** can be linked to GWP's work either indirectly, e.g., by making the connection between a GWP outcome and the subsequent investment that was allocated to implement it, or directly, e.g., through successful support to institutions in accessing sources of development finance. An important contribution to this result was the approval by the GCF of a USD 94.9 million project on climate resilient agriculture with FAO as accredited entity. The project was prioritised from Somalia's first GCF Country Programme (supported by GWP, see Section 3.1.2).

With GWP's increased focus on investment planning and support for concept note development, the organization is also strengthening the capacity of in-country stakeholders to understand the modalities and requirements for accessing climate finance. This capacity-building extends to both those within mandated institutions and the broader stakeholders engaged during investment planning and preparation. As a result, it is expected that similar results will continue to materialise in the coming years.

In 2024, **62 key water governance outcomes²** were recorded in which GWP played a role. These include:

- 18 new national, regional and river basin policies, plans and strategies
- 18 investment plans, strategies and budget commitments, including for basin level investments
- 11 transboundary river basin agreements and management frameworks

The full list of GWP outcomes recorded in 2024 is shown in Annex A.

Achieving outcomes can take several years. As such, the work conducted by GWP to influence the governance changes mentioned above was in many cases initiated long before the outcomes materialised. The results therefore relate to activities and outputs implemented through a series of workplans dating back to the previous strategy period.

Figure 1 below gives an overview of the distribution of all outcomes recorded by GWP in 2024 across the four main dimensions of IWRM measured by indicator 6.5.1, namely the *enabling environment, institutions, management instruments and financing*.

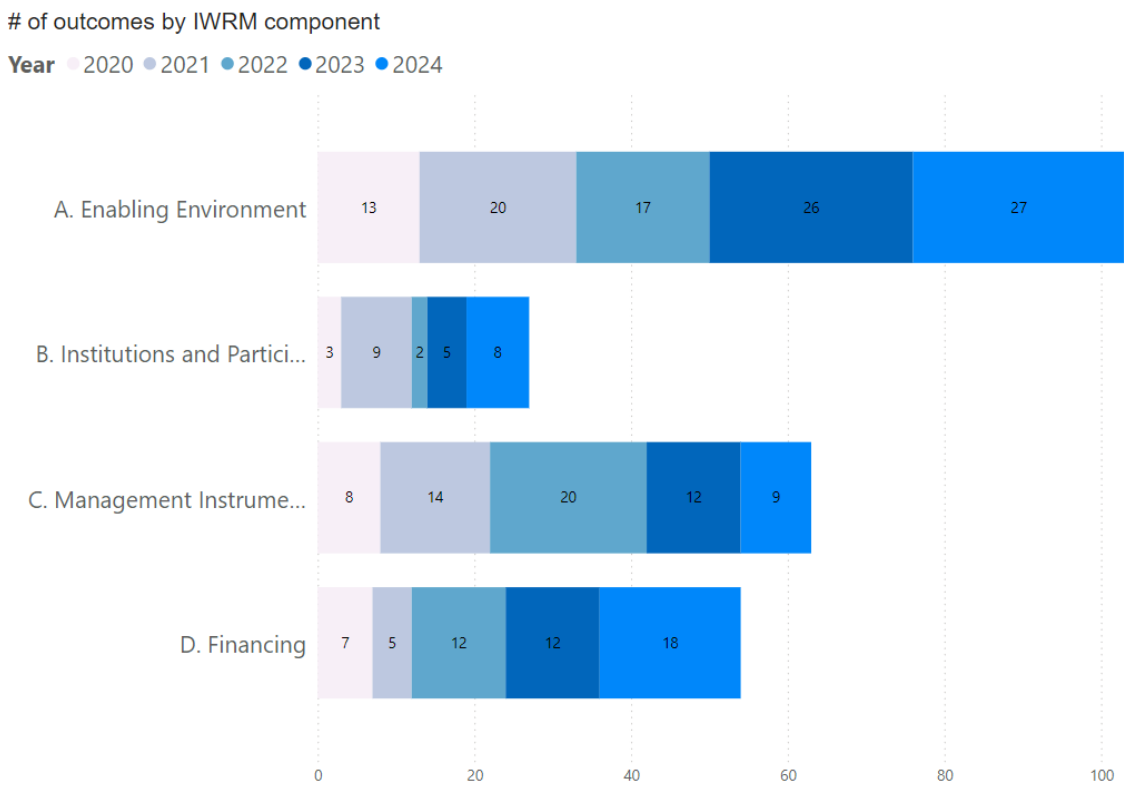


Figure 1: GWP 2020-24 outcomes categorised by the SDG 6.5.1 elements

² Note that some of the reported outcomes are still in the process of being verified and the total number as well as the figures provided in the breakdown are subject to change

2.2 A continuous flow of activities and outputs across three dimensions

The 2024 GWP workplan was structured according to the three dimensions outlined in the GWP Strategy 2020-25:

We Mobilise: Key actors within and beyond the water sector engaged and multi-stakeholder platforms established.

We Learn: Learning processes, products and platforms introduced in forms that are easily available, attractive, social, and timely.

We Act: Targeted interventions delivered to foster and demonstrate integrated practice for water resources management.

This section illustrates the type of activities and outputs carried out by the 13 GWP regions and GWPO in implementing the 2024 workplan by those three dimensions. Some of these activities and outputs, and the interrelationship between them, contributed to the high-level water governance outcomes described in Section 2.1. Others are contributing to processes that are expected to lead to outcomes in 2025 and beyond.

Illustrative highlights – We Act

We Act focuses on advancing effective governance, based on comprehensive and mutually supportive policies, institutions, partnerships, processes, and information-sharing. These efforts are typically implemented through i) targeted support to global processes, ii) support to transboundary and regional organisations, iii) support to national governments, and iv) the facilitation of multi-stakeholder processes. Most of the activities that contribute to *We Act* are delivered through the thematic anchor areas which results are presented in Section 3.

Some examples from 2024 include:

- **Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP):** The AIP joined the Paris Pact for People and the Planet (4P), an initiative launched at the 2023 Summit for a New Global Financing Pact. Led by global leaders, including AIP Co-Chair H.E. Macky Sall, 4P aims to reform the international financial system to support vulnerable countries in addressing climate and poverty challenges. The AIP is now part of the 4P's coalitions, focusing on scaling up water investments across Africa.

This year, the African Union, Senegal, South Africa, the AIP Secretariat hosted by GWP Southern Africa, and partners established a Working Group to prepare for the AU Africa Water Investment Summit in 2025. The Summit, aligned with South Africa's G20 Presidency, will focus on mobilising investments for climate-resilient, gender-transformative water projects. Announced during "Water Day" at the UN General Assembly, the Summit will support the AIP's goal of raising USD 30 billion annually for water investments. It will also contribute to Africa's input for the UN 2026 Water Conference, co-hosted by Senegal and the United Arab Emirates.

- **Targeted support to global processes:** GWP co-chairs the UN-Water Innovation Task Force, along with UNDP and the Water Environment Federation. The Task Force has defined a new approach to water innovation for UN-Water subsidiary bodies and focuses on advancing three key means of accelerating progress towards SDG 6: public policy, which is described in a draft

analytical brief prepared in 2024; funding and financing for water innovation; and mapping and connecting the ecosystem of water innovation. Seven meetings of the Task Force took place in 2024, including one in person during the World Water Week, which focused on learning from failure in water innovation.

At the 10th World Water Forum, GWP played an important role in promoting IWRM through participation in four high-level panels and 16 thematic and regional events. GWP contributed to Regional Preparatory Processes: in Southeast Asia, GWP led the subregional process, and in Central America, GWP coordinated the regional process in collaboration with the National Water Commission of Mexico.

GWP further engaged in water-related global processes, including the co-organisation of the Drought Resilience +10 Conference and participation in the UNCCD 16th Conference of the Parties, UNFCCC 29th Conference of the Parties and the UNECE 10th Meeting of the Partners. The results from such engagements are presented in the relevant thematic reviews of this document.

- **Support to transboundary and regional organisations:** In 2024, the GWP Network supported 9 regional organisations and 10 transboundary water management institutions. Examples of regional organisations supported include the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), which received assistance in the consultation process on the IWRM Action Framework for the CARICOM Region, and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, which was supported in harmonising drought-related activities in the region. Support to transboundary water management organisations across various governance aspects has been most prominent in Central, West and Southern Africa. Further details on the transboundary work implemented in 2024 can be found in Section 3.3.
- **Support to national governments:** In 2024, 68 national institutions benefitted from GWP's support across the water governance spectrum. Examples include support to the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Central African Republic in developing a climate finance tracker, and to the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Paraguay in articulating actions for the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions' sectoral mitigation plans.
- **Support to sub-national and local authorities:** GWP supported 36 sub-national and local institutions in 2024. For example, GWP worked with the Karongi and Rusizi District authorities in Rwanda on integrating IWRM into land use plans. In Cambodia, GWP supported the Sdey Krom-Rohan Suong Fisheries Community in preparing IWRM Action Plans and identifying fundraising opportunities for implementation.
- **Facilitation of multi-stakeholder processes:** GWP serves as a neutral body to facilitate genuine multi-stakeholder input and establish collective ownership and buy-in to governance processes and change. In 2024, more than 100 formal multi-stakeholder participation processes were facilitated on behalf of a mandated institution, including for the preparation of concept notes to access GCF Readiness resources in 17 countries.

Illustrative highlights – We Learn

We Learn focuses on developing the capacity to share knowledge and fostering a dynamic communications culture through i) capacity building, ii) peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchange, iii) publications, and iv) social media. Illustrations from 2024 include:

- **Capacity building:** GWP’s capacity-building activities are mostly region- or country-specific as they are designed in response to tangible governance and financing capacity needs. Examples from 2024 include:
 - **Somalia:** As part of the GCF Readiness project implementation, staff from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, serving as the GCF National Designated Authority (NDA), were trained on priority GCF protocols, procedures, and investment criteria. This contributed to the development and endorsement of a Climate Finance Policy and the approval of USD 99.4 million by the GCF for a climate-resilient agriculture investment project.
 - **Latin America:** GWP supported the organisation of a training on water resources and planning in times of climate change, led by the Spanish and German Development Agencies, and the Conference of Ibero-American water authorities and directorates. The course aimed at strengthening the capacities of water management officials on IWRM implementation with a focus on climate resilience. Representatives from most countries of Latin America participated in the meeting.
 - **Sri Lanka:** A capacity building plan was developed and implemented to train staff from the GCF National Designated Authority (NDA), the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, to support pipeline GCF Direct Access Entities as part of the NDA’s Direct Access Accreditation Helpdesk, established through the GCF Readiness project. GWP designed a curriculum and delivered the content through a series of 14 training workshops. A learning assessment partway through the project revealed high levels of trainee satisfaction.
 - **Burkina Faso:** GWP is collaborating with the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) in the development of a training module on disaster risk management for the national services of Ghana, Mozambique and Uganda.
 - **Peru:** GWP developed training modules to facilitate the use of the Methodological Guide for Incorporating Climate Change Adaptation into Integrated Water Resource Management, led by the Ministry of the Environment.
 - **Tanzania:** following the launch of the report on the economic value of water in Tanzania, GWP and Wageningen University organised an online training course for officials at the Ministry of Water of Tanzania on water valuation techniques, allowing them to interpret and contextualise some of the findings of the report.

- **Knowledge curation and peer-to-peer learning:**

GWP Technical Committee (TEC): In 2024, the TEC launched the AI Lab, starting with a global convening to explore the potential of artificial intelligence in accelerating water security. The strong response from the first webinar, along with follow-up interest from potential external partners, led the TEC to develop a three-part concept for the GWP TEC AI Lab: 1) A Community of Practice on AI and Water Governance; 2) A Hybrid Webinar Series on Selected Topics by Core Partners of the AI Lab; and 3) a “Lab” that will test and develop AI solutions for water governance issues in GWP regions and countries.

The GWP TEC continued the series of online dialogues with the GWP network. Launched in 2023, the dialogues create an avenue to surface and explore some of the emerging global trends where GWP could take a leadership position in developing and disseminating knowledge, developing partnerships and building capacity. In 2024, four dialogues were convened, including on the use of artificial intelligence in water governance, and a debate on the concept versus the implementation of IWRM.

IWRM Action Hub: The IWRM Action Hub grew to more than 3,600 registered users from 169 countries. This growth was largely driven by the new Communities of Practice launched this year (see below) and the strong interest in IWRM Tools. For example, the most visited tool, “Behavioural Communication Change”, received more than 13,000 views this year. Two new features were added to the IWRM Action Hub in 2024: the Platforms Catalogue, a repository of knowledge and data platforms related to water management, and the integration with FAO Aqua Lex, one of the world's largest online repositories of national laws, regulations, and policies on food, agriculture and natural resources management.

Communities of Practice: GWP’s Communities of Practice (CoPs) hosted on the IWRM Action Hub serve as vehicles to advance social learning towards IWRM and bring together experts to collaborate and drive transformative change. In 2024, GWP continued to manage, host and co-host 16 active CoPs. Some highlights related to the CoPs this year include:

- **UNCCD’s Communities of Learning and Practice on Drought Management** grew significantly, with the addition of 4 regional communities, complementing the existing global and regional community for Latin America and the Caribbean.
 - **The WEFE4MED Community** was formally launched and is rapidly becoming an aggregator of Nexus-related practices in the region. Shortly after its launch, participants began sharing *demonstrators* that present their local initiatives.
- **Publications:** Throughout 2024, GWP produced 70 publications at all levels of the organisation. Examples include the global [Guidelines on institutional coordination for drought management](#), co-published with WMO and FAO as part of the Integrated Drought Management Programme, the report [Valuing Water in Tanzania: \(Re\)assessing the Contribution of Water to the National Economy](#) published with UNEP-DHI, and a series of root cause analysis on [barriers to climate-resilient water management in Tanzania](#). GWP also contributed to the *UN World Water Development Report 2024 on Water for Prosperity and Peace* by providing inputs to Chapter 7

on transboundary cooperation and case studies included in Chapter 8 on regional perspectives. (Annex D presents the list of global publications and campaigns)

At the regional and country levels, a wide range of publications were produced covering, among others (see Regional secretariats' websites):

- Guidance documents, e.g. Methodological Guidelines on Preparing a Financial Plan for Climate Change Adaptation in Mediterranean Coastal Areas
 - Studies, e.g. desk study on IWRM and drought national policy in Lao PDR. and Cambodia
 - Reports, e.g. subregional documents for the 10th World Water Forum for Central America and South-East Asia.
- **Social media:** Social media platforms offer great visibility for showcasing GWP's work to a wide audience. By strategically planning, organising, and monitoring social media efforts, GWP grew its presence on social media in 2024 with LinkedIn, Facebook and X serving as its primary channels. LinkedIn has proven particularly effective, given the strong presence of GWP's most relevant audiences on the platform. A snapshot of GWP's social media engagement is presented below (15 Nov 2023 – 15 Nov 2024).
 - **77,393 followers on Facebook** (net increase of 1.17% during this period);
 - **41,273 followers on LinkedIn** (net increase of 20.45% during this period); impressions: 683,778; engagements: 12,022
 - **23,539 followers on X/Twitter** (net increase of 1.09% during this period).

Around its Network, GWP was very active during the largest water events of the year, including the [10th World Water Forum](#), [2024 World Water Week](#), the [Drought Resilience +10 Conference](#), [UNFCCC's COP29](#), reporting in real-time on these peak moments for water.

Illustrative highlights – We Mobilise

We Mobilise focuses on enhancing the viability and effectiveness of GWP's Network by strengthening partnerships and partner organisations to catalyse change, enhance learning, and improve financial sustainability. Some of the main groups of activities include i) partner engagement and strategic alliances, ii) strengthening the Country Water Partnerships, iii) GWP institutional performance, and iv) GWP locally raised funding. Illustrations from 2024 include:

- **Partnerships and strategic alliances:** The ability of GWP to mobilise high quality action with relatively few resources is largely due to its range of strategic relationships with key partners and allies across all levels of entity. Partnerships are instrumental all around the GWP Network for high-profile initiatives such as the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme (e.g. in partnership with UNEP-DHI), the transboundary water management agenda (e.g. GEF IW:LEARN, UNECE), and the GWP Water and Climate Programmes (e.g. African Union, Green Climate Fund, UNFCCC, World Meteorological, NDC Partnership). Additional highlights in 2024 include the collaboration with UNCCD on Communities of Practice, with FAO on drought management knowledge development and with the Government of the Netherlands and Deltares on the Valuing Water initiative. The results of these collaboration are described along this document.

- **Private sector engagement:** A global level, GWP organised an in-person private sector dialogue event supported by Heidelberg Materials, focusing on the importance of better water data to drive collective action, and a second, online event, focused on the stacked benefits of water interventions. Both events brought together representatives of private companies and coordination bodies that work closely with the private sector, in open, Chatham House rule dialogues, which used innovative formats to break the key topics down. Other examples of engagement with the private sector to advance water governance around the GWP Network are presented in Section 3.4.3.
- **Strengthening the country level:** The 2020-2025 strategy recognises the importance of the GWP country water partnerships (CWP) in supporting governments to advance on national commitments such as the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. GWP standards ensure sound financial and administrative management across the entire network portfolio, as part of the operational capacity needed by CWPs to implement activities. GWP carried out financial capacity assessments (FINCAPs) of CWPs in Azerbaijan, Peru, El Salvador and initiated an assessment in Thailand.
- **Institutional performance:** Since 2017, an annual regional assessment grid reflecting numerous performance data markers has been used to assess each GWP Regional Water Partnership. These include, inter alia, target achievement, financial and programmatic reporting, resource mobilisation, and overall governance. Performance agreements to address the recommendations arising from these assessments are formally agreed between the GWP Executive Secretary and the Regional Chairs.
- **Locally raised funding:** Locally raised funding for 2023 was € 6,3 million. Whereas the final figures for 2024 will not be available until the annual audit is completed in early 2025, locally raised funds are expected to reach above € 6 million. For 2025, the locally raised funds are projected to reach € 17 million, a historical amount for GWP which results from the increased focus on fundraising and strategic programme development over the last years.
- **GWP and UNDP Cap-Net collaboration:** In 2024, Cap-Net continued to be administratively managed by GWPO. Programmatically, GWP and Cap-Net worked together to build capacity and promote peer-to-peer learning on gender inclusion in IWRM by maintaining the joint Community of Practice and hosting a new edition of the virtual course on the Cap-Net virtual campus. Annex B presents the Cap-Net progress report summary 2024.

2.3 Regional highlights

(For further details see Section 3 and Annex A)

The following diagram displays highlighted results from each of the 13 GWP Regions achieved in 2024 (underlined text refers to tangible outcomes). A more detailed description of regional level progress, including at country level, can be found in the referenced sections within the diagram.

Mediterranean:

- Drin Basin Flood Risk Transfer Mechanism Strategy
- WEFE Nexus Inter-ministerial Coordination through the Inter-ministerial Committee in Lebanon

Central and Eastern Europe:

- Bulgarian Law on Water Supply and Sewage (in validation process)
- National dialogue supporting the development of the Kosovo Drought Action Plan (in development)

Central Asia and the Caucasus:

- Kazakhstan Water Code update (ongoing)
- Proposal preparation for establishing regional and national drought policies in Central Asia

China:

- Study on water use efficiency by steel and paper industries with a view of revising water quotas in these industries.
- Revision of the Flood Control Law

Caribbean:

- Water Safety Plan for the Mt. Granby watershed (in development)
- Update of the IWRM Action Framework for the CARICOM Region (in validation)

Central America:

- Regulation for the High-Level Table and Technical Committee working guidelines to manage the Motagua Basin
- Municipal IWRM Action Plans in Nicaragua



South Asia:

- Climate Smart Green Growth Strategy and Investment Plan in Sri Lanka
- Response Strategy for Water Resources Management to Address Climate Change in Nepal

Southeast Asia:

- Water protection area guidelines in Lao P.D.R.
- Drought Management Plan in Cambodia (in development)

South America:

- Measurement, Reporting, and Verification system for sectoral mitigation plans in Paraguay
- Updated Regional Climate Change Strategy of La Libertad, Peru

West Africa:

- Environmental Framework law in Togo
- IWRM Action Plan in Benin
- IWRM Action Plan in Niger

Central Africa:

- Water information system of Cameroon
- Strategy to implement the Water Convention in Chad

Southern Africa:

- Strategic Action Programme for the Buzi, Pungwe and Save Basins
- Zambia AIP Resource Mobilisation Strategy

East Africa:

- Climate finance policy in Somalia
- Districts Strategies on Integrating IWRM in Land Use Plans in Rwanda

3. Thematic reviews

This section presents a review of achievements in each of the 3 thematic anchor areas and 3 cross-cutting areas of the 2020-2025 Strategy.

3.1 Climate resilience through water

The water and climate programme is instrumental in shaping the organisation's approach to development more broadly. This is true particularly in relation to investment planning and access to finance, where significant results have been achieved during the current Strategy.

3.1.1 Integrated planning and investments for climate resilience and development

GWP's extensive climate portfolio focuses on climate resilience, including adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk management and reduction as outlined under the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. GWP adopts a country-owned approach, responding to requests for support in implementing or raising ambition in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), as well as formulating and implementing National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and National Action Plans to Combat Drought and Water Scarcity.

On the climate adaptation front, GWP continues to serve as an active link between global climate change policy processes and country-level adaptation planning and investment implementation, also considering the water footprint of countries' mitigation actions and evaluating their impacts on overall water security, as well as adaptability and transformability to more resilient states.

In 2024, the Secretariat for the Water and Climate Coalition – previously hosted by WMO Headquarters in Geneva – relocated to GWP at GWP Southern Africa's offices in Pretoria. The Coalition had been focusing on transitioning the Water and Climate Leaders' advocacy for an integrated water and climate agenda into practical actions, linking it with integrated water and climate investments on the ground. Additionally, it also aims to expand engagement of the Coalition's partners in sustaining and operationalising the Coalition's Secretariat.

GWP Southern Africa serves as the Secretariat of the Africa Union's Continental Africa Water Investment Programme, a programme that water stakeholders from other continents are requesting to be scaled up globally, and is also a founding member of the Water and Climate Coalition. The relocation of the Coalition's Secretariat was therefore considered to align fully with both the Coalition's vision and objectives, as well as the opportunity to scale up efforts in national climate-resilient water investment planning beyond Africa.

Box 1: Global Goal on Adaptation: The UNFCCC COP28 marked a major milestone for adaptation - including through water - with the adoption of the framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), which includes water as the first of its seven sectoral targets for 2030: *"Significantly reducing climate-induced water scarcity and enhancing climate resilience to water-related hazards towards a climate-resilient water supply, climate-resilient sanitation and towards access to safe and affordable potable water for all."*

The COP28 decision set out further work on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) for climate change adaptation through the two-year UAE–Belém work programme - currently ongoing until COP30 in 2025 - aimed at developing indicators for the GGA targets. The work programme is carried out jointly by the UNFCCC's Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), with countries and partner organizations such as GWP coming together.

GWP-developed Water Supplement to the UNFCCC's NAP Technical Guidelines: The GWP-developed Water Supplement to the UNFCCC's NAP Technical Guidelines (or NAP Water Supplement) provides guidance to countries on how to integrate water in NAP development, implementation, and revision processes in ways that are tailored to country contexts. The Supplement serves as a reference framework for the expert group working on developing indicators for the GGA, influencing alignment with existing NAP processes already underway in developing countries. This approach aims to enable global aggregation and tracking of progress on adaptation outcomes and financing for adaptation, while avoiding significant additional burden on existing communication and reporting obligations.

The UNFCCC COP28 marked a major milestone for adaptation - including through water - with the adoption of the framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) (see Box 1). An important resource for developing the GGA water target indicator is the GWP-UNICEF WASH Climate Resilience Framework, which provides guidance on designing and operating WASH infrastructure services so that water supply and sanitation are ensured under a changing climate, in ways that ensure resilience of populations and economies.

The GWP-UNICEF WASH Climate Resilience Framework has heavily informed the Green Climate Fund's Water Project Design Guidelines – Annex III – Practical Guidelines for Designing Climate-Resilient Sanitation Projects, developed in 2024 and launched at COP29. This complements Annex II of the GCF Water Project Design Guidelines for Climate Resilient Projects in IWRM, CR-WASH, and Drought and Flood Management. These guidelines explicitly reference and build upon the GWP-UNICEF WASH Climate Resilience Framework, which was made available in 2023. With UNICEF being approved as an Accredited Entity to the GCF in 2024, it can be expected that the implementation of the GWP-UNICEF WASH Climate Resilience Framework at the country level will only be scaled up with the increased availability of concessional climate finance, informed by lessons learned on the Framework's application in over 80 countries so far by UNICEF. Collaboration between GWP and UNICEF is being explored in Niger to build capacity on the WASH Climate Resilience Framework and to support access to GCF finance for its implementation.

In Africa, GWP's work is structured under the African Union's Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) for which GWP Southern Africa serves as the Secretariat. The AIP aims to transform and improve the investment outlook for climate-resilient water security and sustainable sanitation across the African continent. The AIP approach includes:

- A High-level Panel at the Heads of States level to strengthen political commitment and leadership;
- An International Blended Investment Facility to leverage public-private partnership finance and investments;
- The promotion of gender equality, climate resilience and the empowerment of women and girls in water investments;
- The implementation of a Water Investment Scorecard³ to enhance mutual accountability, transparency, efficiency and track progress in mobilisation of water investments;
- The development of capacity to formulate and implement regional, transboundary, and national water investment programmes to close the water investment gap;
- The establishment of an improved enabling environment for water governance and the capacity to access finance, enhance efficiency and sustainability of investments in water, sanitation and environmental protection.

The preparation of Water Investment Programmes is seen as an essential step towards ensuring that the governments commit funding to water investment as a means of implementing water-related development plans and strategies. These investment programmes have gained the highest level of political ownership, and in Zambia and Tanzania, the governments announced domestic resources investments of 1 billion USD and 6.45 billion USD, respectively, to implement the programmes. Launched in 2022, the Zanzibar Water Investment Programme has already mobilised over \$180 million. In 2024, USD 6.2 million were mobilised from the GCF Readiness window that are supporting the development of Water Investment Programmes in 14 countries (see Section 3.1.2).

In 2024, the African Union Water Investment Platform and the AIP International Blended Water Investment and Knowledge Facility were launched. These initiatives will connect countries seeking funding to finance sources and technical assistance, and investors seeking projects to a pipeline of bankable projects. The AIP Water Investment Platform will assist countries in accessing finance by providing an online database of a pipeline of projects seeking funds. It will support the aggregation of projects and funding sources, promote new sources of finance, build on the AIP Pyramid of Transformation⁴ and use grant funding to de-risk investments.

3.1.2 Access to climate finance, primarily via the Green Climate Fund

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is the largest financing mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). GWP has therefore strategically focused its support to countries to increase water-related climate investments through the GCF. GWP is a GCF Delivery Partner for countries to access the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme, meaning

³ <https://aipwater.org/implementation/aip-water-investment-scorecard/>

⁴ <https://aipwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Investment-Action-Plan-Exec-Summary-2024.pdf>

that the network can formally support countries' GCF National Designated Authorities (NDAs) to develop and implement Readiness projects funded through the GCF.

In 2024, the GCF began implementing its Readiness Programme's 2024-2027 Strategy, which introduces new operational modalities, including the re-accreditation of Delivery Partners. This will establish a pool of preferred Readiness service providers that can be swiftly deployed based on their match with country needs for Readiness. Countries are now expected to articulate these needs through a multi-year programmatic view, replacing the previous modality of planning for incremental Readiness strengthening on an annual basis. GWP has submitted its application for re-accreditation, which is being reviewed by the GCF.

GWP continued to support countries in accessing funds from the GCF – to build the technical and institutional capabilities required, and to strengthen platforms for multi-stakeholder engagement in building climate resilience through water management and development. The mobilisation of NDAs and other key stakeholders for the development and submission of project proposals has progressed, resulting in the mobilisation of over €11 million under the Readiness window since 2020.

In 2024, GWP successfully completed the implementation of its first set of GCF Readiness projects in Zambia, Somalia, Eswatini, and the Central African Republic. During the implementation of these projects, 10 GCF Concept Notes were developed for Sri Lanka, Somalia, Eswatini, and Central African Republic, in alignment with their GCF Country Programmes, which were submitted to the GCF.

The GCF Readiness project implemented by GWP included the development of the GCF Somalia Country Programme to guide investment in climate resilient programs in the country. It also included NDA capacity building, preparation of job descriptions for NDA staff, and the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee on Climate Change. Together, these processes strengthened the country's readiness to access climate finance. From among the projects prioritized in Somalia's first GCF Country Programme, the project on Climate Resilient Agriculture with FAO as Accredited Entity was approved by the GCF in 2024. The project is worth USD 94.9 million and aims to benefit 2.1 million people.

The African Union Multi-Country Programme to Accelerate Water and Climate Resilience Investments through the Africa Water Investment Programme (AU-AIP Multi-country GCF Readiness Project) was approved by the GCF in 2024. For a catalytic USD 6.2M, the project covers 15 countries⁵ and mainly focuses on the development of national Climate-Resilient Water Investment Programmes. In addition, support is directed to advancing country pipelines through developing concept notes and building the continental platform for knowledge management as part of the AIP international blended investment facility. The AU-AIP Multi-Country GCF Readiness Project is delivered through a partnership between the African Union Commission, the GCF and the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP).

⁵ Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Eswatini, Guinea, Ghana, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Morocco, Congo, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Tunisia and Zambia

The approach taken in the mobilisation of the AU-AIP Multicountry GCF Readiness Project was considered highly successful by countries in the region. In response, the African Union issued a call to countries to express their interest in joining a second phase of the support. Twenty countries⁶ formally submitted expressions of interest to join, and a new Readiness concept note is being developed to be submitted in December 2024. If approved, the support will focus on strengthening the enabling environment and building capacity to advance project pipeline development and implementation of the Climate-Resilient Water Investment Programmes, matching projects with financiers through the AIP blended investment facility.

The Readiness Request from Montenegro with GWP as Delivery Partner was approved by the GCF in 2024. The project is worth close to USD 800,000 and focuses on building the technical and institutional capacity of water sector stakeholders to participate in climate finance programming through the country's water sector pipeline. A gender-responsive screening methodology and tool will be developed to help identify viable climate finance projects, which will be presented in a national climate resilient water investment plan.

Box 2. GWP's approach to address climate-resilient water investment needs: GWP's approach is to address specific readiness needs prioritized by countries in the framework of preparing climate-resilient water investment programmes. This builds the capacity of in-country stakeholders for implementing the investment programmes, supported by adequate technical skills and resources, the enabling policy environment, and supporting knowledge, data, and decision-support systems.

This approach enables countries to utilise the secured Readiness grant funds in a catalytic manner, enabling the design of transformative water investment programmes and projects. By strategically using concessional climate finance, countries can enhance the bankability of water-related investments that might otherwise not be fiscally viable. By equipping in-country stakeholders with the knowledge and skills needed to access concessional climate finance from the GCF, GWP is supporting countries to address one of their main barriers to realizing the water-related adaptation and mitigation actions prioritised in their NDCs, NAPs and disaster risk reduction (DRR) action plans – which is the lack of bankable climate resilient water investment projects.

Access to GCF finance continues to be a struggle, especially for the least developed countries (LDCs), which face institutional, human resource, and capacity barriers. GWP supports LDCs to access GCF finance for adaptation and mitigation, often those in fragile, post-conflict, and vulnerable contexts such as Somalia and Central African Republic. Both countries were highly satisfied with the first round of Readiness support implemented by GWP as their Delivery Partner. At their request, GCF approved a second round of Readiness support with GWP as Delivery Partner, now under implementation.

⁶ Angola, Botswana, DRC, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Two other GCF Readiness proposals were prepared with GWP's support in 2024:

- **Zambia:** GWP has responded to the Government of Zambia's request to develop a proposal for developing a water sector NAP. The proposal focuses on capacity building in mobilising and tracking climate adaptation finance in water, as well as on private sector engagement in water and adaptation efforts. This proposal follows the successful completion of the Zambia NAP Readiness project with GWP as Delivery Partner, where Zambia developed a cross-sectoral NAP accompanied by an implementation strategy and a financing strategy – which was commended by the GCF as a model for country-owned NAP.
- **El Salvador:** The Ministry of Environment requested GWP's support for developing a water-focused GCF Readiness proposal to strengthen institutional coherence within the country for efficient and effective pipeline and project development for water and climate investments. This includes support for articulating water and adaptation goals and priority actions in El Salvador's NDC 3.0, and developing a feasibility study and GCF concept note for a national programme on climate-resilient water harvesting and integrated flood and drought management. These efforts are critical, as climate change losses account for 2.5% of El Salvador's GDP annually, with exacerbated floods and droughts affecting both rural and urban areas.

In addition to GCF Readiness, GWP works with GCF Accredited Entities – particularly Direct Access Entities – to support countries directly accessing funding for GCF investment projects, and strengthening in-country capacity for project management and delivery. In 2023, the GCF endorsed a USD 1.49 million Project Preparation Facility grant prepared with GWP's support. The grant focuses on the development of a full GCF investment finance proposal for a gender-transformative Regional Climate Resilient Water Investment Programme for the 13 SADC countries aiming to leverage at least \$117 million and benefit 140 million people in the SADC region.

In this context, in 2024 GWP provided training to stakeholders in the SADC region on the use of impact-based multi-hazard and climate information early warning systems. Building on the feasibility study undertaken in 2023 by UNDP, UNICEF and GWP on the International Blended Water Investment Fund/Facility for Africa, in 2024 GWP initiated a feasibility study for SADC to refine the design of the investment vehicle and model the cash flow to determine the internal rates of return for private sector investors.

The SADC Regional Climate Resilient Water Investment Programme is being replicated in West Africa and North Africa. In West Africa, the preparation of a proposal advanced in 2024 with GWP's technical support, under the political leadership of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU). In North Africa, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) also requested GWP's support to prepare a Climate Resilient Water Investment Programme for North-African countries. At early discussion stage, this support is being provided in close consultation with the GCF.

A few highlights of the work supported in 2024 include:

- **Central African Republic:** GWP supported the development of a climate finance tracker to enable the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development to track climate finance

flows. Formally adopted by the Ministry, the use of the tracker will enhance the country's capacity to monitor and report on indicators linking climate finance to mitigation and adaptation objectives, including gender-related indicators.

- **Zambia:** The Government of Zambia launched an Implementation Roadmap and a consolidated Resource Mobilisation Strategy, aiming to raise US\$ 3.4 billion per year by 2030 to realise its National Adaptation Plan and the Zambia Water Investment Programme, in alignment with the African Union's Water Investment Action Plan. The plan aims to boost water security, sanitation access, and private sector involvement. The plan targets 65% of funding from climate finance, with the rest from domestic and other foreign sources.
- **Sri Lanka:** A cross-sectoral Climate Smart Green Growth Strategy and Investment Plan were validated, having been prepared under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development with GWP's support. The development included an extensive consultative process, and was informed by a climate change impact analysis that identified water-related climate risks.

3.1.2 Climate adaptation and development planning, enabled by wider international climate finance

The overall goal of the proposals described above is to further develop and implement national climate resilience commitments such as National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The NDC Partnership is another noteworthy avenue through which GWP is providing practical support to countries in enhancing their NDCs and fast-tracking their implementation. Since 2020, GWP has implemented NDC projects in 9 countries (Sudan, Somalia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Chile, Ecuador, Nepal, Peru and Paraguay) with funding from the NDC Partnership. GWP's climate adaptation and development planning support to countries also extends to financing entities under the UNFCCC, such as the Adaptation Fund and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and other bilateral funding.

Some of the highlights in 2024 include:

- **Paraguay:** With support from the NDC Partnership, GWP assisted the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in establishing goals, indicators, and a Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system for Sectoral Mitigation Plans, incorporating gender considerations (see Section 3.4.1). A multi-stakeholder consultation process was held to validate these indicators and targets, culminating in a proposed matrix for monitoring mitigation measures. Clear carbon emission reduction goals were defined, engaging both public and private sectors. The process also included creating an action plan for the 2024 Biennial Transparency Report to be submitted to the UNFCCC.
- **Peru:** GWP supported the Ministry of Environment in incorporating climate change adaptation into planning and management instruments for adaptation sectors outlined in Peru's NDCs. This initiative was funded by the NDC Partnership and supported interinstitutional coordination for evaluating and defining sectoral climate change strategies. Among other results, a national monitoring and evaluation framework for climate change adaptation was developed. NDCs adaptation measures were successfully integrated within

the transport sector, while mechanisms for territorial articulation in fisheries and aquaculture were established at both national and sub-national levels. Technical assistance was provided to reduce vulnerabilities in communities and to integrate climate risk management within the health sector.

- **West Africa:** GWP is engaged in the development of the programme “*Development, Resilience and Valorization of Transboundary Water for West Africa (DREVE)*”. The DREVE concept note was prepared in 2024 by a working group consisting of ECOWAS, WAEMU, CILSS and GWP, and was informed by a series of regional consultations. Targeting USD 1 billion in funding from the World Bank, the investment project is being designed as a multi-phase programme, with the first phase spanning 5 years. It focuses on water security and climate-resilient development to foster socio-economic development, resilience and peace. The project aims to serve as a cornerstone for regional integration on food, water and energy security in West Africa and the Sahel.
- **Pan-Africa:** The Regional Climate Resilience Programme worth USD 10 million was approved by the World Bank, to be implemented by the African Union Commission (AUC). GWP provided technical assistance to the AUC during the proposal development. GWP is supporting the implementation of the project. In 2024, a regional training workshop on carbon finance was organised, hosted by the SADC. Technical support was also provided to the AUC in developing an Africa Action Plan on Carbon Markets.
- **Pan-Africa:** The Global Environment Facility (GEF) endorsed the project “Supporting Sustainable Inclusive Blue Economy Transformation in African SIDS”. Valued at USD 9 million, the 42-month project will support 6 Small Island Developing States (Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tomé e Príncipe, Comoros, Mauritius, and Seychelles) in their aspirations to move towards sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient blue socio-economic development. UNDP is the project Implementing Agency of the project and GWP is the Executing Agency.

3.1.3 Floods and drought

In tandem with the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is guiding GWP’s work on droughts and floods. At the global level, GWP plays an important role in incorporating the topic of water management into the DRR debate. For example, through its strong partnership with UNCCD, GWP is promoting IWRM and advocating for the establishment of a Water Protocol under the UNCCD to guide water policy matters. During the UNCCD COP16 in 2024, the Parties adopted a decision⁷ inviting WMO, GWP and other technical partners to integrate aridity into drought monitoring and early warning systems⁸. In the same document, the COP also approved a

⁷ Decision ICCD/COP(16)/CST/L..3

⁸ “The Conference the Parties, [...] Invites the World Meteorological Organization, the Global Water Partnership and other technical and scientific partners, working within their respective mandates, to integrate aridity information into existing drought monitoring and early warning systems, with the aim of developing a comprehensive monitoring approach [...]”

decision inviting the IDMP to facilitate “the development of science-based standards and guidelines for assessing the socio-economic and environmental impacts of increasing aridity and drought”⁹. The explicit mention of GWP and the IDMP in UNCCD COP16 decisions reflects GWP’s key contribution to supporting countries’ effort to strengthen drought management policy and practice.

In 2024, support to countries continued through the WMO-GWP joint programmes, the Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) and the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP). The IDMP organised the Drought Resilience +10 Conference in 2024, which brought together nearly 1,000 experts, policymakers, and practitioners from 123 countries to assess the progress made in drought management over the past decade and discuss the way forward. Marking the 11th anniversary of the launch of the IDMP by GWP and WMO, it served as a critical milestone in the global conversation on drought and water scarcity. As part of this global effort, GWP led discussions on social inclusion and public-private partnerships, emphasising the necessity of gender equality and proactive community involvement in the journey toward drought resilience. As a result of the conference, participating countries and partners issued a series of recommendations aimed at shaping global drought policy and action over the next decade.

GWP is committed to supporting the implementation of the [conclusions of the conference](#). As part of these, the IDMP was encouraged to take the necessary steps to transition into a global interagency coordination mechanism on drought, to promote multilevel and multi-stakeholder collaboration. This underscores the vital role that GWP and WMO, through the IDMP, are playing in advancing integrated drought management implementation.

Supporting access to climate finance at country, regional and basin levels for integrated flood and drought management is a priority for both the APFM and the IDMP. The primary financing mechanism targeted by both programmes is the Adaptation Fund. In 2024 the formulation of 7 project proposals continued, contributing to a total pipeline of 79 million EUR.

Examples of proposals that advanced in 2024 targeting the Adaptation Fund include:

- **Central Asia:** A proposal is being prepared in collaboration with CAREC, UNCCD, FAO and the National Hydrometeorological Services of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan. The proposed project has a budget of 12.9 million USD and focuses on establishing regional and national drought policies and strengthening institutional arrangements and capacity for integrated water and drought management, with a strong focus on the most vulnerable communities.
- **Drin Basin, North Macedonia, Montenegro:** With a budget of USD 13.7 million, the proposed project aims to support the National Meteorological Services of the two countries to establish drought early warning systems. The identification and implementation of drought

⁹ “The Conference of Parties [...] 2. Also invites the Integrated Drought Management Programme, its cooperating partners and other technical and scientific partners, acting within their respective mandates, to facilitate, as appropriate, and in line with national circumstances, needs and priorities, the development of science-based standards and guidelines for assessing the socio-economic and environmental impacts of increasing aridity and drought [...]”.

response measures and test Nature-Based Solutions at community level are planned along with the development of a Drought Management Plan for the Drin basin.

- **Zambezi Basin:** the proposed project, with a total value of 14 million USD, aims to enhance early warning systems for floods and droughts at national and regional levels. This proposal is being developed with UNCCD and the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services of Angola, Zambia, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

Highlights of flood and drought management-related advancements in 2024 include:

- **Danube basin:** GWP facilitated a multi-stakeholder participation process for the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) Drought Initiative, which resulted in the compilation of an overview report on drought management in the Danube Basin, including 10 recommendations for further action. The process supported the ICPDR in harmonizing and strengthening drought-related activities in the region to define a clear pathway for enhancing resilience to drought.
- **West Africa:** In 2024, the REWarD-Volta River Basin GEF-funded Project, implemented by IUCN and UNEP in partnership with GWP, supporting the Volta Basin Authority, focused on the development of community-oriented drought early warning systems and the execution of demonstration projects aimed at reversing transboundary water and ecosystems degradation. Key activities included the creation of a water resources allocation model, developed with the technical assistance of DHI.
- **China:** The revision of China's Water Law and Flood Control Law was included in the Legislative Plan of the Standing Committee of the 14th National People's Congress. The Ministry of Water Resources is leading the revision of the two laws. GWP is supporting the process by facilitating inputs from council members and provincial river basin water partners and through the integration of IWRM into the two laws.
- **Drin basin:** The Drin Basin flood management plan was developed and adopted at the transboundary level. The activity is in line and implements one of the priority actions included in the Drin Strategic Action Programme established by the Drin riparian countries in 2020 to address transboundary issues. The plan was developed in the context of a project supported by the Adaptation Fund and implemented in cooperation with UNDP.

3.2 Water solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals

The all-encompassing nature of the SDGs enables GWP to predominantly structure the use of its resources according to the SDG and climate programmes, while still accommodating the diverse agendas across its network. This includes work on the remaining GWP strategic themes of *urbanisation* and the *nexus of water, food, energy and ecosystems* described in this section.

Water solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Programmes are supporting countries to accelerate the implementation of IWRM as a necessary means of achieving their water-related SDG targets and goals. The cross-sectoral nature of water lies at the heart of IWRM and is captured in SDG target 6.5¹⁰. This makes SDG 6.5 a key entry point for advancing not only SDG 6, but also other water-related goals and targets, as well as the broader 2030 Agenda.

Box 3: The role of CWP Côte d'Ivoire in strengthening IWRM implementation in the country – Informal quote from a workshop participant (UNEP): *“On behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), I would like to express our sincere thanks to the Country Water Partnership in Côte d'Ivoire for the successful organisation of this workshop devoted to the establishment of a permanent framework for national exchange on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). This event marks an important stage in the consolidation of cooperation between our two institutions and testifies to CWP's commitment to the sustainable management of water resources in Côte d'Ivoire. UNEP is particularly pleased to have been able to facilitate this workshop thanks to its financial support, and welcomes the interest shown by all the participants. We are convinced that this forum for exchange will be a valuable tool for strengthening collaboration between the various stakeholders and promoting the implementation of IWRM*

3.2.1 The SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme

The SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme (SDG 6 SP), coordinated by GWP in partnership with UNDP Cap-Net, UNEP-DHI and UNEP, as the custodian agency for SDG indicator 6.5.1, is structuring a range of direct SDG support initiatives. These initiatives are implemented and planned across the GWP Network. The Support Programme assists governments in designing and implementing country-led responses to SDG indicator 6.5.1, which measures the degree of implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). This serves as an entry point to accelerate progress towards achieving water-related SDGs and other development goals, aligned with national priorities.

The initiatives are predominantly led by the GWP Country Water Partnerships (CWPs) with support from the associated Regional Water Partnerships (RWPs). The work conducted under the SDG 6 SP is broadly structured across three stages, namely:

- i) **Stage 1:** Strengthening SDG national monitoring and reporting frameworks, including the establishment of an IWRM score under SDG indicator 6.5.1, with a view to identifying critical areas for attention.
- ii) **Stage 2:** Formulating appropriate responses to water resources management challenges, tailored to the specific needs, ambitions and capacities of each country. These responses are

¹⁰ Target 6.5 – Water resources management: *“By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate”.*

informed by the baseline established for SDG indicator 6.5.1 and address broader national water resources management priority issues.

- iii) **Stage 3:** Accessing implementation support for solutions that improve IWRM as a contribution to other water-related SDGs

Examples of progress in 2024 in the stages are as follows:

Monitoring and reporting (Stage 1): The latest monitoring cycle of SDG 6.5.1 was carried out in 2023. In 2024, GWP supported the aggregation of country monitoring results to inform the [Progress on Implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management – 2024 Update](#) report, published by UN-Water and UNEP, and contributed to the writing of the document. The report states that, at the current rate of speed of global advancement on SDG 6.5.1, the world would only reach 91% progress by 2049, which would have a knock-on effect on countries' ability to meet many other goals and targets. This reaffirms the need for GWP to continue supporting countries' efforts to accelerate implementation of IWRM. The report also emphasised that applying IWRM in climate change adaptation presents a significant opportunity to enhance resilience to the impacts of climate change. In response, GWP updated the [SDG-SP's guidance](#) to countries on utilising SDG 6.5.1 monitoring results to inform action planning, now with a stronger integration of climate resilience.

Planning an IWRM response (Stage 2): In Lao PDR and Cambodia, the development of Drought Management Plans and IWRM Action Plans was initiated in 2024, as part of the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) initiative, funded by the World Meteorological Organisation. GWP is facilitating the process, supporting the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Lao PDR and the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology of Cambodia to strengthen integrated drought and IWRM planning. This includes the establishment of coordination mechanisms for drought and IWRM, as well as outlining the associated roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder involved. This initiative is also being implemented in the context of the Integrated Drought Management Programme (see Section 3.1.3).

Accessing implementation support (Stage 3): Under the leadership of the Ministry of Water of Tanzania and the Wami Ruvu Basin Water Board, GWP supported the development of a publication series on the value of water in Tanzania's economy. The report *Valuing Water in Tanzania: (Re)assessing the Contribution of Water to the National Economy* covers three important sectors for Tanzania's economy, namely agriculture, manufacturing and mining. The results reveal that the lower bound contribution of water to these three sectors is 4,816,560 million TZS (2,100 million USD), which is the equivalent to 3.31% of Tanzania's GDP in 2020. The report is accompanied by a Policy Brief and a Methodological Note outlining 6 valuation methods. This publication series makes a strong case for why water is undervalued in financial terms compared to the significant economic value it brings to the country.

3.2.2 Water-Energy-Food-Environment Nexus

GWP's work on the *water-energy-food-environment (WEFE) nexus* is grounded on the organisation's track record of working with agricultural, environmental, and energy partners through cross-sectoral

projects and initiatives. In addition to projects designed to address the nexus agenda, GWP is also implementing a range of activities centred on agriculture or ecosystems. While these may not always be presented explicitly using the nexus language, they inherently involve cross-sectoral engagement that touches upon the equivalent links.

Coordination between agriculture processes and integrated drought management is increasingly important in the context of a changing climate. Several project proposals for the Adaptation Fund advanced in 2024 through the IDMP address this link, in particular in the Lake Chad basin, the Drin basin, Central Asia, South Asia and the Zambezi basin (see Section 3.1.3). Still within the context of the IDMP, GWP collaborated with FAO in 2024 to organise knowledge exchanges on the impacts of drought and water scarcity on agriculture and energy.

Other examples of nexus activities and results implemented in 2024 include:

- **Paraguay:** With GWP's support and funding from the NDC Partnership, the National Directorate of Climate Change updated national and sectoral climate scenarios to be submitted to the UNFCCC. Following IPCC guidelines, five sectors were prioritised by the country: energy and transport, agriculture and livestock, industrial processes and product use, land use change and forestry, and waste.
- **Grenada:** A demonstration project was undertaken to pilot the use of artificial intelligence to address water scarcity. IRRIGOPTIMAL was used to predict the optimal water needs for various crops to enhance irrigation patterns and reduce water consumption. The initiative was implemented in collaboration with the Government of Grenada, Wes Trade and T's Eco Farm and Garden.
- **Lebanon:** GWP supported the Ministry of Energy and Water in advancing inter-ministerial coordination. GWP was requested to technically assist the establishment and operation of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on WEFE Nexus. This group is tasked with overseeing the WEFE Nexus activities in the country and the implementation of the Water Strategy.
- **Vietnam:** A desk study was prepared, offering recommendations on the role of IWRM in the implementation of the 2023 Water Resources Law, with a particular focus on the forestry and aquaculture sectors. A consultation workshop was organised for Government Officials and experts to provide inputs to the study and take stock of the water use by the two sectors.
- **Mediterranean:** A draft WEFE Nexus strategy was developed in the Mediterranean Source-to-Sea continuum. A consultation process was held under the auspices of the Union for the Mediterranean and UNEP/Mediterranean Action Programme with GWP's support. The strategy includes actions for the operationalization of the Nexus and Source-to-Sea approaches in the Mediterranean and will be discussed by the Ministers of the two processes for adoption in 2025.

3.2.3 Water Solutions for Urban Resilience and WASH

GWP's urbanisation work tends to materialise in the context of other thematic programmes – particularly climate change and disaster risk reduction – where the local level often provides the most appropriate and effective entry point. Many of GWP's urban/WASH related activities are implemented through a mix of projects and programmes, and under a range of thematic development frameworks.

The Global Water Leadership in a Changing Climate (GWL) Programme, supported by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom, was finalised in 2024. The programme encouraged climate-resilient water management by bringing together policymakers from water resources management (WRM) and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) through an extended working group process. GWP's role in the GWL programme focused on seven countries (Central African Republic, Malawi, Nepal, Palestine, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda), across five GWP regions. Through stakeholder consultations, it facilitated the identification of the top two-to-four most critical barriers to water management in each country, and the subsequent formation of one working group per barrier. These working groups developed a dedicated Response Strategy for their respective barrier. Response Strategies comprise of an Action Plan for addressing the barrier, and a Finance Plan for ensuring that the Action Plans can be undertaken. The results achieved by the programme in all seven countries are presented in the Outcomes Brief¹¹ published earlier this year.

In this context, the Government of Nepal endorsed a Response Strategy in 2024 to enhance integration between IWRM, WASH and climate resilience. The Strategy was developed under the leadership of the Energy Commission Secretariat, with a consultative approach that involved more than 40 organisations, including government institutions, non-governmental and private sector actors, and academia.

Other highlights of processes influenced in 2024 across the GWP Network include:

- **Grenada:** Preparation of a Water Safety Plan (WSP) for the Mt. Granby watershed advanced in 2024. The WSP focuses on addressing immediate water quality threats, including chemical and microbial contamination. A risk assessment is being prepared to inform the WSP.
- **Cameroon:** GWP supported the Ministry of Water Resources and Energy with the development of the national Water Information System. The System is the first platform mapping drinking water and sanitation infrastructures in rural areas in Cameroon.

3.3 Transboundary water cooperation

GWP works at the transboundary level to enhance cooperation and reduce conflict over transboundary water. GWP's approach includes multi-stakeholder dialogues for enhancing transboundary cooperation. The aim is to achieve science-based consensus on transboundary problems, identify priority actions to address the drivers of these challenges and support the

¹¹ https://www.gwp.org/globalassets/global/about-gwp/publications/gwl/gwl_outcomes-brief-june-2024.pdf

development of institutional arrangements for sustainable cooperative action. According to the 2024 UN report on the *Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation*, only 43 countries have operational arrangements that cover 90 per cent or more of their shared water basins. Significant efforts are required to ensure that all transboundary watercourses are covered by operational agreements by 2030.

To this end, GWP cooperates with other international organisations and UN agencies to support countries in establishing legal and institutional cooperation arrangements among riparian states. The 1992 Water Convention and the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention provide the legal framework for this area of work. Working in close partnership with UNECE, GWP supports countries in the process of accession to the 1992 Water Convention. In 2024, GWP's contribution in enabling institutional arrangements and action for the enhancement of transboundary cooperation is described through explicit references in the Water Convention 2025-2027 Work Programme. GWP is also among the drafting partners of UNECE's guidance on the Source-to-Sea approach in the management of transboundary waters.

At the global level, GWP is one of the establishing members of the Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition established in 2023. This Coalition brings together more than 40 governments, international organisations, international financing institutions, NGOs, academia and research centres. This year, GWP contributed to the development of its Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure to operationalise the Coalition.

Working with countries and regional organisations to mobilise finance for transboundary cooperation is a priority for GWP. The main funding mechanisms targeted under this workstream are the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Adaptation Fund (AF). The design of transboundary cooperation projects is increasingly embedding climate change issues, allowing for the strengthening of climate adaptation at the basin level (see Section 3.1.3 for examples of proposals in development that address climate resilience while strengthening transboundary water cooperation.). GWP is also contributing to the incorporation of Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus considerations in the GEF manual for the development of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Programmes.

Transboundary water management knowledge and learning

GWP has a well-established capacity building programme in Africa, Latin America and Asia developed in collaboration with a wide range of global, regional and national-level partners for practitioners and legislators involved in transboundary water management. A few examples of GWP's work on this component in 2024 include:

- **Pan-Africa:** The *Transboundary Water Knowledge Exchange Hub* is providing a platform for peer-to-peer exchange on the IWRM Action Hub. In 2024, GWP co-organized with UNECE, GEF IW:LEARN, along with other partners, the *Pan-Africa Water Governance and International Water Law Training*. This training served as a key entry point for supporting countries with the process of accession to the transboundary Water Conventions.
- **Global:** GWP is a partner to the GEF IW:LEARN project aiming to provide knowledge management services to the GEF International Water portfolio; the project is implemented by UNDP and UNEP and executed by IOC UNESCO. GWP continues to run the GEF IW:LEARN

Governance for Transboundary Freshwater Security MOOC, which has registered over 3,800 learners from 167 countries.

- **Global, Caribbean, Southeast Asia:** GWP is an implementing partner of the GEF Clean and Healthy Oceans Integrated Programme along with ADB, EBRD, CAF and IOC UNESCO under the coordination of FAO. The project aims to address nutrient pollution and marine hypoxia. GWP is responsible for the development of Source-to-Sea governance assessments in Bay of Bengal and the Caribbean, and the establishment of Communities of practice on Nature-based solutions for wastewater treatment, Source-to-Sea, and Nutrient Management in Agrifood Systems. Initiated in 2024, this work will continue over the next 5 years.

Regional dialogues on transboundary waters

Regional dialogues constitute a series of events focusing on policy and technical instruments to address transboundary water management. By focusing on solutions, these dialogues can assist in identifying entry points for cooperation. As such, they are suitable for regions where basin and aquifer-specific interventions have not matured, or where it is sensitive to start working directly with specific transboundary bodies. Experience has shown that regional dialogues can lead to gradual steps towards cooperation at the basin level.

In 2024, the 5th International Water Management Workshop was held in Central America, focused on drought management and climate adaptation in transboundary basins. It gathered representatives from Ministries of Environment, Foreign Affairs and other key stakeholders of the Central American Integration System (SICA). The workshop was held in the context of the Regional Dialogues process initiated in 2017 by the Central American Commission of Environment and Development (CCAD) and GWP, funded by IW:LEARN GEF. Since then, the process was consolidated with the formal approval of the Guidelines for Transboundary Cooperation in SICA countries, which were used in 2024 by the Government of Honduras as a reference document for their bilateral dialogues with Guatemala.

Cooperation for the management of transboundary water bodies

This component facilitates cooperation at the level of specific transboundary water bodies, supporting improved management and governance. Interventions vary depending on the status of cooperation among riparian countries and stakeholders. Highlights from 2024 include:

- **Chad:** The strategy and implementation plan for the Water Convention was validated in 2024. GWP assisted the development of the plan, under the leadership of the Ministry of Water and Sanitation.
- **Burkina Faso:** GWP collaborated with the UNECE Secretariat of the Water Convention in preparing and facilitating a national workshop to inform stakeholders about the process of acceding to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.
- **Caribbean:** The second phase of development of the IWRM Action Framework for the CARICOM Region was completed, involving 19 participating countries. GWP facilitated the consultation process at the national level and the regional validation workshop. The

Framework includes aspects of transboundary water management for non-Small Island States, such as the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Guyana, Suriname and Belize.

- **Ruvuma basin:** The GEF approved a Project Preparation Grant for the project titled “Strengthening integrated transboundary source-to-sea management of the Ruvuma River Basin and its coastal zones to ensure ecosystem health and livelihood security”. An inception workshop was held in 2024 to advance the preparation of this 7 million USD project.
- **Drin Basin:** Implementation was initiated of the GEF project entitled “Implementing the Strategic Action Programme of the Drin Basin to Strengthen Transboundary Cooperation and Enable Integrated Natural Resources Management”. With a budget of 7.1 million USD, the project will be implemented over a period of 5 years.
- **Pan-Africa:** GWP is supporting the African Union Commission (AUC) in the implementation of the project *Blue Africa Transboundary Water Management in Africa*, funded by the European Union. The main focus of the project is the development of the continental Africa water policy and support for member states on the PIDA Water Investment scorecard. Initial consultations on key policy issues and challenges took place in 2024, to inform the preparation of the policy.

3.4 Cross-cutting areas

Since the launch of dedicated strategies for gender and youth engagement in 2014 and 2015 respectively, GWP has prioritised these two areas, including within its 2024 work plan. Although presented separately from the other programmatic sections of this report, the aspects of gender and youth are fully embedded into the overall GWP work programme, in line with the cross-cutting nature of these issues in the context of water resources management.

In addition, the 2020-2025 GWP Global Strategy also includes a third cross-cutting area, namely engagement with the private sector. This reflects the ambition to mobilise private investment, reduce impacts on water by key industries, and promote innovation and entrepreneurship.

3.4.1 Gender

Across its Network, GWP’s work focuses on incorporating gender equality as part of the water governance processes being influenced, and in the design and implementation of its programmes. In the last few years, many of these efforts have been carried out in the context of the *Water, Climate, Gender and Development Programme (AIP-WACDEP-G)*, or with the knowledge and tools emerging from the AIP WACDEP-G, through GWP’s closely associated GCF Readiness programme and other climate-related processes.

The AIP-WACDEP-G was launched in 2020 as GWP’s flagship programme to deliver on its goal of promoting gender equality beyond statements of intent. The second phase of the programme is intended to be continued in 2025. The programme’s country projects are closely linked to the portfolio of GCF Readiness projects supported by GWP. This ensures that the mobilisation of knowledge and expertise on the integration of gender transformative approaches into water and

climate planning and investment, fostered through WACDEP-G, is contributing to a broader range of governance processes and initiatives, and vice-versa.

For example, the AU-AIP Multi-country GCF Readiness Programme, approved by the GCF in 2024 (see Section 3.1.2), aims to accelerate and enhance investment in gender-responsive climate resilience in Africa. Gender-responsive action is planned throughout all activities undertaken, both in countries and at the continental level. The example of Somalia's experience integrating gender in the GCF Readiness project implemented by GWP is presented in Box 4.

Knowledge and peer-to-peer learning were also prioritised in 2024. The Community of Practice, maintained in collaboration with Cap-Net, on *Gender and Water Resources Management* hosted on the IWRM Action Hub, continued to grow in 2024, and the joint course *Gender and IWRM* was revised and opened its third edition on the Cap-Net Virtual Campus.

In the context of the IDMP, GWP collaborated with WMO and FAO to prepare two knowledge products on integrating gender equality into drought planning, set to be published in 2025. The first report looks at mainstreaming gender in National Drought Plans, National Action Plans, and national policies. The second one takes a broader approach to inclusion, looking at integrating gender equality and social inclusion in national drought management planning.

During the Drought Resilience +10 Conference (see Section 3.1.3), GWP and FAO co-hosted the side event "*Gender and Social Inclusion in Drought Management: Policy and Practice*", which explored the critical importance of addressing gender and social inclusion in drought policies and management, emphasizing practical steps to ensure that vulnerable and marginalized communities are empowered to take climate-related action.

Additional highlights of gender inclusion in water management in 2024 include:

- **Sri Lanka:** The Climate Smart Green Growth Strategy, developed under the GCF Readiness support implemented by GWP (see Section 3.1.2), has considered gender in the formulation of potential pathways to reach the country's 2050 vision of climate-smart green growth. This is supported by a dedicated climate-smart green growth indicator that looks at gender.
- **Paraguay:** Through NDC Partnership funding, GWP assisted the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in developing indicators that emphasize equal opportunities between men and women in the measures included in the country's sectoral mitigation plans. A document was also prepared that outlines recommendations to strengthen the inclusion of gender considerations in the Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system for sectoral mitigation plans.
- **Buzi, Pungwe, Save, Limpopo Basins:** GWP continued supporting BUPUSACOM to integrate gender equality during the implementation of demonstration pilots on drought resilience in Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Stakeholders were trained on the Environmental and Social Safeguard Framework, including methods to ensure gender equality and social inclusion in project planning. This initiative is part of the GEF-BUPUSA project's broader efforts to

enhance water-related risk management by strengthening monitoring systems, developing real-time tools, and empowering communities to improve flood mitigation efforts.

- **Chile:** Gender considerations were included in the Sectoral Mitigation Plans, Sectoral Adaptation Plans, including for the mining and transport sectors, and the Regional Climate Change Action Plans reviewed and developed as part an NDC Partnership project implemented by GWP under the leadership of the Ministry of the Environment.
- **Turkmenistan:** GWP organised a roundtable on gender aspects in water management in the context of the development of the National Adaptation Plan led by the Ministry of Environment Protection, with funding from UNDP.

Box 4: Gender integration in the GCF Readiness support in Somalia

Under the leadership of the Somalia Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, gender integration was given a prominent position in the detailed workplan development and the implementation of the GCF Readiness Project, with GWP as the Delivery Partner during 2022-2024. Somalia's commitment is evidenced by steps taken to ensure that the Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee and the Sectoral Working Groups for Climate Finance Programming, established by the project, reflect a balanced representation of both women and men. Notably, the national gender machinery, represented by the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development, was actively involved in driving this gender integration initiative, and is an integral part of all established committees.

This emphasis on gender integration is also reflected in the development of job descriptions for positions within the GCF National Development Authority (NDA), which the project delivered as part of supporting the NDA to understand and discharge its mandate. Gender integration has emerged as a distinct responsibility of the NDA, underscoring its importance within the NDA operational framework, which was also delivered by the project. Furthermore, a comprehensive approach for gender mainstreaming needed to be put in place, not only for the sustainability of the project's results, but also to ensure that future climate action is gender transformative.

It is for this reason that the Project Steering Committee (PSC) decided to add three deliverables to the project: i) a Gender Assessment, ii) a Gender Action Plan, and iii) a Gender Policy Brief. A dedicated session was incorporated in the validation workshop for the GCF Country Programme (also delivered by the project) to present this gender analysis and tools and to underscore the role of all stakeholders in the implementation of the Gender Action Plan.

3.4.2 Water solutions for youth engagement

Recognising the vital role and immense potential of young people as both beneficiaries and active partners towards a water secure world, GWP works to enable young people to actively engage in water governance decision-making. GWP's commitment to youth involvement as agents of change serves a dual purpose: firstly, they are crucial in driving progress towards SDG 6, the climate agenda

and transboundary water cooperation, and secondly, their active participation enhances stronger and more sustainable regional partnerships, fosters cross-collaboration, builds organisational capacities, and attracts funding opportunities.

Highlights of progress to this end in 2024 include:

- **Danube basin:** GWP is the lead partner of DanuRELY, a project funded by the European Union. The project aims to assess the challenges to youth involvement in water management in the Danube region, and to design an initiative to improve participation. In 2024, the Danube Youth Leadership Stakeholders Roundtable was organised, bringing together youth and experts to tackle water challenges. The event provided space for exchanging bold ideas, networking, and designing strategies for youth leadership and innovation.
- **Honduras:** Young professionals from the Youth Water Network and WASH service providers were invited to participate in stakeholder consultations for the development of the Climate Change Law.
- **Sri Lanka:** The South Asia Youth Water Challenge was launched in 2023, in partnership with Brandix Apparel Ltd. through a five-year MoU. Brandix provided a small grant as a prize for the challenge, which the selected youth group can use to develop an innovative product. In 2024, the winning team, EDIC from the University of Kelaniya, tested their automated real-time water quality monitoring system for rainwater harvesting and wastewater management. GWP supported the initiative by coordinating the implementation of the pilot in 3 locations.
- **China:** In collaboration with the Guangxi University for Nationalities, college students from various nationalities were invited to participate in a two-month internship and exchange programme with the Belt and Road Working Committee.

3.4.3 Private sector engagement

The 2020-2025 global GWP Strategy sets the objective for the GWP Network to mobilise private sector engagement. The private sector is an important water user, and an agent of change with the ability to mobilise significant partnerships that contribute positively to the SDGs, the Paris Agreement and transboundary water management.

At the global level, in 2024 GWP convened the private sector water dialogue through a public-private sector roundtable on improving data for water management, sponsored by Heidelberg Materials. An online follow-up event served to consolidate the collective efforts of the group. The platform currently brings together multinational companies and entities that work with the private sector.

GWP designed a project for Microsoft Corporation to contribute to the achievement of the company's water replenishment targets. The project proposes a technical intervention to reduce the groundwater withdrawal from deep aquifers, currently performed by the Olympic Athletic Center of Athens, Greece, while replacing it with water from the ancient Hadrian's Aqueduct that is currently being discharged to the sea. This project is an important milestone for GWP to support large companies' sustainability efforts. Additional project sites are under discussion with Microsoft and other corporate partners across multiple GWP regions.

GWP is among the organisations that co-authored a thought leadership publication on [collective action on water stewardship](#), published in 2024. The document lays the framework to align and ramp up support from different stakeholders working with the private sector towards corporate strategies aiming to reduce corporate water risks (including e.g. risks related to water access and regulations). The non-branded publication was deliberately intended to break down institutional ownership, and present a united front.

In the last few years, GWP's governance results related to the private sector have increasingly been related to climate-related processes, and especially to GCF Readiness implementation. For example, a Private Sector Engagement Roadmap and a Private Sector Engagement Action Plan were adopted in eSwatini and in the Central African Republic, respectively. Engagement with the private sector is also planned as part of the AU-AIP-GCF Multi-country Readiness implementation.

Other highlights of private sector engagement in water management in 2024 include:

- **Central African Republic:** A Private Sector Engagement Strategy was developed and validated as part of the GCF Readiness programme. GWP assisted the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in the development of an Action Plan for Private Sector Engagement, validated in 2024. Based on the Action Plan, the Ministry has signed MoUs with private sector entities throughout the year. These concrete steps are paving the way to leverage concessional international climate finance for bringing private sector investments that are urgently needed to build resilience via water in the country.
- **Sri Lanka:** The DFCC Bank, a private sector entity, serves as the accredited entity for one of the GCF Concept Notes developed for Sri Lanka within the framework of the GCF Readiness project, implemented by GWP. The proposed project is included in Sri Lanka's Country Programme, which serves as its GCF Investment Plan for 2024-2027. The Concept Note focuses on financing the adaptive transformation of vulnerable smallholder farming systems from subsistence to enterprising.
- **China:** In 2024, GWP China carried out a study on water use in key water-consuming industries, focusing on steel and paper-making enterprises. The project analysed water consumption data across different types of companies within each sector, assessing their water efficiency. The study provides valuable information for revising water quotas in these industries. Additionally, the survey identified water efficiency gaps in both sectors, offering insights for future water-saving initiatives.
- **Caribbean:** A roundtable discussion was organised by GWP engaging the private sector on the potential of using blockchain technology in water quality management, emphasizing the role of the private sector in improving water governance through innovative, technology-driven solutions.

4. GWP Logframe: Progress against targets

GWP uses a results-based M&E component to monitor quantified targets set against a standard list of impact, outcome, and output indicators in the GWP logical framework. This is combined with a more qualitative outcome mapping methodology which is described in Annex C and reported on in Annex A.

The GWP logframe contains the following:

- a) **2 Impact indicators** based upon the GWP vision that measure the socio-economic and environmental benefits derived from better water resources governance and management in the countries and regions where GWP is active. These benefits can be related to one or several thematic areas depending on the *actual problems* solved.
- b) **14 key water governance Outcome indicators** reflecting the GWP mission of advancing governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development. The indicators measure the governance improvements introduced by actors at all levels where GWP is active.
- c) **20 Output indicators** that measure the services and products delivered by the GWP network which foster sustainable governance improvements of the water systems (via influenced boundary actors). There is a great diversity of services and products: facilitation packages for global, regional, transboundary, national, or local processes; knowledge products and capacity building materials; guidelines and procedures; networking and partnerships tools, etc. They can be related to one or several thematic areas depending on the *actual problems* targeted. The output indicators reflect the three dimensions according to which GWP designs its activities (*We Act* – indicators OT1.1-OT1.11; *We Learn* – indicators OT2.1-OT2.6; *We Mobilise* – indicators OT3.1-OT3.3)

As part of the planning process for the current Strategy period, targets have been set against the logical framework indicators at both the regional and global levels in the GWP regional and global 3-year Work Programmes 2020-2022 and 2023-2025, which are subsequently reviewed on an annual basis for incorporation into each GWP entity's annual workplan. Results are monitored against these targets each year as the strategy period proceeds.

The GWP logframe, including the targets and results for 2024, as well as overall progress against the three-year targets set in the 2023-2025 GWP work programme, is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1: GWP Logframe – Targets and Results 2024 (Note that the logframe results presented here are currently undergoing a thorough review following which some of the figures may change)

Ind code and desc	Target 2024	Result 2024	Achievement of 3-yr prog. targets (2023-2025)
11 - Number of people benefiting from improved water resources governance and management	210705400	204348584	116.16%
12 - Total value of water-related investments from government and private sources influenced	106300000	142780994	52.74%
O1 - No. of formally adopted national level policies, plans, strategies and laws influenced which integrate water security	33	17	56.60%
O2 - No. of formally adopted policies, plans, strategies and laws influenced which integrate water security at other levels	18	9	54.29%
O3 - No. of arrangements / commitments / agreements on enhanced water security influenced at transboundary / regional level	10	7	65.22%
O4 - No. of capacity building and knowledge development initiatives that can be directly associated with tangible governance change	30	46	111.76%
O5 - No. of processes / frameworks / institutions established or strengthened to improve cross-sectoral / transboundary coordination	17	6	27.59%
O6 - No. of formal multi-stakeholder participation processes facilitated on behalf of a mandated institution	68	106	209.09%
O7 - No. of policies, plans, strategies and laws influenced that integrate gender inclusion	18	18	78.57%
O8 - No. of management instruments formally being used by water managers and decision-makers	10	12	136.84%
O9 - No. of formal data sharing arrangements established	3	1	13.33%
O10 - No. of approved investment plans and budget commitments associated with policies, plans and strategies that integrate water security	17	12	54.84%
O11 - No. of funding agreements influenced to implement water-informed National Adaptation Plan and integrated flood and drought management policies and measures	10	24	114.81%
O12 - No. of processes in place to raise local revenues from dedicated levies on water users at basin, aquifer or sub-national levels	4	1	66.67%
O13 - No. of budget commitments from riparian countries to support agreed transboundary cooperation arrangements	12	5	142.86%
O14 - No. of water-related infrastructure interventions founded on robust, inclusive, and effective water governance systems influenced	3	0	50.00%
OT1.1 - No. of mandated institutions supported in developing and implementing arrangements for transboundary water management	34	48	173.58%
OT1.2 - No. of mandated national institutions supported in developing and implementing policies, legal frameworks and/or plans based on IWRM	67	68	97.95%
OT1.3 - No. of mandated sub-national institutions supported in developing and implementing policies, by-laws and/or plans based on IWRM	33	36	67.46%
OT1.4 - No. of mandated institutions supported in integrating gender inclusive water components into development planning and decision-making processes	20	21	109.26%
OT1.5 - No. of mandated national institutions supported in developing national investment plans or strategies	11	11	100.00%
OT1.6 - No. of mandated institutions supported in the development of capacity and projects to access finance	66	72	266.67%
OT1.7 - No. of mandated national institutions supported in monitoring SDG 6	3	4	102.99%
OT1.8 - No. of demonstration projects undertaken for which innovation has been demonstrated	21	24	86.96%
OT1.9 - No. of initiatives / demonstration projects specifically targeting gender issues	8	14	60.00%
OT1.10 - No. of documents produced outlining the lessons from GWP demonstration projects and a plan for replicating solutions	16	13	148.48%
OT1.11 - No. of beneficiaries supported in demonstration projects on water security and climate resilience undertaken	1513250	1642919	126.39%
OT2.1 - No. of mandated institutions at national, basin and regional levels with demonstrably enhanced capacity to design and implement policies, legal frameworks and/or plans based on shared learning on IWRM processes	100	107	119.77%
OT2.2 - No. of capacity building and professional development workshops/initiatives with a significant focus on women, youth, and/or other marginalized groups initiated and implemented	28	30	65.00%
OT2.3 - No. of publications, knowledge products (including strategic messages) and tools for water security and climate resilience developed and disseminated	51	70	148.11%
OT2.4 - No. of publications and knowledge products that have a prominent gender perspective incorporated	7	14	65.31%
OT2.6 - No. of knowledge exchange and cross-regional learning initiatives with commitments for concrete follow up	32	47	159.32%
OT3.2 - No. of initiatives that mobilise underrepresented groups (incl. gender and youth) to engage with water management and governance processes and to participate in decision making	21	16	64.71%
OT3.3 - No. of initiatives with private sector actors to mobilise investment, reduce impacts on water by key industries, and promote innovation and entrepreneurship	16	16	96.77%

The 2024 logframe results listed in the table above illustrate the progress that has been made in reaching the targets set in the 2024 workplan. Overall target achievement in 2024 largely follows the pattern of recent years, showing a mix of successes at the outcome level and a strong performance in meeting targets at the output level. At outcome level, the mixed results reflect the unpredictable nature of governance processes, which are outside of GWP's control.

Output results are directly linked to GWP's delivery of workplan activities and products, for which most targets were achieved or overachieved. This is especially notable given the challenging conditions GWP faced, including global-level difficulties, leadership transitions in nearly half of its regional offices and at GWPO, and the need to adapt to new funding models. These changes involved a decrease in unrestricted funding and an increased reliance on programmatic funding. Despite these challenges, GWP's ability to continue delivering impactful results and influencing high-level water governance demonstrates the exceptional quality of its programmatic efforts, strong partnerships, and the remarkable adaptability of the GWP Network.

A few points to note:

- **At impact level, the target focused on the value of investment influenced (indicator I2) was achieved** with a value of investments influenced of over 142 million EUR in 2024. This result reflects the GWP's focus on supporting governments with investment planning and accessing finance. This year, an important contribution to this result was the approval from the GCF of a project. With GWP's increased focus on investment planning and support to concept note development, it is expected that such type of results will continue materialising in the coming years. The value of investment indirectly influenced is likely a substantial underestimate of the actual value that could be reported. One of the major challenges lies in the difficulty of tracking investment commitments after the direct support to a specific process has finalised, which is resources intensive. GWP started working on M&E frameworks for investment-related policies and plans that allow better feedback of information.
- **At outcome level, target achievement was mixed** probably reflecting overoptimistic target setting under indicators where results are not fully under GWP's control.
Enabling Environment: GWP influenced 27 outcome results in this category, the highest since the beginning of the Strategy; yet none of the three targets associated with this component (O1-O3) was achieved. This lesson has been incorporated in setting targets for 2025.
Financing: GWP's financing-related results were in majority linked to strengthening climate resilience. These result from GWP's effective response to countries requests for support to access climate finance to strengthen their resilience to climate change through water.
Management Instruments: Results related to management instruments were satisfactory with the target under indicator O8 achieved.
Institutions and participation: target achievement under indicators O4 to O9 were mixed. On the one hand, GWP's efforts to build institutional capacity and facilitate multistakeholder processes were well reflected with overachievement of related targets. The shortfall in achieving the target for improvements in cross-sectoral and transboundary coordination and data sharing (indicators O5 and O9) can partially be explained by the recent uncertainties surrounding diplomatic relations between countries. The work relates to highly diplomatic processes and the increase of international tensions,

including around the war in Ukraine and the conflict between Israel and Palestine, undoubtedly impacted cooperation processes. An underestimation of the time needed to finalise such processes might have occurred in setting the associated targets.

- **At output level, targets were mostly achieved or overachieved.** Output results reflect the activities, services and product delivered directly by GWP. Output results are therefore mostly under GWP's control. Target achievement in 2024 reflects the good planning carried out by GWP in 2023, with realistic targets set. Two results were slightly below the target:
 - **OT1.10:** The output indicator on the number of documents produced outlining the lessons from GWP demonstration projects and a plan for replicating solutions was underachieved with a result of 13 against 16 targeted. The discrepancy could be related to delays experienced in project implementation.
 - **OT3.2:** For this indicator, GWP delivered 16 results against a target of 21. This indicator tracks the number of initiatives that mobilise underrepresented groups (incl. gender and youth) to engage with water management and governance processes and to participate in decision-making. The discrepancy between the result and target mostly reflects overambitious target setting, especially around youth engagement in decision-making.

5. Expenditure report 2024

EXPENDITURE (Euros)	REVISED EXPENDITURE BUDGET SC APPROVED	Expenditure to September 2024	FORECAST Oct-Dec	Total Expected Expenditure 2024	Budget balance Dec 2024
ANCHOR AREAS					
Water Solutions for SDGs					
Contributing to Global processes	58,403		46,180	46,180	12,223
Project: Bringing new voices - USSD	-	3,750	-	3,750	(3,750)
Overall SDG6 Support Programme, incl. UNEP	92,865	72,704	37,406	110,110	-17,245
SDG6 Country Support	84,265	63,715	37,406	101,121	(16,856)
Project : UNEP DHI	8,600	8,989	-	8,989	(389)
Project: WEF E Nexus	18,255	24,462	5,271	29,733	(11,478)
Engaging the Private Sector	15,330			0	15,330
Total Water Solutions for SDGs	184,853	100,916	88,857	189,773	(1,170)
Climate Resilience through Water					
WMO, IDMP and APFM	121,930	117,995	41,447	159,442	(37,512)
Project: UNCCD	20,350	22,244	7,840	30,084	(9,734)
Project: Wash - Climate (FCDO)	54,285	59,576	-	59,576	(5,291)
Projects: GCF-NDC	75,490	97,596	19,862	117,458	(41,968)
Overall Water & Climate, incl. WACDEP	150,249	85,310	27,100	112,410	37,839
Clim Global	36,000	10,958	27,100	38,058	(2,058)
AIP WACDEP_G Africa	114,249	74,352		74,352	39,897
Total Climate Resilience through Water	422,304	382,721	96,249	478,970	-56,666
Transboundary Water Cooperation					
Transboundary	18,000	7,657		7,657	10,343
Transboundary - IWLEARN	-	781	178	959	(959)
Total Transboundary	18,000	8,438	178	8,616	9,384
Total ANCHOR AREAS	625,157	492,075	185,284	677,359	-48,452

GWP Annual Progress Review for 2024

EXPENDITURE (Euros)	REVISED EXPENDITURE BUDGET SC APPROVED	Expenditure to September 2024	FORECAST Oct-Dec	Total Expected Expenditure 2024	Budget balance Dec 2024
STRONG NETWORK					
Facilitating Network Services					
<i>Communications</i>	131,318	97,427	49,964	147,391	(16,073)
<i>Resources mobilization</i>	103,815	64,759	19,148	83,907	19,908
<i>Knowledge, Capacity Building</i>	117,694	127,587	31,610	159,197	(41,503)
<i>Programme ASiW2</i>	30000	0	-	0	30,000
<i>Programme CAPNET</i>	13970	10,477	5,920	16,397	(2,427)
<i>Network Strengthening & Staffing</i>	200,488	78,749	9,912	88,661	111,827
<i>Contributing to Gender Equality</i>	4,480			0	4,480
<i>Mobilizing Youth for Water Resources Mgt.</i>	4,219	15,000	-	15,000	(10,781)
Total Facilitating Network Services	605,984	394,000	116,554	510,554	95,430
Essential Network Services					
<i>Finance and Administrative support</i>	144,205	180,996	81,122	262,118	(117,913)
<i>Audit</i>	36,000	40,474	11,100	51,574	(15,574)
<i>Financial costs/revenues</i>	50,000	36,747	12,000	48,747	1,253
<i>IT</i>	223,180	122,843	72,201	195,044	28,136
<i>HR & Training</i>	34,577	-15,519		-15,519	50,096
Total Essential Network Services	487,962	365,541	176,423	541,964	-54,002
Governance Network Services					
<i>Steering Committee</i>	48,550	35,873	11,250	47,123	1,427
<i>Network, SP & FPG meetings</i>	500			0	500
<i>Overall Governance & Management support, incl. ES Office</i>	266,983	241,163	74,323	315,486	(48,503)
<i>Legal</i>	257,880	28,693	20,158	48,851	209,029
Total Governance Network Services	573,913	305,729	105,731	411,460	162,453
Planning and M&E					
<i>Planning and M&E</i>	55,278	0	13,688	13,688	41,590
Total Planning and M&E	55,278	0	13,688	13,688	41,590
Total STRONG NETWORK	1,723,137	1,065,269	412,396	1,477,666	245,471

GWP Annual Progress Review for 2024

EXPENDITURE (Euros)	REVISED EXPENDITURE BUDGET SC APPROVED	Expenditure to September 2024	FORECAST Oct-Dec	Total Expected Expenditure 2024	Budget balance Dec 2024
RWPs PROGRAMME FUNDING	1,881,000	1,217,107	575,504	1,792,611	88,389
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE	27,000	27,199	9,000	36,199	(9,199)
RESTRICTED OTHER FUNDING (Office Rent & Taxes)	571,109	475,947	82,021	557,968	13,141
<i>(Reimbursed by MFA Sweden)</i>					
<i>Designated funding: office rent & taxes</i>	571,109	475,947	82,021	557,968	13,141
Rent	299,332	237,191	32,400	269,591	29,741
Taxes	271,777	238,756	49,621	288,377	(16,600)
TOTAL	4,827,403	3,277,597	1,264,205	4,541,802	289,351

Please note that the orange highlights are cost recovery from projects. During the year we identified more opportunities in the projects to increase our recovery than planned. This is indicated by the negative budget expenditure balance in the Budget balance column. This is not over expenditure, but as a result of more opportunities to cost recover from projects thus increasing the expenditures

INCOME (Euros)	INCOME BUDGET 2024	Actual Income Jan-Sept	Estimated Income Oct-Dec	Expected Income 2024	Balance
SIDA - 2024	2,693,506	1,647,584	995,922	2,643,506	50,000
Netherlands	500,000	500,000	-	500,000	0
Funds from Projects- Staff time	515,532	315,323	148,921	464,244	51,288
Management Fees	363,848	181,883	48,225	230,109	133,739
Fund Raising Target 2024 Time and Mngt Fees	183,408	43,664		43,664	139,744
MFA	571,109	475,947	82,020	557,967	13,142
Total Income	4,827,403	3,164,401	1,275,089	4,439,490	387,913
Surplus/Deficit	0	-113,196	10,884	-102,312	98,562

6. List of annexes (in development)

- Annex A – GWP results (by entity)
- Annex B – Cap-Net progress report summary 2024
- Annex C – GWP Results Framework
- Annex D – List of GWP Global Publications 2024
- Annex E – Abbreviations and Acronyms; Glossary of Key Terms

The **Global Water Partnership's** **vision** is for a water secure world.

Our **mission** is to advance governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development.

Our **Strategy 2020-2025:**

**MOBILISING FOR A
WATER SECURE WORLD**

