SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme

Stage 1 Support Package:
Annex 2: Guidelines for participation and inclusion

SDG 6.5.1, degree of implementation of IWRM

March 2020

Why Engage Multiple Stakeholders in IWRM

Multi-stakeholder participation is embedded within the basic definitions of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). To "promote the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximise economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems and the environment", it is imperative that the stakeholders whose decisions affect those resources be brought together in an open and constructive dialogue aiming to make sound, balanced decisions in response to specific water-related challenges.

Participants in multi-stakeholders consultations on SDG 6.5.1

Regarding the reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.1, the degree of implementation of IWRM, it is recommended that stakeholders relevant to the national context be invited to take part in the consultation process, including (but not necessarily limited to) in-person multi-stakeholder workshops. This helps to increase ownership of water management and decision-making processes, making the completed survey instrument a more robust and useful diagnostic tool for further discussions and planning.

With the objective of ensuring a broad, balanced and consensual set of answers in the completed survey instrument, it is suggested that the following stakeholders, from different sectors and levels, be considered as potential participants in this process. This consultation may take place in one or more workshops, among other means that are relevant to the culture of the country, such as online surveys, individual or collective interviews, focus groups, pre- and/or post-workshop consultations, discussion fora, or others. Online workshops could be fruitful to increase the number of stakeholders that take part in the process. However, facilitators should be aware that virtual meetings could be difficult for certain stakeholder groups to take part in, for a number of reasons, so it is important to recognise these difficulties in order to ensure broad participation in the process. Participants may include the following:

- **Central government authorities:** representatives from the main ministry/ministries responsible for water resources, as well as those from other ministries or commissions involved in or with an impact on water issues (e.g. agriculture/livestock, forestry, energy, environment, tourism, urban planning, sanitation, finance, climate change, risk management, health, etc.).

- **Basin, aquifer, protected area, and city level:** local authorities, protected areas representatives and organisations with responsibility for water resources management or oversight at the river basin, lake basin, or aquifer level, to ensure coherence on the "other levels" questions on the survey. This should also include representatives of relevant IWRM-related projects.

- **Scientific and technological community:** academic institutions, universities, research institutions, thinktanks, and other bodies who may have relevant information, studies, data and analyses on different aspects of water resources.

- **Civil society**: non-governmental organisations, community groups, water user associations, environmental organisations, and/or farmer organisations, with a focus on water resources management.

- **UN Country Representatives and UN entities in the country:** those United Nations entities most relevant for sustainable development, the environment, social considerations and economic development: https://unsdg.un.org/un-in-action/country-level.

- **Those in charge of transboundary water issues:** The country focal point for SDG indicator 6.5.2, "Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation", to ensure coherence on the transboundary questions of the survey instrument.

- **GWP partners in your country**: GWP's partners represent a range of different stakeholders concerned with IWRM, from different sectors: https://www.gwp.org/en/partner/existing-partners/Partner-Search/

- **Cap-Net partners in your country**: water-focused capacity development networks and organisations: http://www.cap-net.org/networks-partnerships/

- **Financial / Donor community:** foundations, bilateral and multilateral cooperation bodies, regional and/or global development banks, and other financiers, with whom the opportunities identified in this process for strengthening IWRM implementation may be aligned.

- **Business and industry:** Companies with a significant environmental, social and economic footprint, which provide innovative water solutions and/or that have a stated interest in water issues, be they from the beverage, food, mining, energy, paper, consumer products, tourism or other related sectors. It is particularly important to get their inputs to question 2.1d on private sector participation.

- **National focal points for other water-related SDG targets and indicators**: the government officials named as the focal points for each of the SDG targets and indicators related to water, including but not limited to SDG 6. Contact details for SDG 6 focal points should be available through official government channels, may be obtained from the UN-Water International Monitoring Initiative website, or alternatively can be provided by GWPO.

- **Gender advocacy groups:** Dublin Principle 3 highlights that "Women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water". Gender discrimination can limit women's and men's chances to access vital water resources, by restricting their independence. Limiting their participation based on their gender can often result in unfair and self-perpetuating impacts on the lives of both women and men, reducing their access to productive resources. Identifying and engaging gender-based organisations can mean that opportunities and benefits of water-related interventions are equally available to both men and women.

- **Vulnerable groups, including indigenous peoples:** Institutions and organised groups representing the rights, interests and perspectives of vulnerable groups, as defined in the 6.5.1 survey. It is particularly important to hear the voice of indigenous peoples, given that the lands and waters they traditionally occupy are estimated to contain the majority of the world's remaining biodiversity. Obtaining their inputs on question 2.2c on vulnerable groups should be a pre-requisite. In those cases, it is important to note that the workshop(s) may need to accommodate other languages other than the predominant national language.

- **Young people:** Engaging both youth[1] and young professionals[2] can increase the quality and relevance of water-related initiatives, policies and programmes, as they can provide innovative information, ideas and solutions. Youth organisations that are already engaged in water or sustainable development can be a good starting point to identifying the best participants. Young people are not a homogenous group and can include a range of backgrounds such as researchers, civil society and indigenous tribes, entrepreneurs and young water professionals.

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[1] GWP recognizes youth as young people between the ages of 15 -35 years.

[2] "Young professionals" refers to recent graduates under the age of 35 who have some work experience, according to the GWP Youth Strategy.

Some of these stakeholders may have relevant input on all questions, while others may have a perspective on only some of the questions. In cases where it is not feasible for stakeholder groups to attend the workshop(s), they may be invited to submit draft surveys to the facilitator and 6.5.1 focal point prior to the workshop(s), so that their input can be considered. It may be relevant for them to answer all questions, or only some of the questions with which they are most familiar.

GWP Youth Engagement Strategy

GWP Gender Strategy