

# Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) Transboundary Water Governance Lab: Forward with the International Water Law

18 November 2020, 11h00 – 13h00 SAST

Draft concept note

## Background

Transboundary water resources constitute nearly 80% of Africa's freshwater resources. Therefore, cooperation over management of shared resources and good governance on Transboundary waters is critical for water security, peace and stability and ultimately, sustainable socio-economic development of Africa. In this context, increased regional cooperation and joint planning, development and management of water investments and infrastructure are essential to meet targets for agricultural and industrial development, health, food security, energy security, climate resilience, and health improvement, as well as other sectors. Furthermore, countries need to deepen regional partnerships and cooperation over water-use infrastructure, cooperating over shared water resources and identifying opportunities to invest in regionally important infrastructure and support the AU agenda on industrialization. Meanwhile, climate change, population increase and rising demand in resource use further exacerbate the highly variable climatic conditions found in most parts of the continent. Therefore, evidence based, informed and strategic selection and implementation of water infrastructure projects will be a critical factor for the success of sustainable transboundary water resources management and the above-mentioned targets.

The African Union Agenda 2063 calls for a strong, united, resilient, peaceful and influential Africa with a significant role in world affairs. This aspiration will only manifest if all countries come together as one to discuss governance and diplomacy issues in an integrated way and considering critical issues such as gender and youth empowerment, thus ensuring that no one is left behind. GWP has been conducting Water Governance and International Water Law trainings at the pan-African level since 2015. The training has built capacity of numerous transboundary water practitioners as demonstrated by a survey which was launched in 2020. In the era of the COVID-19 pandemic, building on the partnerships that have developed in the recent years and taking into account the AU Vision for a prosperous Africa, the International Water Law has been embedded in the continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) Transboundary Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) Water Support Programme which aims to catalyse investment flows into integrated regional and transboundary water-health-energy-food nexus projects that promote inclusivity and regional economic integration. In addition, it has become increasingly evident that the issues of gender inequality need to be addressed holistically recognising the fact that gender transformation and gender responsiveness are factor to sustainable development. Therefore, recognising the added value that women could represent when participating in negotiations and decisions-making processes and making a deliberate effort to tap into that potential should form integral part to achieving the AU Agenda 2063.

GWP, in consultation with partners have been discussing the way to enhance impact from this training to achieve the AU Agenda and to catalyse transboundary water cooperation in Africa at large. GWP has also reached out to all the alumni of the past trainings, to learn how training has made impacts, and what next steps each alumni could take/envision in boosting the possible impact from the training on the ground. Based on these feedback, GWP now proposes to have more structured approach to capacity building for improved transboundary water cooperation and investment at transboundary water level through developing 3 pronged approach to the partnership: training (face to face and online), peer to peer exchanges through community of practice, and knowledge sharing through knowledge portal.

## Objectives

The objectives of the meeting are to present the findings of two surveys that were conducted to evaluate what the impact of the Governance and International Water Law Training has been, and to discuss the proposed new approach to sustain this initiative into the future.

Specifically, the meeting will:

- Provide feedback to the alumni and partners on the two surveys launched for the participants to feedback on the impact the IWL training course has had over the past five (05) years
- Present the proposed framework of continuous peer-to-peer learning
- Present the Findings of the consultations on the setup of a Community of Practice on International Water Law
- Validate the proposed architecture of the Community of Practice, and get alumni inputs on its design

## Expected Outcomes

- A clear understanding of the impact of the training over the years and the proposals for improvement of the delivery model
- Validation of the continuous peer to peer learning framework proposed
- An enhanced understanding on the format of the proposed Community of Practice on International Water Law, and clarity on the expected roles of the alumni, GWP and partner organisations

## Participants

The meeting is envisaged to be attended by a variety of participants including training target audience as well as key partners engaged in the training:

### Key target audience

1. Alumni of the IWL training, from 2015 to 2019
2. AUDA NEPAD officials
3. PIDA Water Project managers
4. RBOs in Africa

### Key partners:

- Makerere University
- Uganda Ministry of Water and Environment
- CAP-Net networks: WaterNet, Nile IWRM Net, Congo river basin network, Africa groundwater network
- GWP Regional Coordinators
- Nile Basin Initiative
- RECs (IGAD, SADC, ECCAS, ECOWAS,
- ANBO
- UNECE Water Convention Secretariat
- Geneva Water Hub
- GiZ
- World Bank – CIWA,
- University of Northumbria

## Date

The meeting will take place on the 18 November 2020, 11h00 – 13h00 (South Africa Standard Time, GMT+2).

## Proposed Agenda

Time	Item
11:00 – 11:10	<b>Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ground rules</li><li>- Participants' expectations (short PollEv)</li><li>- Meeting objectives</li></ul>
11:10 – 11:35	<b>The context</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- History of the IWL Training Initiative from inception to date (including the Massive Online Open Course)</li><li>- IWL Training in the context of the AIP Transboundary Water Investments Support Program</li><li>- Continuous peer-to peer learning</li></ul>
11:35 – 11:55	<b>Looking forward</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- IWL survey of 2017 &amp; 2020 – trends and way forward</li><li>- A new chapter: Community of Practice</li></ul>
11:55 – 12:25	<b>Building together: Facilitated Interactive Breakout Session</b>
12:25 – 12:45	<b>Learning from each other: Report back from the breakout session</b>
12:45 – 13:00	Feedback (PollEv), next steps and closing