

GWPO Secretariat Environmental Policy

The Global Water Partnership (GWP) Network currently comprises nearly 3,100 Partner Organisations located in 173 countries. The GWP Network is represented globally by 13 Regional Water Partnerships (RWP) and 85 Country Water Partnerships (CWP). The Network is supported by an intergovernmental organisation – the GWP Organisation (GWPO), based in Stockholm. In 2013, the GWP conducted a Network-wide iterative process leading to the development of the 2014-2019 Strategy. The GWP's mission is "to advance governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development". GWP has an integrated and holistic approach aiming at achieving social equity, economic efficiency, and environmental sustainability and it strengthens initiatives for facilitation of processes that leads to behavioural changes, to ensure the sustainable use of the most essential resource on Earth - water.

Although the work of GWP leads to improved social and environmental conditions, GWP acknowledges that activities connected to the Secretariat have a negative impact on the environment, and that procedures can be continuously improved to reduce these impacts. This Environmental Policy highlights the GWPO's overall commitment to environmental responsibility focusing on both direct and indirect impacts of the GWPO Secretariat. Direct impacts can be addressed by the Secretariat while indirect impacts of the rest of the network are the responsibility of all the RWP, CWP and Partners. However, the policy can work as a guideline to all GWP Network components to reduce their footprint on the environment.

DIRECT IMPACTS

In the work of minimising direct environmental impacts of the GWPO Secretariat focus is on meetings and transportation, energy use, purchase of goods and services, and consumption and waste management following the aphorism 'reduce, reuse, and recycle'. Transportation is the biggest environmental impact of GWPO. However, working with a global network require short and long distance travels on a regular basis since face-to-face interaction is the most effective means for sharing knowledge and experience, building alliances and influencing behavioural change. In order to minimise the impacts and the carbon footprint of GWPO, the following actions are taken.

Meetings and Transportation

- Web based meetings should, to the extent possible, be facilitated to reduce travels to international meetings.
- Global meetings should, to the extent possible, be carried out by virtual means to avoid extensive travel by RWPs and GWPO.
- Environmentally certified hotels should be selected for meetings organised in Stockholm.
- The most environmental friendly means of transport should be chosen for travel. Short distance air travel should be avoided, and direct flights should be selected for longer travels.
- Necessary air travel should be climate compensated (see table 2).
- Public transportation or environmental friendly cars should, to the extent possible, be used for transportation to and from airports.

Table 1. Climate compensated carbon emissions, caused by travel by GWPO 2008-2014, based on the total expenditures of GWPO.

Source: GWP 2014

Year	GWPO expenditures	Climate compensation	Carbon per Euro expended
2008	€ 3,427,000	264 tons	77 gram/€uro
2009	€ 3,109,000	243 tons	78 gram/€uro
2010	€ 3,352,000	210 tons	63 gram/€uro
2011	€ 3,139,000	240 tons	76 gram/€uro
2012	€ 3,741,667	339 tons	91 gram/€uro
2013	€ 4,386,863	454 tons	102 gram/€uro
2014	€ 4,570,934	526 tons	115 gram/€uro

Table 2. Climate compensated carbon emissions by GWPO 2008-2014, based on all travel booked through Tranås travel agency.

Source: GWP 2014

Year	GWPO expenditures for travel incl service fees	Climate compensation	Carbon per Euro expended
2008	€ 343,000	264 tons	770 gram/€uro
2009	€ 253,000	243 tons	960 gram/€uro
2010	€ 224,000	210 tons	938 gram/€uro
2011	€ 216,000	240 tons	1111 gram/€uro
2012	€ 331,000	339 tons	1024 gram/€uro
2013	€ 369,000	454 tons	1230 gram/€uro
2014	€ 393,000	526 tons	1338 gram/€uro

Energy consumption

- A low and efficient level of energy is provided by the landlord who provides the heating and cooling system.
- The electricity is certified as green which sources from water and wind, striving for 100% environmentally certified and renewable electricity.
- PC screens and lights should be switched off after working hours
- Office lights are sensor driven and comprise of energy saving flourescents
- Low energy light bulbs should be used for additional office lights, including pantry, social area and individual offices

Purchase of goods and services

- Office material should be environmentally certified products and rechargeable batteries should be selected.
- Purchase of stationery and new equipment should be on a needs only basis.
- Cleaning services should all be contracted from a provider that is environmentally certified; cleaning material should be eco-labelled.
- Food and beverages shall, to the extent possible, be environmentally and socially certified products.
- Give-aways should, to the extent possible, be environmentally and socially certified products.
- Office furniture should, to the extent possible, be purchased from second-hand sources.

Consumption and Waste management

- Stationery (e.g. binders; folders) shall, to the extent possible, be reused.
- Paper should be efficiently used by avoiding printing when not necessary, default double sided printing, and black and white printing.
- Office waste such as batteries, light bulbs, paper, plastic, metal, etc. s be recycled.
- IT products and electronic waste should be properly recycled when not repairable.

INDIRECT IMPACTS

The main vision of GWP is for a water secure world in which there is enough water to support social development, sustainable and inclusive growth, and ecosystems. GWP's mission is to advance governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development through different actions which indirectly impact the environment. However, it is important to highlight that water itself is a public good and it is the responsibility of the governments to manage a nation's water resources. GWP promotes an inclusive process of dialogue between governments, civil society and the private sector, based on sound information to reach consensus and achieve better decision-making on sustainable water resource use and management.

The GWP Network is committed to five principles and it is a main requirement for organisations to join as partners to commit to these. The five principles are: freshwater is a finite and vulnerable resource, essential to sustain life, development and management; water development and management should be based on a participatory approach involving users, planners and policy makers at all levels; women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water; water is a public good and has a social and economic value in all its competing uses, and; integrated water resource management is based on the equitable, efficient management and sustainable use of water.

GWP works according to its Strategy towards 2020 which consists of 3 strategic goals: 1) Catalyse change in policies and practice; 2) Generate and communicate knowledge; 3) Strengthen partnerships. In this section these goals are discussed in relation to the environmental challenges connected to the work of the whole GWP Network.

1. Catalyse change in policies and practise

The first goal of GWP focuses on advancing effective governance, based on comprehensive and mutually supportive policies, institutions, partnerships, processes, and information-sharing. Providing a water secure world starts with advancing the governance and the management. Therefore, GWP supports good governance processes that enable everyone to respond effectively to global, regional, and local water security challenges. In seeking this advance in effective governance, GWP advocates and helps to strengthen all aspects of the enabling environment: policies, legal frameworks, financing, and incentives that safeguard human rights and protect public assets, such as ecosystem services and their intrinsic value. Furthermore, GWP supports the strengthening of competent and accountable institutions. In addition, GWP will encourage and support countries to develop and apply a wide range of management instruments to better manage water and related resources. With these tools, GWP hopes to have a great indirect impact on the environment.

Beyond influencing policy-making, GWP will seek to catalyse policy changes and support countries to put them into practice. The interventions of GWP will focus on helping countries to develop and implement solutions that address the major threats to water security. These threats can be identified as the following: climate change, urbanisation, food production, and energy generation. The

protection of ecosystems will be addressed as well as transboundary water management and other challenges.

Climate resilience and water security: Climate change is arguably the most severe long-term threat to development. It affects the water cycle, sea level and rainfall variability, and thus crop production and the frequency and scale of floods and droughts. GWP promotes better water management as a mechanism to develop resilience to climate change effects. This can reduce the pressure on ecosystems from uncertain rains, floods and droughts, desertification, and other climate change-related conditions. GWP established several programmes to support climate resilience, such as: GWP's Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP); the Integrated Drought Management Programme; and the Associated Programme on Flood Management. These programmes are executed in cooperation with the Regional Water Partnerships and the WMO.

Food and water security: Agricultural production is by far the main user of water (70%) around the globe, thus water for food production is a critical issue as populations grow. In addition, the use of chemicals and fertilisers causes ecosystem damage and water pollution due to runoff from farmers' fields. GWP works to bring about change in relation to water and agriculture, with strong focus on technological improvements, land-use change, improved water storage, making wastewater safe to reuse, and both large- and small-scale production systems.. At the global level, GWP seeks ways to improve understanding of interconnected issues and to share knowledge. GWP focuses on the links between groundwater and land use in order to reduce groundwater pollution, decline in water quality, and soil degradation that result from large scale land-use changes. Furthermore, GWP supports countries to prepare for the impact of extreme climate events, such as floods and droughts, on food security.

Urbanisation and water security: By 2050, 70 percent of the world's population is expected to live in towns and cities. Under this pressure, conventional urban water management is unsustainable in terms of cost effectiveness, technical performance, social equity and environmental sustainability. This situation poses many environmental challenges, such as pollution, water resource over-use, and high pressure on aquatic ecosystems. In addition, future cities will experience difficulties in managing scarce and unreliable supplies. Dealing with these issues requires an integrated approach to urban water management, which yields mutually beneficial improvements in water resources and improved management of extreme weather events. GWP advocates for such an integrated approach in order to prepare the cities of the future. GWP supports the development of Urban Water Partnerships which bring together professionals and representatives of civil society. Further, GWP develops frameworks to explore urban water cycle linkages, including sanitation and urban drainage, and develop and implement approaches that recognise the relationships among different water users.

Energy and water security: For generating energy, water is a necessity. Thus, water management affects energy planning, desalination processes, and water treatment plants. In addition, climate change will also influence these processes as rising temperatures will increase the demand for water and irrigation pumping. Further, the introduction of more renewable energy sources may affect the water demand. The increase in water scarcity will amplify the potential for water conflicts and that is why water and energy need to be managed better, also across national borders. GWP seeks to bring together the energy and water sectors, building on integrated planning approaches on both sides. GWP provides a neutral multi stakeholder platform to coordinate development policies and governance strategies based on local needs and realities, and allocate resources and benefits equitably among all users.

Ecosystems and water security: Freshwater ecosystems and rainforests are the world's most biologically diverse terrestrial environments. They have an essential role in sustaining the global water cycle, the carbon cycle, and nutrient cycles. The conservation of these ecosystems must be at the heart

of an integrated approach to water management and sustainable development. Ecosystems provide benefits to society and economies, such as: natural freshwater storage, regulate flows, purify water, replenish groundwater, modulate climate, protect soils, and reduce the risks of water-related disasters. Ecosystems, however, continue to be degraded and lost as populations grow and the demand for water intensive goods and services increases. GWP advocates at all levels that natural ecosystems are a vital and integral part of sustainable economic growth and development. In addition, GWP supports countries to identify and evaluate policy and management options for sustaining ecosystem services, and helps to build capacity for the sustainable management of these invaluable resources.

Transboundary water security: More than 260 internationally shared watercourses contribute to the economic, social, and environmental well-being of 70 percent of the world's population. Because these waters are shared, competing claims and opposing interests can quickly bring nations into conflict. Such water conflicts interfere with economic and social development and can lead to humanitarian crises and environmental degradation. Moreover, such conflicts shift the focus from the need for preserving water ecosystems. GWP provides a neutral space for dialogue and negotiation, and enhances the understanding of possible benefit sharing resulting from sound water management at river basin level. GWP shares results of successful practices and approaches with other regions and basins. The work of GWP on transboundary water management contributes to reducing the risk of conflicts and their negative impact on the environment.

2. Generate and communicate knowledge

This second goal is meant to facilitate the achievement of the other strategic goals. GWP advocates for a coordinated development and management of water, land, and related resources in order to maximise economic and social welfare without compromising the sustainability of vital environmental systems. To bring about change, people need knowledge to understand the state of water resources and the tools needed to sustainably develop and manage them. To this effect, GWP has made conceptual and technical contributions that have enhanced the understanding of integrated water resources management and the need for considering social and economic development within the framework of environmental sustainability. By developing products, services, and platforms to facilitate communication of this knowledge, GWP is contributing to water management and sustainable development at local, national and global levels, increasing the know-how and understanding of water resources and valuable ecosystems. The knowledge products are used to influence the global discourse on water security, its integration into national development, and scaling-up investments.

GWP encourages countries to take an adaptive approach to strategic decision-making, forward planning, and day-to-day decision-making. GWP supports access to reliable, up-to-date data and information on water resources and management. The knowledge chain provided by GWP enables the Partners at all levels to stay at the forefront of emerging challenges and new ideas.

3. Strengthen partnerships

The third goal of GWP focuses on enhancing the viability and effectiveness of GWP's Network by strengthening partnerships and Partner organizations to catalyze change, enhance learning, and improve financial sustainability. Partnerships are the catalysts for change in policies, institutions and practice. Therefore, partnerships can have positive influences on the environment. Partnerships can lay the foundation for agreed collective actions and they are proving to be excellent and trusted vehicles for sharing knowledge. GWP plans to strengthen and increase its Network of Partner organisations and intensify its engagement with them. GWP intends to expand the Network with a

greater number of Partner organisations from major sectors such as agriculture, energy, industry and the cities.

Strengthening the network is imperative for GWP to enhance its ability to better support and influence national and regional policies and actions towards a sound, more environmentally friendly, management of water resources.

The need for extensive travels arises as part of the process of strengthening partnerships, building new alliances and strengthening existing connections, which negatively impacts the environment through increased CO₂ emissions and pollution. However, GWP is committed to reduce the carbon footprint through reducing the travel frequency, choosing more environmentally friendly transportation, climate compensation (see Table 1), and facilitation of online meetings and knowledge platforms. Likewise, GWPO, the RWPs and CWPs are increasingly focusing on the uploading of information online to reduce the volume of printed materials.