

## GWP SPONSORING PARTNERS

22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners  
to the Global Water Partnership Organisation

Stockholm, Sweden

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

### MINUTES

*Approved electronically by 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2023*

### **1. Welcome and Introduction, Apologies Received, Quorum Confirmed & Approval of Agenda**

The Chair of GWP, Pablo Bereciartua, opened the Annual GWP Sponsoring Partners meeting 2023 and welcomed all participants. The Chair extended a special welcome to the new Chair of the Sponsoring Partners, Mr. Tobias Axerup, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden. Mr. Axerup took over the Chairmanship from Ms. Sigrun Rawet.

The Chair of the GWP Sponsoring Partners meeting, Mr. Axerup, continued by also warmly welcoming all participants.

#### **1.1: Apologies received**

Mr. Axerup noted that apologies for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Sponsoring Partners meeting had been received from Denmark and Jordan.

Noted that Mr. Mohamed Masoud from MFA Sweden was also in attendance.

#### **1.2: Quorum confirmed**

Mr. Axerup further confirmed that a quorum of Sponsoring Partners was reached.

#### **1.3: Approval of Agenda**

**Decision: The meeting Agenda was approved with modifications proposed, merging items 3, 4 and 7.**

### **2. Matters arising/updates from Minutes from the 21st Annual Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners in Stockholm on 22nd June 2022 (Minutes approved electronically on September 16th, 2022)**

The Chair of the Sponsoring Partners noted that, according to the procedure of electronic approval of the Sponsoring Partners Minutes on a no objection basis after each meeting, the Minutes from the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Sponsoring Partners Meeting had been approved as of September 16<sup>th</sup> 2022.

No further comments related to the Minutes were raised.

#### **2.1: Update on decisions taken since last SP meeting**

The two decisions made electronically by the Sponsoring Partners since the last SP meeting were noted.

	Decision	Adoption date
1	The Minutes of the Sponsoring Partners meeting 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2022 were approved on a no objection basis.	16 <sup>th</sup> September 2022
2	Mr. Jorge E F Werneck Lima was appointed new GWP Steering Committee member on a no objection basis. Mr. Werneck Lima will fill the chair for the South America representant on the GWP Steering Committee, which was vacated when Pablo Bereciartua was appointed Chair of GWP as of July 1 <sup>st</sup> 2022. Mr. Werneck Lima will complete Mr. Bereciartua’s term on the GWP Steering Committee and hold his seat until the day before the December 2023 Steering Committee meeting. Mr. Werneck Lima will take up his position on the GWP Steering Committee with immediate effect.	9 <sup>th</sup> December 2022

**3. Update on GWPO Secretariat Management**

The Interim Executive Secretary Ms. Elena Trovesi made a presentation on GWPO management, together with Ralph Philip (Interim COO in 2022 and Tendai Gandanzara, interim CFO) and GWP Strategy 2020 - 2025: Update on delivery progress and plans.

**GWP Strategy 2020-2025 – Some highlights to date**

*The High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa*

Panel Leadership

Panel Leadership

- J. Mainga Baki  
Minister of the Republic of Tanzania
- J. E. Werneck Lima  
Minister of the Republic of Tanzania
- J. E. Werneck Lima  
Minister of the Republic of Tanzania
- J. E. Werneck Lima  
Minister of the Republic of Tanzania



*The GWP Water Changemakers Awards*

1. Presidential Global Changemaker Award
2. Innovation Changemaker Award
3. Youth Changemaker Award

Anchor Areas: Climate resilience



- Support to almost 30 countries to successfully access climate finance to develop National Adaptation Plans and integrated flood and drought management policies and measures
- Portfolio of Green Climate Fund (GCF) projects worth almost €6m with a substantial pipeline under development
- Portfolio of projects in LAC, Africa, and Asia with the NDC Partnership to strengthen and implement countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) related to climate adaptation

Ralph Philip  
Interim COO in 2022  
Senior Specialist, Programme Management & Network Support

Anchor Areas: Water solutions for the SDGs



- Supporting 60+ countries in 2023 to monitor SDG indicator 6.5.1 on the degree of IWRM implementation
- Exploring the 'Value of Water' through regional engagement processes and a study on the economic contribution of water to the national economy in Tanzania
- Facilitation of the development of Water Investment Programmes in several Southern African countries with high-level political ownership

Anchor Areas: Transboundary Water Cooperation

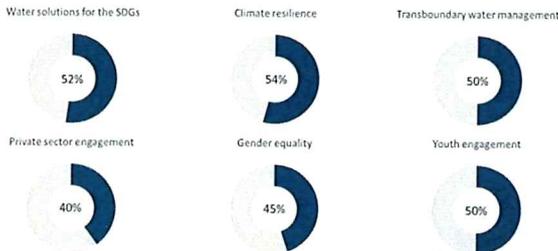


- Portfolio of Global Environment Facility (GEF) International Waters projects covering 6 transboundary river basins in Africa and southeast Europe
- Support to more than 15 transboundary water management institutions across the globe
- Ongoing support to new transboundary arrangements, commitments and agreements in river basins such as the Volta, the Limpopo, and the Danube

Across the Strategy Anchor Areas

- **Gender:** Ongoing programme (WACDEP-G) targeting climate resilient water investments that advance gender equality in Africa
- **Youth:** Launch of a *Youth Changemaker Award* for young professionals as part of the wider GWP Water Changemakers Awards 2023
- **Private Sector:** Establishment of the GWP Innovation Agenda which includes engagement with private investors

Progress towards Strategy targets (% achieved) – Mid-term assessment by theme



**4. Information and Approval of GWP Reports**

**4.1: GWP Annual Activity and Financial Reports 2022**

The GWP Interim Executive Secretary, Ms. Elena Trovesi, and Ralph Philip presented an overview of GWP's most significant activities and impact made during last year:

Link to the on-line 2022 Annual Report: <https://www.gwp.org/annualreport2022/>

**Key Results 2022**



Ralph Philip encouraged all Sponsoring Partners to have a look at GWP's Progress Review <https://sway.office.com/4W3iYZ8dHuRugjqB?ref=email> where further information about GWP's results can be easily accessible.

Mr. Tendai Gandanzara, Interim Chief Financial Officer, presented the Annual Financial Report for 2022.

**GWP Financial Report 2022**



The Interim Executive Secretary, Ms. Elena Trovesi made a presentation on current GWP Secretariat Management Challenges.

## GWP Secretariat Management: Challenges

• Governance reform

Main recommendations:

- Regularizing the status of the Financing Partners Group
- Establish the Nomination Committee as a subcommittee of the SC
- Create a General Assembly -> Review functions and powers of the Network Meeting and the Meeting of the SP
- Network Partners tasks and responsibilities
- HR Policy review

! Any Governance reform that requires amendment to the Statutes would also require approval from all SP

## GWP Secretariat Management: Challenges

• Governance reform

- Ex officio: voting rights to GWP Chair, Tech Chair, the Chair of Chairs, no voting rights for the ES and the UN Water representative

- Nomination Committee members: from 5 to 7 members
- Relation between Financing Partners Group and Steering Committee
- Policies need to be aligned and consistent

Policies	Status
Administrative Instruction (AI)	✓
Anti-Fraud and Corruption	✓
Code of Conduct policy	by end 2023
Grievance Dispute Resolution Procedure	final consultation
Investigation Policy	✓ included in AI Stand-alone by end 2023
Performance Management Policy	Guideline – on trial
Salary Policy	to review
Staff Association Statutes	✓
Staff Rules and Regulations (SRA)	in progress

## GWP Secretariat Management: Challenges

• Governance reform

- Ex officio: voting rights to GWP Chair, Tech Chair, the Chair of Chairs, no voting rights for the ES and the UN Water representative

- Nomination Committee members: from 5 to 7 members
- Relation between Financing Partners Group and Steering Committee
- Policies need to be aligned and consistent
- On-going Spot Audit

- HR: contract duration, remuneration, onboarding – cultural change – improving work environment
- Centralized services to better support the regions, e.g. HR and Legal
- Decentralize roles to the regions

- Financial challenges
- Financial gap 2023 – 2025
- Liquidity

The Chair of the Sponsoring Partners expressed that the issue of the working environment, primarily at the Secretariat, has been of knowledge for quite some time and extensively discussed together with colleagues at the Secretariat. The Chair said that he is deeply worried about the situation which seems to, at times, spiraling out of control.

Maria vanBerlekom from Sida mentioned that their current funding agreement constitutes about 50% of the total core support. The present support agreement started 2022 and already then a number of concerns and questions in relation to the made efficiency audits and other audits were raised.

Due to these concerns, it was decided that this year, GWP would be one of the organizations where Sida would do a spot audit. The spot audit received, confirmed and aggravated the previous concerns when Sida entered into the core support agreement and made Sida come to a tipping point where the legal department was seriously questioning the continuation of the agreement.

The Interim Executive Secretary mentioned that the spot audit had just been received and a management response was being prepared. It would be ready during the coming week. GWPO has an internal process as well as a formal process in place so any conflict or any type of claim allegation could be brought to the attention of the Ombudsperson within the internal process. The internal process means that we have access to an external ombudsperson who can mediate and facilitate a dialogue to find an informal solution to the conflict. The formal process involves an external judge and is a legal procedure.

The Chair of the Sponsoring Partners emphasised the importance of taken to the protocol explicitly, the concerns expressed by some Sponsoring Partners and the suggestion make by Mr. Maarten Gischler from the Netherlands to look for external support that actually has a mandate. The format of that kind of support would still need to be discussed and explored further, but it is an interesting idea that is worth exploring given the time frame in relation to the recruitment of a new Executive Secretary.

The Chair of the Steering Committee mentioned that GWP is undergoing a transitioning period and that is a challenge both for the Interim Executive Secretary and the Chair himself who have only been in their respective roles for a very short time. Very important to note is that both the Chair and the Interim Executive Secretary have been working a lot both in trying to understand the situation as well as putting together efforts for solving the issues. One of the priorities is, of course, to identify the new Executive Secretary. This is an action we take very seriously and the profile for the position has been exactly identified. We believe that the recruitment process will be successful because of the list of potential candidates we are working with, candidates with high capacities and with abilities to tackle challenges we need to solve.

The GWP Chair also emphasized that the whole Steering Committee has been very much involved and engaged in trying to solve parts of the ongoing challenges. One part of our efforts is to try to be as open as possible in order to inform about the challenges we are facing and also to receiving your inputs. There are some legal boundaries we have to be aware of. Issues we need to solve are significant, but they are not many in some regards, given this is a small team. It is unfortunate that unprofessional behaviors are compromising the organization. We believe that this is something that is going to be solved in the next few months. I want to say that we fully appreciate the Interim Executive Secretary and the team that is helping her because they are really doing a lot of work in a very challenging situation.

***Action: The Eexecutive Secretary will separately follow up regarding voting rights of the Ex-officio SC Members***

***Action: Search for External Support regarding GWPO environment issues and staff relations***

***Decision: The GWP Annual Activity Report 2022 and the GWP Annual Financial Report 2022 of the Steering Committee to the Sponsoring Partners were received and approved by the Sponsoring Partners.***

#### **4.2: GWP Audit Report 2022**

The Chief Financial Officer noted that GWPO, yet again, had received an unqualified Audit Report and Management Letter.

***The GWP Audit Report and Management Letter 2022 were received and considered by the Sponsoring Partners.***

4.3: Discharge of liability of the Steering Committee Members and the Executive Secretary

**Decision: The recommendation of the GWP Auditors to discharge the GWP Steering Committee Members and the Executive Secretary of liability for 2022 was approved by the Sponsoring Partners.**

5. Approval of External Auditors

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- Ernst & Young
  - Procurement as open tender and on invitation
  - The tender was published twice. On 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and again on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022
  - Completed bids from :
    - 1. Ernst & Young
    - 2. KPMG
    - 3. PwC

Action: approval by the Sponsoring Partners

**Decision: The Sponsoring Partners approved Ernst & Young as new External Auditor.**

6. GWP Chair Annual Update

The GWP Chair, Mr. Pablo Bereciartua made a presentation on the status of the search of the new ES.

GWP Future

➤ ES Recruitment

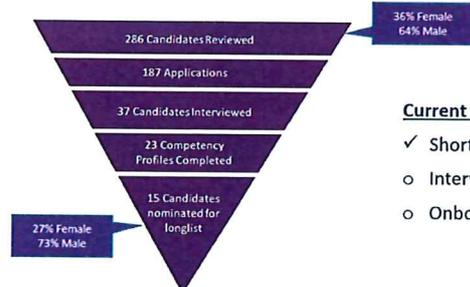
Ideal Candidate Profile

- People Manager with a global footprint
- Change Manager
- Donor Manager/Fundraiser
- Water Specialist
- Network management

SRI Executive Search Process



Key Search Challenge: Substantial Market Awareness of Challenges facing GWP Secretariat



Current status, goals

- ✓ Short list
- Interviews as of 10<sup>th</sup> July
- Onboarding Sept/Oct 2023

Pablo Bereciartua  
GWP Chair

## **GWP Future**

➤ Sponsoring Partners and/or Financing Partners

- Japan
- South Korea
- Singapore

**Action: Search Guidelines regarding addition of new Members to the Sponsoring Partners (potentially funding partners)**

**7. GWP Strategy 2020 – 2025: Update on delivery progress and plans ahead**  
*Merged into agenda item 3 and 4.*

**8. Update on nomination process for 7 new/reappointed Steering Committee members, for electronic approval by the Sponsoring Partners after the Summer**

### **8. Steering Committee members: nomination process**

- 7 new/reappointed Members
- 27 applications
  - NC meets on June 28<sup>th</sup>
  - The nomination will be presented to the SP electronically
  - The process is followed by the Legal & Governance Counsel

**Action: electronic approval by the Sponsoring Partners after the Summer 2023**

**Action: approval by the Sponsoring Partners**

**Decision: The Sponsoring Partners approved the process**

### **8.1 Proposal for FPG representation on the Steering Committee to move from appointed seat (voting rights) to permanent observer seat (no voting rights)**

#### **8.1 FPG request to become permanent observer**

Proposal for FPG representation on the Steering Committee to move from appointed seat (voting rights) to permanent observer seat (no voting rights)

Action: approval by the Sponsoring Partners

**Decision: The Sponsoring Partners approved the move of the FPG representation on the GWP Steering Committee from an appointed seat to a permanent observer seat (no voting rights).**

### **9. Any other business, date for SP meeting 2024 and Summary of discussions and decisions:**

No further items for discussion were brought forward.

The GWPO Secretariat will come back to the Sponsoring Partners with a date for the June 2024 meeting well in time.

#### **Summary of discussions and decisions:**

1. The meeting Agenda was approved with modifications proposed, merging items 3, 4 and 7.
2. According to the procedure of electronic approval of the SP Minutes on a no objection basis after each meeting, the Minutes from the 21st Annual SP Meeting had been approved as of 16 September, 2022.
3. Two decisions had been taken electronically by the Sponsoring Partners since the last SP meeting (see document provided to the Sponsoring Partners as part of the meeting documentation, as well as listed in these Minutes under Agenda item 2.1).
4. Decision: The GWP Annual Activity Report 2022 and the GWP Annual Financial Report 2022 of the Steering Committee to the Sponsoring Partners were received and approved.
5. The GWP Audit Report and Management Letter 2022 were received and considered.
6. Decision: The recommendation of the GWP Auditors to discharge the GWP Steering Committee Members and the Executive Secretary of liability for 2022 was approved.
7. Decision: The Sponsoring Partners approved the new External Auditor Ernst & Young.

#### **Meeting closure:**

The Chair of the Sponsoring Partners thanked everyone for a very constructive and fruitful meeting and thereafter closed the meeting.



Tobias Axerup

Chair of the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners