

# Managing Africa's Water Resources

## GWP support to IWRM planning: What have we learned?

### Key elements of planning

The 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development called for all countries to prepare national IWRM and water efficiency plans by 2005. Subsequently, many countries and donors turned to GWP for help in facilitating these planning processes. Experience gained through GWP's support to countries in Africa is distilled into the following lessons for those driving IWRM strategy and planning processes:

#### Political support at national level is critical

- Gaining political support can be a long, slow process but ensuring the active participation of senior government officials can prove decisive.
- Bringing on board non traditional stakeholders, such as ministries of finance and planning, early on in the process is important for funding implementation of the plans.
- Global trends are difficult to translate into local facts. Dealing smartly with uncertainty and changing political environments is essential.

#### Stakeholder engagement needs pushing

- The benefits of inclusion need clear illustration if stakeholders are to fully participate.
- A continuous need for awareness raising and capacity building on better water resources management is required if the stakeholder base is to be widened.
- Consultation raises stakeholders' expectations: if no action is derived from it fatigue sets in.

#### Roadmaps need building

- Based on an analysis of the national status of water management, an agreed roadmap for the planning process - defining roles of the those involved and the key steps - is needed.
- Realistic planning and indicators need to be included and well defined from the beginning.
- Identification of immediate and longer-term actions helps sets priorities and keeps the plan realistic.
- Tying activities in with on-going programmes is important but impacts on timelines.
- Once prepared, the country water partnership and lead ministry need pass the plan on to a higher political body for adoption by cabinet.
- By lobbying Cabinet, a 'champion' within government can speed up the adoption and implementation of the plan.

#### The multi-stakeholder water partnerships play a central role

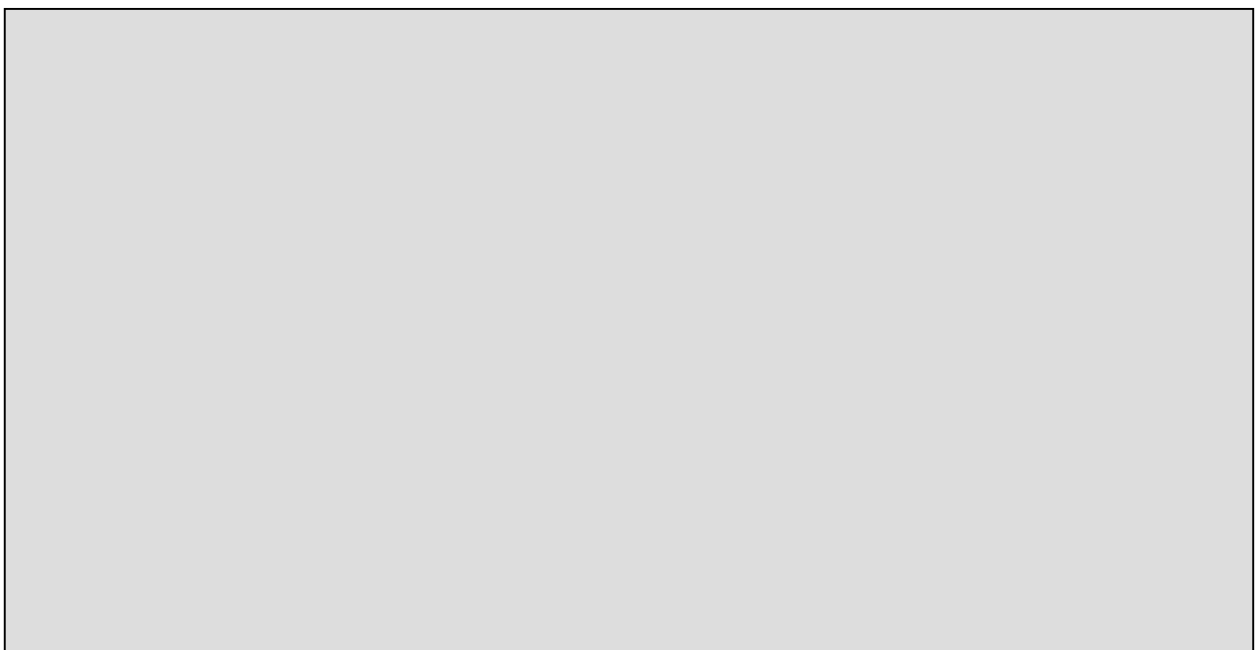
- GWP Country Water Partnerships (CWPs) need to interact closely with government - setting an appropriate structures and processes, and understanding how officials work - if they are to be effective.
- Effectiveness in facilitating and supporting the planning process is increased if CWP member skills in these areas are enhanced.
- 'Champions' strengthen the multi-stakeholder platform by creating a common understanding of the purpose of and approach to IWRM planning.



## Activities supporting the planning processes

GWP's support for IWRM planning in Africa rests on a foundation of awareness and political will that has been generated over the past ten years. Activities in Africa are aligned with many ongoing initiatives and are supported by the building blocks:

- *Awareness:* Raised awareness of IWRM among government officials and politicians has resulted in greater participation of directors and permanent secretaries of planning and finance in water-related ministries, increasing their sense of ownership.
- *Participation:* The country water partnership (CWP) approach has proven its effectiveness in bringing different actors together to discuss tough issues and agree on the way forward.
- *Capacity:* Capacity building initiatives are continually being adapted to address the changing demands of the different IWRM planning and implementation stages.
- *Information sharing:* IWRM planning is a new experience for many nations - GWP is helping project teams compile local experience across countries and regions.
- *Financing the plans:* Development of funding strategies by ministries of finance and planning, and resource allocation through national budgeting exercises, are already underway in Kenya, Mali, Malawi and Zambia.
- *Integration and coordination:* Decision making processes involves various stakeholders at the appropriate level. Policies established by ministries of forestry, energy, water and others need coherency among them if water management is to be improved.



## Regional contributions

As recognized leaders in integrated water resources management, the regional water partnerships' work with regional political bodies has led to good cooperation on water management between countries. A good understanding of the political processes taking place in the regions has built up, allowing the regional partnerships to leverage political support for the IWRM planning processes at national level.

- The Regional Water Policy released at the end of 2006 by the SADC Water Division was developed through a consultative and participatory process supported by GWP Southern Africa. The Policy guides national water policy and implementation in the region, including the national IWRM planning processes.
- GWP West Africa signed an MOU with ECOWAS in early 2007, formalizing existing work of providing technical support to the Water Resources Coordination Unit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) - the political body with overall responsibility for implementing the regional IWRM action plan.
- In a meeting supported by GWP Eastern Africa, Ministers responsible for water from Kenya, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda signed an Accord in Nairobi in April 2007. The Nairobi Accord provides a guide for financing for water in the Horn of Africa.
- The key recommendations of the Nairobi Accord were presented to the Africa Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) in June 2007 and adopted for action in the Brazzaville Declaration.
- Supported by GWP Central Africa TAC and others, a meeting in 2006 of the Central African Water Ministers adopted a ministerial declaration on IWRM, setting the stage for the elaboration of a water policy for Central Africa and recommending the creation of a coordinating unit for water resources management within the headquarters of Economic Community for Central African States ECCAS.

## Facilitating national IWRM planning

The country water partnerships play a critical role in supporting the broad stakeholder participation involved in the IWRM planning processes. Awareness raising, capacity building, exchange of knowledge and experience are key elements that support the planning processes.

### *Embedding water in national development strategies and plans*

- In Zambia, the IWRM plan was incorporated into the Fifth National Development Plan in early 2007.
- The 2006 national IWRM and water efficiency plan helped Benin's policymakers revise the country's Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy to take into account the role of water in development.
- The IWRM plan was integrated into Malawi's Growth and Development Strategy in 2007.
- In Mali, the IWRM plan has been integrated into the country's second poverty reduction strategy process (PRSP),
- Work is underway in Eritrea to streamline the IWRM plan with other national development processes.
- In Kenya, work is progressing on mainstreaming the IWRM plans into national poverty reduction strategy processes.

### *Capacity building*

- The regional water partnerships are identified as key instruments for articulating the demand for capacity building on IWRM at the national level.
- Continued collaboration with the International Network for Capacity Building on IWRM (Cap-Net) has resulted in the implementation of three regional capacity building plans in East, Southern and West/Central Africa
- GWP and Cap-Net are working to link capacity building efforts in Mozambique with those in Cape Verde and other Portuguese-speaking countries.
- Capacity building activities work well in Eritrea, where stakeholders are keen to share knowledge gained from activities undertaken in other countries.
- Ethiopia Capacity building activities include a training course in IWRM planning at catchment level and regional training of trainers courses on conflict management and negotiation skills.
- Through GWP country water partnerships, Cape Verde is linking with other West African countries to make the most of joint training courses, sharing experience and participating in exchange visits to other countries in the region.

### *Progress continues across the continent, for example...*

- In Senegal, the Minister of Land, Water and Environment has encouraged the IWRM planning team to employ a consultative process and to re-draft the current water policy and code to take account of issues of water allocation and customary laws.
- The Swaziland Prime Minister launched the national IWRM process in 2006.
- A first draft of Senegal's national IWRM plan will be discussed in a workshop at national level in September 2007.
- The Ethiopia Water Partnership is providing a forum for discussion of key water resources management issues, initiating a national dialogue and establishing a working group to address problems in the central rift valley lakes watershed, one of the country's most environmentally degraded areas.
- Mali's IWRM plan will shortly be submitted to the Minister of Mines, Energy and Water who will present it to Cabinet for adoption.
- In Cameroon, the government established the IWRM Unit inside the Ministry in charge of water and allocated the financial resources for the IWRM planning process.

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#### **Support for IWRM in Africa**

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