



Global Water Partnership

Briefs for GWP Network in the 2nd Africa Water Week

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Technical Sessions

Trans-boundary water resources management

Financing water

Civil society demands action

Closing the sanitation gap: Sector wide approach to planning (SWAp)

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GWP guides financing and WRM



GWP's Martin Walshe presented ideas on financing and water resources development in the context of having a Framework For Action

The meeting discussed financing water resources management and governance in Africa borrowing from the Camdessus Panel, 2003 and the subsequent adoption of its recommendation in the G8 Water Action Plan. It was clear that what needs to be reinforced is furthering political support, developing a political framework and raising awareness of different financing mechanisms for water.

GWP's Martin Walshe presented ideas on financing and water resources development in the context of having a Framework For Action (FFA). He emphasized the need for a strong link between water financing and governance and the need for making the right decision on investment and ensuring financial sustainability.

In addition, experiences of financing water resources management programmes in Africa were discussed. The topical issue was the demand for water resources management funding expressed to the African Water Facility for development of national and trans-boundary water resources management plans.

Among other issues discussed in the session were African experiences in public private partnerships and the scaling up financing of water supply and services to meet MDGs using market resources.

Trans-boundary? Yes

The meeting has discussed governance in managing shared water resources in Africa specifically looking at how to address challenges, achievements, lessons and prospects. Effective water governance is demonstrating its value as a critical link that will ensure sustainability of the benefits and development of Africa's shared resources. The facets of water governance, however, have been further developed to maximize the gains and therefore sharing Africa's water resources with unexplored dimension is a recipe for success.

The use of water in international river basins in Southern Africa for example is close to its economically utilizable potential. With increasing requirements for additional water as riparian states develop, there is need for inter-country negotiations and cooperation to



GWP representatives in one of the sessions

allay the possibility of disputes and conflicts.

In the Nile Basin, issues of benefit sharing with non-state actors to create supportive environments for trans-boundary cooperation are being seen as a mechanism for cooperation. However, government negotiations have been slow at reaching critical agreements. In the case of the Nile, a cooperative framework is not yet in place but it is intended to guarantee commitment of government to sharing benefits. There is need to guard against compromising the explicit commitment to stakeholder involvement by encouraging comprehensive decision making.

Talking about benefits, it is necessary to point to the investment potential, opportunities and challenges in trans-boundary water resources. The potentials are elements of economics that are capable of stimulating development. The opportunities entail leveraging public and public-private-partnerships

“Translating commitments into action—sprint to the finish” - Theme of the Second Africa Water Week Theme”

Civil society demands action

Parallel to the 2nd Africa Water Week, members of civil society met for a consultation hosted by the African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEWS), to review progress made and identify immediate call for action during the 2nd African Water Week. During this meeting, many commitments were made.

As a civil society, participants engage themselves to continue to create opportunities for citizen engagement to influence policies, practices and programme; continue to seek innovation, and demonstrate best practices, working alongside communities, governments, international agencies and the private sector to ensure all water and sanitation targets are met; monitor progress on implementation of programmes on commitments and achieving the MDG’s on water and sanitation; support the global framework for action donors, governments, civil society and communities to address the water and sanitation crisis; continue to lobby the African governments and donors for extraordinary action to

meet the MDG targets on water and sanitation; continue to mobilise and empower communities to achieve recognition of their rights to water and sanitation. Members of civil society also recognized that their partnership with donors and governments is critical for achieving substantial, equitable and sustainable growth in access to safe sanitation and hygiene services, and to ensure sound and sustainable management of Africa’s water.

The CSOs came up with recommendations to governments and donors in which they expressed the need for African civil society to participate at the global effort for the achievement of the MDG’s through the water sector. They recommended the amelioration on financing water and sanitation infrastructure, closing the sanitation gap, addressing climate change adaptations and managing Africa’s trans-boundary waters.

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“In pictures, GWP at the Second Africa Water Week”

Closing the sanitation gap

The main areas of discussion in the sanitation break away session was on experiences from experiences arising from the sector wide approaches (SWAPs). SWAPs have provided for a mechanism where significant sector investments are channelled towards the same objectives, following a consistent strategy that is guided by a consolidated investment plan. The existence of a robust national frame work for the sector and the reflexion of the same in a national development plan are the main prerequisites for the adoption of SWAPs in Africa.

It further enhances the possibility of the government to ensure uniform practices and reduces the administrative burden of dealing with a number of donors applying different policies and administrative practice in particular in relation to financial management.

Funding modalities under SWAp may range from budget support to basket funding delivered as sector or programme earmarked support. It also includes the possibility of funding activities through NGO's and private sectors, but under modalities where the recipient government is maintaining access to information on disbursement and some control over donor are being utilised.



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