

## **Statement by Dr. Ania Grobicki, Global Water Partnership Executive Secretary, at the Pre-Launch Press Briefing of the GWP *Water Security for Development* report**

Today, the Global Water Partnership, in collaboration with AMCOW will launch the report: *Water Security for Development: Insights from African Partnerships in Action*.

This report draws on the experience that the Global Water Partnership (GWP) gained through a five year Programme of facilitating planning processes for integrated water resources management (IWRM) in 13 countries spread over four regions of sub-Saharan Africa.

The programme supported the establishment of National IWRM Frameworks , institutional development of water partnerships, integration of water in national development plans and poverty reduction strategies (PRSPs), and increased understanding and access to a broad range of financing instruments. The programme has resulted in significant achievements and ground breaking outcomes in the target countries.

We believe the programme presents a number of few “firsts”:

- it is the first time that such a locally driven and managed participatory approach has been used to prepare national water management plans
- it is the first time that different sectors have come together to discuss and identify solutions to their water challenges
- it is the first time in most of the target countries that water management has been given political priority by integrating it into national development plans poverty reduction strategies, with funding from national budgets.

Each participating country has developed an enhanced enabling environment for implementing IWRM. National IWRM plans have been developed in Cape Verde, Eritrea, Benin and Swaziland while a draft IWRM strategy has been developed in Cameroon. In Mozambique, strategic options for development of an IWRM plan have been developed. The Programme also helped in developing enabling regulations, policies and legislation to improve water governance and enhance the potential for success in implementation of the IWRM plans.

In addition, significant outcomes have been realised while integrating IWRM in National Development Plans and PRSPs resulting in additional allocation and funding from national budgets. For instance, IWRM has been integrated into national development plans and poverty reduction strategies in Benin, while in Swaziland, the draft IWRM plan is linked to the country’s National Development Strategy and the PRSP. Benin has drafted improved water legislation and a new water bill now awaits approval by Parliament. Cape Verde has developed a new legal framework for the administration of water resources. Swaziland developed a new water policy which is currently in the process of adoption by government. In Eritrea, water quality guidelines to curb pollution of water resources and regulations for improving water-use were drafted.

The most concrete outcomes demonstrating Government commitment are that water financing has been increased, and additional financial resources have been mobilised from local and international sources.

Governments in Swaziland and Cameroon contributed additional financial resources to the programme.

The Cameroon Prime Minister, in his address to parliament on 18 November 2009, during the parliament session on the budget, stated that the government will adopt an IWRM approach in addressing the problems of the water sector in Cameroon. In addition, the government allocated additional funding to the IWRM planning programme: Euro 80,000 in 2009 and Euro 200,000 in 2010.

In 2008, the Government of Swaziland spent USD 270,000 from national treasury to the programme. In addition, water has been prioritized in Swaziland's budget for 2010. The government has forecasted about USD 37 million as budget towards the water sector for 2010-2011 fiscal year to improve access to water services.

An additional €1.6 million was secured from the Netherlands Embassy in Benin and additional sources from DANIDA and GTZ have been earmarked to support the development and implementation of the IWRM Plan.

Close to USD 1,000,000 was leveraged from other partners such as the African Development Bank, to support Namibia and Burundi in IWRM planning.

Leveraged funding from AfDB also helped with IWRM status survey for more than 26 countries in Africa and thus lay a strong foundation and an informed basis for these countries to better understand the water resources constraints and opportunities for improving water governance for development.

The programme also contributed to improvements in people's livelihoods by enhancing water security at a local level. Water was secured for the 200,000 inhabitants of Benin's third largest city. In Swaziland, more than 9,000 people gained access to clean water, through pilot demonstration activities that were undertaken in partnership with the government.

The report offers considerable insights into the factors that help planning processes succeed. These insights drawn from the water sector are equally applicable to development processes in other sectors – the lessons learned are development lessons. Perhaps the most important is that development processes which are owned and driven by the people themselves often take longer than planned, but produce more meaningful results.

While results differed in each country, in all of them progress was made in highlighting the importance at policy level of the contribution of water resources management to the development agenda. The GWP program gave rise to a multitude of lessons not just relevant to the water sector, but to all social change processes driving sustainable development for the benefit of people and their communities.

Water, which is central to development, food security and crucial for meeting the MDGs must be managed better. Stakeholder partnerships are foundational to advancing water security, confronting global challenges such as climate change, and accelerating progress towards internationally agreed goals such as the MDGs.

Through the experiences of the country water partnerships, nine elements were identified as essential in the facilitation of development processes, either within or beyond the water sector. The elements were grouped into four clusters related to:

As we approach the 'Rio+20' Earth Summit in 2012, GWP hopes that the international community will reflect on the wealth of experience and lessons presented in this report to reflect on the progress made towards the 2002 target for national IWRM plans.

Moving forward, the GWP plans to use the experience gained in the IWRM Programme to further advance the agenda on water security by supporting national governments' on three key actions:

- incorporating adaptation to climate change into development processes through better water management
- supporting institutional capacity development to help integrate water and climate change into development processes and strengthen economic resilience
- Addressing the financing needs of water resource management.

We invite you to the formal launch of the report this afternoon by AMCOW President the Hon. Buyelwa Sonjica at the High Level Ministerial Session in Room K11 at 1645.

Thank you.