

Implementing IWRM in Malaysia

Since GWP Malaysia's inception in 1997, the partnership has undertaken numerous integrated water resources management (IWRM) initiatives at national as well as regional level.

Of particular importance, GWP Malaysia contributed toward IWRM skills training by initiating the Masters of Environmental Science in IWRM at the Open University.

The other achievement is enhancing the capacity in IWRM of environmental and social NGOs. An "IWRM Dialogue with Malaysian Environmental NGOs" (MENGO) programme was conducted and a training module developed to build NGO capacity. The funding for this programme came from GWP and supplemented by funds from CapNet in 2007. The formation of MyToolbox in 2001 has also supported training and promoted the application of IWRM.

Today, significant progress in IWRM has been made and GWP Malaysia has contributed both directly and indirectly to these development:

- Water laws are being streamlined and refined. Positive reform of existing legislation relevant to water resources and water services management has taken place, for example, the Water Services Industry Act and National Water Services Commission Act that came into effect in 2006. Several states such as Selangor, Sabah and Sarawak have created their own legislation.
- At the national level: recognition by the government of the importance of IWRM in sustaining freshwater resources and ecosystems, and specific policy statements included in the 9th Malaysia Plan (2005 – 2010) pertaining to the country's commitment towards management of water resources in an integrated manner.
- Adoption of the river basin as the unit of planning to complement traditional spatial planning.
- Administrative reforms at the federal as well as state level to better address fragmentation, overlap and gaps

among the many departments dealing with water through the setting up of two separate Ministries: the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water. The former is in charge of water as a natural resource and its river basins, while the latter is in charge of water services. This demarcation has largely reduced fragmentation as far as water is concerned.



Workshop Session for DID Top Management and Senior Engineers

A Water Secure World

The Global Water Partnership is an intergovernmental organisation with a worldwide network of 13 Regional Water Partnerships, 73 Country Water Partnerships and more than 2,000 Partner organisations in 150 countries. The GWP network is committed to building a water secure world.

Selection of key IWRM initiatives undertaken by GWP Malaysia

June 1999	National consultation on water sector mapping and visioning – Contributed to the identification of gaps and needs for strategic assistance in IWRM and the formulation of the National Water Vision
December 1999	National consultation on four main sectoral visions – Deliberation made on the draft visions of the four main water sectors, i.e., water for people, water for food and rural development, water and nature, and water in rivers
February 2000	National consultation "From Vision to Action" – Formulation of the framework for action to realise the Vision
February 2000	National consultation on gender analysis in the water sector – Deliberation made on gender disparities in access and control of water, and women's contribution
May 2000	National consultation towards realising the National Water Vision – Organised in collaboration with ESCAP and FAO to refine the national water vision, and formulate action plan on strategic / priority issues in the Malaysian context
November 2000	National Conference on Sustainable River Basin Management – In conjunction with the conference, a special session was held among political leaders from the State Legislature regarding the adoption of IRBM and IWRM principles
July 2003	Workshop on Strategic Planning and Management of Water Resources
October 2003	National Dialogue on Effective Water Governance
June 2004	National Dialogue on Water for Food and Environment
February 2005	National Dialogue on Water Financing
July 2005	IWRM Training Course for Senior Executives in the Public Service Training Workshop of Wetlands Conservation and Wise Use for DID personnel IWRM awareness seminar for civil society (particularly women) in Kedah State
October 2007	Dialogue on Gender and IWRM
October 2007	Dialogue on IWRM Agenda in the 9th Malaysia Plan: Walking the Talk
June – Nov 2007	IWRM Dialogue with Malaysian NGOs
Sept 2007 –Sept 2008	"MyIWRM, What Can I do? Developing Capacity for Practical Implementation of IWRM in Malaysia"
November 2008	"Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change Impact on Water Resources"
August 2009	DID Malaysia and MyWP organized a "Workshop/Seminar on Integrated Flood Management (IFM) in Malaysia". The event was co-organised with WMO, UNDP CapNet and Aguajaring. DID top management officers agreed to adopt specific IFM guidelines to review existing and develop new flood management policies.
November 2009	Training Workshop on IWRM in River Basin
2002–2009	Annual national training workshop to introduce GWP ToolBox and train Malaysians in developing IWRM case studies. Participation of Malaysians in ToolBox Training of Trainers workshops organised by GWP SEA in the various member countries.