



Moving Ideas into Action

An Overview of GWP 2004–2007



“Supporting countries in the sustainable management of their water resources”

Supporting countries with the development of their national Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) planning initiatives – as called for in the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) – has been the major focus of the work of the Global Water Partnership (GWP) over the last three years. As a leading organisation on integrated approaches towards improved water resources management, GWP has focused on responding to numerous

requests from countries for help with meeting the target. And GWP has been at the forefront of reporting on the progress made by countries to meet the WSSD target as its informal surveys in 2003 and 2005 illustrate (see box).

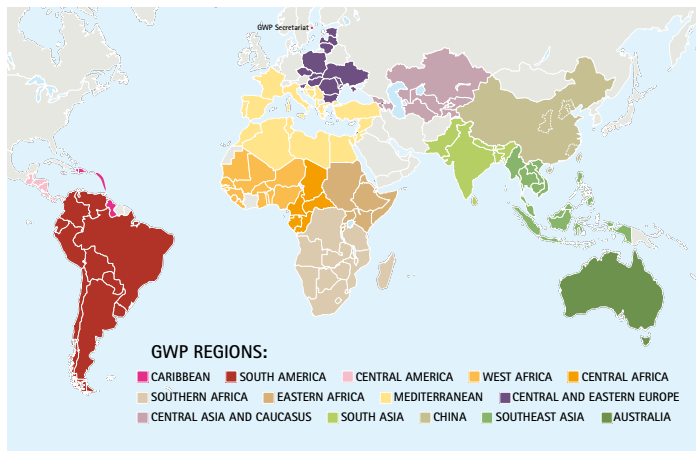
INFORMAL SURVEYS BY GWP ON PROGRESS MADE BY COUNTRIES TOWARDS DEVELOPING NATIONAL IWRM PLANS

	2003	2005
Plans in place/ substantial progress made	13%	21%
Progress being made	47%	53%
Initial steps taken	40%	26%
Number of countries surveyed	108	95

The key outcomes of GWP's work are apparent in many areas – the volume of discussion on the IWRM approach today compared with a few years ago demonstrates wide acceptance in general with this approach.

Work with international development processes, including the Millennium Development Goals Task Force and the UN-Water and the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) for instance, has resulted in mainstreaming the concept of IWRM approaches within these systems. In turn this has resulted in the adoption of an official UN survey on IWRM to be presented at CSD-16 in March 2008, and in getting the issues of financing for water and water governance high on the political agenda of many countries.

GWP outreach is extensive. This flyer provides just a glimpse of the outcomes carried out by the Network: a Network that covers 64 countries in 13 regions with collaboration with over 35 international and donor organisations and over 1900 local partner organisations.



The five outputs

With its mission focused on supporting countries in the sustainable development of their water resources, GWP's strategic framework for 2004–2008 addresses five key outputs:

- Output 1 ■ IWRM water policy and strategies development facilitated at relevant levels.
- Output 2 ■ IWRM programmes and tools developed in response to regional and country needs.
- Output 3 ■ Linkages between GWP and other frameworks, sectors and issues ensured.
- Output 4 ■ GWP partnerships established and consolidated at relevant levels.
- Output 5 ■ GWP network effectively developed and managed.

GWP ALIGNED ITS 2004–2008 STRATEGY WITHIN EXISTING DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS

Global goals and targets

Millennium Development Goals, World Summit for Sustainable Development targets

Regional objectives

Trans-boundary basin initiatives, AMCOW, SADC, ECOWAS

National objectives

Integrated Water Resources Management Plans, Poverty Reduction Strategy Plans, Natural Resources Plans, National Economic Plans

Global Water Partnership strategy 2004–2008

Apply integrated water resources management in a growing number of countries and regions, as a means to foster equitable and efficient management and sustainable use of water.

Regional and country processes

Develop policies and plans
Implement policies and plans
Impact on the ground

1. Water policy and strategy

Key outcomes

- A dramatic shift at the global level towards a focus on integrated water resources management approaches.
- Huge strides towards meeting the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development targets for national water plans at regional and country levels.
- Considerable success in many countries in bringing together different sectors and stakeholders on water issues.

The Global Water Partnership is a strategic partner in various national and regional institutions initiatives and facilitates multi-stakeholder processes to promote for transformation of water policies and strategies for more equitable, economically and environmentally sustainable water resources management. This has resulted in several key outcomes:

Promoting integrated water resources management at the global level

- GWP has influenced discussions at the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) meetings through two key publications: the Technical Committee's Background Paper on "IWRM and Water Efficiency Plans" and "Catalyzing change: A handbook for developing integrated water resources management (IWRM) and water efficiency plans".
- Several GWP representatives and partners are members of high level task forces including the UN Millennium Development Goals Task Force and the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation. GWP is an observer on the UN Water and the UN Economic and Social Council.

Developing regional policy and strategy

- GWP partnerships are catalysts in promoting better water management through regional bodies including the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).
- Forums organized by GWP Central America for ministers of agriculture and environment have resulted in the development of a regional water strategy based on the Central American Plan of Action (PACADIRH).
- GWP Central Asia and Caucasus promotes regional cooperation over transboundary issues, and has successfully raised water resource issues high on the region's political agenda.



Towards national water plans

- GWP facilitated the development of IWRM plans in 15 countries: 12 countries in Africa and in El Salvador, Indonesia and Kazakhstan.
- GWP successfully enabled the inclusion of the national IWRM plans into National Development Plans and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers in several of these countries.
- National dialogues were initiated by GWP in over 42 countries worldwide on water governance, water financing and institutional strengthening.

2. Knowledge and tools for action

Key outcomes

- Better tools and new guides available on Global Water Partnership websites and on CD-ROM.
- Translated material gave a wider range of stakeholders access to integrated water resources management information.
- Capacity for integrated water resources management has grown, boosted by tools, guides, workshops and publications.

Integrated water resources management is now a widely accepted approach towards equitable, economically and environmentally sustainable water resources management. Much progress has been made but much more needs to be done; putting the nuts and bolts of water resources management together in communities, countries and regions remains a huge challenge. GWP has contributed in several key areas:

Intellectual resources

- The GWP Technical Committee (TEC) continues to publish information in its “Background Papers” series, providing a sound basis for different elements of an integrated approach to water resources management. The most recent paper focused on urban water and sanitation and IWRM approaches. Many local language versions have been published.
- GWP Technical Committee’s Policy and Technical Briefs, designed to support countries in their efforts to prepare IWRM and water efficiency strategies and plans, have been published in several languages.
- The IWRM ToolBox, an internet based compendium of good practice and case studies on IWRM, is widely used by academic institutions in their higher degree courses; in training the trainers of water resources management at national level in countries ranging from Central America through Central Asia and Caucasus to Southeast Asia; and by local adaptation of the product to suit local requirements such as the creation of “MyToolBox” in Malaysia.



Capacity building and water financing

- GWP Central and Eastern Europe developed a comprehensive set of material on capacity building based on the IWRM ToolBox.
- GWP has worked with the Capacity Building Network, Cap-Net, to produce several products supporting capacity building on IWRM and compiled an electronic library on water resources management.
- In conjunction with the World Water Council GWP established the World Panel on Financing Water Infrastructure. The Panel's report, *Financing Water for All*, presented at the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto in March 2003, proved to be highly influential. The World Bank and several regional banks for example, adopted many of the recommendations made in the report.
- During 2004–2006, the WWC and GWP followed-up activities on several levels including the creation of a second Task Force on *Financing Water for All*. This work highlighted the problem of weak demand for financing by exploring tariff structures, regulation, local capacity and access to various financing options for local governments and service providers.
- In 2005, GWP supported three workshops in India, South Africa and Egypt on financing water for agriculture. The outcomes from these workshops were included in the Task Force report and have contributed to the development of a major programme on financing water by the OECD.

3. Links to other frameworks, sectors and issues

Key outcomes

- Clear linkages to the water sector articulated and integrated within major global programmes and frameworks (e.g., in environment, finance, human rights approach, policy).
- Principles of IWRM integrated into major on-going programmes dealing with water uses (e.g., agriculture, river basin management).
- Alliances with strategic partners at the global, regional and country levels forged and nurtured.
- Knowledge generated by strategic partners used by the GWP network, and vice-versa.

The success of GWP depends on strong alliances, partnerships and collaboration among its partners. The links forged within the GWP are channels for sharing information, raising awareness and capacity building that are changing the way the world sees – and uses – its limited water resources.

Alliances with UN and other agencies

- GWP has been closely involved with the EU Water Initiative (EUWI) since its creation in 2002. GWP serves on the IWRM and Finance Working Groups and, since 2003, hosts the latter at the Secretariat in Stockholm. Also, the EUWI-Med is hosted by GWP. This has led to support from the EUWI for water financing workshops in East Africa and West Africa during 2007 and Central Asia and Caucasus in early 2008.
- A link was established with the World Economic Forum (WEF) in October 2006 with GWP providing input into a WEF process to raise water issues with business.
- GWP regional water partnerships have worked with UNEP in numerous countries on their “2015 Roadmapping” project. This complimented the work on the preparation of national IWRM plans by targeting countries that are not covered by GWP. The Roadmap project led to an international conference in Denmark in April 2007 to promote work on the IWRM target to 2015 and beyond.
- In 2005–2006 GWP supported World Water Council (WWC) with the preparation of the World Water Forum held in Mexico in March 2006. GWP acted as the ‘beacon’ for the IWRM day organizing events and coordinating the many sessions planned by other organizations. GWP was also the co-beacon with the WWC on the cross-cutting financing theme. The GWP TEC prepared the IWRM Theme document.



Partnering for knowledge sharing and support to regions and countries

- The Sri Lanka Water Partnership organized a Gender and Water Dialogue in July 2006 in collaboration with NetWater and Cap-Net. Similar programmes were undertaken in two provinces in 2005 where training of trainers course were conducted, one on linkages to health and sanitation programmes, and another on pollution mitigation and children's awareness of water issues.
- In Central and Eastern Europe, GWP's collaboration with The Associated Programme for Flood Management (APFM) – run under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) – aims to reduce the vulnerability of communities in the region to flash floods.
- The APFM served as a platform for a pilot project in Bangladesh, India and Nepal, which considered the means to formalise a community approach to flood management. The project enabled a number of communities to realise their own potential for dealing with floods using their own resources.
- As part of the development of IWRM plans, GWP worked with Cap-Net and the EUWI Finance Working Group to produce training material on the finance and economics of water.

4. Partnerships spanning sectors, regions and countries

Key outcomes

- New partnerships established in priority regions and countries.
- Existing partnerships strengthened and made more effective.
- GWP network more cohesive; conformity with key governance and policy requirements reinforced.
- Capacity built up; GWP network advanced its understanding of partnerships.
- GWP water partnerships have proven their effectiveness as mechanisms for promoting multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral dialogue at the regional, country and area level.

A key challenge is to ensure that the principles and practices of integrated water resource management are internalized within the fabric of national and regional programmes worldwide. GWP's global network of regional, country and area water partnerships are the main vehicles for promoting change in policy and practices within countries, and much of the network's activity is centred on building, developing and sustaining them.

The GWP partnership has been successful because it's partners, the people and organizations, have worked together and invested in it – they believe in IWRM and the contribution to sustainable development.

Consolidating the Regional Water Partnerships

- The Policy on Partners, approved in December 2004, and the Conditions for Accreditation approved in November 2005, provide a comprehensive basis for strengthening the governance systems of the partnerships, providing a clearer set of principles and values to apply across the network.
- In 2004 only four regions had transformed their partnerships into full multi-stakeholder regional water partnerships. By the end of 2007, 10 regional partnerships had been accredited. Three remain in transition.
- The number of institutional partners increased from 1100 at the beginning of 2005 to over 1900 by the end of 2007.



Expanding the country water partnerships

- As part of the strategy to establish strong partnerships a concerted effort was made to develop activities at country level where changes in behaviour make the most impact. At the end of 2003, 25 country water partnerships had been established; by the end of 2007 the total number of partnerships had reached over 60.
- A special networking meeting held in Stockholm in 2006 – in conjunction with the Consulting Partners meeting and the GWP 10th Anniversary – brought together representatives from existing and potential country water partnerships from over 100 countries. The meeting strengthened the cohesiveness of the network and brought the partnerships up to speed with GWP's governance and policy requirements.

Increasing local level actions through Area Water Partnerships

- Area water partnerships were created initially in GWP South Asia from 2000, though they also exist in Bulgaria, Ethiopia and Mali. At the end of 2005 fifty-two area water partnerships were established of which forty were active.

5. Managing the Network

The GWP provides a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue on water issues at global, regional, national and local levels. Underlying the development and effectiveness of the network is access to secure funding. This has been made possible by the provision of more stable, long-term financing from the donors and the important 'in kind' support provided directly to the regional and country partnerships.

Contacts

GWP Secretariat, Drottninggatan 31, SE-111 51 Stockholm, Sweden
E-mail: gwp@gwpforum.org, Website: www.gwpforum.org

THE GWP REGIONS

Australia country office:	m.pascoe@watercentre.org
Caribbean:	phinds@gwp-caribbean.org
Central Africa:	gwpcaftac@inch.org
Central America:	ftabora@gwpcentroamerica.org
Central and Eastern Europe:	gwpcee@shmu.sk
Central Asia and Caucasus:	vadim@icwc-aral.uz
China:	duzhk@iwhr.com
Eastern Africa:	sthuo@nilebasin.org
Mediterranean:	secretariat@gwpmcd.org
South America:	dallasia@gwpsudamerica.org
South Asia:	rsastry@gmail.com
Southeast Asia:	secretariat@gwpsea.org
Southern Africa:	r.beukman@cgjar.org
West Africa:	dammogbante@gmail.com

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