

Global Water Partnership Action Pledge to the Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

April 2011

Support to enhanced dissemination of NWP Products and information

1.0 Background

The Global Water Partnership (GWP) is an international network created in 1996 to foster the implementation of integrated water resources management (IWRM) defined as, *'the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximise economic and social welfare without compromising the sustainability of ecosystems and the environment'*.

GWP was founded in 1996 by the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). In 2002 the Global Water Partnership Organization was established as an intergovernmental organization, hosted in Stockholm by the Government of Sweden.

The GWP Network comprises 13 Regional Water Partnerships, 74 Country Water Partnerships, and includes over 2400 Partners located in 153 countries.

GWP's Network provides a rich resource of practical experience of the challenges of sustainably managing water resources and in many different local, national and regional contexts. The Network is open to all organisations which recognise the principles of integrated water resources management endorsed by the Network. It comprises partners from both developed and developing countries including states, government institutions (national, regional and local), intergovernmental organisations, international and national non-governmental organisations, academic and research institutions, professional associations companies and service providers in the public sector.

GWP Strategy 2009–2013

GWP Strategy 2009–2013 builds on a decade of GWP successes and lessons learned in advocating an integrated approach to the management and development of land and water resources, and on the strategies of Regional Water Partnerships. The Global Strategy has four goals:

Goal 1: Promote water as a key part of sustainable national development. This means improving water resources management, putting IWRM into practice to help countries to grow and become water secure, encouraging good governance, and advocating for appropriate infrastructure and sustainable financing.

Goal 2: Address critical development challenges. This means contributing to solutions for critical challenges to water security, such as climate change, urbanisation, food production, resource related conflict and other challenges.

Goal 3: Reinforce knowledge sharing and communications. This means developing the capacity to share knowledge and promoting a dynamic communications culture, so as to support better water management.

Goal 4: Build a more effective Network. This means enhancing the Network's resilience and effectiveness through stronger partnerships, good governance, and measuring performance to help learning and ensure financial sustainability.

2.0 Context of GWP Pledge to the NWP

Adapting to climate change is a serious long-term development problem that GWP is committed to. Improving the capacity of water management systems builds resilience and enhances the adaptive capacity of economies to climate change impacts.

Whether it is food security, poverty reduction, economic growth, energy production or human health – water is the nexus. Climate change is the spoiler. No matter how successful mitigation efforts might be, people will experience the impacts of climate change through water.

Changes are predicted to occur as a result of floods and droughts and other extreme events. These impacts will have adverse impacts on human security, food security as well as fresh water supplies. Extreme events will compound the impact of more general changes in the pattern of rainfall and temperature which are expected to contribute to increased aridity and impact on both demand and availability of water for human livelihoods and development.

In 2010, GWP made an Action Pledge¹ to the UNFCCC's Nairobi Work Programme under the thematic area "Adaptation practices and planning".

Following the Pledge, GWP regions supported various activities on climate change adaptation through its regional and country water partnerships in Asia, Africa, Caribbean, Latin America, Mediterranean and, Central and Eastern Europe.

In addition to various regional and country activities, GWP also convened sessions during the 2010 UNFCCC negotiations in Bonn and Cancun, focusing on the Water-Climate development Nexus.

In September 2010 in Manila-Philippines, GWP participated in the UNFCCC's informal meeting of representatives from Parties and organizations and experts to consider the outcomes of the activities completed under the Nairobi Work Program.

During the meeting, several Parties and representatives of participating organisations highlighted the need for making the NWP information more relevant to end users through context and sector specific generation, processing and dissemination of information.

44. With regard to the dissemination of information and knowledge products², Parties and organizations highlighted the desirability of disseminating such products down to stakeholders at the sub-national and community levels. While a wealth of knowledge has been generated under the work programme, only a limited portion of this knowledge reached practitioners on the ground and vulnerable communities at the local level

In addition, while acknowledging the success of the NWP in developing information and knowledge products, '*Parties and organizations noted that the information and knowledge generated under NWP so far are of a general nature and are not sector, or location, specific*'. In this regard, participants noted the need to process these knowledge products within national and local contexts in order that they can be accessed and used by relevant stakeholders. It was noted that stakeholders are more likely to become engaged and motivated when provided with contextualized information and knowledge³.

¹ http://unfccc.int/tools_xml/GWP%20AP%20July%202010%20APP.pdf

²

³ Ibid , 40, page 10.

Against this backdrop, GWP wishes to submit a second action pledge in response to the call by the UNFCCC Secretariat for organizations outside the UNFCCC to submit action pledges to the Nairobi Work Programme. This Action Pledge relates to the thematic area “Adaptation practices and planning” under the Nairobi Work Programme. GWP undertakes to carry activities to support further processing and dissemination of water related information generated under NWP to end users. The pledge relates to two specific activities as follows:

- Using NWP knowledge products in GWP's capacity building materials in the Water, Climate Development Programme and other GWP regional activities
- Using planned GWP workshops in disseminating NWP products

3.0 Overall objective:

The overall objective is to enhance the analytical, technical and institutional capacity of Parties and relevant stakeholders to integrate water security and climate resilience in development planning and decision making processes.

The pledge promotes the processing and dissemination of information and knowledge on adaptation generated through the UNFCCC's NWP. The pledge will support further development and processing of knowledge products under the NWP on water related adaptation. The processed knowledge products and information will be used to inform stakeholders on good adaptation practices and provide high level decision and policy makers with relevant, context specific information to inform decisions on climate proofing investment priorities at local, national and regional level.

Through this pledge, GWP further undertakes to use the NWP knowledge products in developing capacity building materials for GWP planned training workshops with Parties and relevant stakeholder at sub-regional and national level. GWP will engage with other partners of the Nairobi Work Programme to develop relevant training materials and convene capacity building workshops to support institutional development of Parties, build climate resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change impacts and risks such as floods and droughts.

GWP will use its global platform at sub-regional, national and sub national level to convene dialogues and disseminate the lessons, results and experience of the work of partners in the Nairobi Work Programme with a key objective of promoting the uptake and application of information into decision making to advance adaptation to climate change.

GWP will also actively use its online platform-the **GWP ToolBox**⁴ to disseminate NWP information and products related to climate change adaptation.

4.0 Purpose of the Pledge

The purpose is to promote the dissemination of the lessons, results and experiences of the partners of the Nairobi Work Programme on climate change adaptation to other key audiences beyond the climate community and enhance the uptake and use of

⁴ <http://www.gwptoolbox.org/>

the results of the NWP by decision makers and practitioners at national and sub national level.

GWP will collaborate with NWP Partners and support capacity building activities to develop skills for assessing the impacts, risks and opportunities of climate change and promote knowledge on integrating water security and climate resilience into development planning and decision making processes

5.0 Activities

The envisaged activities are as follows:

- Mapping capacity building needs of Parties and relevant stakeholders at regional, national and local level
- Mapping water related adaptation knowledge and information generated through NWP
- Developing capacity building and training materials for identified needs
- Developing a '*Framework for Water Security, Climate Resilience and Development*' to support design of climate Investment Strategies in Africa
- Organise and deliver training workshops at regional and national level
- Support dissemination of climate information to water managers, industry, farmers, environmentalists, and other stakeholders to inform decisions on water use, allocation and cropping patterns
- Work with the NWP Team and its partners to synthesise and process knowledge and information on water related adaptation activities
- Develop online linkages between GWP Tool Box and NWP

6.0 Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced technical and analytical capacity of Parties and other national, regional and civic organisations for assessing the impacts and risks of climate change
- Increased understanding among Parties and relevant regional and stakeholders on NWP products and available information to support adaptation actions
- Enhanced local, end-use uptake and use of information and knowledge generated through the NWP
- Stronger partnerships among NWP partners working on water related adaptation and other agencies responsible for generating climate information, and users of climate information at regional, national and local level
- Enhanced dissemination of NWP information to GWP partners through the GWP Tool Box

7.0 Indicators of Achievement

- NWP products disseminated in at least 13 regional (GWP Regions) and country workshops and key GWP global meetings
- NWP knowledge and products further processed into at least 13 regional (GWP regions) specific information and disseminated to Parties and relevant regional and local stakeholders
- At least 3 knowledge products on water related adaptation by NWP partners developed and disseminated
- Number of capacity building materials integrating NWP knowledge products
- GWP Tool Box is linked to the NWP and actively promotes dissemination of NWP products on water related climate change adaptation