

**Global Water Partnership contribution to call by UNFCCC regarding:-Mapping of existing institutional arrangements that address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, including extreme weather events and slow onset events**

**Inputs provided by:** (please provide the name of your organization) Global Water Partnership

**1. General description of mandates and objective(s) of your organization / associated network with institutional structure**

GWP is a global action network. Its chief focus is to support social change processes that further the sustainable management and development of water resources. To do this, the network has an open invitation for like-minded organisations to join the global movement.

The Global Water Partnership's vision is for a water secure world. Its mission is to support the sustainable development and management of water resources at all levels.

GWP believes that an integrated approach to managing the world's water resources is the best way to pursue this vision—a vision that encompasses all of life.

GWP was created to advocate for the implementation of integrated water resources management (IWRM): the coordinated development and management of water, land, and related resources in order to maximise economic and social welfare without compromising the sustainability of vital environmental systems.

Functions of water resources management are very complex tasks and may involve many different activities conducted by many different players. The following components constitute water resources management

*Water Allocation*

Allocating water to major water users and uses, maintaining minimum levels for social and environmental use while addressing equity and development needs of society.

*River basin planning*

Preparing and regularly updating the Basin Plan incorporating stakeholder views on development and management priorities for the basin.

*Stakeholder participation*

Implementing stakeholder participation as a basis for decision making that takes into account the best interests of society and the environment in the development and use of water resources in the basin.

*Pollution control*

Managing pollution using polluter pays principles and appropriate incentives to reduce most important pollution problems and minimize environmental and social impact.

*Monitoring*

Implementing effective monitoring systems that provide essential management information and identifying and responding to infringements of laws, regulations and permits.

*Economic and financial management*

Applying economic and financial tools for investment, cost recovery and behaviour change to support the goals of equitable access and sustainable benefits to society from water use.

### *Information management*

Providing essential data necessary to make informed and transparent decisions and development and sustainable management of water resources in the basin.

### *Convening power*

Because GWP is a global action network with multiple stakeholders from many sectors, it provides a platform on which to facilitate dialogues that result in changes to policies, laws, and institutions. **GWP Partnership is** open to organizations that are involved with issues related to the sustainable development, management and use of water resources.

### **Benefits**

- A channel through which to establish contact with other Partners;
- Guidance on identifying critical needs;
- An opportunity to match one Partner's needs with another Partner's resources;
- An opportunity to contribute to the development of the concept of integrated water resources management.

### **Obligations**

- Co-ordinating relevant activities with those of other concerned organizations;
- Sharing information and experience freely with the other Partners;
- Giving advice and professional contributions to the Network and to other Partners, on such conditions as may be agreed free of charge up to a reasonable level and at a mutually agreed charge above that level.

## **2. Relevant operational framework(s)**

The global secretariat, based in Stockholm, Sweden, provides overall support and coordination to the network.

The Secretariat supports the Executive Secretary, the Technical Committee and other GWP Committees, and the Regional Water Partnerships in governance, finance, communications, planning, and operational management of programmes and administration.

The Secretariat manages finances and reports on funding received at global level. It also helps the Partnership exchange knowledge and resources, and ensures communication and coherence across the Network.

The **Global Water Partnership Organisation (GWPO)** is:

- An intergovernmental agency hosted by the Government of Sweden.
- Managed by the Executive Secretary reporting to the Steering Committee.
- Accountable to the Steering Committee that directs policy and approves the work programme and budget.
- Overseen by the Sponsoring Partners – the founding members – the ultimate decision-making body that appoints the Steering Committee.

## **3. Focus areas of risk management for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts**

GWP works for the sustainable management of resources from the local to the global level. GWP partners are “water ambassadors”, stepping in and facilitating social change processes that will, we hope, improve water policy. GWP also provides the technical tools—through our

publications and the online **GWP ToolBox**—needed by water management practitioners to implement best practice (see section 6).

**GWP has currently two key initiatives particularly related to the loss and damage issues.**

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and Global Water Partnership (GWP) launched a joint Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) to improve monitoring and prevention of one of the world's greatest natural hazards.

The programme was launched on March 13, 2013, at the High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP) in Geneva, Switzerland, where decision-makers and scientists from around the world discussed proactive, forward-looking national drought policies to replace the current piecemeal, reactive approach.

GWP has recently partnered with UNDP, UNEP, UNFCCC and the GEF together with WHO, GIZ, FAO and UNITAR as key partners to lead the implementation of the Global Support Programme (GSP) for NAPs. The GEF has provided USD 2 million to kick start the GSP. <http://undp-alm.org/projects/naps-ldcs>

**On our website there are stories of many initiatives in different countries where GWP has made an important contribution to the integrated management of water resources.**

[Cleaning Up Sri Lanka's Water](#)

[Benin's National IWRM Action Plan in Progress](#)

[Central Asia Towards Transboundary IWRM](#)

[Guidelines for Water Management](#)

[IWRM Planning in Cameroon](#)

[From conflicts to joint planning - A GWP led IWRM pilot project in Ethiopia](#)

[Water supply improved in Cameroon](#)

[Dialogues - tool for improving River Basin Management Plans](#)

[IWRM planning in Weihe River Basin](#)

[Contribution to the Eritrean IWRM planning process](#)

[Indonesia's water under policy reform](#)

[Planning for IWRM in Zambia](#)

[Applying IWRM on Swaziland ground](#)

[Planning for IWRM in Senegal](#)

#### **4. Geographic coverage**

See above. Since its inception, the GWP has built up a network of Regional Water Partnerships. The Network currently comprises 13 Regional Water Partnerships and 84 Country Water Partnerships, and includes more than Regional Water Partnerships have a special function to ensure sharing across national boundaries, and are expected to have an open, inclusive and gender sensitive membership policy for bringing together as wide a group of stakeholders as possible.

Regional Water Partnerships provide support to the implementation of activities at regional and country level as set out in work plans and budgets, and prepare progress reports for the entire

Network.

### **GWP Regional offices**

[Caribbean](#) ; [Central Africa](#) ; [Central America](#) ; [Central and Eastern Europe](#) ; [Central Asia and Caucasus](#) ; [China](#) ; [Eastern Africa](#) ; [Mediterranean](#) ; [South America](#) ; [South Asia](#) ; [Southeast Asia](#) ; [Southern Africa](#) ; [West Africa](#)

## **5. Key stakeholders**

GWP is what it is because of its network: over 2,800 institutional Partners in 169 countries who are committed to the sustainable management of the world's water resources. Partners range from government agencies, public institutions, private companies, professional organisations, multilateral development agencies and others concerned with water issues.

Instead of taking the traditional development approach in which projects are often not connected, GWP works with numerous key stakeholders to design strategic approaches to improving water management. This builds local capacity in the long term. GWP does not operate alone; indeed its networking approach provides a mechanism for coordinated action and adds value to the work of many other key development partners.

- A non-profit action network advocating, facilitating and supporting change processes for the sustainable management of water resources.
- A mechanism for coordinated action, adding value to the work of many other development partners.
- A neutral platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue at global, national and local levels that connects water resources planning and operations at different scales – transboundary, regional, basin, national and local – for coherent and sustainable action.
- A resource contributing technical knowledge and building capacity for improving water management.

## **6. Implementation modality / delivery mechanisms**

**The GWP has both Regional and Country Water Partnerships that provide a neutral and multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue and facilitating change processes.**

Regional and Country Water Partnerships manage and govern themselves, and convene stakeholders to address specific issues. They bring about solutions that are both tailored to local conditions and informed by local experiences and good practices from across the network.

Since its inception, the GWP has built up a network of Regional Water Partnerships. The Network currently comprises 13 Regional Water Partnerships and 84 Country Water Partnerships, and includes more than 2,813 Partners located in 169 countries.

Regional Water Partnerships have a special function to ensure sharing across national boundaries, and are expected to have an open, inclusive and gender sensitive membership policy for bringing together as wide a group of stakeholders as possible.

Regional Water Partnerships provide support to the implementation of activities at regional and country level as set out in work plans and budgets, and prepare progress reports for the entire Network.

Regional and Country Partnerships manage and govern themselves, and convene stakeholders to address specific issues. They bring about solutions that are both tailored to local conditions and informed by local experiences and good practices from across the network. GWP was created to advocate for the implementation of integrated water resources management (IWRM):

the coordinated development and management of water, land, and related resources in order to maximise economic and social welfare without compromising the sustainability of vital environmental systems.

#### *Convening power*

Because we are a global action network with multiple stakeholders from many sectors, we provide a platform on which to facilitate dialogues that result in changes to policies, laws, and institutions

#### *Technical expertise and knowledge sharing*

GWP provides the intellectual leadership for an integrated approach to water resources management. GWP created the [GWP ToolBox](#), a public, online, up-to-date, knowledge center with the tools, references, and case studies needed for implementing IWRM. The knowledge created by the network is shared at global, regional, national and local levels.

Very recently a workshop was held in Barbados on June 5-6, 2013 on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Knowledge Sharing. The purposes of the workshop were to expand the use of IWRM Toolbox in university education and research institutions, to illustrate the application of the IWRM tools in training and capacity building programs, and to discuss the establishment of an IWRM Knowledge Centre to harmonise IWRM knowledge in the Caribbean. Examples were used of work undertaken in other regions, so south-south knowledge was shared.

The GWP Technical Committee which underpins the knowledge base of the GWP selected for their experience in different disciplines relating to integrated water resources management.

- The ‘technical hub’ of the network.
- At the global level, guides policy makers with insights on emerging issues, drawing on the cutting edge knowledge of world experts.
- Provides high quality, peer-reviewed and evidence-based information and background material for water resource practitioners at all levels.
- Provides advice and support, and facilitates sharing of knowledge and experiences at regional and country levels.

#### **Capacity building**

GWP helps countries to connect water resources planning with operations at different scales – from transboundary to local – so that actions are coherent and sustainable. Instead of taking the traditional development approach in which projects are often not connected, GWP works with many stakeholders so that capacity is built in institutions for long-term changes in how water is managed. What does GWP do? It works for the sustainable management of the world’s water resources from the local to the global level. We are “water ambassadors”, stepping in and facilitating social change processes that will, we hope, improve water policy. We also provide the technical tools—through our publications and online GWP ToolBox—needed by water management practitioners to implement best practice.

#### **7. Key activities/ outputs to date**

GWP has a multi-fold of activities summarised here.

**The Global Water and Climate Programmes** portfolio currently includes the following programmes and projects:

- WACDEP – In Africa focusing on putting in place investments for water security and climate resilience and jointly implemented with African Union and African Ministers

Council on Water (AMCOW) and see box below. [www.gwp.org/wacdep](http://www.gwp.org/wacdep)

- The regional water and climate resilience programs in other GWP regions modelled on WACDEP in Africa but developed with regional context and ownership such as the Water and Climate resilience Programme (WACREP) in South Asia, WACDEP in Caribbean and others

The Deltas Climate Resilience Programmes for enhancing climate resilience of communities in the delta region

- WMO/GWP Integrated drought management programmes– Focussing on enhancing drought resilience. The program aims to promote better scientific understanding and inputs for drought management, Drought risk assessment, monitoring, prediction and early warning, policy and planning for drought preparedness and mitigation across sectors
- Integrated Flood Management (IFM) is a process that promotes an integrated approach to flood management that aims to improve the functioning of river basins. It integrates land and water resources development within the context of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), trying to maximize the efficient use of floodplains and minimize the loss of life. Such an approach seeks to subordinate flood loss reduction to the overall goal of maximizing the efficient use of the flood plain.

The Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) is a joint initiative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Global Water Partnership (GWP). The programme's mission is to support countries in the integrated management of floods, particularly National Meteorological and Hydrological Services. The programme has been financially supported by the governments of Japan, Switzerland, and the Netherlands. The APFM website includes the IFM HelpDesk and The Flood Management Policy Series. The HelpDesk is a facility that provides guidance on flood management policy, strategy, and institutional development. The Flood Management Policy Series is a set of advocacy papers focusing on specific aspects of IFM, compiled to facilitate the implementation of IFM principles into the development planning of river basins.

## Views of GWP on the key issues that address loss and damage: gap analysis and proposals

### **1. Knowledge management and transfer mechanism**

*Definition:* the means by which expertise, knowledge, skills and capabilities are transferred from the knowledge-base (for example, a university or college, a research centre or a research technology organisation) to those in need of that knowledge (for example a company, social enterprise or non-governmental organisation). Also, a range of strategies and practices used in an organisation to identify, create, represent, distribute, and enable adoption of innovative information and knowledge. Knowledge management may be seen as an enabler of organisational learning.

*Examples:* traditional and local authorities, district administrations, religious organisations and groups, cultural associations, community based organisations, civil society organisations, trade unions, livelihood groups, local private sector activity, colleges, schools, vocational training activity (in the field of climate change – adaptation learning/training centres managed and staffed by local experts, entrepreneurs, and specialists trained to provide support for example in new methods and systems in agriculture and livestock keeping, diversification of activities, access to potential markets, health infrastructure, early warning, climate observatories).

### Role of knowledge management and transfer

- Manage (gather, organise, store and safeguard) local knowledge, coping and management systems through participative action research methods
- Act as witness, recorder and sharer of key events and activities including climate processes, events and impacts (such as loss and damage), describing relevance and import of such events and activities on society and environments

### Problematic

1. Low level of knowledge to enable decision and policy makers and negotiators to make informed choices regarding issues concerning loss and damage
2. Poor codification of knowledge on loss and damage, particularly scientific knowledge to make it useful and deployable to decision and policy makers and negotiators alike
3. Poor connectivity between public and private sector institutions, particularly in rural areas of developing countries inhibiting support from private sector, for example, in the field of adaptation and support for approaches to address loss and damage associated with the impacts of climate change, variability (sudden and slow onset events)

### Gaps and needs

Gap 1. No overarching and multifunctional (on and off-line) knowledge, gathering dissemination and exchange tool that links and synergises with main stakeholder groups and existing efforts on loss and damage and links with other key works such as National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)

Need 1. For the UNFCCC, in association with appropriate organisations and institutions to create a knowledge management and transfer mechanism for loss and damage at global/regional levels that caters to multiple stakeholder groups, including policy and decision makers and negotiators representing the Parties to the international climate negotiations, that responds flexibly to changing mandates received from the COP, SBSTA and SBI, this mechanism to connect to other knowledge mechanisms related to National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and other climate resilient development initiatives

Gap 2. Lack of a coherence and connectivity in the way that knowledge on loss and damage is articulated and debated due to the wide-ranging and very interdisciplinary nature of the issues concerned particularly addressing the biophysical and social science divides.

- Need 2. Creation of a strategy that focuses on the way knowledge on loss and damage is codified and that addresses consumability and deployability (knowledge capital) and recognises the multi-disciplinary and interlinking nature of loss and damage, connecting it, for example, with mitigation, disaster risk management (DRR) and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD).

## **2. Communications infrastructure**

*Definition:* Organizations, personnel, procedures, facilities and networks employed to transmit and receive data, information and knowledge

Examples: Hard: telecommunications, journals, online platforms

Soft: communications strategies, conferences (on and off-line), workshops, meetings, lectures, discussion areas, blogs, Tweets, speeches

### Role of communications infrastructure

To provide the tools and vehicles, methodologies and modalities necessary for the transport of data information and knowledge on loss and damage in a targeted manner according to the needs and demands of client groups.

### Problematic

Communications is a much neglected institutional arrangement by which work, news, information and knowledge can be transported. Very often knowledge is created without a viable communications strategy and supporting tools and vehicles with which to make that knowledge useful. Conversely, communications are often made without sufficient focus on the target audience or means of receipt. Communications tools and vehicles include communicators and these need to be chosen with care to assure credibility and acknowledgement of the validity and value of the information and knowledge transmitted.

### Gaps and needs

Gap 1. Lack of well thought out, comprehensive (multi-faceted) and inclusive communications strategies, including for the transport of information and knowledge on loss and damage.

Need 1. For the UNFCCC and appropriate organisations and institutions to cooperate in the construction of outcome based communications strategies for the transport of information and knowledge on loss and damage in association with related issues such as National Adaptation Plans

Gap 2. Disconnections in communications and flows of knowledge between major stakeholder groups such as decision/policy makers at multiple levels but particularly between national and local, the practising community, the private sector, researchers and vulnerable communities/populations – particularly evident in developing countries where discourse and dialogue between these major groups is rarely complimentary

Need 2. For appropriate organisations and/or institutions to create and facilitate communicative spaces to enhance shared understandings and knowledge budgets on issues such as loss and damage

## **3. Organisational resilience**

### Local institutions

*Definition:* Organisations, associations, leaderships, governance authorities, cultural, public and private sector bodies and entities located within or juxtaposing specific communities offering locally legitimised capacity and partnership in the form of services, communications, localised technical support

*Examples:* traditional and local authorities, district administrations, religious organisations and groups, cultural associations, community based organisations, civil society organisations, trade unions, livelihood groups, local private sector activity, colleges, schools, vocational training activity (in the field of climate change – adaptation learning/training centres managed and staffed by local experts, entrepreneurs, and specialists trained to provide support for example in new methods and systems in agriculture and livestock keeping, diversification of activities, access to potential markets, health infrastructure, early warning, climate observatories).

### Role of local institutions

Pivotal interface, interlocutor, mediator between capacity building and development projects designed to enhance social resilience to climate-related impacts providing networking and communications skills,

- Define, describe and represent systemic social resilience and vulnerability upon which climate-related shocks impact on societies, ecosystems and ecological goods and services
- Acculturate, localise, translate externally originating technical discourses and texts, communicating to local audiences according to demand in locally consumable and deployable ways

Manage (gather, organise, store and safeguard) local knowledge, coping and management systems through participative action research methods



Act as witnesses and recorders of key events and activities including climate processes, events and impacts (such as loss and damage), describing relevance and import of such events and activities on society and environments

### Problematic

- Lack of appreciation of relevance and potential (for resilience and development) social ecological development) of local institutions by national and higher level decision and policy making bodies and entities epitomised by low understanding, connectivity and status of local institutions outside of their domain
- Poor connectivity between public and private sector institutions, particularly in rural areas of developing countries inhibiting support from private sector, for example, in the field of adaptation and support for approaches to address loss and damage associated with the impacts of climate change, variability (sudden and slow onset events)

### Gaps and needs

*Gap 1.* Low awareness and poor comprehension of local institutions and opportunities to channel support.

*Need 1.* Map and understand local institutional and resilience matrix and access patterns (before proposing approaches to address loss and damage or providing support for any such intervention).

*Gap 2.* Lack of skills, knowledge and experience in many contemporary risk management themes designed to address loss and damage associated with the negative impacts of climate change.

*Need 2.* To build technical and knowledge capacity in local institutions (rather than attempt to install new or externally based capacity). This will help to achieve acceptance of alien concepts such as paying insurance premiums where little or no financial services architecture has previously existed

*Gap 3.* Ephemerality of many local institutions such as community based organisations that thrive while drip feed of project money from external sources exists then shrivel and lose capacity

*Need 3.* Build sustainable resilience of local institutions such as community based organisations through training and capacity building in management and organisational skills, entrepreneurial and business acumen including through inculcation of business management skills and encouraging diversification of activities

*Gap 4.* Poor connectivity between local institutions constraining capacity and estimation of value by external institutions and agencies

*Need 4.* To encourage and enable/facilitate interconnectivity of local institutions and other institutional capacity such as traditional, local administrations, cultural and religious leadership, livelihood, gender and marginalised group associations by 'meet and greet' style interactions, workshops highlighting complementarity, and enhancing overall value; enable local institutions to become more interconnected and communicative, and visible to national and supra-national decisions and policy making bodies, organisations, agencies and networks, thereby enhancing relevance and collaborative potential of local institutions

## **4. Resilient financial services infrastructure**

*Definition and examples:* sustainable and resilient economic services provided by the finance industry, which encompasses a broad range of organizations that manage money, including credit unions, banks, credit card companies, insurance companies, consumer finance companies, stock brokerages, investment funds and some government sponsored enterprises

### Role of financial services

Local financial institutions may expand economic opportunities, particularly in low-income regions. Certain types of financial services, such as insurance, in combination with other risk management approaches, may also help to provide buffers against loss and damage, for example to the negative impacts of climate change

### Problematic

Resilient financial services infrastructure (friendly to vulnerable communities) - many of the approaches offered during the regional expert meetings on loss and damage in 2012 plus other work carried out, for example, by the World Bank social resilience group and consortium of UNU, ICCCAD and Germanwatch, depend on the existence of financial services infrastructure which is non-existent in many of the most vulnerable zones. People also harbour deep suspicions of financial institutions which are often viewed as predatory. Paying in advance for insurance is a particularly hard concept for poor farmers to consider.

### Gaps and needs

*Gap 1.* Weak existence of resilient (enduring) financial services due to undeveloped markets, poverty and low levels of money economy in areas and regions of the world where loss and damage associated with climate change are most acute. This is most particularly the case with banking and insurance which form the backbone of risk transfer approaches

*Need 1.* For private sector financial institutions, particularly those offering micro-insurance and micro-credit schemes to be encouraged to spread into areas and regions previously not covered by their services. Some assistance from governance institutions to reduce barriers and hurdles to the operation of these financial services with focus on access for poor livelihood groups may be necessary. In areas and regions with historical low levels of governance, some legislation and the setting up of watchdog bodies to prevent abuse of poor people may also be necessary

*Gap 2.* Low knowledge and poor reputation of financial services among poor people most vulnerable to risk of loss and damage.

*Need 2.* For campaigns of public education on the functionality and purpose of financial services such as insurance with focus on potential benefits in reducing risk of loss and damage. Specific groups such as women and poor farmers may be particular target groups to form recipients of these campaigns

## **8. Any additional information and contact details**

### Contact details

Please contact Alex Simalabwi for any further details

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