

National IWRM Planning

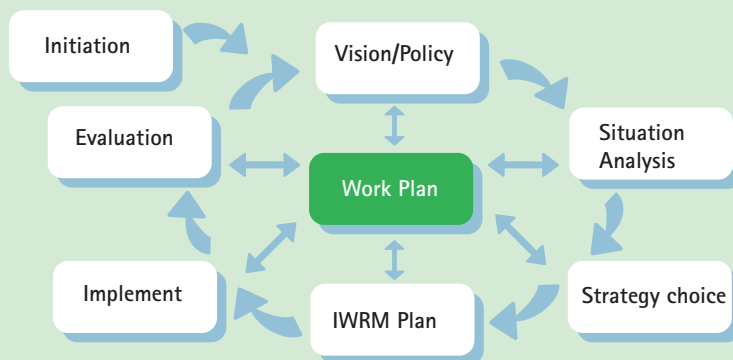
How does GWP help and what has been learned so far?

In a world where both governments and citizens are used to working in sectoral and hierarchical systems, Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) strategy and plan preparation may come as a revelation as the process encompasses broad stakeholder participation and integration, both horizontally and vertically. The role of the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and its network of regional and country water partnerships is to facilitate the process; coordinating the various interests and ensuring the planning process and the content of the plan follow the principles that lead towards sustainable water resources development, management and use. In this innovative participatory approach, the process itself is a positive outcome and builds local ownership and expertise.

Here, GWP outlines the approach it uses and presents the lessons learned from the planning programmes currently underway.

The IWRM planning cycle

GWP is presently supporting the first phase of the IWRM planning cycle – the Situation Analysis, Strategy Choice and drafting of the Plan. At a later stage, GWP aims to support the second phase of the planning cycle – Implementation and Evaluation.



Source: Integrated Water Management Plans, Training Manual and Operational Guide, March 2005.





Ten elements of IWRM planning

GWP holds multi-stakeholder dialogues – bringing together different ministries, sectors and a broad range of stakeholders in water – in its effort to help governments draft their IWRM plans. GWP identifies ten elements needed to make the plan and details the lessons learnt along the way.

Initiation

1. Raise political will and awareness on IWRM, and build support for the required reform process.
2. Create/strengthen multi-stakeholder platforms for dialogue and knowledge exchange.
3. Prepare detailed work plans, and monitoring and evaluation procedures.

Vision/policy

4. Create a framework for broad stakeholder participation.
5. Prepare capacity building activities for implementing the reform process.

Situation analysis and strategy choice

6. Identify water resources management challenges and functions.
7. Identify management potential and constraints.
8. Ensure knowledge from past and ongoing activities is fully available as a resource.

IWRM plan

9. Prepare the Action Plan and Transition Strategy towards IWRM and ensure adoption at all political levels.
10. Prepare detailed programme and funding strategies for the reform process.

THINK BEYOND THE PLANS!

- A lot of thought is needed on how to finance and implement the plan once it is completed and approved. This has to be built into the planning process.
- The preparation of programmes and budgets for government and external support is a key step to speed up the implementation of the plan.

Lessons learned

GOVERNMENT is a key stakeholder

Political support at country level is critical to the success of the planning process and needs to be nurtured. Gaining political support can be a slow and long process but ensuring the active participation of senior government officials can prove decisive.

A CHAMPION supporting the IWRM planning process is needed

- Champions are needed to create a common understanding about the meaning, purpose and approach to an IWRM planning process among all players.
- Champions should be identified to build / strengthen the multi-stakeholder platform before moving into the preparation of the plan. Without a champion there is a risk that stakeholder inclusion can be discouraged and the process and its resources controlled by a small group.

Sustained PARTICIPATION is the driver of the process

Putting cross-sectoral and multi-level participation into practice can be a tough, complex, time consuming and political process.

The general context and the culture of the stakeholders involved need to be considered:

- A key challenge is to balance government participation and ownership with an open and effective multi-stakeholder involvement.
- Stakeholders need to be actively involved, not just informed. The challenge is to encourage and sustain their commitment.
- All stakeholders – like-minded and non-like minded – need to be involved to ensure sustainability, even if initially it makes working more difficult.
- Involving the private sector can remain a challenge in many of the countries, as it is difficult to offer the right incentives.

The PLANS needs to be FOCUSED

Simply put, a National IWRM strategy or plan is a roadmap of the changes needed for better water management, which clearly defines doable actions and time frames.

- Although different stakeholders have different demands and perspectives, a limited number of priority issues need to be agreed on as a starting point.
- The distinction between short-term, mid-term and long-term actions and impacts helps to define priorities.
- Identified actions need to be very specific and not general or vague.

Development of LOCAL CAPACITY is a must

- Local capacity of the project team members as well as central and local stakeholders is fundamental for successful for both planning and implementation
- A specialist capacity building team needs to assess the needs, develop and structure appropriate courses, workshops and seminars that support the specific planning and implementation process.
- Negotiation skills and effective conflict resolution mechanisms in particular, are required as IWRM processes are often about overcoming conflicting interests.

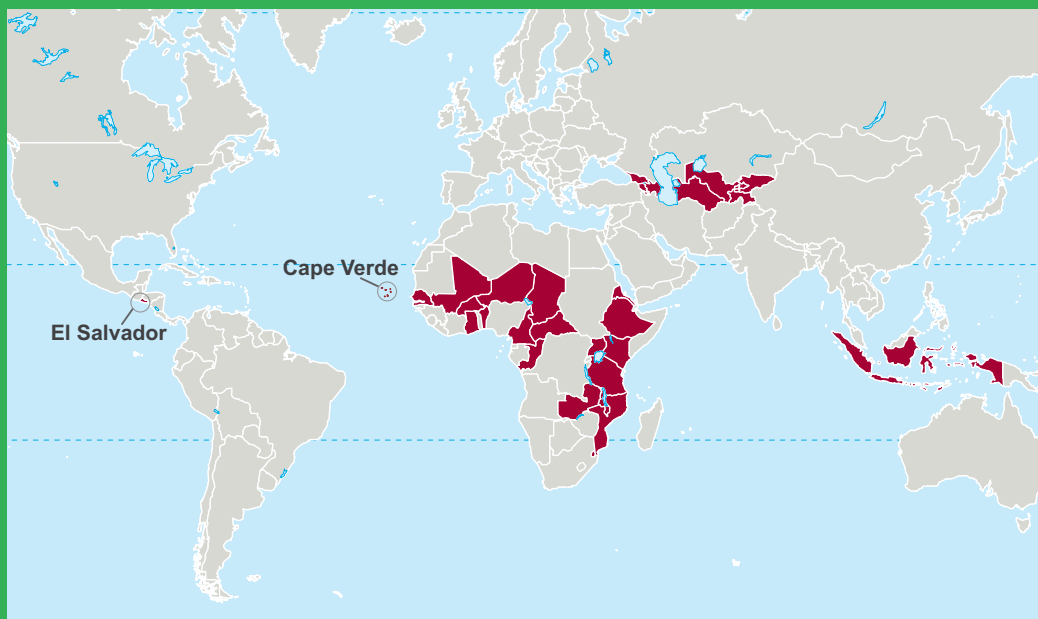
The GENDER perspective is needed from the start

- Gender mainstreaming needs to be part of the project planning and implementation right from the start; it will be seen as an additional burden if included later.
- Teams, working groups and multi-stakeholder platforms should aim for gender balance.
- However, women are not necessarily gender advocates or expert. Therefore, to ensure gender sensitive issues are built into the programme, a senior gender expert should be part of the project team.
- Though advocacy for gender issues has been successful, more guidelines and practical tools to support gender sensitive approaches are needed.

What is GWP's added value in the planning process?

- The GWP multi-stakeholder dialogue process brings together the broader cross-sectoral perspectives, lending greater authority to the IWRM strategies and plans.
- The regional overview and oversight functions provided by the GWP regional water partnerships are well acknowledged by countries as a key contribution to the process.
- The regional water partnerships provide strategic support by sharing the experiences and lessons learned among participating countries, especially benefiting those at an early stage of the process or about to begin.
- Access to expertise in the GWP network and inputs from the GWP Associated Programmes like the Capacity Building Network (Cap-Net), the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) and others is providing significant contributions towards meeting the specific demands and needs of participating countries.

Countries where GWP is currently facilitating IWRM planning



Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom provide core funds to GWP to support understanding, adoption and implementation of integrated approaches for more sustainable water resources development, management and use.

Canada, Finland, France, Netherlands, Norway and the United States of America, and the European Commission, provide specific financial support to help governments develop national Integrated Water Resources Management planning processes called for by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 as a contribution towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.