

## MEETING REPORT

# GWP NETWORK AND CONSULTING PARTNERS MEETING - 2014

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### GWP NETWORK AND CONSULTING PARTNERS MEETING 2014

*GWP Strategy Towards 2020: A Water Secure World – Addressing thematic issues*

27-28 June 2014, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad

#### Introduction

On 27-28 June 2014, the annual Global Water Partnership Network and Consulting Partners Meeting was held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. The theme of this year's meeting was: **GWP Strategy Towards 2020: A Water Secure World – Addressing thematic issues.**

#### STATUTORY NETWORK MEETING

The GWP/GWPO Statutes state that the Partners of GWP shall hold an Annual Network Meeting. At this meeting the Partners exercise formal functions, such as receiving and commenting on the yearly activity and financial reports, and deciding on statutory changes, if any. Participation in the Network Meeting is restricted to the GWP Partner organizations for official business purposes.

#### Welcome by Chair of Regional Chairs

Judy Daniel, Chair of Regional Chairs, and GWP Caribbean Regional Chair, extended a welcome to all the GWP Partners to Trinidad. GWP Caribbean were happy to see so many regional GWP Partners present as well as the GWP Caribbean's Steering Committee members, the GWP Caribbean Secretariat, and GWP Caribbean's Host Institution, NIHERST, who had all assisted in organising the event. The Chair of Regional Chairs noted that the previous days spent with other colleagues from other GWP Regions had been very productive and enlightening, noting how GWP Regions could share in their experiences and water challenges they all face. The Chair of Regional Chairs noted the GWP Caribbean's work with climate change and the tremendous progress which had been made through various initiatives under GWP's Water, Climate, and Development Programme (WACDEP). Finally, the Chair welcomed Professor John Agard who would be holding the Annual Lecture and looked forward to his inspiring work on climate change adaption in the Caribbean.

#### Welcome and Report from the Chair

Dr Ursula Schaefer-Preuss, GWP Chair, officially opened the Network Meeting of GWP Partners, thanking the GWP Chair of Regional Chairs, the GWP Caribbean, and NIHERST for their tremendous work in organising the meetings. The Chair reported briefly on her activities since the last Network Meeting. The GWP Strategy Towards 2020 was launched at the World Water Day in Tokyo, Japan, in March and is now in place to guide the GWP Network. GWP has also been greatly involved with the development of the post-2015 agenda, and working hard to support a dedicated water goal. The Chair also reported that Her Excellency, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia, was appointed GWP Patron in March 2014, and has voiced her support for the work of GWP at global events, such as the World Water Day and Africa Water Week. The Chair finished by reporting on the work of the GWP Regional Water Partnerships over the last few days during the Regional Days and noted the intensifying development of the climate programmes and the many other activities of the GWP Partners at national level.

#### Annual Report from the GWP Executive Secretary

Dr Ania Grobicki, GWP Executive Secretary, presented highlights from the network for 2013 (presentation available [here](#)).

### Report from the GWP Technical Committee Chair

Dr Mohamed Ait-Kadi , Chair of the GWP Technical Committee, presented the report on the activities of the Technical Committee since the last Network Meeting (presentation available [here](#)).

### Annual Financial Report 2013,

Catharina Sahlin-Tegnander, GWP Head of Finance and Administration, presented the Annual Financial Report for 2013 (presentation available [here](#)).

### GWP Strategy & Governance Review

The GWP Chair presented a short background on the progress of the GWP review of the previous strategic period, 2009-2013, and the Governance and Financing Review. Both reviews are being assisted by external consultants and final reports with recommendations would be made by the end of 2014.

In relation to the Governance and Financing Review, the Chair noted that the terms of reference for the review had been discussed during a session at the Regional Days. It had been noted that the GWP Regions welcomed the review, acknowledging the need to take stock and re-assess how the GWP Network operates in a fast-changing global environment. However, the GWP Regions felt strongly that a review of the operational structure and not just of the governance structure, was also needed in order to ensure that the GWP Network effectively implements its Strategy Towards 2020. It was therefore agreed that this Governance and Financing Review would be a first phase in a larger review of the organisational structure of the GWP Network.

## 2014 CONSULTING PARTNERS MEETING

### Welcome and Agenda Setting

*Dr Ursula Schaefer-Preuss, GWP Chair*

Dr Ursula Schaefer-Preuss welcomed the participants and expressed her gratitude to GWP Caribbean Regional Chair and GWP Chair of Chairs, Ms Judy Daniel, and all other colleagues for the preparations that had gone into this meeting.

Dr Schaefer-Preuss noted that in light of this year's theme, *GWP Strategy Towards 2020: A Water Secure World – Addressing Thematic Issues*, “We are engaged in supporting a water secure world.”

She continued by stating that a lot has happened in the international water world since the previous meeting in August last year. The water community, including the GWP, made strong efforts to get out of the water box and reach out to the most important sectors and partners outside the water box. This year is the international year of “Water and Energy” providing lots of opportunities to better engage with the energy community, and is also one of the focus themes of GWP's new strategy – energy and water security.

Regarding GWP's involvement at the global level, she reported that GWP has successfully taken some bold steps forward with all its experiences, globally and regionally, supporting close cooperation with UN-Water in discussions of the post-2015 development agenda, from the MDGs to the SDGs. “I'm sure that all of our efforts together will be extended and well represented by UN-Water to fight for a dedicated water goal,” she said. From the ongoing discussions and final draft of the Open Working Group on the SDGs, there is a proposed goal number 6 out of 17, including water security and sanitation for all in a sustainable world. “We are not yet there, and we need to continue convincing the international community that water is at the centre of life, water is life, and need a particular focus,” she argued.

She also mentioned that GWP can be very proud to have conducted country consultations for a water goal, with the support of some donors and in close collaboration with UN-Water. 1,200 participants from the environment, agricultural planning and infrastructure sectors, including government officials, and delegates from civil society organisations and the private sector made a strong statement reinforcing that a dedicated water SDG is not just needed, it is fundamental for the post-2015 sustainable development framework. GWP has submitted a summary document to the negotiators in New York. This will also be very valuable for the joint GWP-OECD Global Dialogue initiative to be finalized for next year's World Water Forum in Korea.

Dr Schaefer-Preuss said that GWP has so far had an exciting year, including the launch of its new Strategy on World Water Day in March. The gender strategy, which is an important complement to the 2020 strategy has been approved by the Steering Committee and will be launched soon. A youth strategy is to be finalized later this year, giving a global voice to the young generation. Last but not least, she also mentioned, “we are very happy that our new patron, H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia, is a strong supporter of GWP, sharing our vision of a water secure world.”

GWP's offices in Stockholm are now in more spacious premises, in the neighbourhood of SIWI, SEI, and closer to Sida. We have to thank our Swedish host and also the generous support we are receiving from our donors. As of 2012, we have been in a position to finally expand staffing based in Stockholm, this is to better serve our regions and country offices, and we have now filled the

positions of all Network Officers. Additionally, as of September, we have reinstalled the position of the deputy executive secretary to better cope with the increased workload in the HQ.

As GWP has grown over time, currently with about 3000 partners, we have the green light from our steering committee to work on the governance review, including our financial sustainability. “I already signalled last year that we have to think about innovative ways of financing in a sustainable way over time, without falling into financial traps,” she said. We want to further enhance our services from global to regional, but this cannot be a one way road.

She concluded her presentation by saying: “Let us jointly share how we could better share our experiences and knowledge and scarce resources in a sustainable way, looking for innovative approaches. Water is the medium that connects. Let us look for new avenues, new partners, and better collaborate at all levels - locally, regionally, and globally - aiming at innovative solutions to advance governance and management for sustainable equitable development.”

### The Strategic Global Outlook – Water Security and Growth Futures

*Dr Mohamed Ait-Kadi, Chair, GWP Technical Committee*

Dr Mohamed Ait-Kadi gave a “strategic global outlook on water security and growth futures” and focused on two questions:

1. What are the impacts of water insecurity/security on the growth futures?
2. How can we enable effective and sustainable use of water resources?

He started by stating that this is an issue of pressing concern and that there is a growing realization that natural resources are insufficient to meet demands and expectations of our societies today. To illustrate this he quoted UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon:

“As the global economy grows, so will its thirst. This is not an issue of rich and poor, north or south. All regions are experiencing the problem of water stress. There is still enough water for all of us – but only so long as we keep it clean, use it more wisely and share it fairly. Governments must engage and lead, and the private sector also has a role to play in this effort...”

Already today, water-scarce regions account for 36% of global population (2.5Bn) and 22% of global GDP (9.4 trillion USD). “If we are to ensure sustained economic growth,” Dr Ait-Kadi said, “human security, and political stability over the next decades, how we manage water will be an ever more urgent issue for our societies.”

Under business-as-usual water productivity and medium growth, 52% of population and 45% of GDP are in regions at risk due to water stress. In a “blue world,” water stress can be reduced, with approximately 1Bn people and 17 trillion USD GDP coming from less water scarce areas.

Regarding how to enable effective and sustainable use of water resources, Dr Ait-Kadi gave examples of how a new enabling environment and instruments could help, including policy and fiscal instruments, strengthened institutional arrangements, skills development, information and monitoring, as well as innovation planning in all sectors.

Dr Ait-Kadi concluded by stating that while the scale and complexity of this multidimensional challenge are huge, solutions are in reach. Understanding the connectivity between multiple dimensions of water security is critical in policy design, implementation, and consensus-building.

Presentation available [here](#)

### The Water-Energy Nexus – Keynote Speech

*Dr Daryl Fields, GWP Technical Committee*

Dr Daryl Fields outlined her presentation:

- **Why bother?** - what relevance or risk is there to economic, social and environmental welfare?
- **What is this nexus?** - what are the dimensions of the linkage?
- **Is it manageable?** - making sense of complexity – towards a practical management framework? What tools do we have?
- **Where do we go from here?**

As an introduction, Dr Fields discussed the context by saying that the water-energy linkages form a multi-faceted and complex network. She pointed towards the need to move from a topic-by-topic approach to a systems approach which is possible through Integrated Energy-Water Management (IEWM). Mainstreaming rigorous risk assessments in both energy and water sectors can help motivate action and define focus. Dr Fields suggested that a lot of progress can be made by recognizing and upgrading a wide range of existing tools but we also need to fill in the gaps in awareness, knowledge and capacity.

Why bother? As pointed out by Dr Ait-Kadi, population growth is part of human development. 90% of global power generation is water intense, by 2035 global energy consumption will increase 50%, increasing water consumption by 85%. But still today 2.8 billion people live in areas of high water scarcity and 2.5 billion people have unreliable or no access to electricity. Climate change is not a question anymore, but rather how to manage it.

What is the nexus? The importance is increasing and there is established knowledge – but there is a lack of systematic approach. It's more than a nexus, it's a network of linkages, presenting risks and opportunities. "We need to think more about the full breadth of connections," Dr Fields said.

Is it manageable? Understanding risks, adopting a pragmatic management approach and leveraging existing tools were highlighted. "There is no substitute for rolling up your sleeves and find out what energy network looks like and the risks," said Dr Fields.

Where do we go from here? The following approach was presented: prepare your energy and water network map and quantify the relationships based on your own context. Quantify the likelihood and consequence of a disruption in the network. Use the assessment to prioritize areas of focus and partners/stakeholders. Identify familiar and off-the-shelf tools; upgrade existing tools, and conduct a GAP analysis to set research priorities.

However, there are still a lot of questions to be answered: are these tools available? Are they fit for purpose? Are they functioning? These are currently being examined through TEC Background Papers, case studies (good practices, lessons learned), information exchange and topic analysis.

Presentation available [here](#)

### Discussion and selected comments

*Moderated by Dr Ania Grobicki, GWP Executive Secretary*

A participant from South Asia commented on the importance of water as a strategic commodity. He also mentioned that water security is not an isolated issue – water security is secured by energy

security, they are interconnected and this becomes a vicious cycle – where to start and where to stop? He concluded by saying that conservation and recycling are important components of water and energy.

A comment from Nepal claimed that the context is often country-specific. Giving an example from his home country, the speaker said, “In Nepal, without energy we don’t have water (cannot access or use it). Local assessments are essential.”

The nexus between water and energy and how it is becoming more intrinsic as we advance technologically was mentioned by a participant from South America. “A challenge for our country is to target the demand for water and energy compatibly among all stakeholders.”

Adding to the previous comment, a West African participant reminded the audience about the need for capacity building at regional and country levels and also how to handle risk by external events.

Dr Daryl Fields concluded the session by saying:

“South Asia talked about ‘vicious cycle’, I would like to change that to ‘virtuous cycle’ because I think there are actually a lot of opportunities for action. You talked about conservation and recycling and that’s exactly where we can talk about virtuous cycles. We have tools to identify where the viciousness can be turned into virtuousness. There are also a lot of opportunities for expanding innovations through processes of consultation, sharing, and learning. We need to bring people together to reassess and formulate our values around the new information available,” she said.

### GENDER STRATEGY DISCUSSION

GWP Chair Dr Ursula Schaefer-Preuss introduced the gender strategy discussion by highlighting that the empowerment of women is still an issue and that GWP has been and will continue to be a strong supporter for equity and equality of women and men alike. “We need to fight for gender to be part of the development goals like we are doing for water,” she said. “We are delighted that the GWP gender strategy will be launched at the Stockholm World Water Week in September this year.” She added that inclusiveness has always been a core value and that we need a dedicated gender strategy to guide us into the future.

GWP Senior Technical Officer Sara Ehrhardt started her presentation by saying that the approved Gender Strategy is not the beginning of this work, gender was also a part of the previous GWP strategy (2009-2013). The main objective of the new GWP Gender Strategy is to bring gender into the mainstream of GWP’s work and to provide an overarching framework for gender and inclusive approaches. The development of the gender strategy has been one consolidated project where five out of 13 regions participated with dedicated gender focal points.

As part of the Gender Strategy Approach, a distinction has been made between:

- Gender mainstreaming policies and practice
- Creating an enabling environment for women’s meaningful participation in water management
- Gender in the workplace

Ms Ehrhardt went on to discuss the nuances between gender *equality* (fully equal rights access) and gender *equity* (acknowledges that differences exist, but this should not lead to unfair treatment) when speaking of gender-related issues. She said that gender equity in IWRM can be promoted by mainstreaming a gender equality perspective into the legislation and policies and by carrying this

through step by step in the implementation of associated programmes.

In order for gender mainstreaming to take place, a gender perspective needs to be included into all operations, structures and programmes. We also need to aim to positively affect gender equity in water use and governance. Ms Ehrhardt concluded her presentation by saying “Gender is everyone, not just the focal points.”

Presentation available [here](#)

### Selected comments from the panel

Fredericka Deare (GWP CAR Gender Focal Point): It is important that we keep our perspective broad, in many instances gender focuses only on women. We should bring the policies, community water management and the participants together – a broad understanding will move the community. The second thing we need to work on is our understanding – people need more knowledge about the concepts, there are misconceived ideas about what it is we are doing. We need good models and examples showing what gender mainstreaming is all about.

Martina Zupan (GWP CEE, Chair): I joined GWP more than 10 years ago and see that IWRM is more successful than gender issues/mainstreaming. We need a strategy but more importantly, we need successful implementation. My message to this workshop is: We need to push forward political issues and the role of Regional Water Partnerships and Country Water Partnerships is essential for the success of this strategy.

Yamileth Astorga (GWP CAM, Costa Rica): In 20 years we have reached some results, not many. We need to continue talking and pushing and remake efforts and not only focus on engineering, but on an integrated approach (IWRM).

Ruth Beukman (GWP Southern Africa, Coordinator): We acknowledge the work of the GWP – few global organisations are doing visible gender mainstreaming. We need to strive to meet our objectives, we need to get clever and more experienced in translating our programmes into action and a strategy will help and guide us with the mainstreaming task.

### Selected comments from the audience

Torkil Jønch Clausen: We mix up the concepts of gender, equality, equity, women – the GWP has to be more careful and clear when working with these concepts. There are also very few concrete examples and cases of action taken which can be very frustrating. This is another field where we need to be more specific and go in depth rather than state the obvious.

Francois Brikké: “Gender” is a way to get new projects in. The issue is competency (too much focus on numbers) and the access to rights, human rights. We need to get down to realities, human development, sustainability, gender, art, etc. and also link it to poverty alleviation. Let’s move beyond the concept level and learn from the mistakes we have done in the 1990s.

Michael Scoullos: The gender issue is important for the GWP. We can’t forget it is an issue all over the world, not only in the developing countries. In addition, going back to the Dublin principles it is not only the right of women that are important, but also their role in the provision, management and safeguarding of water.

Anthi Bromma: Focusing solely on the position of women could be a danger because it can become an obsession. We need a holistic approach including women, expanding on ethnicity, introducing diversity, capacity building, the issues of financing etc.

### WORKSHOP REPORTS: FEEDBACK ON WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

During the Consulting Partners meeting, participants were asked to choose among six different thematic workshops. The workshops provided an opportunity to address questions like: who are the actors GWP should try to influence at global, regional and national level? Who are the strategic allies and the target audiences to engage with? How can GWP Network contribute?

#### Introduction

GWP Executive Secretary *Dr Ania Grobicki* kicked off this session by saying that the next 18 months will be critical for the survival and growth of the GWP as an organization. Next year - the year of water and development - will see the establishment of a global water goal with countries setting targets and indicators for managing their water resources sustainably through to 2030. The 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in South Korea in 2015 will be a coming together of the world water community, the Disaster Risk Conference in Japan, COP21 in Paris, and so on. Also in 2015, the new SDGs will give the water community what it desperately needs instead of the current fragmentation – policy coherence, political focus, political will, and the ways forward on the means of implementation. The key is to be broad and inclusive while at the same time being strategic and clear sighted in choosing the critical partners.

GWP Senior Adviser Torkil Jønch Clausen briefly presented the World Water Forum in South Korea and GWP Head of Global Projects Fraser MacLeod presented the GWP-OECD Global Dialogue on Water Security and Economic Growth initiative.

#### Workshop 1: Climate Resilience, Integrated Drought and Flood Management

##### Summary

Drought and flood management can be seen as a stress test on water resources management practices. The GWP, in partnership with WMO, leads two initiatives as part of the Climate Resilience and Water Security Theme – the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) and the Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM). These initiatives aim to enhance understanding and practice in an integrated approach to managing these climate extremes by providing a platform in which action can be taken drawing on the resources of the programmes' partners. Both programmes provide policy and management guidance for developing national and regional flood and drought policies, plans and platforms. This includes drought preparedness measures, monitoring, and early-warning systems, applying both local knowledge and innovative practices.

The past activities and the future plans within the IDMP and APFM programmes were discussed. The main objectives of the workshop were to highlight the resources GWP possesses on drought and flood management and understand how the work can provide an input to GWP's thematic approach and the work in the regions and countries. It also aimed to enhance the participants' understanding on how the lessons learned from a disaster risk reduction approach can provide synergies with and increase the resilience of integrated water resources management in practice.

##### Lessons learned and the way forward

- Joint GWP/WMO programmes on Drought and Flood Management and Delta Initiative are concrete ways to increase climate resilience, approaches to no/low risk investments
- IDMP: Concrete action/activities on the ground; capacity development, communication and

public awareness. Enhancing existing mechanisms, filling the gaps, from concepts to action, tackling the lack of capacity

- Caribbean: Link up to regional and national development processes, management tools, capacity development
- SA DMS: Regional drought monitoring and early warning system, need assessment paradigm shift from disaster response to proactive risk management
- There is a link to all other themes of the GWP including food security, energy, ecosystems, transboundary – there is high interconnectedness and heavy socio-economic impacts
- Actors that GWP should influence include UN Climate Change Community and NAPs processes at the global level; RBOs, RECs, CARICOM, Delta Alliances at the regional level; policy makers and planners, decision makers, authorities, NGOs, civil society, research institutions at the national level; municipalities and local communities at the local level
- Key strategic allies to engage with include WMO, UNICEF, WB, UNCCD for droughts/floods; UN REDD+ and the WWF for ecosystems; FAO and IWMI for food; Delft – IHE for urban; IHA for energy.
- The GWP Network can contribute to enhance resilience by:
  - Showcasing experiences through projects with replication potential which give context and illustrate the depth of actions
  - capacity building, institutional development, data assessment, monitoring, and communication to enhance public awareness

### Workshop 2: Energy and Water Security

#### Summary

Energy is one of the six key thematic areas targeted by GWP's 2020 Strategy towards a water secure world. We need water for energy and energy for water. It is crucial to understand the driving forces, competing interests, and natural cycles within the water-energy nexus to ensure efficient and sustainable use of these resources. Climate change will complicate these interconnections. Rising temperatures will increase demand for water and irrigation pumping. Introducing more renewable energy sources may affect water demand. Increased scarcity will amplify potential for water conflicts and the need to better manage water and energy across national borders.

The objectives of this workshop were to improve the way GWP addresses the topic of energy and water so as to ensure a more substantial contribution to GWP's mission. Additionally, it aimed to enrich GWP's work through the identification of key activities and potential synergies amongst themes that could be developed throughout the GWP network at all levels.

#### Lessons learned and the way forward

- Key issues and potential areas for improvement:
  - There is increased demand for all resources in the nexus as well as beyond the nexus. All of these in the context of climate change and population growth
  - Low awareness of the scarcity of water resources and energy and their interconnectedness among communities and citizens
  - Absence of pricing and valuation of the services
- At the global level there are initiatives that can be influenced such as the SDGs process post-2015 agenda
- Actors that GWP should influence include Sustainable Energy for All initiative, IEA, World Energy Council, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), multilateral development

banks at the global level. At the national level the relevant ministries as well as the energy utilities in order to reach outside the water goal and local communities and citizens at the local level.

- The GWP Network can contribute to enhance the food and water security dimension of IWRM by a more practical bottom-up approach but also by a centralized, more government-driven approach. There should be a focus on current activities, doing capacity building in communities, lead on stakeholder process at the national level. There is not a uniform solution, we should do situation analysis to understand the issues at the appropriate scale and identify priority measures.

### Workshop 3: Ecosystems and Water Security

#### Summary

Ecosystems are one of the six key thematic areas targeted by GWP's 2020 Strategy towards a water secure world. Work on this thematic approach aims at strengthening GWP's focus on ecosystems as part of IWRM. This entails a more thorough understanding of the connectedness amongst water users, the links between ecosystems and the sustainable use of water for human well-being and prosperity.

Ecosystems and the services they provide are relevant to all water-using sectors (energy, agriculture, industry, tourism, health, etc.), and contribute to improved quality of life and human wellbeing. The complex links between economic and social welfare sectors, and the strong nexus between ecosystem services and water supply - both in quality and quantity - put ecosystem services at the heart of the IWRM approach, which is yet to be fully acknowledged and understood by many.

The main objectives of this workshop were to improve GWP's programmatic approach to ecosystems and enrich GWP's work through the identification of key activities and potential synergies amongst themes.

#### Lessons learned and the way forward

- Priorities to address transboundary issues within the water security context include:
  - explaining to people why ecosystems are important which can be done by talking to them about the link to human well-being
  - sustainable management of ecosystems
  - maintaining national flows which have impacts on people and nature
  - protection of watersheds and working with communities that live in the areas and are directly dependent on it
- Actors that GWP should influence include farmers and indigenous communities at the local level; legislators, ministers of finance, civil society, youth networks, education (at all levels, not only university level)
- The GWP Network can contribute to enhance the ecosystem dimension of IWRM by consolidating what we already know (case studies, ToolBox, existing methodologies, etc.), communicating what the issue and what the results of inaction are, and by continuing to build capacity.

### Workshop 4: Urbanization – Preparing the cities of tomorrow

#### Summary

By 2050, 70 percent of the world's population, some 6.4 billion people, are expected to live in towns and cities. Under such pressures, conventional urban water management is likely to become increasingly unsustainable in terms of cost effectiveness, technical performance, social equity, and environmental sustainability. Cities of the future will experience difficulties in managing scarce and

unreliable supplies. An integrated approach to urban water management has the potential to yield mutually beneficial improvements in water resources and improved management of extreme weather events. It can help maximise opportunities for water reuse and recycling, generate energy and nutrients from wastewater, and use natural systems for water and wastewater treatment. The approach also addresses trade-offs among urban water users, food and energy producers, and the need to protect ecosystems.

The main objectives of this workshop were to learn about the experiences and challenges that GWP regions are facing concerning urban water security and to share ideas of how these challenges can be overcome by the introduction of an integrated approach to urban water management

### **Lessons learned and the way forward**

- There is a very quick urban growth which puts a lot of pressure on available resources, both on the quantity and quality
- The frequency of extreme events is higher, more droughts and floods
- The models we are using are based on old thinking
- We should look at water urban systems differently – we are already doing this
- We need to look at waste as a resource and as potential for productivity
- What is important is the way we think – there are packages with tools that are being developed which will help promote this new way of thinking

## Workshop 5: Food and Water Security

### **Summary**

Food security is one of the six key thematic areas targeted by GWP's 2020 Strategy towards a water secure world. It is proposed that the scope for the thematic priority of food security specifically considers a focus on food security sustainability in the context of climate change, instead of addressing other types of issues (availability, access, quality/nutrition). Work on this thematic approach aims at strengthening GWP's focus on food security as part of IWRM. This entails a more thorough consideration of the water complexities within agriculture as well as the importance of ecosystem services sustaining food production systems.

A draft concept note was presented which includes an overview of all that has been done and all that is planned in the regions at local, national, regional level. The objectives of the workshop were to share examples of on-going activities related to food security within the network in different regions, improve GWP's programmatic approach to food security and water security and identify key activities and potential synergies amongst themes/regions that could be developed.

### **Lessons learned and the way forward**

- There is a knowledge gap that needs to be addressed – there is a lot of information which is very technical and needs to be translated into material that will be useful for ministers/politicians
- We have to think about the capacity that exists below the regional level if we are going to tackle the food security questions
- We need to think about the issue with food security more holistically
- The GWP Network can contribute to enhance food and water security dimensions of IWRM by continuing shared learning, helping translate information into useful material, building capacity, helping people develop collaborative relationships with organizations, resourcing (we have to be ready to invest more not only in terms of money)

### Workshop 6: Transboundary Water Management for Development

#### Summary

Transboundary water management is one of the six key thematic areas targeted by GWP's 2020 Strategy towards a water secure world. The scope for this thematic priority specifically considers a focus on transboundary dimension under the river basin management (RBM) concept. Work on this thematic approach aims at strengthening GWP's focus on transboundary water security as part of IWRM processes towards the achievement of water security. This entails a more thorough consideration of the complexities amongst different water users and uses and a more sophisticated RBM/IWRM concept addressing transboundary aspects and balancing different challenges, priorities and development agendas.

Promoting transboundary cooperation can only be justified when it provides benefits through enhanced water, food, energy or political security; and nexus dimension is always at the heart of cooperation. Thus, this thematic area should be considered as rather cross-cutting – and in a combination with other priority areas and challenges.

The objectives of this workshop were to improve GWP's programmatic approach on transboundary water security with the aim of strengthening the way GWP addresses this topic and enrich GWP work through the identification of key activities and potential synergies amongst themes that could be developed.

#### Lessons learned and the way forward

- Without transboundary context, it is impossible to manage water resources. Start with issues that unite neighbouring countries
- International water law helps and is a support but it is not a panacea for cooperation
- Sustainability of GWP interventions will be ensured only if the GWP builds trust with political bodies
- Phasing is important and cooperation needs to be nurtured over time
- Priorities to address transboundary issues within the water security context include:
  - the development of IWRM plans
  - diagnostic analysis to assess what are common issues
  - putting emphasis on benefit sharing rather than water sharing
- Actors that GWP should influence include global donors, regional economic committees, regional basic committees, national ministries of foreign affairs and others
- Key strategic allies to engage with include global donors, global conventions, regional economic committees and bodies, regional basin committees, academia, NGOs and others
- The GWP Network can contribute to enhance transboundary dimensions of IWRM by developing long term programs and by promoting high level meetings of ministers in the specific region

### CONCLUSION OF THE CONSULTING PARTNERS MEETING

GWP Chair Dr Ursula Schaefer-Preuss concluded the meeting by saying that there had been two full days with rich meetings and inspiring thematic workshops where lots of information was shared among partners. She finished by thanking the host Judy Daniels and her team in Trinidad. The closing of the Consulting Partners meeting was followed by the 2014 GWP Annual Lecture.

## 2014 ANNUAL LECTURE: CLIMATE AND WATER

*Professor John B.R. Agard gave the GWP Annual Lecture at the Consulting Partners Meeting 2014 in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, on 28 June. The topic was "Climate Change and Water."*

*Dr Agard is Professor of Tropical Island Ecology and Head of the Department of Life Sciences at the University of the West Indies (UWI), Trinidad and Tobago. He is a former Chairman of the Environmental Management Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (EMA), and he has served internationally as lead author in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2007.*

Dr Agard started by expressing his excitement about the context of the issue targeting different sectors (social, economy, environment), scales (global, regional, local), and themes (resilience, sustainability, equity).

He went on to discuss the global climate change problem and the related predictions regarding the changes in temperature. "Even if we came to an agreement and stabilized now, over the rest of the century things will stabilize and drop down a bit. But this is the optimistic scenario, it is not going to happen because it is too late." With this seemingly pessimistic remark, Dr Agard encouraged the audience to realize the importance of reaching an agreement and enforcing it in order to meet the best possible scenario – an increase by about 2°C – rather than the otherwise likely increase by 4, 5 or maybe even 6°C.

Dr Agard reminded the audience that these are predictions based on pure physics rather than emotions and hence do not tell us anything about the politics, socioeconomics or the processes that led us to the situation. He proceeded to go beyond the model predictions saying that "we have to convert the model outputs into what it means for the people; downscaling to the appropriate level is important. People don't like models, they want to know what they mean." He gave specific examples from Saint Lucia and Barbados that translates the data from his models into the probable phenomena likely to be experienced – in both cases an overall decrease in precipitation combined with an increase in extreme events. Using this he reminded that water is everywhere and it is key in every impact that is projected to unfold – water availability for people, agriculture, forests, species and natural areas, to name a few.

He divided the potential impacts of climate change into two components: 1) the physical climate change and 2) the socio-economic and political. One of the key messages was that the magnitude of the physical signal alone does not determine the impact. If no action is taken, the full impact is experienced but Dr Agard reminded the audience that there is the option for planning and adapting. Making an objective analysis of the cost-benefits of climate change adaptation measures can help guide action. He discussed the case of Trinidad and Tobago where analysis showed mangroves are very important as they prevent flooding and erosion. "Their benefits don't become obvious until they are removed. You are better off leaving them where they are and if you have removed them, the benefits are still higher if they are planted back rather than if a sea wall is built." Dr Agard suggested that this type of analysis is useful as it shows the need for action and careful allocation of limited resources based on data rather than "emotions or hysteria."

He concluded his lecture by discussing a statistic which claims that Trinidad and Tobago rank 95th globally in ecosystem sustainability. By discussing the three components used to rank ecosystem

sustainability – greenhouse gas emissions, water withdrawals as a percentage of resources, and biodiversity and habitat – he pointed towards the importance of water and the need to account for water in every aspect. “We hope this will help the government in decision-making and hope they will make it sustainably.”

Watch the full presentation [here](#)

Powerpoint presentation available [here](#)