

Monthly Report of the GWP Executive Secretary

February 2006

Contents

1. Activities in existing regions
2. IWRM planning programmes
3. 4th World Water Forum
4. Associated Programmes
5. TEC
6. Secretariat

1. ACTIVITIES IN EXISTING REGIONS

AUSTRALIA

The Partnership's executive meeting was held in February, focusing on the coming year and the potential linkages with programmes and organizations in the region.

CARIBBEAN

- Co-hosted a Dialogue in Jamaica with the Women's Resource & Outreach Centre on February 23. 80 people attended, representatives identified the next steps and established an action committee.
- Continued with preparations for staging of the annual meeting of partners in Port of Spain in April.
- Continued consultations on aligning regional partnership's statutes with GWP's Conditions for Accreditation
- Membership drive resulted to date, in four new GWP partners.

CENTRAL AFRICA

On January 31 to February 3, CAFTAC took part in a meeting in Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso to plan the conference of Central African ministers in charge of water and to plan the creation a major water institution in the sub region.

CAFTAC and GWP Cameroon participated in the PAWD II meeting in Swaziland to exchange experiences on progress, and the challenges and lessons learnt in the implementation of the Dutch and CIDA water Initiatives (See Programmes below).

Stakeholders in Equatorial Guinea and São Tomé Príncipe met in São Tomé on February 27 to March 1 to discuss integrated water resources management, GWP and other issues in water relevant to the sub region.

CENTRAL AMERICA

- GWP El Salvador has now been formally accredited as a GWP country water partnership
- Through meetings with members in Costa Rica, GWP Central America is working towards establishing other country water partnerships in the region. The members from Costa Rica have shown much interest.

- GWP Central America participated in a meeting held with the members of the Central American Strategy of Integrated Water Resources inter-agency group. The Strategy was finalised and will be reviewed during the forthcoming national planning meetings.
- Organised by GWP Central America, the Secretariat of the 4th World Water Forum and the IADB, a training course was held for 30 journalists from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Belize, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama during the regional workshop held in San Salvador. This training was related to the Drinking Water and Sanitation. More journalists have now joined the GWP Central America Journalist's Network on Water Resources.
- GWP Central America in collaboration with several partners, a roundtable discussion was conducted with the press in Costa Rica on February 22 on the "Environmentally adjusted Canon for the Use of Water", signed by the President of Costa Rica last January, and the "Law Project" that is being conducted at the Environmental Commission of the Congress.
- The meeting of Water Directors from Latin America, Portugal and Spain was held in San José, Costa Rica on February 23-24. Again, GWP Central America worked with a wide range of partners to organise the event.

CENTRAL ASIA

Completed analytical part of the field observations of the gender issues in all eight countries of the CACENA region

Published 500 copies of the English language version of the GWP CACENA Report "Gender Issues of IWRM"

The secretariat completed arrangements for a delegation from Central Asia to participate in the 4th World Water Forum. The Central Asia partnership is organizing a session on, "IWRM as a Basis for Social and Economic Development in Central Asia", which will be held on March 18.

The Japan Water Forum is to support 12 participants from five countries in the region, selected through a nomination process by the respective countries.

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

- GWP Romania participated in Danube Regional Project, preparing a questionnaire to national River Basin Committee (RBC). The main topics are: Structure and Function of RBCs, communication and dissemination, improving public participation activities in support of river basin planning processes.
- GWP Lithuania has initiated a drawing and photo competition among schoolchildren in the project "Saving water Resources for Future Generations".
- The second phase project under the *Associated Programme for Flood Management (APFM)* has been initiated in three pilot rivers basins in Poland, Romania and Slovakia. The project focuses on improving communication between forecast centres and population living in flash floods areas.
- Organised by GWP Romania, the Romanian water and environment experts group submitted a proposal for national project training programmes to the Romanian Environmental Fund. The project is supported by seed money from GWP Romania saved from its fundraising activities in 2005.
- Under the auspices of GWP Slovenija, the primary school in Kranjska Gora has registered itself with the Volvo Adventure Award.

- GWP Bulgaria co-organised seminar “Chances for Water pollution Reduction and Implementation of Ecologically Friendly Practices in the Danube River Basin”.
- GWP Slovenija contributed actively to national celebration of the Wetlands Day on 2 February.
- Translation of the ToolBox into Romanian language has been started. The TEC books have already been translated and printed and will shortly be posted on the GWP Romania web site.
- GWP Slovenija has published TEC 9 in the national language, and is completing the “EEB Questionnaire” on national reporting to Article 5 of Water Framework Directive.
- The majority of country water partnerships of the region have organised their general assemblies with a focus on assessing the activities of 2005 and the action plans for 2006.
- CWP Ukraine was formally established on 21 February. GWP Ukraine will be represented at the Regional Council by a representative of the State Committee of Water Resources, Mr. Mykola Babich.

CHINA

Invited as a senior member of panel experts by the Ministry of Water Resources, Dr. Dong Zheren, Chair of GWP China TAC, attended a review meeting organised by the Ministry of Water Resources on “The Planning of Aquatic Eco-system Protection and Restoration in Wuxi City”.

The Planning was compiled by the Department of Water Resources of Jiangsu province and the Wuxu People’s Government and could be taken as a pilot to realize the thinking of harmony between human and nature and a solid step to enforce the new China Water Law.

Accompanied by Dr. Dong, Mr. Wang Shucheng, the Minister of Water Resources, met Ms. Margaret Catley-Carlson, Chair of GWP, in Beijing. Mr. Wang Shucheng – a new member of the UN Secretary General’s Task Force of Water and Sanitation – expressed his appreciation to the Chair of GWP and GWP China in promoting IWRM in China.

During the Chair’s visit she was updated on the partnership’s work plan for 2006 and the activities planned by the provincial and Yellow River Basin partnerships.

EASTERN AFRICA

Most work has been focused on the preparation of the regional sessions and presentations at the forthcoming Water Forum in Mexico.

SOUTH AMERICA

Work to establish the South America regional water partnership is continuing.

SOUTH ASIA

- The Women and Water Network in South Asia established a regional secretariat based in Islamabad and headed by Ms. Farzana Saleem, a former member of GWPSAS regional council. One of their first activities will be to hold a meeting in Mexico, during the 4th World Water Forum as well as ‘manning the stand’ at the Asia Pacific Pavilion on March 20th.
- On January 28, the Bangladesh Water Partnership, in cooperation with Coastal Development Partnership which is host institution of Bhairab River Area Water Partnership (BRAWP), formed a local Women and Water Network for the BRAWP. Sixteen women professionals

from various organizations attended the meeting. The news was published in many Bengali and English local and national dailies.

- Mr. S.B Niyangoda, a former senior government official in Sri Lanka and a GWP South Asia Regional Council member, took over as Chair of the Sri Lanka National Water Partnership in January.
- In Sri Lanka, the Malwatu Oya Area Water Partnership held a meeting in Anuradhapura in February that succeeded in attracting private sector investment to construct a bathing structure on the banks of the local river. Earlier the area partnership built one and there is a demand from the riparian communities for more.
- To increase coordination of IWRM activities, Indian Water Partnership is promoting dialogues among area water partnerships, GWP partners and relevant Government Departments.
- An e-group for information dissemination within Indian Water Partnership was launched on February 8, 2006 and currently has subscribed one hundred and fifty five members.
- The Working Group of Pakistan Council on the World Commission on Dams report held a meeting with GWP partners on February 27 in Lahore to hear their comments/ views on the proceeding of the National Seminar on Dams and Development.
- Senior members of the Pakistan Water Partnership held a meeting February 28 with Sardar Muhammad Tariq, Member of the Regional Strategy Development Group, to finalize the Action Plan on the Regional Programme of Water Productivity.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

The regional partnership's 6th Steering Committee Meeting was held on February 2-3 in Pattaya, Thailand. This was the first SC meeting to be attended by the recently selected Alternate SC members. The strategy to bring in Alternate SC members not only addresses gender balance and equality, but ensures good cross sectoral participation as many hold important senior positions in their countries, coming from a range of sectors including senior government officials, private sector, politics, academia and NGOs.

The final arrangements were made for the sixteen participants selected to participate, through the sponsorship of the Japan Water Forum, in the 4th World Water Forum in March.

WEST AFRICA

- The West Africa Water Partnership held its Steering Committee meeting on February 24-25, in Ouagadougou. The 2005 activity and financial reports were reviewed; the 2006 work plan and budget were examined and adopted. Clear indications were given by the SC for the implementation of the work plan with the possibility to include activities for the implementation of the GWP West Africa project, which the EU has accepted to fund in the under the EU Water Facility.
- Water stakeholders of Côte d'Ivoire have launched a new country water partnership. The constitutive assembly was held on February 12 in Abidjan, the economic capital. Mr Ndri Koffi, presently at the African Water Association (AfWA) is the Chair of the newly established CWP. This brings the number of CWPs in West Africa to eight.
- The second phase of the international training on IWRM organised by Ramboll Natura in collaboration with GWP West Africa is underway in Ouagadougou. This programme is funded by SIDA and brings together about 26 participants from French speaking countries of Central, West and North Africa. It ends on March 10.

- A meeting was organised by GWP West Africa on February 13–14, with CWP's, national and regional consultants and the regional secretariat to coordinate the implementation of the EU funded programme for water governance in Burkina, Benin, Ghana and Niger.
- A forum on Water for the Sahel was organised in Nouakchott (Mauritania) from 27 february to March 3rd, 2006. A document called the " common plate form of Sahelian countries for mastering water in the Sahel" was produced and adopted by Ministers will be presented in Mexico during the 4th WWF.
- Water sector organisations in Ouagadougou held a pre-forum on February 25 to prepare for the participation of these organisations in the Mexico Water Forum. Communications were made on the forum themes and will be compiled for circulation.
- GWP West Africa took part in the PAWD II operational meeting that was held in Manzini in Swaziland on February 13–17. Benin and Cape Verde also took part in the meeting.
- A Water Forum was held in Nouakchott in Mauritania, organised by CILSS (the Permanent Inter State Committe for Drought Control in the Sahel) and GWP West Africa chaired the Steering Committee to the Forum.

2. PROGRAMMES

The Netherlands funded programme teams from Benin, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Eritrea, Mozambique and Swaziland met the regional teams and the secretariat in Manzini, Swaziland for a workshop on February 13–17. The meeting focused on exchanging knowledge and experiences, listing the lessons learned, the IWRM ToolBox and the IWRM planning process, taking gender perspectives into account and results based management. The highlight of the week was meeting some of the key stakeholders in the beautiful transboundary Komati River Basin shared between South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique.

During the workshop, a session on the ToolBox focused on the needs expressed by RWP's related to communication and knowledge exchange; the ToolBox as platform to support awareness raising and general training on IWRM principles; information and knowledge management needs from individual countries; and the need to diversify the products on offer.

3. WORLD WATER FORUM

Held under *Framework Theme 2, IWRM* – being held on at the Banamex Centre on March 18 at the 4th World Water Forum, GWP will hold the following sessions:

- Lessons learned on facilitating IWRM planning
- Role of water and IWRM in achieving the MDGs
- Financing and IWRM

Our Patron, His Royal Highness Prince of Orange, will participate in some of these events and will be a keynote speaker in the opening plenary session.

4. ASSOCIATED PROGRAMMES

- WaterNet, WA-Net and the Cap-Net secretariat developed a cooperative programme with STREAMS of Knowledge, a water and sanitation programme, to bring IWRM into the water and sanitation sector.
- Cap-Net was successful in obtaining funding for a capacity building programme in Africa and the Caribbean from the EU Water Facility.
- IWRM training was carried with UNDP country officers in the Arab region with the AWARENET regional network.

5. TEC

TEC will meet immediately before the Forum on March 13–15 outside Mexico City. The topics discussed will include TEC's publication strategy and water basin management tools.

TEC is delighted to welcome Mike Muller, former Director General of South Africa's Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, as its newest member. Mike is a Visiting Research Fellow at the School of Public and Development Management, University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa.

6. SECRETARIAT

The second informal survey undertaken by GWP at the end of 2005 on the status of IWRM planning is now published. The results suggest that over three quarters of the countries surveyed have either completed or have a process in place to prepare their national plans. The challenge facing GWP today is how to keep this momentum going. Together with several other publications, including GWP in Action and the TEC policy and technical briefs, were printed and shipped to Mexico in mid February.

Now the survey is finished, Sofia Vanner will stay on to help as fundarising assistant, with the main task to create a donors database and provide support with needed information for core and regional funding efforts.

Emilio Gabbrielli and Alan Hall participated in the DFID Water Forum 2006 held on February 7, in London. The event provided an overview of DFID's water programme with perspectives from DFID's country offices, perspective on service delivery, and the next steps. They held separate meetings on DFID's present and future contributions to the GWP.

Mercy travelled to the GWP Southeast Asia SC Meeting held in Pattaya, Thailand on February 1–3. On her return to Stockholm, she stopped over in Colombo on February 4–8 to meet Nanda Abeywickrama, the GWP South Asia Chair.

On behalf of GWP China, Björn travelled to Trondheim in Norway on February 15–16 to participate in workshop on "Chinese Challenges in Energy and Environment." Strengthened cooperation with the Norwegian development agency to support to China is part of GWP China's regional fund raising strategy. The workshop was organised by the newly founded Norwegian Energy and Environment Consortium (NEEC), based at the Norwegian Embassy in Beijing.

Carlos visited the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation on February 20 to discuss collaboration with those running the SDC Water and Sanitation toolbox. He also visited DHI to meet with Jan Hassing and Attie Kuiken of the Netherlands Water Partnership to discuss future strategies of cooperation among the three institutions.