

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



A year of inspiring results



55

key water governance improvements influenced by GWP activities



22

new national, regional, and river basin policies, plans, and strategies



17

investment plans, strategies, and budget commitments



10

river basin agreements and management frameworks



47

learning exchanges



43

technical reports, online learning communities, manuals and other knowledge products



570

million euros worth of investments (approximately) can be linked to GWP's work since 2020

[Explore our comprehensive results map](#)

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Reflecting on a year of progress



I'm thrilled to join GWP. For me, water has always been key to sustainable development. My goal for GWP is to be more like water: essential, always in motion, and making ripples that grow into waves of change.

Alan AtKisson, Executive Secretary and CEO



In 2023, GWP continued to show its relevance in working towards a water secure world. We assisted 67 countries to evaluate how well they are managing their water resources, through SDG 6.5.1, and we supported the production and launch of the landmark report of the International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa, *Africa's Rising Investment Tide*, aiming to leverage US\$30 billion annually in water investments.

Pablo Bereciartua, GWP Chair



GWP has continued to support countries to increase water-related climate investments – influencing directly and indirectly an estimated €272 million in 2023, many of which specifically focused on climate. Through this, we are influencing real change and good governance of water resources and resilience to climate change on the ground.

Abdoulaye Sene, Chair of GWP Regional Chairs



We were delighted with the exceptional entries to the 2023 Water Changemaker Awards, which showcased climate-resilient innovations with potential to scale, paving the way for a more sustainable and water-secure future. It's also exciting to see the expansion of the Communities of Practice hosted on the IWRM Action Hub, connecting and supporting water professionals to improve the way water is managed globally.

Jaehyang So, Technical Committee Chair

HOW WE ACHIEVE IMPACT



Advancing water solutions for the SDG



“What gets measured gets managed.”

This famous quote by management

thinker Peter Drucker underscores why GWP’s work on supporting the progress indicators associated with SDG target 6.5 – implementing IWRM at all levels – is so centrally important. We are past the halfway point in the 2030 Agenda’s timeline, and according to the data assembled by GWP in partnership with [UNEP](#), [UNEPDHI](#), and [Cap-Net](#) – through the [SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme](#) – the world needs to double its rate of progress.

Assessing progress on water management, like water

management itself, is a challenge that requires a great deal of cooperation between agencies and interest groups. GWP assists countries to facilitate the necessary multistakeholder consultations to assess and report on their progress on SDG indicator 6.5.1. The countries then use this reporting to plan for relevant IWRM actions and enable their implementation, increasing country performance on this key SDG indicator.

Good management also requires sound leadership, and GWP also continues to implement the [Global Water Leadership in a Changing Climate programme \(GWL\)](#), alongside [UNICEF](#), [SWA](#), and [JMP](#). In 2023, GWP worked intensely in seven countries, bringing together key stakeholders and decision-makers from two water management pillars – water resources and water and sanitation – to develop holistic, integrated policies and plans for enhancing national water and climate resilience.

HOW WE ACHIEVE IMPACT

Key achievements

- In 2023, GWP assisted the governments of 67 countries in facilitating multistakeholder consultations to determine the status of SDG indicator 6.5.1 on IWRM, involving over 2,600 stakeholders in the process. GWP also launched a new online tool for gathering multistakeholder input on the indicator on the [IWRM Action Hub](#), a tool that was used by 13 countries.
- A GWP presentation during the 38th meeting of UN-Water, focused on recommendations on how to accelerate innovation under the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, led to the creation of a [GWP-co-chaired task force on innovation](#) to shape the future of water innovation for SDG 6.
- [GWP was a catalytic presence at the UN 2023 Water Conference](#), engaging its extensive network in leading and co-convening 26 official side events. Along with its network, GWP submitted or partnered with other organisations to submit over [35 commitments](#) to the Water Actions Agenda.
- GWP assisted the governments of [North Macedonia, Nicaragua, Botswana, Paraguay, and Tunisia](#) to formulate action plans that are based on the results of SDG indicator 6.5.1 monitoring and represent appropriate multistakeholder responses to water resource management challenges.
- GWP, as part of its contribution to the [SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme](#), finalised a study with the Ministry of Water of Tanzania to highlight the value of water to Tanzania's economy in three sectors, concluding that those three sectors alone contribute at least 3.31 percent to the economy. This study was a first of its kind and creates a model for other countries to follow.
- Also on behalf of the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme, GWP conducted a [Learning Journey on Financing for Water Security](#) through its [Community of Practice on the IWRM Action Hub](#), bringing in over 350 participants through online events, blog posts, online discussions, and more, to agree on four key messages on how to increase financing for water security, supported by tangible examples and case studies.

HOW WE ACHIEVE IMPACT

Building climate resilience for water security



GWP continued its global leadership on water and climate work in 2023, primarily through a suite

of projects under the Water, Climate, Development – Gender Programme (**WACDEP-G**), the Integrated Drought Management Programme (**IDMP**), the Associated Programme on Flood Management (**APFM**), the **GCF Readiness programme**, the NDC implementation support programme, and the **WASH Climate Resilience Programme** – all implemented by GWP and partners.

Between 2020 and 2023, GWP supported over 43 countries to mobilise more than EUR35 million in climate finance to

strengthen climate resilience through water, including from the **GCF**, **Adaptation Fund**, **GEE**, the **NDC Partnership** and others.

In 2023, GWP continued to strategically support countries to utilise secured climate finance in a catalytic manner to enable preparation and implementation of transformative, paradigm-shifting water and climate resilience programmes and investments.

GWP continues to be central in advancing the Africa Union’s **Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP)**, serving as its Secretariat. In 2023, the AIP’s International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa released the major report **Africa’s Rising Investment Tide** during the **UN 2023 Water Conference**, exploring how investment partnerships can mobilise USD30 billion a year to achieve water security and sustainable sanitation in Africa. The High-Level Panel then launched its Investment Action Plan during GWP’s extensive involvement at **COP28**.

Key achievements

- GWPO prepared a successful submission to the GCF resulting in a USD1.5 million Project Preparation Facility grant to GWP Southern Africa for a regional water investment programme covering 13 countries in the Southern Africa Development Community.
- To create better conditions for mobilising resources to implement water programmes and projects in Africa, and to strengthen capacity to coordinate water policy across the continent, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the African Union Commission and GWP Southern Africa, which hosts GWP’s Africa Coordination Unit. The MOU enhances collaboration among the parties and was facilitated by the **Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP)**.

Key achievements (continued)

- During the UN 2023 Water Conference, the Presidential Changemaker Awards of the [Water Changemaker Awards 2023](#) were presented to representatives of the AIP High-Level Panel for their demonstrated leadership and commitment for climate resilient water investments. Winners of the Water Changemaker Innovation Award – for the most promising climate innovations with the greatest potential for scale, replication, and further investment to support a water-secure world – were later presented at [COP28](#).
- [GWP provided technical support to the Peruvian Ministry of Environment](#) to develop the country's National Climate Change Strategy, and to Paraguay's Mitigation Department of the National Directorate of Climate Change, to articulate priority actions for implementing the country's Nationally Determined Contributions' sectoral mitigation plans.
- GWP carried out capacity development for real-time flood monitoring in Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, bringing these countries a step closer to operationalising a [Flood Forecasting and Early Warning System](#) in their river basins.

HOW WE ACHIEVE IMPACT

Facilitating transboundary water cooperation



Cooperating over boundaries is essential for water security and peace and requires a great deal of

hands-on facilitation and continuous relationship-building.

The GWP Network has decades of experience in this work and continued to provide multiple forms of support to six regional organisations and nine transboundary water management institutions in 2023. Considering that 60 percent of global freshwater flows are found in transboundary basins, shared among 153 states, and that their management is still far from ideal, GWP's dedicated efforts to advance transboundary cooperation is critical for global progress in this area.

Key achievements

- GWP was one of the establishing members of the [Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition](#), a multistakeholder coalition protecting and better managing transboundary waters in all basins and connected coastal systems worldwide.
- A new USD7.1 million, five-year project, implemented by GWP, was approved by [GEF](#). The project focuses on [transboundary cooperation in the Drin Basin](#) to support the implementation of the Drin Strategic Action Programme and enable countries to coordinate action at the basin level.
- GWP published [Multistakeholder Regional Dialogues: Pathways for Advancing Transboundary Water Cooperation](#), which reflects on factors that enable multistakeholder dialogues to positively influence transboundary cooperation.
- The governments of Mozambique and Zimbabwe [signed the BUPUSA Water Courses Commission Establishing Agreement](#) in May 2023, a process closely supported by GWP. The agreement allows for coordinated management, protection, and utilisation of the [Buzi, Pungwe, and Save tri-basin](#), and puts both countries in a better position to react to hazards.
- The Minister Council of the Central American Commission of Environment and Development validated a set of [Regional Guidelines on the Principles of Cooperation for Transboundary Water Management](#) in the Central American Integration System in 2023. GWP played a crucial role in the facilitation of this process, which was initiated at the first regional dialogue in 2019.

HOW WE ACHIEVE IMPACT

Mainstreaming gender equality



True water security is not possible without adopting inclusive and participatory approaches.

Through its Gender

Strategy, GWP has continued to employ the ‘never without them when about them’ approach to achieving a water secure world.

Furthermore, [GWP’s signature Water, Climate, Development – Gender Programme](#) (WACDEP-G), implemented across Benin, Cameroon, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zambia, aims to promote gender equality by strategically integrating gender-transformative planning and decision-making into climate-resilient water infrastructure projects. Since the initiation of WACDEP-G in 2020, GWP has increasingly been able to influence the mainstreaming of gender into planning and investment processes.

Key achievements

- Thanks to facilitation by GWP in West Africa, gender was incorporated in the [Volta Flood and Drought Management Strategy and the Volta Basin Gender and Flood End-to-End Early Warning System Action Plan](#).
- Through the [SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme](#), GWP piloted a gender mainstreaming checklist in [Uganda](#), [Cameroon](#), and [Lebanon](#) to ensure that gender is a central part of SDG 6 monitoring and achievement.
- Through the [Global Water Leadership Programme](#), GWP conducted a stakeholder and gender analysis to map the stakeholders and their meaningful participation in planning and decision-making processes in Nepal. The analysis will support the development of gender equality and social inclusion policies to ensure the participation of women in multistakeholder change processes.
- GWP ensured the incorporation of gender in an [IWRM Action Plan](#) that was developed and approved by the Guatemalan Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.
- GWP is supporting 13 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat countries to develop a [Green Climate Fund investment proposal](#) for a SADC Gender-Transformative Water Investment Programme.

HOW WE ACHIEVE IMPACT

Mobilising youth for water management



GWP continued its engagement with young people throughout 2023, recognising their vital role and immense potential as both beneficiaries and active partners towards a water secure world.

GWP also continued to host and support the moderation of several active [youth Communities of Practice](#) in 2023, giving young practitioners places to connect and learn together. While diverse in scope and ambition, GWP's youth portfolio has the common objective of advancing SDG 6 implementation by supporting and enhancing young people's contributions to water resources management through youth empowerment, and building institutional capacity for youth inclusion in decision-making.

Key achievements

- GWP held a [three-month training programme](#) in the Caribbean between July and September 2023 as part of its [Water Academy for Youth](#) programme. The experience provided theme-specific mentoring to young professionals to empower them to take IWRM actions in their regional context.
- GWP provided support to national and regional youth organisations across West Africa to hold national workshops that allowed them to develop their contributions to the United Nations 2023 Water Conference.
- GWP launched the [South Asia Youth Water Challenge 2023](#), sponsored by Brandix. The winning team was awarded USD2,500 to implement an innovative rainwater harvesting solution with integrated smart technology, enabling real-time water quality monitoring.
- The [2023 Summer School in Central and Eastern Europe](#), hosted in Prague, Czechia in July 2023, gathered 21 MSc and PhD students from 17 countries to expand their practical knowledge and skills to support the implementation of natural, small, and underutilised water and nutrient retention measures.

HOW WE ACHIEVE IMPACT

Working with the private sector



The [2020–2025 global GWP Strategy](#) sets an objective for the GWP Network to

engage the private sector in water resources management, including mobilising investment, reducing negative impacts, and promoting innovation and entrepreneurship. Throughout 2023, GWP continued with its global and network-wide efforts to forge win-win partnerships with the private sector.

Key achievements

- GWP committed itself to the [Forward Faster](#) Water Resilience initiative, as one of four official partners. Through this initiative, private companies are encouraged to commit to accelerating action to achieve the objectives of the [Water Resilience Coalition](#) and achieve net positive water impact in more than 100 water-stressed basins by 2030.
- In Uruguay, [GWP launched the Water Footprint Verification Programme](#) in June 2023, in partnership with the Chamber of Industries and the regional certification organisation LSQA, to promote efficient water management in productive processes. Six companies have been certified so far.
- Two agricultural [communities in Heraklion, Crete, Greece were supported through the Zero Drop programme](#), implemented by GWP Mediterranean and financed by The Coca-Cola Foundation and Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling Company. A new piping system was installed and the pumping station equipment was upgraded, which each year will benefit the population of 200,000 residents, saving 14.5 million litres of water and 30 kilograms of carbon dioxide emissions.
- A series of workshops in Sri Lanka supported private sector banks with the process of accreditation by the [GCF](#) to become Direct Access Entities, which helps them towards eligibility to receive GCF readiness support.

REGIONAL IMPACT



How we measure results



To realise the vision of a water secure world, GWP supports countries to advance the governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development. This work is guided by the principles of integrated water resources management and is fully aligned with measuring progress towards SDG 6, indicator 6.5.1: degree of implementation of IWRM. The work is applicable to all water-related SDGs and their targets, and structured according to the following chain of results.

Firstly, activities are implemented with the aim of influencing targeted stakeholders, such as national

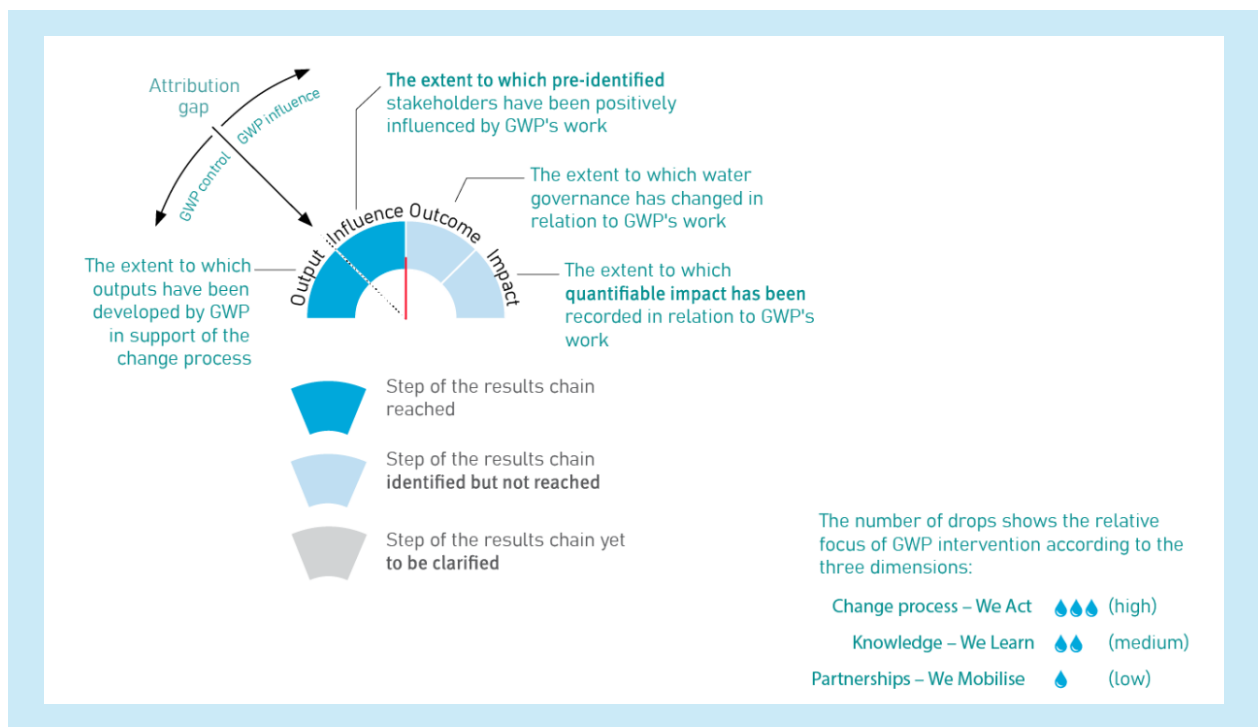
governments, regional economic development bodies, river basin organisations, and community-based organisations. Some of these actors are then instrumental in the development of key water governance outcomes. A new water policy, a national adaptation plan, a transboundary management agreement, an investment plan or strategy, strengthened legislation, a regional planning framework, and institutional reform are examples of such outcomes.

The implementation of these water governance outcomes leads to socio-economic benefits among the target populations through increased investment in appropriate infrastructure, empowerment of vulnerable groups, and more sustainable use of resources. To achieve such outcome- and impact-level results, GWP organises its work around three dimensions, as outlined in the 2020–2025 Strategy:

REGIONAL IMPACT

1. An operational dimension:
Catalysing change in policies and practice
2. A knowledge dimension:
Generating and communicating knowledge
3. A partnering dimension:
Strengthening partnerships

Some of the stories in this report describe initiatives that are at the initial stage of development, where higher-level results have yet to materialise. Others reflect contributions to processes, often supported over a number of years, that can be linked to tangible impact on the ground. The graphics applied to each story (and explained above) indicate the point along the GWP results chain (output > influence > outcome > impact) that had been reached at the end of 2023. The graphics also illustrate how GWP's work was roughly distributed across the three dimensions (We Act, We Learn, We Mobilise) to achieve the results. For more information: [Our results, influence, impact, and theory of change](#).



REGIONAL IMPACT

Caribbean



Building the capacity of a self-reliant community in Grenada



Mt. Granby community meeting

The Mt. Granby community in Grenada does not receive potable water from a municipal system. Instead, it is responsible for managing its own system, including covering maintenance costs. GWP Caribbean have been collaborating with the Mt. Granby Water Committee to increase the capacity of the community's dam and rehabilitate its water distribution system. Many parts of the system are old and due for replacement, having been experiencing leaks. Leaks in the dam mean that not all the water abstracted is available for use – leading to unsustainable over-abstraction to meet the community's needs.

GWP Caribbean were approached by the community for support and have played a multifaceted role in the Mt. Granby

Project to date. Support started with GWP Caribbean playing an instrumental role in developing the project proposal and launching the project in 2023. After leveraging their expertise to design a comprehensive plan tailored to the community's specific needs, GWP Caribbean have also been active in the current implementation phase, and specifically pivotal in providing and accessing grant funding and securing financial resources necessary for project execution. In 2023, this included the following activities:

- Organising capacity-building sessions: one focused on water committee operations, attended by 25 community members; and the other on integrated water resources management, attended by 30 community members.
- Facilitating the formation of a well-constituted and functioning committee.
- Providing funding for infrastructure enhancement, including raising the level of the dam wall.
- Facilitating the development of a Water Safety Plan due to be completed by December 2024.



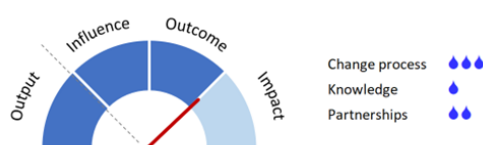
REGIONAL IMPACT

Launching a visionary policy plan for Curaçao

After years of collaboration and dedication from GWP Caribbean and partners, an integrated water resources management (IWRM) Policy Plan for Curaçao was launched on World Water Day in March 2023. This transformative plan represents a significant shift towards comprehensive water management practices, driven by collaborative endeavours to address water challenges and pave the way for a sustainable future for Curaçao's water resources and communities.

The development of the IWRM Policy Plan was made possible by the collaborative efforts and strategic vision of key stakeholders, notably led by Ms Toré, a distinguished member of the GWP Caribbean Steering Committee. Tireless efforts, working with the Government of Curaçao and other stakeholders, have brought this policy plan to fruition. GWP Caribbean's early involvement, providing technical support and expertise on IWRM, laid the foundation for this journey.

Through their guidance and assistance, GWP Caribbean contributed valuable insights and resources, ensuring that the policy plan aligned with international best practices and standards.



Caucasus and Central Asia



Advancing young specialists' use of management tools in Kyrgyzstan



CWP Kyrgyzstan team presents results at high-level meeting

The Kyrgyz Republic is highly vulnerable to climate change, and many rural communities already lack access to safe water and good sanitation. A new generation of water specialists need the right integrated water resources management (IWRM) tools to make progress on these issues. Country Water Partnership (CWP) Kyrgyzstan's experts have therefore developed **nine training modules on economic and financial water resources management tools**, aimed at undergraduate and graduate students.

Gaining an understanding of the basic financial and economic principles associated with IWRM is in high demand

REGIONAL IMPACT

among students and experienced water specialists alike in Central Asia and the Caucasus. Previously, no such training was available, so CWP Kyrgyzstan set out to change this. By providing logistical support and the expertise of experienced trainers from CWP Kyrgyzstan, these new modules will advance understanding of IWRM in the region.

In addition to creating the new training modules, in 2023 more than 45 undergraduate and graduate students took part in five courses using the modules, and 80 water sector specialists, including representatives from government bodies, developed their qualifications. The CWP Kyrgyzstan team presented these results at two high-level meetings, including the 4th meeting of the National Intersectoral Committee of Kyrgyzstan in September 2023.



Mainstreaming gender in Turkmenistan's climate adaptation plan



Workshop held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

Irrigated agriculture is a driver of Turkmenistan's economy, especially due to women's labour and management efforts. Despite wide recognition of the role of women in water resources management, however, gender-related issues still arise, especially when water becomes scarce and competition among users increases.

An opportunity to address gender issues better opened up this year during the development of Turkmenistan's National Adaptation Plan (NAP), a plan laying out actions the country will take to adapt to the impacts of climate change. In December 2023, a workshop titled [Gender and Water Resources in the Process of Adaptation to Climate Change](#) was held at the United Nations office in Ashgabat as part of the NAP's development. GWP Central Asia and Caucasus contributed its expertise by organising training on gender mainstreaming at the workshop, with Country Water Partnership (CWP) Turkmenistan Chair Dr Musabayeva, a GWP expert in gender, water, and climate change, serving as a key trainer.

The training promoted gender mainstreaming in the NAP process, encouraged a greater understanding of gender issues in water management, and lay the foundation for further cooperation in successful gender-sensitive water management among national stakeholders. GWP Central Asia and Caucasus will continue to champion gender mainstreaming by analysing NAP-related climate risk assessments and highlighting the costs, benefits, and unique risks faced by women.

REGIONAL IMPACT



Central Africa



Informing a new Water Law for Cameroon



The participants of the first Water Law revision workshop in Douala, Cameroon

Aware of the impact water management has on development, and on the country's population of over 27 million people, **Cameroon has revised its Water Law** for the first time in nearly 25 years. The Water Law N°98/005 of 14 April 1998 was considered obsolete due to socio-economic, environmental, and institutional landscape changes.

The Ministry of Water established a committee for this task and requested GWP Central Africa to support as a technical partner.

Recognising a particular need to better consider gender in legal texts and project development, **GWP Central Africa delivered consultations and gender-focused training** to the water and environment ministries.

The revised law will now consider the four principles of integrated water resources management and gender, amongst other key factors. It will further improve transboundary water management, help address droughts and floods, and boost the development of sectors such as energy, agriculture, and tourism. The revision process is still underway with several consultation workshops envisaged before the validation of the final revised version.

The new law is especially crucial for Cameroon's largest river, the Sanaga River, which is awaiting the creation of a management commission. Djibrilla Mohamadou, Executive Secretary of GWP–Central Africa, says, "The creation of the Sanaga Basin Commission cannot move forward because it must be based on a legal framework; however, the current Water Law does not take this into account." Establishing the revised law, and subsequently the Sanaga Basin Commission, will help ensure the sustainable management of a river that provides Cameroon with water, food, livelihoods, and 95% of its hydroelectricity.



REGIONAL IMPACT

Bringing water to Central African Republic's Environmental Code



The water stakeholders at the national workshop reflecting on how to integrate water resources management into the Central African Republic's Environmental Code

Water actors in the Central African Republic met with representatives of the environment sector who are currently revising the country's 2007 Environmental Code, thanks to efforts by the [Global Water Leadership \(GWL\) in a Changing Climate programme](#).

The programme and the Ministry of Energy Development and Water Resources, with the support of the Country Water Partnership – Central African Republic (CWP-CAR), [organized a national workshop to reflect on and contribute to the revision of the Environmental Code](#). Through the solid relationships built by CWP-CAR, the workshop brought together 40 participants from government institutions and civil society.

Sylvain Guebanda, Chief of Mission at the Ministry of Water Resources, said, "Given the interconnectedness between the environment and water, stakeholders in the water sector must come together to reflect on and ensure that water

management is a part of this revision process."

In coming together, the stakeholders identified root causes that have hindered the resilience of water resources in the country since the Environmental Code's adoption, and identified entry points for sustainable water resources management to be included in the revised code. A first draft of the updated code is now awaiting stakeholder validation and national adoption.



Central America



Regional guidelines support transboundary water cooperation in Central America

Transboundary river basins comprise over 40 percent of Central America's territory and are home to 21 million of its people. Improving transboundary water resource management is one of the most critical challenges for Central America. Implementing basin management agreements is essential for food security,

REGIONAL IMPACT

improving livelihoods, and protecting ecosystems across the region.

To address this, GWP Central America and the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) initiated a **multistakeholder regional dialogue** process to catalyse cooperation among transboundary countries. One outcome has been the development of regional guidelines that contribute to the sustainable development of the communities and natural resources of the transboundary basins.

GWP Central America, the Ministries of Environment and Foreign Affairs, and other organisations prepared and reviewed the initial draft document throughout 2022, and in June 2023, the Council of Ministers of CCAD validated the proposed guidelines. With their political backing, these guidelines can be implemented by countries in the context of each transboundary basin. The principles in these guidelines will also anchor GWP Central America's future work as it implements the guidelines at a basin level.



Guatemala establishes an action plan for IWRM

Guatemala's abundant freshwater resources are increasingly impacted by climate events such as floods and droughts, as well as landslides and mudslides. Pollution is also a significant

issue, with contamination from industrial, domestic, and agricultural sources impacting users downstream. These issues limit the country's ability to improve the livelihoods of the 55 percent of the population currently living in poverty.



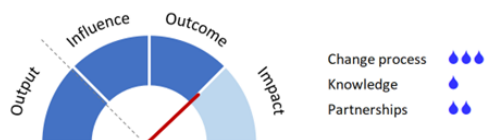
Launch event, GWP Central America's Regional Coordinator Fabiola Tábor (second to the left)

Since 2017, GWP Central America and partners in Guatemala have been supporting the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in the development of an IWRM action plan. Through a series of multistakeholder consultations and workshops, the Ministry identified priorities to accelerate progress towards compliance with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. In November 2023, the **Strategic Actions for the Implementation of the Integrated Management of Water Resources in Guatemala within the Framework of Indicator 6.5.1 of the SDGs** was presented to the **Technical Advisory Committee for Basins**, which will be responsible for many of the actions.

Through the implementation of this plan, the Ministry will be better equipped to protect and enhance Guatemala's natural resources, particularly its water resources, making the country more

REGIONAL IMPACT

competitive at a global level and improving the quality of life of all Guatemalans.



Improved water monitoring contributes to better water governance

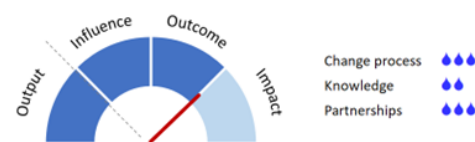
Water monitoring and the accessibility of water data for decision-making is a common hurdle in Central America. Countries need to know what the demand and availability of water is – especially considering regional vulnerabilities to extreme climate events like drought. Providing water in rural areas is particularly challenging.

In 2023, GWP Panama was asked by the Ministry of Environment to facilitate a consultation process, alongside GWP partners like the Ministry of Health and the Panama Canal Authority, to update and simplify the *Manual for Permits and Concessions for the Use of Surface and Groundwater*. This updated edition reflects recent changes in the legislation of the Rural Aqueduct Management Boards.

Launched during GWP Panama's General Assembly on 30

November 2023, the manual will contribute to the understanding of the steps to be taken for water concessions, especially among the Management Boards, and improve information on water demand at the local level. The Ministry of Environment has already

reported receiving more inquiries regarding the process of water concessions, demonstrating the manual's rapid impact on civil participation in water management. Better information about water data at the basin level will support future decision-making and bolster water security.



Central and Eastern Europe



Amplifying local voices in Estonian water management consultations



Roundtable discussions

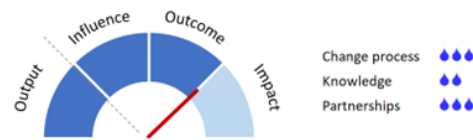
Polluted sediment accumulation makes Haapsalu Bay one of the most ecologically degraded water bodies in Estonia. The government announced in 2017 that it was updating management

REGIONAL IMPACT

plans, but disagreements over whether the problems were marine or land-based caused delays.

To help break the impasse, GWP Estonia organised a roundtable seminar in Haapsalu on 29 February 2020 to allow local stakeholders to voice their concerns and propose solutions. Thanks to lobbying and continual interest from GWP Estonia, several measures and financial allocations dedicated to Haapsalu Bay have now been approved. The Estonian Water Basin Management Plan 2022–2027 includes measures to construct a EUR5 million central sewage system for the village of Herjava on the Haapsalu Bay coast, remove reeds and rotting plants from the bay, improve port management in the area, and put in place improved supervision of these management practices. Similarly, the updated Marine Strategy Directive, adopted in 2023, includes measures to open spawning routes for fish and to remove the accumulating sediment from Haapsalu Bay. GWP Estonia organised a second roundtable on 23 September 2023 to review these developments with local stakeholders.

The Water Basin Management Plan 2022–2027 measures have also earmarked EUR10 million for the removal of sediment from Haapsalu Bay and Tallinn Bay. GWP Estonia will now work to understand how these funds will be divided to ensure the continued revival of Haapsalu Bay.



Bringing integrated drought management to Armenia and Kosovo

Higher temperatures and shifting rainfall patterns are increasing the likelihood of droughts in Armenia and Kosovo. GWP Central and Eastern Europe have been working with the governments of both countries to ensure they are better prepared for water shortages.

In Armenia, efforts have focused on implementing a project focusing on an integrated drought management approach, funded by Visegrad Fund. The [Armenian Community of Practice on Droughts](#), established in April 2023 by GWP Central and Eastern Europe, brings together relevant stakeholders and marks an important step towards efficient and sustainable drought management. This cooperation was further encouraged by training sessions, workshops, and a monthly bulletin – all designed to enable stakeholders to implement integrated drought management more effectively. “The collaboration with GWP Central and Eastern Europe ... has been instrumental in reshaping our approach to drought management,” reported Alisa Savadyan, Project Lead in Armenia. “We are now better equipped to proactively address the challenges posed by climate change.”

In Kosovo, [GWP Central and Eastern Europe led the development of a Drought Action Plan](#). Working in tandem, the Water and Wastewater Works Association of Kosovo ensured that ensuing activities – ranging from training

REGIONAL IMPACT

and dialogues to improving communication channels – were aligned with existing processes and involved high-level stakeholders, including the Inter-Ministerial Water Council, the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure, Regional River Basin Authorities, and the Kosovo Hydro Meteorological Institute. The improved governance processes that have resulted from these efforts are already being applied to water management projects in Kosovo, such as the production of the Draft Action Plan for the Drin River Pilot Basin. These projects are contributing to long-term climate resilience and improved sustainable water management for the country.



China



Promoting water development through the Belt and Road Working Committee



The **Belt and Road Working Committee of GWP China** was established on 29 March 2023. Its formation came after the signing of a memorandum of understanding between GWP China and the China State Construction Engineering Corporation, a global investment and construction group. The founding of the Working Committee reflects the ambition of GWP China to engage the private sector to mobilise private investment, reduce impacts on water by key industries, and promote innovation and entrepreneurship.

The Working Committee shares the strategic goals of the Belt and Road Initiative, promoting cross-regional and cross-basin management and sustainable use of water resources in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The Working Committee will focus on four main responsibilities:

- Building a new pattern of a “two horizontal, eight vertical, and six rivers” water network – interconnecting high-quality construction projects of roads, rail, bridges, waterways, power stations, mines, and more, covering different industries regionally and nationally. Strengthening cooperation in water resources will be an important starting point.
- Leading research in water resources science and technology innovation.
- Coordinating forces to promote cross-regional, cross-basin, and cross-national development.

REGIONAL IMPACT

- Building a platform to enhance international influence by utilising the network of global water partners, becoming a strong academic authority, and creating a neutral cooperation platform.



Uniting legislators towards sustainable development for all



The low-carbon strategies sub-forum with Jiang Yunzhong, GWP China Regional Secretary General (fifth from the left)

The city of Shenzhen, China is actively promoting sustainable development and firmly committed to green development.

In September, more than 30 legislators from 17 countries came together for the **2023 Legislators Forum for Friendly Exchanges**. The theme was “Towards Sustainable Development for All”, and the aim to strengthen cooperation among countries and promote common development.

GWP and GWP China are committed to facilitating change at the highest level. GWP China Regional Secretary General, Professor Jiang Yunzhong, is a member of the Environmental and Resource Protection Committee of the National People’s Congress, China’s highest state authority. As a Chinese legislator, Professor Jiang was invited to the forum, adding his voice alongside other high-level global policymakers. He led a sub-forum on low-carbon strategies, which gathered decision-makers from several countries, including Vashid Alsaid Sheikh, member of the Algerian National Assembly, Vice Chairman of the Algerian China Friendship Group of the National Assembly, and former Vice President of the National Assembly.



Exchanging water resources management knowledge between China and Cambodia

GWP Cambodia was invited to **explore integrated water resources management (IWRM) implementation** in China, thanks to support from GWP China and GWP Southeast Asia.

Several members of GWP Cambodia, along with partners and stakeholders, were provided the opportunity to explore IWRM implementation in the country. GWP China and partners shared their knowledge products and

REGIONAL IMPACT

implementation outcomes with the visiting group.



The meeting between Guangxi Water Resources Department and GWP China and GWP Southeast Asia delegation

In Yunnan Province, they visited Erhai Lake to view the successful integrated pollution management system and digital smart irrigation – a system with innovative water saving and bank account access. In Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the Guangxi Water Resource Department shared their concept of harmonisation and coordinated development of water resources management. The group was introduced to the Nakao River wetland park drainage system, which treats wastewater, and the Yong River management project, which encapsulates harmonious balance between development and local livelihoods.

The group was also invited by the Belt and Road Working Committee of GWP China to visit the Youjiang data-based irrigation operation, and to learn about the goals of the Working Committee.

Solieng Mak, Chair of GWP Cambodia, said the visiting members were impressed with all sites they visited in

the Yunnan Province and the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.



Eastern Africa



Building climate finance know-how in Uganda

In 2023, the [Global Water Leadership in a Changing Climate programme \(GWL\)](#) built the climate finance capacity of members from two working groups in Uganda. Unlocking finance is key to GWL's aim to implement inclusive, climate-resilient water policies and strategies in low- and middle-income countries, including Uganda.



Members from the two working groups during climate finance training in Nakasero Kampala

Working groups in all GWL countries are seeking to address bottlenecks slowing integrated water resources management (IWRM) and water, sanitation, and

REGIONAL IMPACT

hygiene (WASH) action. Uganda has formed working groups on limited finance and on the weak legal policy and institutional framework for IWRM and WASH.

In a one-day session led by GWL, 40 working group members including high-level government representatives, women- and youth-led groups, and other stakeholders in the water sector came together to develop a response strategy that will mobilise climate finance.

During the plenary discussion, several matters emerged as the most prominent among the attendees. They highlighted that there is a lot of uncertainty about climate finance; that the largest share of climate finance is unavailable to some countries; and that there is a need for a national framework in Uganda to mobilise climate finance. These concerns reinforce GWP Eastern Africa's focus on supporting countries in the region to access climate finance.

Enhancing the knowledge of the working groups offered members new skills and techniques in resource mobilisation and accessing climate financing opportunities for IWRM and WASH in Uganda. Through this, members were able to cost action plans for bottlenecks around the water sector, with an emphasis on key activities that can attract funding in their response strategy.



Mainstreaming water resilience in district land use plan in Rwanda

Sustainable water management is critical in Rwanda. Agriculture is a major economic sector, employing around 70% of the population, and irrigation is the biggest water user.

Under the framework of advancing climate-resilient plans and policies for water, the Global Water Leadership in a Changing Climate programme (GWL) in Rwanda is facilitating the mainstreaming of water resilience in land use planning across Rusizi and Karongi districts. Land use is an important factor in achieving sustainable water management in Rwanda, and GWP Eastern Africa, through the Rwanda Water Partnership, is playing a pivotal role by facilitating GWL activities, providing financial support, and taking the technical lead.



Stakeholders consultation meeting at local level in Rusizi District

There has been a shift from centralised to decentralised water and land resources management in Rwanda as the country aims to make more decisions at the catchment, sector, and district levels. In 2023, GWP Rwanda focused on identifying the needs of water users through a stakeholder consultation, involving district officials, local leaders,

REGIONAL IMPACT

and community members, to better understand water resilience risks through local experiences and to identify mitigation gaps at all levels.

Hydrological analysis and mainstreaming water resilience into district land use plans are essential for understanding water sustainability on a catchment scale. However, their success often depends on the availability of data for models. In 2023, GWP Rwanda also conducted a field visit to identify the physical characteristics of flood-prone areas. This enabled hydrological and hydraulic modelling and the proposal of appropriate measures to minimise the impacts of floods on socio-economic activities in Rusizi and Karongi districts.



Mediterranean



From source-to-sea: progressing water–energy–food–ecosystems nexus management



Plenary at the WEFE Nexus Roundtable

In the Mediterranean region, there is a need to **advance capacity for implementing sustainable natural resource management practices** and more skillfully navigating conflicts between crucial economic sectors. In response, the inaugural **Regional Water–Energy–Food–Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus Roundtable in the Mediterranean** was hosted in Morocco in June 2023 and convened 160 high-level participants from 15 countries. (“Nexus” is the nickname we use to refer these complex interconnections, which are increasingly important to understand and act on if we aim to make real progress towards water security.)

The summit was organised by GWP Mediterranean and the European Union-funded Water and Environment Support project, within the framework of the Global Environment Facility and Mediterranean Action Plan of the UN Environment Programme’s Mediterranean Sea Programme and with Sida support, on the joint initiative of the Union for the Mediterranean, Barcelona Convention, and the European Union. It provided a forum for representatives of national authorities, WEFE stakeholders, and institutions from across the region to **collectively acknowledge the urgent**

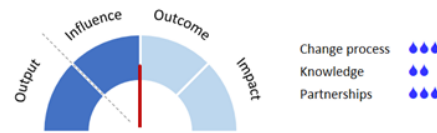
REGIONAL IMPACT

need for a new strategic framework for natural resource management.

Following the summit, GWP Mediterranean – with the support of the Global Environment Facility-funded MedProgramme – and partners initiated the preparation of a WEFE nexus strategy in the Mediterranean source-to-sea continuum, while also leading a WEFE nexus dialogue process incorporating technical assessments, action plans, and investment guidance to advance progress at the national level in several Mediterranean countries.

In **Lebanon**, GWP Mediterranean provided support using GEF MedProgramme resources to create a WEFE Inter-Ministerial Group spearheaded by the country’s Ministry of Energy and Water, to encourage integrated solutions for governing and managing shared natural resources. A field visit to Lebanon’s Shouf region, organised by GWP Mediterranean in December 2023, brought together members of nine different government institutions to **observe nexus solutions in action**, underscoring the positive impact that such interventions can have and bringing these projects from concept to reality.

“Usually we talk about the nexus in theory, but here we saw it,” said **Eng. Mona Fakh**, Director of Water with Lebanon’s Ministry of Energy and Water. “It can be a starting point to elaborate and integrate it in our strategies and move from small to bigger projects.”



Strengthening water security for farmers in Crete



As a hub of agricultural production and a popular tourist destination, the island of Crete, Greece, has struggled with chronic water scarcity. Over the years, Crete’s water security challenges have been exacerbated by antiquated water infrastructure, which has contributed to significant water losses.

In response, GWP Mediterranean collaborated with the **municipality of Heraklion** in 2023 to create and implement the **Zero Drop water resources protection programme** to strengthen water security in rural communities. With funding from the Coca-Cola Foundation, the initiative revolved around **a multi-faceted technical intervention** that upgraded irrigation piping used to deliver treated wastewater to farms, reduced farmers’ reliance on groundwater, and improved equipment at two major pumping stations to save both water and energy. Zero Drop also facilitated the installation of solar-powered remote-controlled

REGIONAL IMPACT

infrastructure for transferring, collecting, and distributing irrigation water in certain target communities.

Generating estimated water savings of 14.5 million litres of water annually, Zero Drop's impact has been exceptional, **garnering glowing media coverage** on Greek television. To ensure the initiative's durability going forward and generate widespread community support, the Zero Drop programme also engaged students at local schools with **training on sustainable water management**, including through a "snakes and ladders" game, and hosted a workshop to introduce farmers to water-saving irrigation technologies.



Advancing action plans on all sides of the Mediterranean

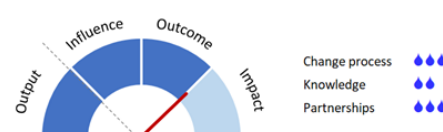
Across the region, integrated water resources management (IWRM) action plans generated substantial forward momentum in 2023 thanks to support from GWP Mediterranean.

In North Macedonia, the government finalised and approved **a landmark nationwide IWRM Action Plan** to coincide with World Water Day 2023. The achievement concluded a 10-month consultation process facilitated by GWP Mediterranean, during which the country's Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning helped identify institutional, legislative, and technical

challenges and crafted appropriate responses with backing from GWP's **SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme**. The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning also received wide-ranging buy-in for the Action Plan after presenting it to line ministries, scientific and public institutions, and non-governmental organisations.

"With the validation of the IWRM Action Plan, which is in accordance with the existing national framework and legislation for the management of water resources, we are accelerating the development of the national strategies and the general climate action, as well as realisation of the Sustainable Development Goal 6 in the country," said North Macedonia's Deputy Minister of Environment and Physical Planning, Ms Hristina Odzaklievska.

Meanwhile, **Tunisia achieved a parallel milestone** as the country continued its pursuit of Sustainable Development Goal 6.5.1. Following a sustained national dialogue from June 2022 to March 2023, led by Tunisia's Water Resources Department and facilitated by GWP Mediterranean, the country validated a new IWRM plan prioritising inclusivity and accountability, as it incorporated a monitoring and evaluation system with gender-specific indicators for water policy and an analysis of social dynamics related to water use.



REGIONAL IMPACT

South America



Catalysing a water governance shift in the private sector

There is growing recognition of water scarcity in South America, and urgency to implement water management practices that ensure long-term sustainability. In response, GWP South America have led a pilot project for efficient water use in Uruguay called *Programa Buenas Prácticas Azules* (Blue Good Practices Programme), providing invaluable expertise, technical support, and advocacy for policy changes. This programme has had a profound influence on water governance, including instigating a cultural shift within the private sector to acknowledge water use at the corporate level.



Launch of the Water Footprint programme. GWP South America's Regional Coordinator Alejandra Mujica (first to the left)

GWP South America have played a central role in this shift, and in 2023 the project was scaled up regionally to further amplify its impact. This was in

part due to GWP South America leveraging their network to convene and foster joint work between business associations in Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia and Uruguay. The expansion has empowered a greater number of companies to integrate efficient water management into their operational frameworks.

GWP South America's collaboration with the Chamber of Industries and the certifier LSQA has already been instrumental in institutionalising water footprint measurement services in Uruguay, alongside certification and verification programmes. The development of a methodological manual and the integration of water footprint measurement services into the Chamber of Industries' portfolio highlights the commitment of both public and private entities to promote water stewardship.



Fast-tracking climate Nationally Determined Contributions in Peru

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) form the basis for countries to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement: reducing emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change. The Institutional Strengthening Project is fast-tracking the implementation of Peru's NDCs. To make this happen, GWP South America supported the country to update its National Climate Change Strategy (ENCC 2050), the main

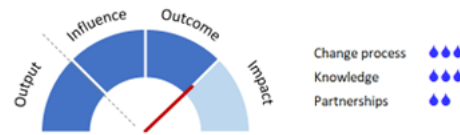
REGIONAL IMPACT

instrument guiding actions against climate change at the national, regional, and local levels.

GWP South America have played a central role in leading and supervising the Institutional Strengthening Project, supporting Peru’s Ministry of Environment and influencing legal, technical, and planning processes. “The technical assistance provided by GWP and the NDC Partnership has allowed us to make significant progress with the ENCC 2050,” said Jessica Huerta, Coordinator of the CBIT Project, responsible for strengthening the integral management of climate change at the Ministry.

Along with updating the ENCC 2050, the project has facilitated the Ministry to outline and share a proposal for a National Registry of Mitigation Measures and create a participatory space to collect contributions from various actors. This is crucial for complying with the commitments established in the Paris Agreement and national regulations. Notably, the Ministry received GWP South America’s legal assistance regarding the alignment of the deforestation- and emissions-reducing REDD+ initiative within the framework of the planned National Registry.

Alignment of climate strategies within national-level natural resource management instruments will contribute to detailed monitoring and enable national climate action.



South Asia



Engaging youth in regional water resources management



The agreement between Brandix, the University of Kelaniya, and GWP to implement the winning project of the South Asia Youth Water Challenge 2023

GWP South Asia is working to lay a strong foundation of youth engagement and build a cohesive and vibrant youth network dedicated to water resources management in the region. Currently, there are numerous national and regional dedicated platforms for mobilising youth for water resources management. However, many of these are ad-hoc, small-scale, and

REGIONAL IMPACT

disconnected from each other – therefore, unable to adequately leverage meaningful participation.

In April 2023, GWP South Asia launched the [Youth and Young Water Professionals Platform](#), with members from all six countries in the region. Through the platform, youth are encouraged to engage actively with various stakeholders, respond to challenges and opportunities, and become pioneers in sharing information, data, and outputs with the goal of knowledge exchange, training, and improved educational and professional prospects related to sustainable water management.

GWP and the platform, in collaboration with [Brandix Apparel Limited](#), then organised the South Asia Youth Water Challenge 2023. The award provided an opportunity to empower young people to create significant impact and change. Over 100 youth from across South Asia entered the challenge with innovations that could catalyse the advancement of Sustainable Development Goal 6. The winning proposal by the Electronics Design and Innovation Centre Team of the University of Kelaniya was for an automatic rainwater harvesting smart system with real-time water quality monitoring capabilities. The Team was awarded a grant of US\$2,500 to implement this project.



Addressing barriers to climate-resilient water management in Nepal

Nepal is one of the top 10 countries most affected by climate change, which exacerbates floods and landslides and causes unpredictable changes to monsoon patterns. Fortunately, the country is responding. In March 2024, the [Global Water Leadership in a Changing Climate Programme \(GWL\)](#) in Nepal marked its closure after three years with the launch of the [Response Strategy for Water Resources Management and WASH Services for Nepal](#) by Hon. Shakti Bahadur Basnet, Nepal’s Minister of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation.

GWL was led by the Government of Nepal and supported by GWP Nepal alongside other partners. GWL supported the strategy formulation through working groups and multistakeholder consultations, promoting out-of-the-box thinking to generate novel ideas and concepts. The strategy and its 29 prioritised activities were developed under the leadership and guidance of a 17-member Programme Coordination Committee representing the Government of Nepal, including GWP Nepal.

Some outcomes of the response strategy have already contributed to improving Nepal’s Irrigation Policy, WASH Policy, and River and Water-Induced Disaster Management Policy, all of which are critical to the country’s climate resilience. The presence of this plan of action, accompanied by the financial plan, will now allow Nepal to leverage access to international climate financing that is needed to bring systematic

REGIONAL IMPACT

change in addressing climate change as a nation, at the scale and pace required.



Empowering women to ensure household food security in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has one of the highest rates of malnourished children in the world – and the numbers are expected to rise. Poverty, intensified by hyperinflation, water insecurity, and rising food costs, is particularly impacting the daily waged labourers of tea and rubber estates in central highlands of the country.



The Gonadika Community Farm

GWP Sri Lanka has been working to secure WASH facilities in schools in the tea estate sector of the country's central highlands for more than a decade. During the COVID-19 pandemic, children were dropping out of school to support their parents with casual labour, and there were fears girls were being forced into early marriage.

To combat this issue, GWP Sri Lanka and partners, NetWwater, Lian's Club, and others – came together to empower the women of Mavikumbura-South to

manage food security through the **Gonadika Community Farm**. While this partnership was initially founded to improve sanitation and WASH in schools, water remains an essential element of its activities. By improving water security and allowing enough water for agriculture, the community of 40 families can improve food security and incomes, therefore reducing the school drop-out and increase attendance of estate children.

In 2023, GWP Sri Lanka facilitated training sessions on financial literacy for community leaders and knowledge sharing on climate-smart home gardening. These will help the community navigate the financial crisis that they, and Sri Lanka as a whole, are currently facing.



Southeast Asia



Improving access with Safe Water Gardens

Despite a huge government effort to improve provision, around 18 million people in Indonesia still lack safe water and 20 million lack access to improved

REGIONAL IMPACT

sanitation. For many households, water sources are distant, contaminated, or expensive, and household sanitation is unaffordable.



A Safe Water Garden system in Bintan Regency, Indonesia

With a view to changing this, GWP Southeast Asia collaborated with Water Stewardship Indonesia through the Safe Water Gardens programme. **Three villages in Bintan Regency committed to achieving access to proper and safe sanitation.** This “Bintan project” is the first such model village project and has received political support from the governor of Riau Island Province. **Currently, 58 households in Busung, Kuala Sempang, and Penguajan are operating as model villages.** The project includes the installation of 48 Safe Water Garden units – incorporating a wastewater management and water recycling system, five water reservoirs, 51 kitchen sinks, 46 toilets, and 58 Nazava water filters. Since the launch of the Bintan project in 2022, 216 residents of the 58 households have been positively affected and 13 new micro-businesses have been established.

The project is grounded in data collected through an **e-survey** platform created by GWP Southeast Asia, who also trained residents on how to complete the survey

and on the importance of access to safe sanitation. Survey data open a window on the real baseline conditions of water and sanitation at the household level, and have been used to select locations for the first Safe Water Gardens.

With the data-driven success in Bintan, the Safe Water Gardens programme is now expanding across the country, including in Java in collaboration with a multinational private company.



Accounting for water scarcity in Indonesia



Water Accounting and Allocation Training II attended by participants from government agencies and FAO representatives in Jakarta

The different regions of Indonesia have vastly different experiences with water availability: some have too little, while others have too much, face extreme variability, or deal with poor water quality. Together these problems affect the majority of the country’s 275 million people.

REGIONAL IMPACT

The [Water Scarcity Program](#), developed by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), aims to provide technical and policy support to help countries like Indonesia ensure that water use is managed sustainably and productively through progressively more accurate water accounting and transparent water allocation policies and processes.

The programme has been implemented across several countries in Southeast Asia, thanks in part to GWP Southeast Asia. In Indonesia, FAO collaborated with GWP Southeast Asia to facilitate a scoping study and training on water accounting for the agricultural sector in 2021 and 2022. In 2023, GWP's regional secretariat continued to join FAO in implementing the programme, which is supported by the Australian Government through Australian Water Partnership.

Two training sessions this year, Water Accounting and Allocation Training I and II, allowed 68 total participants to build a solid technical understanding of water accounting concepts in Indonesia. This included the development of a water account using a variety of geospatial and water resources modelling tools. A National Multidisciplinary Team Meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss the initial draft outline of a National Water Scarcity Management Action Plan and Water Accounting Roadmap II Workshop.



Launching a regional conference on IWRM

Implementing integrated water resources management (IWRM) is vital in achieving water security and other Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets. However, this is not an easy task. GWP Southeast Asia have identified a set of challenges related to IWRM that became the focus of Southeast Asia's first regional conference on IWRM.

The process began in 2020 with an analysis of SDG 6.5.1 IWRM Monitoring results and a series of multi-stakeholder consultations led by the Country Water Partnerships (CWPs) from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam. The challenges identified were categorised into three main themes: efficient water allocation, acceleration of safe water and sanitation access, and urban flood risk reduction. In 2022, the CWPs put forward challenges that should be systematically discussed at the regional level and followed up with clear solutions.

This process led to the [first IWRM Regional Conference](#) in October 2023, organised by GWP Southeast Asia and partners. The event was held back-to-back with the second Stakeholder Consultation Meeting of the World Water Forum 2024.

Participants from around the region mapped the common regional challenges and shared innovative solutions in water security, ranging from water and sanitation to environmental protection and water for economic development. GWP Southeast Asia are

REGIONAL IMPACT

now helping some of the presenting partners develop joint proposals to implement their innovations in Southeast Asia. The second day of the conference was devoted to transboundary water cooperation. Based on this discussion, GWP Southeast Asia are also working with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Mekong River Commission to organise a Regional Transboundary Water Cooperation Dialogue in 2024.



The Africa Water Investment Action Plan launch at COP28

Through GWP's role as the Secretariat of the High-level Panel, GWP Southern Africa helped convene a series of global consultations alongside the African Union Commission, attended by representatives of African Union Member States, international development partners, the private sector, and civil society organisations.

“Currently, only US\$10–19 billion is invested each year,” said Dr Hani Sewilam, President of the African Ministers’ Council on Water and Minister for Water Resources and Irrigation for the Republic of Egypt. The Plan raises ambition much higher. It supports implementation of the High-Level Panel’s landmark report ***Africa’s Rising Investment Tide*** – launched at the United Nations 2023 Water Conference – and the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme, led by GWP through the Africa Coordination Unit and other partners. The Plan provides a guide for directing these resources into climate-resilient water investments that will achieve water security and sustainable sanitation.



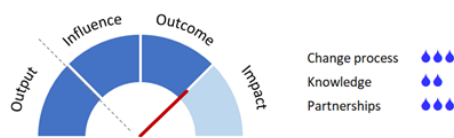
Southern Africa



Mobilising investment across Africa

The African Union Commission and [International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa](#) launched the Africa Water Investment Action Plan at a COP28 side event hosted by GWP Southern Africa in December 2023. The Plan outlines how countries across the continent can mobilise the additional US\$30 billion per year they need to meet Sustainable Development Goal 6 and ensure water security and sustainable sanitation on the continent.

REGIONAL IMPACT



Improving transboundary water management in Mozambique and Zimbabwe



Hon. Cecilia Chamutota, Deputy Minister of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources in Mozambique officially launching BUPUSACOM

The first tri-basin commission in the Southern African region – the Buzi, Pungwe, and Save Watercourses Commission (BUPUSACOM) – launched in July 2023 to oversee the management of water resources within the BUPUSA shared basins of Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The basins have, over the years, suffered from extreme climate effects such as floods, droughts, and cyclones. The Commission will promote a collaborative and coordinated approach to building resilience against worsening climate shocks, enabling the capacity of the two governments to increase preparedness for floods and droughts. It is also set to unlock investments for infrastructure development and irrigation and address environmental concerns in the basins.

GWP Southern Africa supported the governments of Mozambique and Zimbabwe in negotiating the [Save Water-Sharing Agreement](#) and the BUPUSACOM [Establishment](#) and [Hosting](#) Agreements. This support was provided under a Global Environment Facility–funded transboundary project implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, with GWP Southern Africa as the regional executing partner enabling the two governments. GWP Southern Africa will continue to support the Commission in completing its Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and securing resources for the tri-basin Strategic Action Programme and National Action Plans, which will outline priority interventions and investments.

The agreements were signed off on the back of two previous negotiations, the Pungwe Water Sharing Agreement from 2016 and the [Buzi Water Sharing Agreement](#) from 2019. GWP Southern Africa provided support to the Mozambican and Zimbabwean governments during the negotiations that led to the signing of the Buzi Agreement.



Promoting climate resilience with solar pilots

The Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), in collaboration with GWP Southern Africa, implemented two projects aimed at helping communities adapt to the adverse effects of climate

REGIONAL IMPACT

change. In Tanzania, [a climate-resilient IWRM pilot project](#) drilled a solar-powered borehole for the Maasai community and their livestock in Ruvu Darajani Village. Approximately 2,000 livestock and 5,000 residents benefit from the water point, reducing siltation and pollution of their basin while improving their livelihoods.



The Maasai community and their livestock at a water point in Ruvu Darajani Village

In Botswana, [a climate-smart agriculture pilot project was implemented in Metsimotlhabe](#). Here a solar-powered borehole was drilled for drip irrigation and hydroponics (growing plants without soil) for high-value horticultural production, to supplement the livelihoods of over 15,000 people including vulnerable groups like women and youth.

In 2023, SADC also implemented water-energy-food nexus pilot projects through the collaboration of partners including GWP Southern Africa. In [Zambia](#), solar panels are pumping water from two boreholes to be stored for domestic, livestock, and irrigation purposes.

In [Malawi](#), solar panels pump water from Lake Malawi for irrigation and domestic use. Their electricity is also used at a nearby primary school and for other productive purposes. In both countries,

the Ministries of Agriculture will continue to manage the projects to ensure long-term sustainability. In Malawi, the farmers were trained on how to operate the irrigation scheme and provided with a user manual, and joined an organisation called CIAT that will provide agricultural expertise and a market for their production.



West Africa



New environmental law adopted by Togo

In a major step forward for Togo, GWP West Africa has supported the Government through a collaborative process to revise an outdated law, which has resulted in the adoption of a new Framework Law on the Environment in December 2023.

According to a Government note, “The bill adopted revises the 2008 Law in order to provide the country with an updated legal framework aligned with standards, to better meet challenges

REGIONAL IMPACT

raised in the Government’s 2025 roadmap for sustainable development and to provide a springboard for strengthening people’s resilience.”

Four **workshops** in 2022 led to the revision, coordinated by GWP West Africa’s Water Security Climate Resilience and Gender Equality Expert, to integrate water security, climate resilience, and gender-related considerations, alongside emerging sustainable development issues, in the new law. GWP provided technical and financial support through the Water, Climate, Development – Gender Programme, and in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature–coordinated Regional Water and Environment Project, of which GWP West Africa is an executing partner.

“This revision incorporates new concepts and completes the environmental management tools with strategic environmental and social assessments[...]. It takes into account emerging themes such as the circular economy, the green economy, the blue economy, carbon credit, and green mobility,” said the Government.



Mainstreaming gender in the Volta Basin



Gender inclusion trainings in the Volta Basin countries

Annual floods in the immense Volta Basin threaten the homes and lives of 14 million people across Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, and Togo. No efficient measures have been set up to mitigate against this yearly disaster, and women, youth, and vulnerable people are largely absent from decision-making bodies in the basin – affecting efforts to build climate resilience.

As part of the Volta Flood and Drought Management project, GWP West Africa, the Volta Basin Authority (VBA), and other partners are working to understand knowledge gaps and improve the situation. GWP West Africa facilitated training sessions in all six VBA countries in 2021 that identified the need for a regional action plan on gender mainstreaming. Gender mainstreaming is essential in all phases of flood risk prevention and management to guarantee that the specific needs of vulnerable communities are considered, building safer, more inclusive, and more resilient communities.

Thanks to the dedicated support of GWP West Africa and other partners, in 2023, gender was incorporated into the Volta Basin Flood and Drought Management Strategy. The Volta Basin Gender and Flood End-to-End Early Warning System

REGIONAL IMPACT

Action Plan was also prepared to ensure that gender is considered in the operationalisation of the early warning system for the Volta Basin. Countries in the basin will now incorporate the recommendations, and GWP West Africa, as a long-term partner of the VBA, will continue to forge actions and decisions at the highest level.



Developing an integrated water plan in Niger

Niger faces regular droughts that are set to worsen with the impacts of climate change. Water governance is crucial to ensuring sustainable management, especially as access to safe drinking water and sanitation are already very low. This is being strengthened with the adoption of the Water Development and Management Scheme (SAGE), part of the Mekrou Phase 2 Niger project funded by the European Union and implemented by GWP West Africa in collaboration with other partners.



Training course on the manufacture and use of improved stoves

The first of its kind in Niger, the scheme incorporates integrated water resources management (IWRM) and helps authorities better plan water-related development activities in the Mekrou sub-basin. Concrete actions benefit the local population, such as [training on ecosystem management](#) and [market gardening](#).

Thanks to GWP West Africa's work and successful lobbying, the sub-basin's two regional councils have now adopted SAGE. As a development planning document it will guide investors and development partners to meet the sustainable water priorities of both regions. Meanwhile, GWP West Africa have also implemented other activities through the Mekrou Phase 2 Niger project such as installing data collection equipment, implementing pilots of SAGE priority actions, and establishing IWRM capacity at local, municipality, and regional levels. Niger's Permanent Secretary of IWRM has assured that the learnings from the Mekrou sub-basin will be extended to other sub-basins in the country.



ADVANCING WATER KNOWLEDGE



Water ChangeMaker Awards 2023



The Water ChangeMaker Innovations Award 2023 is a global initiative co-convened by GWP, K-Water, the

Continental Africa Water Investment Programme, and the World Bank. The award showcases the most promising climate-resilient innovations with the greatest potential for scale, replication, and further investment for a water-secure world. 236 entries were received from 76 countries for the 2023 competition.

The winners of the 2023 competition were announced in December by H.E Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi, President of Botswana and Chair of the Water

ChangeMaker Awards, during the launch of the Africa Water Investment Action Plan at a side event at COP28, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The winners were:

- **Virtual Irrigation Academy from Australia**, which developed a soil water sensor for use by small-scale farmers;
- **Next Level Water Technology INC from the Philippines**, which developed a fully off-grid renewable desalination solution; and
- **CAST Co., Ltd. from South Korea**, which provides eco-friendly ozone and radical sterilisation solutions that use air and oxygen to disinfect food and water.

ADVANCING WATER KNOWLEDGE

Earlier in March, the Water Changelog Awards recognised [six current and former Heads of State as recipients of the Presidential Global Water Changemakers Awards](#), presented during the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York, USA:

- Four co-chairs of the [International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa](#) – H.E Macky Sall, then President of the Republic of Senegal; late H.E Hage Geingob, then President of Namibia; H.E Mark Rutte, then Prime Minister of the Netherlands; and H.E Jakaya Kikwete, Former President of the Republic of Tanzania – were each recognised for demonstrating high-level political commitment and leadership for climate-resilient water security in Africa.
- H.E. Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia, and H.E. Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar, received the award for local country leadership following the launch of the [Zambia Water Investment Programme](#) and the [Zanzibar Water Investment Programme](#).

IWRM Action Hub



Redeveloped and relaunched in 2022, the [IWRM Action Hub](#) is a global knowledge and learning platform

that supports and connects water professionals and decision makers in designing and implementing IWRM action towards a water secure world.

In 2023, six [IWRM tools](#) were added and updated, covering:

- Water allocation regimes
- Customary water law
- Institutional mapping
- Multistakeholder partnerships
- Corporate stewardship
- Nature-based solutions

The IWRM Action Hub also expanded its scope and number of Communities of Practice, including: [UN Convention to Combat Desertification's](#) Communities of Learning and Practice on Drought Management; [the Community of Practice on Drought Management in Armenia; the Nature-Based Solutions Community of Practice](#); and the [WEFE4MED Community](#).

ADVANCING WATER KNOWLEDGE

Five new case studies were also added in 2023 through a competition on the theme of overcoming gender-related challenges in the water sector in the Pan Africa region.

The IWRM Action Hub is also being used as part of SDG 6 monitoring efforts. Together with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNEP-DHI Centre on Water and Environment and Cap-Net UNDP, through the **[SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme](#)**, GWP assists countries to facilitate multistakeholder consultations to assess and report on their progress on SDG indicator 6.5.1 (the degree of implementation of IWRM). In the reporting round in 2023, 13 countries used the newly introduced **[online survey for monitoring SDG 6.5.1](#)** available on the IWRM Action Hub.

GWP's collaboration with UNDP CAP-Net



Cap-Net (which is hosted by GWPO) and the broader GWP Network have collaborated for several years in

capacity development for sustainable water resources management and to design and implement needs-based knowledge for water professionals around the world.

Collaboration examples in 2023 included:

- Joint organisation of the distance learning course on decision support and response to flood and drought and early warning in the Volta Basin, in collaboration with the Volta Basin Authority and WMO.
- Collaboration on the second edition of the virtual training course on monitoring of **[IWRM at municipal level in Central America](#)**.
- Co-convening of the third WEF Nexus Winter school in Southern Africa, along with several partners, which targets early career researchers, postgraduate students, managers, and practitioners in understanding the WEF nexus as a transformative approach to sustainable natural resources management and socio-economic development.
- Joint moderation of the **[Community of Practice Gender and Water Resources Management](#)**.

ADVANCING WATER KNOWLEDGE

Update from GWP's Technical Committee



The GWP Technical Committee

contributes to global knowledge and advocacy on integrated water

resources management (IWRM) – supporting capacity building and implementation throughout the GWP Network.

In 2023, the Technical Committee achieved the following priority actions:

- Served as the Global Jury of the **Water Changemaker Awards 2023**, led by GWP's climate team, to strengthen collaboration with the private sector. The awards successfully mobilised high-level political support, engaged private sector entrepreneurs and financiers, and identified support for innovative solutions.
- Launched a series of online dialogues with the GWP Network which explored the emerging trends shaping the future of water management – specifically, areas where GWP could lead the development and dissemination of knowledge, creation of partnerships, and building of capacity. Two dialogues were organised in 2023, covering **Just Water**

Partnerships and Bankable Projects.

- Published a technical brief ahead of the UN 2023 Water Conference on **integrated solutions for water management in Tajikistan**.
- Generated think pieces as a leading authority on water topics, including:
 - **A Climate Resilient Future through Water Storage**
 - **Using Social Media to Change Drought Responses**
 - **Improved Riverfront Management through Water Sensitive Urban Growth and Inclusion**, and
 - **Integrated Water Resources Management as a Key Foundation to Strengthen Water-Energy Nexus in Tajikistan**.

GET TO KNOW GWP



Vision and mission



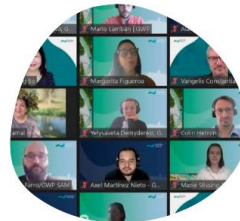
Our vision is for a water secure world.

Our mission is to advance

governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development.

Our unique value: as a network of networks, we ensure the ‘voices of water’ influence local, national, regional, and global development priorities. GWP instigates systems change through its unique combination of social capital, shared values, credibility as a neutral convener, bottom-up orientation, and expertise.

Who's who



- [Country Water Partnerships](#)
- [Regional Water Partnerships](#)
- [GWP Technical Committee](#)
- [Sponsoring Partners](#)
- [Steering Committee](#)
- [Global Secretariat](#)

GET TO KNOW GWP

Partners



The Global Water Partnership is a multistakeholder action network and

intergovernmental organisation dedicated to working with countries towards the equitable, sustainable, and efficient management of water resources. We comprise 3,500-plus Partner organisations in 179 countries. Our Network of Regional and Country Water Partnerships convenes and brokers coordinated action by government and non-government actors. A long-time advocate for integrated water resources management, we draw on implementation experience at the local level and link it across our Network and to global development agendas.

Integrated water resources management is a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land, and related resources to maximise economic and social welfare equitably without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.

The GWP Network is open to all organisations that recognise the

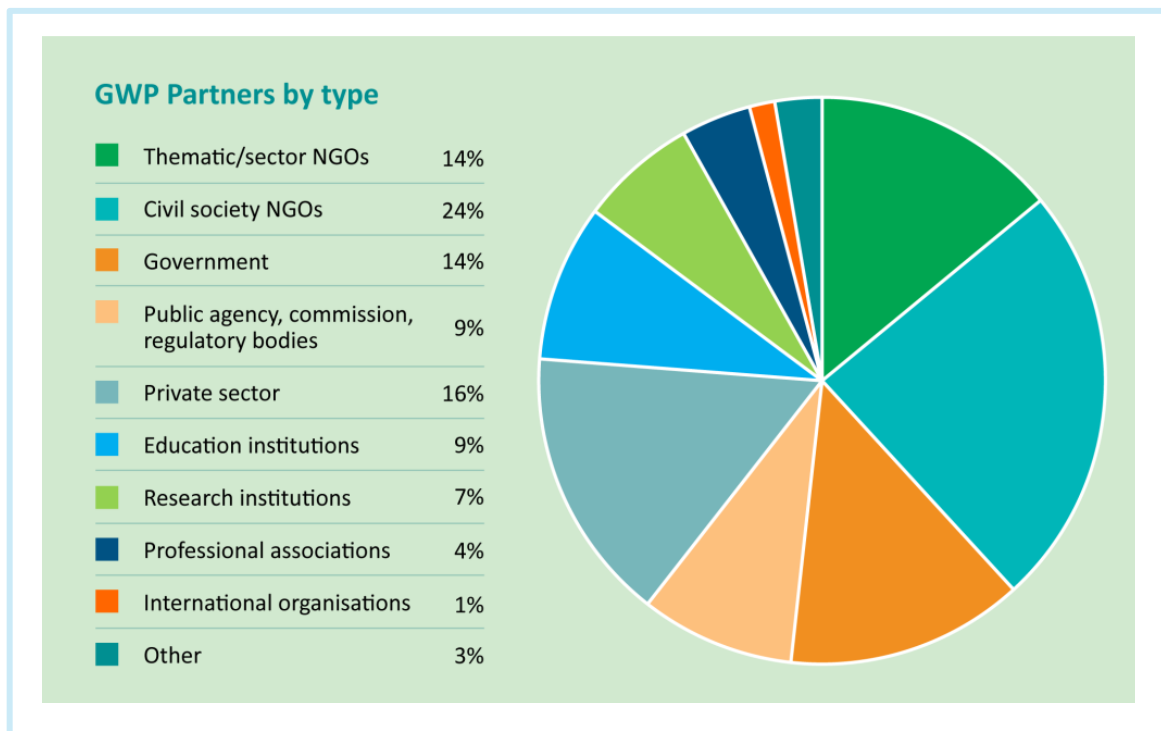
principles of integrated water resources management endorsed by the Network. It includes states, government institutions at all levels, non-governmental organisations, academic and research institutions, private companies, and service providers in the public sector. GWP's diverse and inclusive network is a platform for policy dialogue and bottom-up development of action plans and programmes, providing a voice for communities on water management.

At the end of 2023, the Network had 13 Regional Water Partnerships, 77 Country Water Partnerships, and 3,561 Partners located in 179 countries.

GWP REGION	COUNTRIES	PARTNERS
Caribbean	27	146
Caucasus and Central Asia	8	145
Central Africa	7	196
Central America	6	208
Central and Eastern Europe	12	197
China	1	98
Eastern Africa	11	326
Global	34	383
Mediterranean	19	115
South America	10	403
South Asia	7	437
Southeast Asia	10	284
Southern Africa	13	366
West Africa	14	257
TOTAL	179	3,561

GET TO KNOW GWP

GWP Partners by type



GET TO KNOW GWP

New Partners in 2023 ([click here](#))

OFFICIAL COUNTRY	ORGANISATION NAME
Argentina	Fundación Argentina Azul
Argentina	Centro Argentino de Ingenieros (Argentinean Engineering Center)
Armenia	"Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Center" SNCO of the Ministry of Environment
Australia	BudMore Pty Ltd
Australia	The Virtual Irrigation Academy
Australia	Corethics
Azerbaijan	Water Experts Union
Belgium	Centre of Etudes et Recherches Scientifiques en Nutrition Appliquée pour le Développement Intégré au Kivu/ MISAO, Rdc
Bolivia	Centro de Investigación ITC
Bolivia	Water For People Bolivia
Bolivia	FH Bolivia
Brazil	Instituto Tatiú Rocha
Brazil	The Nature Conservancy Brazil
Brazil	Consorcio Cerrado das Águas
Canada	Water Resources Leaders Forum
Canada	Smartsettle
Chad	Resources Consulting Services
Colombia	ASOJUNTAS ANAPOIMA
Colombia	Eka Group H2H
Ecuador	Yezesalmon Yezes Salmon Asociados S.A.
Ecuador	Eximtrader S.A.
Egypt	International Experts for Research Enrichment and Knowledge Exchange
Egypt	Desert Research Center
El Salvador	Autoridad Salvadoreña del Agua
Eswatini	Women Unlimited Eswatini
France	International Water Resources Association
France	Egh Water and Maritime
Germany	Heidelberg Materials
Greece	EWAP
Honduras	Consejo de Ciencia Rio Goascorán
Hungary	Hungarian Water Association
Hungary	Climate Smart Elephant
Iraq	Askawa Humanitarian Committee
Jamaica	The Department of Chemistry, The University of the West Indies
Japan	M • E • S Co.,Ltd
Kenya	Matonyok Nomad Development Organization
Lebanon	DIRF SAL
Lebanon	Green Orient
Malawi	Hydro-Informatics Engineering Center
Mexico	Junta Inter municipal de Medio Ambiente Altos Sur
Moldova	CVIS INVEST
Netherlands	Barents
Netherlands	Alvo
Netherlands	REDstack BV
Nicaragua	COOPERATIVA MULTIFUNCIONAL LA UNION R.L.
Norway	Rudis AS
Pakistan	International Islamic University Islamabad
Panama	Asociación Fondo Unido de Panamá
Panama	Sanaté Filtró
Papua New Guinea	PNG Environmental Consulting Agency
Peru	AQUA TECNICA INDUSTRIAL SAC
Philippines	Alternative Indigenous Development Foundation, Inc.
Philippines	Central Metropolitan Cebu Water District/Cebu River Basins Management Council
Rwanda	Jibaco
Saudi Arabia	Water Transmission and Technologies Company
Somalia	Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation Somalia
South Korea	Movements Inc.
South Korea	BOKJU Co., Ltd.
South Korea	WI.Plat
South Korea	SSENG
South Korea	JAN Technology
South Korea	IONIX Co., Ltd.
South Korea	o2oh company
Spain	Organización Internacional Valeramos al Ambiente
The Republic of Congo	Federation des Cooperatives des Pays de Mayoko (FECOPAM)
Togo	Centre agro pastoral caille taourtemelle
Trinidad and Tobago	IB Environmental
Turkey	International Water Well Aid Association
Turkey	Center for Research on Türkiye Energy Strategies and Policies
UAE	Desalytics Water Solutions
Uganda	Rural Women Empowerment Network
Uganda	Taasi Ya Jamii Social Development
Uganda	United Uganda for Better Climate Limited
United Kingdom	Groundwater Relief
United Kingdom	Wateren Services Limited
United Kingdom	Molendotach
Uruguay	IBRCONTROL
USA	Hope for the Children Worldwide Inc
USA	The Appropriate Sanitation Institute
USA	Moses West Foundation
USA	Clean the World Foundation
USA	Indigo to Blue
USA	SOURCE Global
USA	The Green AI Foundation
USA	Genesis Water Technologies, Inc.
USA	Nimble Vision LLC
USA	Safe Water Compliance
USA	Membrion
USA	Sanitation Innovation Fund
USA	Africa Prosperity Inc.
USA	Water Works
Yemen	Sanid Organization for Relief and Development
Yemen	Yemen Family Care Association
Zambia	TRIM BITP@ Engineering
Zambia	Panuka Enterprise Limited
Zambia	Blue and Green Water Guardians
Zambia	Bleuce Global Ltd
Zambia	Vision Outreach Zambia
Zambia	Zambia Institute of Advanced Legal Education

GET TO KNOW GWP

Financials



The [Annual Financial Report for 2023](#) provides an executive summary, an income statement, a balance sheet, cash flow statements, and notes on the accounts.

Acknowledgments – GWP in Action 2023 Annual Report

This year's [digital annual report](#) presents snapshots of our key achievements, partnerships and events, and includes stories that illustrate how our work advances global and national water security objectives and partnerships. You can also download this two-page [Executive Summary \(PDF\)](#) for a quick overview. And here is the link to our complete [GWP Annual Progress Review for 2023](#).

GWP is grateful to the Partners whose financial and in-kind contributions help implement our strategy and programmes. GWP wishes to thank all those who have contributed to this annual report.

Reproduction of the text for educational or non-commercial use is authorised without prior permission from Global Water Partnership provided that proper citation is made, and that material is used accurately and not in a misleading context. Opinions expressed in this publication do not imply endorsement by GWP.

Photo credits: GWP Regions, Cap-Net UNDP, Canva, Envato, Pexels, Unsplash.

Header image: adapted from "[Teresia Oloitai collects water](#)" by Morgana Wingard, USAID. Used under [CC BY-NC 2.0](#).

© Global Water Partnership 2024