

SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme

Stage 1:

Stakeholder Consultation Report

SDG 6.5.1, degree of implementation of IWRM

Gambia

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Stakeholder Consultation Report for SDG 6.5.1

Executive Summary

UN Environment is supporting countries in monitoring and reporting on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, including target 6.5: “By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate”. The target supports the equitable and efficient use of water resources, which is essential for social and economic development, as well as environmental sustainability.

Country process, Data collection for SDG6.5.1—The Gambia:

In the Gambia, the data collection process including a National Stakeholders workshop was carried out follows:

- a. GCWP Steering Committee members informed through phone calls.
- b. Task team formed,
- c. Stakeholders to participate in the exercises were identified,
- d. Questionnaires were printed and distributed to various stakeholders institutions identified followed by soft copies through e-mail to the various heads of those institutions
- e. Follow-up visits were made to the various institutions and phone calls were also made.
- f. Draft reports prepared and shared by some participants from ten institutions who were invited to the Department of Water Resources for discussions on the reports including the questionnaires,
- g. Invitation letters were sent to institutions inviting them to attend a National stakeholder validation workshop,
- h. National stakeholder’s workshop conducted on the 28th of July, 2020.

Upon approval for support to the 2020 edition for data collection (monitoring and reporting on SDG 6.5.1 & 2 and receipt of the data collection documents, Staff at the Department of Water Resources including the National IWRM Focal point in collaboration with the Gambia Country Water Partnership (GCWP) formed a task team to coordinate the data collection process. The team includes the Principal Hydrologist (WMO Adviser), Executive Secretary GCWP, and the National IWRM Focal person, guided and assisted by the Chairperson GCWP and the identified Facilitator.

An orientation meeting was held at the Department of Water Resources on May 3rd 2020, in order to discuss and orient team members on the questionnaires and to discuss the way forward. Thirty potential stakeholder institutions to be engaged for the data collection were identified and a list was developed. This included stakeholders from Government/ Public services, Basin level, and other groups such as water user groups, private sector, academia, NGO’s environmental organisations, media, Local councils, and water resources management practitioners (see list of institutions below).

Options to engage stakeholders were also discussed. It was agreed that hard copies and soft copies of questionnaires be sent to selected stakeholders institutions for completion, IWRM Focal point and Country Water Partnership to collect and compile the responses, organise a forum inviting participants from ten institutions to review the responses together with the facilitator. A national stakeholder workshop was also to be organised in which thirty participants will attend to review the questionnaires and to validate the information collected and analysed.

Copies of the questionnaires were sent to the listed stakeholders for completion. Stakeholders filled out the questionnaires through formal and informal consultations using email, phone and manual filling.

Different stakeholder groups filled out the completed the questionnaires which were collected in both hard and soft copies. The task team mobilized a meeting at the Department of Water Resources, which was attended by representatives from ten institutions. The meeting serves as a platform to review and analyse the responses on the completed questionnaires and to reach a consensus on the scores. Department of Water Resources (DWR) facilitated funding for the meeting.

With the receipts of funds from Global Water Partnership (GWP) through Global Water Partnership-West Africa (GWP-WA), the Gambia Country Water Partnership conducted a national stake holder workshop on the 28th of July, 2020. The workshop brought together thirty participants from stakeholder institutions that participated in the data collection process. The workshop provided the opportunity for participants to critically review the questionnaire and validate it in order to achieve consensus on the final responses.

A National stakeholder's workshop was conducted on July 28th, 2020, and was facilitated in line with the workshop agenda (see annex 2).

The main findings and areas of consensus includes;-

- That the level of progress in the Implementation of Gambia's IWRM Road map is slow and there is the need to accelerate actions to meet up the challenges,
- That there is need for the Bills developed by the National Water Sector Reform project be enacted to create the legal enabling environment, increase institutional and individual participation, implement management instruments as outlined in the bills, and increase financing avenues for effective and efficient IWRM implementation,
- That if the bills are enacted, that will provide the enabling environment required, institutions will be obliged to participate actively and each institution will implement their roles and responsibilities, management instrument will be implemented to allow the required coordination including information sharing, and institutions will also be obliged to create budget lines for IWRM activities,
- That there is need for active stakeholder engagement through sensitization, mobilization and capacity building activities,
- Coordination among stakeholders is weak and needs to be improve to reduce or avoid duplication of efforts and possible waste of valuable resources,
- That if the above issues are addressed, there is the likelihood that The Gambia will attain the Global target by 2030.