



# SDG 6.5.1 Stakeholder Consultation Report Ghana

11 September, 2023

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## **1. Introduction**

The degree of IWRM implementation (SDG6.5.1) is one of the key indicators under the Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6) target 6.5 that encourages countries to, “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.

This is the third cycle, following similar assessments in 2017 and 2020, respectively through a comprehensive and participatory survey with a focus on (1) enabling environment, (2) institutions and participation, (3) management instruments, and (4) financing. The survey's primary purpose is global monitoring and reporting on indicator 6.5.1. This is a simple diagnostic tool used by countries to identify the strengths and weaknesses of different aspects of IWRM implementation through a 33-survey questionnaire.

The workshop took place on Monday, September 11 2023, in the Conference Room of the Water Resources Commission, Labone. Some of the participants joined the meeting virtually via Google Meet (see annexes 1 for participants).

## **2. Opening Address**

The Acting Executive Secretary of the Water Resources Commission, Madam Adwoa Paintsil welcomed all participants and stated the objective of the meeting was to assess Ghana's progress with the implementation of IWRM. All stakeholders were given the opportunity for self-introduction after the opening remarks.

## **3. Presentation on SDG 6.5.1 indicator**

Ghana's focal person of the indicator, Dr. Bernadette Adjei briefly presented the essence of the indicator, the four main elements in the survey, and Ghana's score for 2017 and 2020. Mr. Eric Muala led participants through assessment of the 2023 survey questionnaire, facilitated discussion with the provision of the appropriate score, status and progress, and way forward.

### **3.1 Results of the Facilitated Discussions on Section 1: 'Enabling Environment'**

a) The main challenges to progress in the country include;

- Limited communication and knowledge base on National Water Policy objectives and implementation.
- Limited and weak enforcement of regulations on IWRM.
- Limited integration of aquifer management strategies in Basin and National IWRM plans

- Limited incorporation of IWRM plans at the local administration level (district, municipal) for implementation

b) The main challenges would be addressed as follows;

- Strengthen communication and knowledge base for the National Water Policy formulation and implementation.
- Strengthen collaboration with security agencies for enforcement of IWRM-related regulations.
- Incorporate IWRM into the National Development Planning Commission guidelines for medium-term plan preparation for all Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies.
- Strengthening and incorporation of aquifer management at the Basin level
- Continue and complete the initiated LIs for Riparian buffer protection and pollution control for enforcement

### 3.2 Results of the Facilitated Discussions on Section 2: 'Institutions and Participation

a) The main challenges to progress in the country included;

- Lack of national monitoring and evaluation plan that harmonises IWRM elements of the relevant sectors such as mining, irrigation, environment and energy.
- Limited knowledge and capacity of stakeholders including traditional authorities, and district assemblies for IWRM implementation at the local level.
- Limited engagement with the private sector in IWRM initiatives.
- Lack of formal representation of the public in contributing to decision-making on important issues and activities.
- Limited climate change, gender and specific vulnerable considerations in IWRM activities.
- Limited decentralisation of IWRM structures at Basin, sub-basin and Local Water committee levels

b) The main challenges would be addressed as follows;

- Develop an M&E Plan for IWRM across sectors for effective implementation and management (Coordination).

- Build capacity of stakeholders through mainstreaming of water resources-related actions and implementation across all levels.
- Create Local Water Committees in basins.
- Enhance focused group engagement at the basin level
- Work towards formal representation of the public to contribute to decision-making in all IWRM processes at all levels.
- Engage private sector entities with access to information, participation in decision-making, making and access to justice through the creation of formal dispute settlement platforms
- Development of formal procedures and strategies for participation of vulnerable groups in IWRM planning and management at the basin and national level.
- Develop a Gender-based IWRM Strategy and prioritise actions and measures for implementation with a gender unit created at the Water Resources Commission.
- Increase the coverage of basin governance structures in all major river basins across the country.
- Ensure that the MMDAs (local government bodies) consider and incorporate IWRM in the plans and programs during the next planning cycle in 2025

### 3.3 Results of the Facilitated Discussions on Section 3: 'Management Instruments'

a) The main challenges to progress in the country included;

- Limited sites for continuous groundwater monitoring.
- Limited capacity and logistics for groundwater monitoring.
- Limited implementation of effluent standards.
- Flood and drought early warning system is limited to some basins.
- Limited application of water use efficiency models.
- Inadequate high-level inter-agency coordination for water pollution control.
- Sector Information System (SIS) has been established but is not fully operational

b) The main challenges would be addressed as follows;

- Retool the primary hydrological stations and expand the hydrogeological network for continuous surface and groundwater monitoring.

- Upscale the flood and drought early warning systems (FEWS and DEWS) to other basins at risk in the country
- Focus on innovations in water reuse and recycling across different water users in the country
- Develop the wastewater discharge and pollution control regulations;
- Implement the polluter pays principle;
- Review the raw water quality guidelines and criteria for all water uses.
- Strengthen inter-ministerial and inter-agency coordination to manage small scale-mining activities
- Implement fully the Dam Safety Regulations 2016, LI 2236.
- Target improvement in the knowledge base of the hydrogeological setting in the entire country;
- Ensure open access to reliable groundwater resources information;
- Strengthen capacity in the technical and institutional aspects of groundwater assessment, planning, and development.
- Carry out pilot programmes for groundwater testing and analysis relating results to health variables
- Support the development of an Annex to the Volta Basin Water Charter establishing the arrangements and procedures for effective producing, collecting, exchanging and utilising data and information between the countries
- Expand the Sector Information System (SIS) in terms of infrastructure and procedures to cover all levels and across sectors.

### 3.4 Results of the Facilitated Discussions on Section 4: 'Financing'

a) The main challenges to progress in the country included;

- Insufficient government funding for IWRM planned elements.
- Limited generation of Internal Generated Funds (IGF)
- Capacity gaps exist for drawing a budget for implementation in some projects.
- Micro-management of projects limits the drawing of funds for implementation of IWRM elements.

- Limited private sector financing of IWRM implementation
- Lack of dedicated IWRM Basin budgets for implementation at the Basin level.
- Timely payment of the country’s annual contributions for transboundary cooperation has been a challenge due to the internal disbursement arrangements.

b) The main challenges would be addressed as follows;

- Implement revenue generation strategies including expansion of water user base and IGF, ensuring compliance, and improved private sector involvement in IWRM activities (ongoing action).
- Engage the appropriate Ministries for an increase in government budgetary allocations and disbursement to implement IWRM elements.
- Attract the private sector to participate in the identification and investment in water resources infrastructure/development projects.
- Develop and implement an incentive-based strategy to attract the private sector to participate and support IWRM activities, especially for productive infrastructure.
- Target efforts at addressing the drawn-out procedures to improve disbursements of budget allocations.
- Facilitate efforts at addressing the internal disbursement arrangements constraining the timely payment of transboundary contributions.

Participants, at the end of the workshop, agreed that the overall score was a reflection of the status of IWRM implementation in Ghana.

Below is the score summary at the end of the assessment and the scoring for each survey question.

<b>Section</b>	<b>Average Scores</b> (all values rounded to nearest whole number) (%)
Section 1 Enabling environment	70
Section 2 Institutions and Participation	66
Section 3 Management instruments	47
Section 4 Financing	57
<b>Indicator 6.5.1 score = Degree of IWRM* implementation (0-100)*</b>	<b>60</b>

#### **4. Priority actions to accelerate IWRM implementation**

- Develop and implement Regulations on riparian buffer zone protection and wastewater and pollution control (the former is ongoing while the latter is planned).
- Enforcement of the relevant regulations for the use and protection of water resources (ongoing action but limited and not effective).
- Improve on the existing intra and inter sector-wide collaboration and coordination among the different sub-sectors and related sectors (ongoing action).
- Develop a harmonised M&E system for IWRM targeting the relevant sectors (planned intervention).
- Strengthen operations of the primary water resources data collection and monitoring stations (ongoing).
- Strengthen institutional capacity for IWRM through the development of EIC materials targeting vulnerable groups, gender, etc (emerged based on survey results)
- Develop formal procedures and strategies for the participation of vulnerable groups in IWRM planning and management (emerged action based on the survey results).
- Increase the coverage of basin governance structures, and develop and implement management plans in all major river basins across the country.
- Facilitate the signing and ratification of transboundary arrangements for the Comoe-Bia-Tano Basin Authority (ongoing).
- Focus on promoting innovations in water reuse and recycling across different water users and the country (planned).
- Target activities on pollution control, water availability, and water use efficiency to improve the effectiveness of basin management (ongoing).
- Develop an incentive-based strategy to attract the private sector to support IWRM elements (planned).
- Implement revenue generation strategies including expansion of water user base and IGF, ensuring compliance, and improved private sector involvement in IWRM activities (ongoing action).

#### **5. Next Steps**

The next steps are on the key points from the closing remarks and comments, including cross-cutting challenges and ways to address them, reflections on the overall rate of

progress and likelihood of achieving global targets by 2030, recommendations for accelerating IWRM implementation, and follow-up actions for the continuous monitoring of the SDG 6.5.1 indicator in the country.

- In her closing remarks during the validation meeting, the Acting Executive Secretary of WRC, Madam Adwoa Painstil appreciated stakeholders for the inputs made in filling the survey instrument and validating same..
- She noted the country score of 60%, moving from a Medium Low regime (57% in 2020) to a Medium High status.
- She expressed the need for continued stakeholder collaboration and demonstration of collective effort to improve the country's performance in the next cycle of the monitoring and reporting period towards sustainability of the gains made.
- Ghana appears to be doing well in the policy and regulatory environment and Institutions and Participation. However, gender and vulnerability-related WRM interventions need to be given attention as well as engagement of the private sector in IWRM participation.
- There is also the urgent need to consider IWRM effective decentralization for all basins, sub-basins and local water committee areas to ensure IWRM participation and sustain the gains.
- Achieving global targets for management instruments and financing looks quite challenging. However, collaboration among the relevant institutions and the expansion of IGF will catalyze IWRM implementation across scales.



## Annex 1: List of Participants

### Workshop participants – Face-to-face

No.	NAME	INSTITUTION	DESIGNATION	CONTACT/EMAIL
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## Virtual Participants

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## Annex 2: Agenda






















### STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS ON SDG 6.5.1 (IWRM) COUNTRY MONITORING AND REPORTING FOR 2023


**VENUE: CONFERENCE ROOM, WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION**



















Time	Agenda item	Objective	Facilitator
09:30-10:00	<b>Registration</b>		
10:00-10:30	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome and Introduction to the meeting</li> <li>Introduction of participants</li> </ul>	Purpose of the workshop.	Mad. Adwoa Paintsil - Ag. ES, WRC
10:30-10:45	<b>SDG 6.5.1 - Background</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Background to SDG 6.5.1 and the survey</li> </ul>		Dr. Bernadette Adjei, Director, Monitoring & Legal Dept., WRC /Eric Muala
10:45-13:00	<b>Session 1: Questions under sections 1 and 2: 'Enabling Environment' and 'Institutions and Participation'</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction and support to understand the sections and questions, followed by discussion</li> </ul>	- To agree on scores while capturing 3-5 key points on progress to inform the narrative parts of sections 1 and 2, including divergences.	
13:00-14:00	<b>BREAK</b>		
14:00-16:00	<b>Session 2: Questions under sections 3 and 4: 'Management Instruments' and 'Financing'</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction and support to understand the sections and questions, and discussions</li> </ul>	- To agree on scores while capturing 3-5 key points on progress to inform the narrative parts of sections 3 and 4, including divergences.	Dr. Bernadette Adjei, Director, Monitoring & Legal Dept., WRC/Eric Muala
16:00-16:30	<b>Wrap-up and closing of the meeting</b>	- Next steps	Mad. Adwoa Paintsil - Ag. ES, WRC




















**Annex 3: Photos**



-  Eric Muala  
Presentation  
-  Joachim Ayiwe  
-  Joyce Dowuona  
-  Kwaku Adjei  
-  Raymond Djangma  
-  Samuel Appenteng  
-  Solomon Kwaku Danso-...  

Contributors 13 

-  Eric Muala (You)  
Meeting host  
-  Acquah-Swanzy Francis  
-  Cynthia Bofo Agyiri  
-  Dufie Adu-Pakoh  
-  Eric Muala  
Meeting host  
-  Eric Muala  
Presentation  

-  Cynthia Bofo Agyiri  
-  Eric Muala  
Meeting host  
-  Eric Muala  
Presentation  
-  Joachim Ayiwe  
-  Opoku Pabi  
-  Sena Ziwu  
-  Solomon Kwaku Danso-... 