

SDG 6.5.1 Stakeholder Consultation Report Malaysia

October 2023

Stakeholder Consultation Report for SDG 6.5.1 Malaysia

Executive Summary

The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) invited the National Focal Point (NFP) to report on the SDG Indicator 6.5.1 2023 in April 2023.

The first stakeholder consultation workshop was held on 13 July 2023. Participation was mainly by the Department of Irrigation and Drainage Malaysia (DID) officers representing their various divisions. The workshop was conducted in a hybrid mode, physically at the DID office in Ampang, Kuala Lumpur and online participation was from the various states in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak. The facilitator had briefed the workshop participants on SDG indicator 6.5.1 Survey and the 2020 report. This was followed by an overview of the survey form and the facilitator went through each question and requested the participants to provide their responses via a Google form created, to ease the collection of data and the survey process.

The second stakeholder workshop was held on 15 August 2023 at Everly Hotel, Putrajaya; also in hybrid mode. The DID sent out invitation letters to about 50 organisations including government agencies, private sectors and CSOs. Total participants who joined the workshop were about 42 persons, 16 persons joined physically and another 26 persons were online via Google Meet. The same process as with the first workshop was conducted.

The third workshop was conducted on 19 September 2023, Grand Barakah Hotel, Ampang to review the prepared draft survey form and to determine the scoring. The draft scored survey form was submitted to the National Focal Point (NFP) by the facilitator on 20 September 2023. Following this, the scored survey form was disseminated to related stakeholders to provide their feedback. The final draft survey form was submitted to the NFP on 25 October 2023, after updating the feedback from stakeholders and remarks from the CWP.

The facilitator with his team had conducted 4 internal workshops to compile, review and search for additional documents to verify the statement submitted by the stakeholders. This is to ensure that the information provided is supported by the evidence.

Refinement of the draft final survey was carried out in a working meeting on 23rd October 2023, before being submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change Malaysia (NRECC) on 26 October 2023 for endorsement.

The outcome of the consultation process and the final score, indicated that Malaysia is dedicated to achieving implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) by 2030, with notable progress outlined in the Twelfth Malaysia Plan (RMK12). Malaysia's IWRM efforts are reinforced by a complex legislative framework, comprising 45 policies, 74 Acts, and 70 state enactments or ordinances that impact the water sector. The Water Sector Transformation (WST) 2040 initiative, managed by the Prime Minister's Office, aims to revitalise the water sector. Its objectives include contributing to the national GDP, providing affordable high-quality water, generating employment, and supporting advancements in Science, Technology, Innovation, and Engineering (STIE) and Research, Development, Innovation, and Commercialization (RDIC). Key strategies include empowering the public's role, enhancing governance, data-driven decision-making, sustainable financing, and infrastructure development. There are various Federal Ministries involved in the governance of water, not specific to IWRM, but encompasses aspects related to IWRM, and they sit in the National Water Council (NWC). The States are represented in the NWC, as well. There are also several committees, task forces and working groups looking at the different aspects of water resources planning and development, for example, at State government level, the Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID) Malaysia has formed Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) Task Forces. The DID also runs the National Water Balance Management System (NAWABS), which aims to assist and support water resources management in the river basin more efficiently through an updated and state-of-the-art operational management and planning tool. In addition, The Department of Environment (DOE) in Malaysia plays a significant role in environmental protection and management, including functions related to water resources. Several agencies are undertaking management instruments such as long-term monitoring of water, and related hydrological data, addressing data and information on water quantity and quality, in various formats, which are accessible. However, the present arrangement for data custodianship and management is spread amongst various stakeholders, and there is a need for a collective monitoring system and data collection, to enable a more comprehensive view of the state of water availability. The financial support by the federal government should be strategized to cover the full spectrum of the acceleration strategies to be adopted for the implementation of IWRM which include; empowering people, strengthening governance at all levels, enhancing capability in data-driven decision making, ensuring sustainable financing and developing sustainable infrastructure with cost-effective technology. As a future moving forward, the financial support must not be in a single direction such as on infrastructure and to focus on accountability reporting to be made available.

Section	Average Scores (all values rounded to nearest whole number)
Section 1 Enabling environment	81
Section 2 Institutions and participation	72
Section 3 Management instruments	70
Section 4 Financing	70
Indicator 6.5.1 score = Degree of IWRM* implementation (0-100)*	73

1. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 1: 'Enabling Environment'

The main challenges in Malaysia related to IWRM is the need for better coordination between water resource management and water services sectors, as well as the involvement of multiple stakeholders with varying interests and priorities. One approach to address these challenges is to consolidate and unite all institutions engaged in IWRM within a single comprehensive framework or ministry at the federal government level. Involving the public and stakeholders in decision-making processes for IWRM is crucial. This inclusive approach leads to more transparent and accountable water management, addresses local needs, and promotes a holistic and sustainable approach.

Malaysia has made significant progress in creating an enabling environment for IWRM, with a strong commitment to effective implementation. Further progress is anticipated, aiming for a score of 84 by 2030. Stakeholders in a workshop agreed on the discussion outcomes and **the score of 73** for this year's 2023 survey, showing a consensus on the discussed topics and in giving the score.

The shift from the 2012 Water Resources Policy to the Water Sector Transform 2040 indicates a significant change in water management strategies, focusing on long-term, comprehensive, and adaptive approaches to address complex challenges associated with water resources. This reflects an understanding of the dynamic nature of water management and the need for evolving policies to meet future needs.

2. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 2: 'Institutions and Participation'

The challenge of limited involvement of vulnerable groups, including indigenous communities and ethnic minorities, in the planning and management of water resources presents a risk of neglecting their specific needs and potential adverse effects on their societies. Additionally, there is a challenge in effectively incorporating gender perspectives into water resources

management, despite the absence of gender discrimination in water policy-making. For instance, women's representation in the water sector reached the government's requirement of 30% in 2020 and 2021. However, there is still insufficient participation of other gender groups like youth. To address these challenges, stakeholders proposed intensifying engagement with vulnerable communities, such as indigenous peoples, in water resource planning and governance. This includes collaborating with indigenous groups in IWRM discussions to avoid disruptions to ecosystems and communities and increasing awareness of the difficulties faced by vulnerable groups, particularly in accessing clean drinking water. In the context of gender mainstreaming, it is recommended to implement capacity-building programs to enhance understanding of gender issues and perspectives in water management and to conduct awareness campaigns emphasizing the importance of women's participation in water management. Establishing strategic partnerships to advance gender mainstreaming in water management through the development of specific targets and goals for gender-responsive policies, trained professionals, women's participation, and gender impact assessments within defined timeframes can further enhance IWRM implementation.

The perceived rate of progress is optimistic and high, indicated by an increasing score, indicating significant strides in IWRM implementation. To achieve a high level of implementation by 2030, it is essential to leverage this positive momentum. One key strategy is to review existing water-related policies and regulatory instruments, which can help pinpoint areas for enhancement and strengthen IWRM implementation. During the group discussion, all stakeholders were in agreement on the issues discussed, showing consensus among them to set up the score.

3. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 3: 'Management Instruments'

Data collection and management involve multiple agencies, resulting in the absence of a comprehensive overview of water availability and management. Additionally, there is no centralized platform for accessing water-related data, posing difficulties for users in finding the information they require. Furthermore, the lack of a consolidated "State of Water Availability Report" that combines individual monitoring reports hampers the monitoring of trends and the identification of areas for enhancement.

Hence, the stakeholders who participated in the discussion proposed the following actions:

1. Streamlining information portals to enhance data accessibility and management efficiency.
2. Establishing a centralized portal to provide a single point of access for all water-related data, thereby improving data accessibility.

3. Publishing a comprehensive "State of Water Availability Report" that summarizes the status of water availability and management in Malaysia, facilitating the tracking of trends and the identification of areas for improvement.

The perceived rate of progress is moderate, and the likelihood of achieving high or very high implementation by 2030 remains uncertain. Although some progress has been made in establishing the necessary institutions and policies, there is still substantial work to be accomplished. Therefore, it is crucial for Malaysia to establish national targets for IWRM implementation to monitor progress and ensure alignment with long-term goals. During the discussion, all stakeholders in the workshops reached a consensus on the scores, indicating a mutual agreement among participants. Nonetheless, certain sections may warrant higher scores than what was collectively agreed upon during discussions due to the unavailability of published online documents to support the current scores.

4. **Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 4: 'Financing'**

The main challenge for financing section is related to the funding of IWRM. Currently, the practice at the state level consolidates funds into state budgets without specific allocation for IWRM development and activities. To address this challenge, it is essential to increase the water tariff fund and allocate significant portions for IWRM, particularly in areas like enabling environment, institutions, participation, gender involvement, and management instruments. The financing allocation should also be used to raise revenues as a seed fund for IWRM initiatives.

In Section 4, the targeted progress in implementing IWRM by 2030 is evaluated on two points. These points being the clarity in income generation specifically from IWRM activities and the same for sub-national budgets for IWRM. Currently, only a few states, such as Selangor and Negeri Sembilan, have a clear allocation for IWRM activities.

Stakeholders reached a consensus on the issues discussed, and there are no disagreements among them regarding the current status, practices, and the way forward for financing IWRM at both the federal and state levels. Another notable point found during the discussion is that Malaysia has introduced a Water Endowment Fund based on Islamic values (Waqaf), emphasizing the importance of water for life and its rewards to donors. These initiatives involve campaigns through various media channels. The concept of the Water Endowment Fund could be applied to finance IWRM implementations in the future.

5. **Next steps**

The next steps for Malaysia to achieve global targets by 2030, involve implementing a consolidated framework for IWRM, actively involving stakeholders, and continuing the progress made toward achieving a higher score for IWRM implementation by 2030. The evolving policies and strategies reflect an understanding of the changing landscape of water management, ensuring that the country is better prepared to address future challenges.

Continuous engagement with vulnerable groups and gender mainstreaming, such as indigenous communities, is crucial for advancing IWRM and achieving higher scores. To promote gender mainstreaming in water resources management, essential actions include capacity-building, women's involvement in decision-making, gender budgeting, and women's leadership, reinforced by awareness campaigns and strategic partnerships.

The immediate next steps for management instruments should involve the active development and implementation of the proposed actions such as the streamlining portal and the development of a centralized portal to address the existing data management challenges comprehensively. This is to serve as a one-stop access point for all water-related data. The creation of such a centralized platform is pivotal, as it will significantly enhance data accessibility. Users will find it easier to locate the specific information they need, and the process of data management will become more efficient and coherent.

Budget allocation at the state level should be focused on the implementation of IWRM. The state revenues from water tariff should be divided for the IWRM implementation program. The revenues derived from IWRM should be a next step plan to publicise the data for example the revenues derived from recreational activities at the water park, national park and so on.

6. **Annexes**

Annex 1: List of Participants

Annex 2: Agenda

Annex 3: Facilitator's Comments

Annex 4: Photos

Annex 1: List of participants

Workshop participants

Workshop 1

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Workshop 3

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Other stakeholders engaged (not in workshops)

Name	Organization/Position	Email address	Summary of inputs provided

Annex 2: Agenda

Workshop 1:

BENKEL KE-1 PENYEDIAAN JAWAPAN BAGI SOAL SELIDIK SDG INDICATOR 6.5.1 – DEGREE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (IWRM) 2023

13 JUL 2023

JABATAN PENGAIRAN DAN SALIRAN (DID), AMPANG

Session 1	
09.00-09.30	Registration/Opening remarks by JPS
09.30-10.30	Introduction to the preparation of SDG 6.5.1 report by the facilitator
10.30-11.00	Coffee break
Session 2	
11.00-11.05	Discussion on status and progress
11.05-11.45	Facilitator lead the session by going through every question
11.45-12.15	Preparation of report on the status and progress/Fill in google form https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1x86AkiYEqFk2qjfQV9e9nz9n4l-u0cbnfk0DpEE6X4
12.15-13.00	Wrap-up the session and Lunch

Workshop 2:

BENGGEL KE-2 PENYEDIAAN JAWAPAN BAGI SOAL SELIDIK SDG INDICATOR 6.5.1 – DEGREE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (IWRM) 2023

15 AUG 2023

The Everly Hotel, Putrajaya

Session 1	
09.00-09.30	Registration/Opening remarks by JPS
09.30-10.30	Introduction to the preparation of SDG 6.5.1 report
10.30-11.00	Coffee break
Session 2	
11.00-11.05	Group discussion/Break up to 4 groups
11.05-11.45	Discussion on status and progress
11.45-12.15	Preparation of report on status and progress/Fill in google form
12.15-13.00	Group presentation
Session 3	
14.30-15.10	Discussion on Way forward and climate change (related group)
15.10-15.30	Preparation of report on way forward and climate change (related group)/Fill in google form
15.30-16.00	Group presentation
16.00-16.30	Wrap-up/Coffee break

Workshop 3:

BENKEL KE-3 PENYEDIAAN JAWAPAN BAGI SOAL SELIDIK SDG INDICATOR 6.5.1 – DEGREE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (IWRM) 2023

19 SEP 2023

GRAND BARAKAH HOTEL, AMPANG

Session 1	
09.00-09.30	Registration/Opening remarks by JPS
09.30-10.30	Review on the draft report (current status, way forward and score) by JPS officers, facilitator team and MyWP on Section 1: Enabling Environment
10.30-11.00	Coffee break
Session 2	
11.00-13.00	Review on the draft report (current status, way forward and score) by JPS officers, facilitator team and MyWP on Section 2: Institution and Participation
13.00-14.30	Wrap-up the session and Lunch
Session 3	
14.30-16.00	Review on the draft report (current status, way forward and score) by JPS officers, facilitator team and MyWP on Section 3: Management Instruments and Section 4: Financing
16.00-16.30	Wrap-up/Coffee break

Annex 3: Facilitator's Comments

To fill up the survey form, it requires long hours of discussion because the participants involved in the workshops representing different organizations have different backgrounds depending on their nature of work.

There is a difficulty in getting the right person representing the agency. A representative of the division might not have the information of other divisions, for instance, a division dealing with instrumentation development will not have the information on the budget allocation of the organization.

The evidence required by the IWRM survey form might not be available in an online format for the public to access, hence it is difficult to provide the proof.

Annex 4: Photos

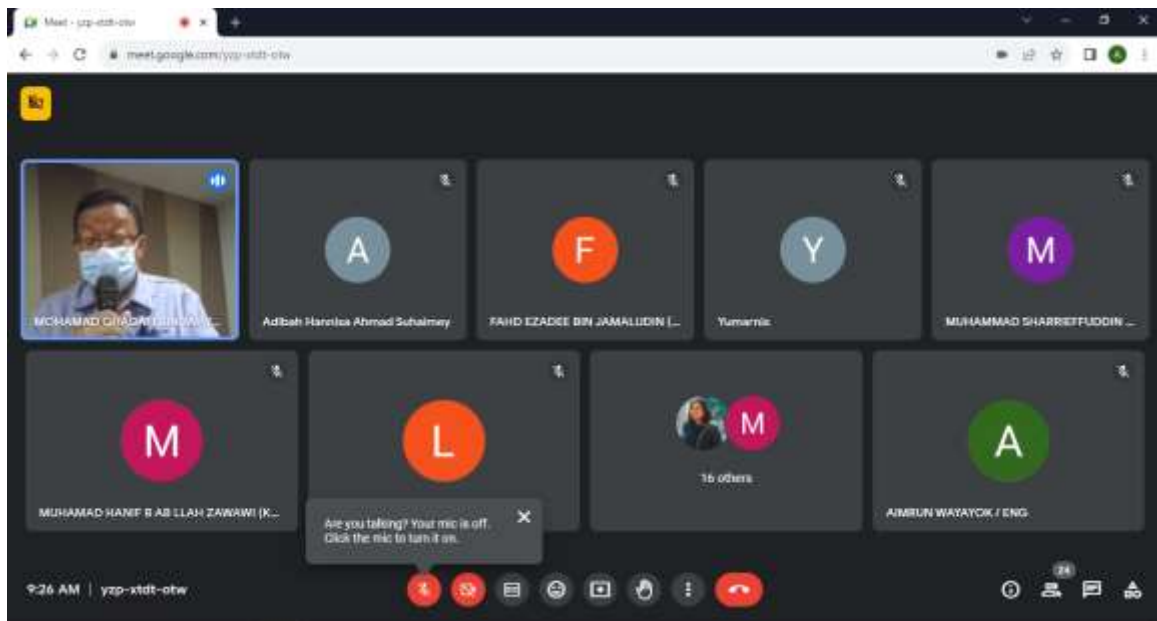


Fig 1: Online participants via google meet on 15 Aug 2023



Fig 2: Coordinator is giving a briefing to the attended stakeholders.



Fig 3: Group discussion



Fig 4: Group discussion in hybrid mode (physical and online)



Fig 5: Group discussion (Third Stakeholders Workshop)



Fig 6: Group discussion (Third Stakeholders Workshop)



Fig 7. Internal Workshop (23.08.2023)



Fig 8. Group Photo after the Second Workshop (15.08.2023)