



GWP

Annual Progress Review

2025

Monitoring and Reporting Progress

June 2026

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Overall Review of Progress

A Decisive Year of Strategic Transformation

The year 2025 marked the final year of implementation of the GWP 2020-2025 Strategy, representing a pivotal period. The year was characterised by a profound strategic transformation that has set a new and ambitious course for the organisation. As GWP concluded its current Strategy, it simultaneously initiated a bold Global Transformation Agenda on Water Investments, fundamentally reshaping its operational, governance, and financial architecture to address the escalating global water and climate crisis. This agenda redefines GWP's role as a global driver of bankable, climate-resilient water solutions, aiming to leverage at least USD 15 billion in water investments by 2030.

This section provides a summary of the main achievements and reflections on progress in 2025:

- **Establishing a New Global Water Investment Architecture**

Central to this transformation was the establishment of the Global Outlook Council on Water Investments. Launched as a G20 Presidential Legacy Initiative by H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa, the Council serves as the world's premier high-level political and investment platform on water. It is designed to sustain political momentum and align efforts across the G20, UN agencies, multilateral development banks, and the private sector, tracking progress and unlocking finance to close the global water investment gap.

Guided by the Council is the new Global Water Investment Platform (GIP), a mechanism designed to accelerate the mobilisation and implementation of water investments worldwide. Building on the proven success of the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP), the GIP will scale up this model globally through regional investment programmes in Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe. The GIP will serve as a central hub for governments and investors, tracking financing flows and showcasing investment-ready projects. This initiative accelerates the implementation of the Cape Town Declaration—adopted at the African Union AIP Africa Water Investment Summit in August 2025. GWP has been invited to lead the secretariat of the GIP, positioning the organisation at the heart of global water investment mobilisation.

- **Institutional Reforms for a New Era**

These strategic initiatives were underpinned by institutional reforms. The GWP partnership unanimously approved the relocation of the GWPO global secretariat from Stockholm, Sweden, to a new host country in the Global South, with a Transition Office established in Pretoria, South Africa. This decision anchors the organisation closer to the regions most affected by water insecurity and climate change. Furthermore, for the first time in over two decades, GWPO opened its intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding for signature by new States and Governments, inviting broader global leadership to co-steer the water security agenda. These changes, alongside the general directions of the new Strategy for 2026-2030 and updated governing statutes, were

formally adopted at the General Assembly in May 2025, providing a powerful mandate for GWP's evolution into a globally networked, regionally empowered, and investment-focused intergovernmental platform. A GWP Transformation Committee was also established to oversee the implementation of governance and statutory reforms planned for 2026 with the overall objective of modernising GWP's governance system.

- **Launching the GWP Strategy 2026-2030**

Building on this foundation, GWP officially launched its Strategy 2026-2030 in Stockholm on the sidelines of the World Water Week in August 2025, after it was endorsed by GWPO's Sponsoring Partners. The new Strategy operationalises the Global Transformation Agenda on Water Investments and was warmly welcomed by global leaders, including H.E. Retno Marsudi, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Water, alongside donor partners and multilateral development banks who expressed strong confidence in GWP's leadership and strategic direction.

- **End of Strategy Evaluation**

In 2025, an independent external evaluation of the 2020-2025 Strategy was conducted by NIRAS Sweden AB on behalf of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) in coordination with the broader GWP Financing Partners' Group. The evaluation, which focused on programmatic delivery, noted the substantial progress made by GWP during the strategy period and drew broadly positive conclusions. From a results perspective, the evaluation concluded that GWP "operating as a global decentralised partnership, has substantially delivered its ambitious 2020–2025 Strategy, effectively contributing towards the strategic vision of a 'water secure world'". The evaluation also provided recommendations for further improvement, many of which are in line with the new 2026-2030 Strategy and will be addressed during its operationalisation.

- **Strategic Transformation and Investment Mobilisation**

The implementation of the GWP Strategy in 2025 was defined by the launch of the Global Transformation Agenda on Water Investments, which translated into tangible programmatic achievements across the network. A cornerstone of this new direction was the AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit, convened with GWP's support. The Summit was a major success, identifying a USD 10–12 billion investment pipeline and leading directly to the launch of the Global Outlook Council on Water Investments and Global Water Investment Platform, as a G20 Presidential Legacy Initiative. Under this umbrella, and replicating the success of the AIP, a USD 20 billion Regional Water Investment Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean was initiated, co-convened by GWP, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean demonstrating the scalability of the new investment-focused approach.

- **Strengthening Climate Resilience and Finance**

The strategic focus on investment was underpinned by extensive work on climate finance, where GWP supported countries across multiple regions in developing proposals and strengthening institutional capacity to access funds from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Adaptation Fund, among others. This support ranged from

high-level regional training on GCF project preparation in Africa to direct support for national concept notes. A prime example of how upstream planning leads to financing success was demonstrated in Rwanda, where GWP's work through the Global Water Leadership programme was instrumental in securing a USD 9.4 million grant from the African Development Fund for nature-based flood adaptation.

- **Enhancing Water Governance and Transboundary Cooperation**

At the national level, GWP's support was crucial in strengthening the enabling environment for investments through policy and legal frameworks. Key achievements in 2025 included support for the development of Tanzania's National Water Policy 2025 and the approval of Nepal's Water Resources Bill by the Upper House of Parliament, which incorporates IWRM principles. In parallel, transboundary cooperation was strengthened through institutional support to key river basin organisations, such as the Limpopo Watercourse Commission and the Maputo Watercourse Commission, enhancing regional water governance.

- **Championing Social Inclusion**

Underpinning all these efforts was a reinforced commitment to social inclusion. This was exemplified by the appointment of H.E. President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah of Namibia as GWP's Global Champion for Gender Equality. This high-level advocacy role ensures that gender-transformative approaches are central to the new water investment agenda, embedding principles of equity and inclusion at the highest levels of global water governance.

GWP at work – Selected 2025 Results

This section highlights some of the achievements of the 13 GWP regions and GWPO in implementing the 2025 workplan. More information is presented in subsequent sections, within the context of GWP's regions and anchor areas through which these efforts are delivered.

The highlighted results are presented according to the GWP Results Framework (see Annex C). Results reported include those achieved with funding raised by GWPO, as well as with funding raised by regional and country water partnerships, either separately or jointly.

2.1 Impact and outcomes: mid- to long-term achievements

GWP works towards its Strategy mission and vision according to a chain of results. Activities and outputs designed to promote IWRM principles are implemented in support of targeted stakeholders who have a mandate for water governance. The GWP M&E system documents the different steps of this results chain and analyses how the organisation's work has contributed to governance change across the attribution gap.

The top level of the results chain relates to impact, i.e., the assumption that water governance and management changes at the outcome level will lead to sustainable socio-economic benefits among the target populations through more sustainable use of water resources. All water governance outcomes to which GWP has contributed are expected to result in increased water security.

The attribution of quantified impact (e.g., measured on 2 proxies: investments leveraged and number of people who benefit) takes time. For example, the development of a National Adaptation Plan in 2025 will only result in increased investment and improvements in people's lives once the plan is under implementation, perhaps 1-3 years after its approval.

GWP documents such impact by linking it to investments. In 2025, it is estimated that investments worth more than €84.6 million can be linked to GWP's work either indirectly, e.g., by making the connection between a GWP outcome and the subsequent investment that was allocated to implement it, or directly, e.g., through successful support to institutions in accessing sources of development finance.

With GWP's increased focus on investment planning and support for concept note development, the organisation is also strengthening the capacity of in-country stakeholders to understand the modalities and requirements for accessing climate finance. This capacity-building extends to both those within mandated institutions and the broader stakeholders engaged during investment planning and preparation. As a result, it is expected that similar results will continue to materialise in the coming years.

In 2025, 42 key water governance outcomes were recorded in which GWP played a role. These include:

- 20 new national, regional and river basin policies, plans and strategies
- 13 investment plans, strategies and budget commitments, including for basin level investments
- 9 transboundary river basin agreements and management frameworks

The full list of GWP outcomes recorded in 2025 is shown in Annex A.

Achieving outcomes can take several years. As such, the work conducted by GWP to influence the governance changes mentioned above was in many cases initiated long before the outcomes materialised. The results therefore relate to activities and outputs implemented through a series of workplans dating back to the previous strategy period.

Figure 1 below gives an overview of the distribution of all outcomes recorded by GWP from 2020 to 2025 across the four main dimensions of IWRM measured by indicator 6.5.1, namely the enabling environment, institutions, management instruments and financing.

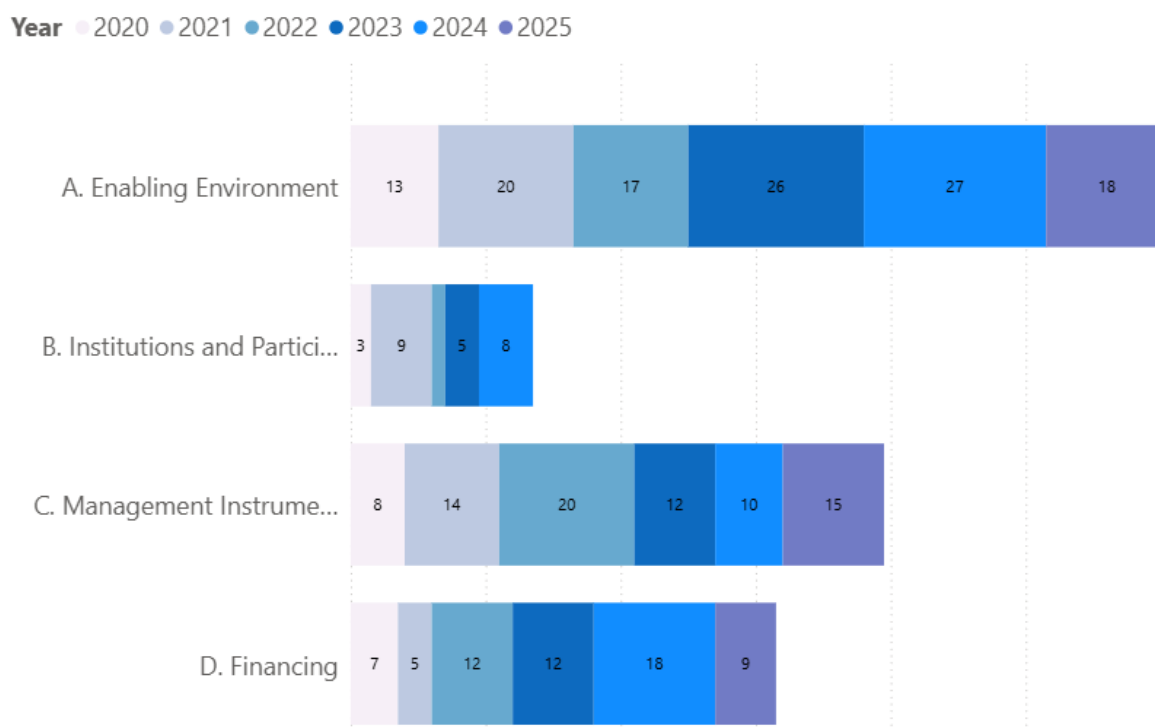


Figure 1: GWP 2020-25 outcomes categorised by the SDG 6.5.1 elements

2.2 A continuous flow of activities and outputs across three dimensions

The 2025 GWP workplan was structured according to the three dimensions outlined in the GWP Strategy 2020-25:

- **We Mobilise:** Key actors within and beyond the water sector engaged and multi-stakeholder platforms established.
- **We Learn:** Learning processes, products and platforms introduced in forms that are easily available, attractive, social, and timely.
- **We Act:** Targeted interventions delivered to foster and demonstrate integrated practice for water resources management.

This section illustrates the type of activities and outputs carried out by the 13 GWP regions and GWPO in implementing the 2025 workplan by those three dimensions. Some of these activities and outputs, and the interrelationship between them, contributed to the high-level water governance outcomes described in Section 2.1. Others are contributing to processes that are expected to lead to outcomes in 2026 and beyond.

Illustrative highlights – We Act

We Act focuses on advancing effective governance, based on comprehensive and mutually supportive policies, institutions, partnerships, processes, and information-sharing. These efforts are typically implemented through i) targeted support to global processes, ii) support to transboundary and regional organisations, iii) support to national governments, and iv) the facilitation of multi-stakeholder processes. Most of the activities that contribute to We Act are delivered through the thematic anchor areas which results are presented in Section 3. Some examples from 2025 include:

- **Support to global processes:** GWP played a pivotal role in establishing and operationalising the Global Outlook Council on Water Investments, launched as a G20 Presidential Legacy Initiative by H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa during the AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit in Cape Town in August 2025. The Council serves as a high-level platform to sustain political and financial momentum for water investments worldwide. GWP accepted the invitation to lead the secretariat of the Global Water Investment Platform (GIP), which is guided by the Council and will track financing flows and showcase investment-ready projects.

The momentum from the Summit continued throughout 2025, with the Council's roadmap presented at the UN General Assembly. The GIP was then showcased at the G20 Social Summit. During the closing ceremony, H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa, provided a powerful address and highlighted the delegates' call for the G20 Leaders' Summit to demonstrate leadership in scaling up global water investment for the benefit of all.

- **Africa Water Investment Programme achievements:** The AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit, convened with GWP's support as host of the AIP Secretariat, achieved key outcomes that established the foundation for global water investment transformation. The Summit identified a pipeline of USD 10–12 billion in annual commitments from multilateral development banks, governments, bilateral partners, and private investors, while adopting the Cape Town Declaration that reaffirms water and sanitation as foundations for peace, human dignity, economic growth, climate resilience, and food security. More than 80 projects from 38 African countries were showcased during investment matchmaking sessions, underscoring the breadth and maturity of Africa's emerging pipeline. The Summit emphasised governance reforms—particularly tariff and financial sustainability—as well as innovative financing approaches, decentralised models, climate finance, and both public–private and public–public partnerships as essential enablers for attracting and sustaining investment at scale.
- **Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Water Investment Programme:** In a significant expansion of the global investment agenda, GWP, the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF) agreed in 2025 to collaborate as co-convening partners in support of establishing a High-Level Panel on Climate Resilient Water Investments for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and a corresponding LAC Water Investment Programme. The process to establish this initiative was initiated

during ECLAC's Fifth Regional Water Dialogues in Santiago, Chile, in October 2025. The LAC High-Level Panel will drive political mobilisation to overcome the region's annual water investment gap by mobilising at least USD 20 billion by 2030, directly contributing to the implementation of SDG 6 and climate resilience. The initiative was subsequently presented at the Global Climate Action Thematic Hub during UNFCCC COP30 in Brazil, where Africa's water investment success was showcased as a foundation. This major regional initiative represents the first replication of the GIP model beyond Africa.

- **Support to transboundary and regional organisations:** Examples from 2025 include support to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), which received assistance for the IWRM Action Framework that was endorsed by the Organisation of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Council of Ministers Environmental Sustainability. In Southern Africa, GWP supported basin organisations including the Limpopo Watercourse Commission (LIMCOM) in developing governance frameworks and data sharing protocols, and the Cuvelai Basin Commission (CUVECOM) and the Incomati and Maputo Watercourse Commission (INMACOM) in establishing operational structures. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) received support for the Development, Resilience and Valorization of Transboundary Water for West Africa (DREVE) programme concept note preparation.
- **Support to national governments:** Among the developments in 2025 were the support to Guatemala in the drafting of the National Water Law through consultation processes, and to Nepal where the Water Resources Bill incorporating IWRM principles was approved by the Upper House of Parliament. In Tanzania, the National Water Policy 2025 was developed with support from GWP. In El Salvador, the GCF Readiness project was approved and is currently under implementation with GWP as the delivery partner. In Malaysia, a workshop was conducted on preparation for SDG 6.5.1 IWRM reporting for the 2026 monitoring cycle, with participation from state-level agencies from the Department of Irrigation and Drainage and State Water Managers to collect current data and support report preparation.
- **Support to sub-national and local authorities:** Examples from 2025 include work with Karongi and Rusizi District authorities in Rwanda on integrating IWRM into land use plans, support to the Municipality of Sonsonate Norte in El Salvador for IWRM Action Plan preparation and socialisation, and assistance to the Sdey Krom-Rohan Suong Fisheries Community in Cambodia in preparing IWRM Action Plans and identifying fundraising opportunities for implementation.
- **Facilitation of multi-stakeholder processes:** GWP serves as a neutral body to facilitate genuine multi-stakeholder input. A notable example from 2025 was the AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit, which gathered over 1,000 leaders from governments, development banks, the private sector, and civil society. A total of 56 multi-stakeholder processes were supported by GWP during this reporting period.

Illustrative highlights – We Learn

We Learn focuses on developing the capacity to share knowledge and fostering a dynamic communications culture through i) capacity building, ii) knowledge platforms and communities of practice, iii) publications, and iv) social media.

Capacity building: GWP's capacity-building activities are mostly region- or country-specific as they are designed in response to tangible governance and financing capacity needs. Examples from 2025 include:

- **Knowledge platforms and Communities of Practice:** The IWRM Action Hub was renamed the Water Knowledge Hub in 2025. It reached 5,200 registered users and recorded 564,000 views between January and November. A new Learning Management System was developed as an extension of the Hub. The platform now hosts 38 Communities of Practice (CoPs), including the Valuing Water Community launched in March 2025. The WEFE4MED and UNCCD communities both exceeded 400 members, and 44 new case studies on drought and desertification were added to the UNCCD Community of Learning and Practice on Drought Management [microsite](#), hosted on the GWP Water Knowledge Hub.
- **Regional capacity building initiatives:** Pan-African activities included national trainings targeting GCF National Designated Authorities and Direct Access Entities on accessing GCF funds and a regional training on developing Climate Resilient Water Investment Programmes. In Central America, GWP organised a webinar series on Geographic Information Systems and Water Management for young university students and emerging water professionals, attracting 357 participants from 22 countries. In Central Africa, GWP co-organised a hybrid regional training on IWRM in a climate change context with the Central Africa Water Youth Network (RECOJAC).
- **Publications and knowledge products:** Throughout 2025, GWP produced 33 publications at all levels of the organisation. Examples include a new drought-related publication released in the context of the joint WMO-GWP Integrated Programme on Drought Management (IDMP): "[Baseline Assessment of Drought Impact Monitoring](#)," and a policy note on "Mainstreaming gender equality in water resources management" published jointly with the UNEP-DHI Center and with UN Women. In West Africa, GWP co-organised training workshops and finalised the IWRM best practices handbook for the WAEMU region. In Central America, GWP published a report consolidating Central America's third-round assessment results for SDG indicators 6.5.1 and 6.5.2, and launched regional guidelines for the establishment of basin organisations in the region. All global publications and campaigns are listed in annex D.
- **Training and technical capacity:** Illustrative examples from 2025 include the development in South Asia of national assessments for the Asian Water Development Outlook (AWDO) 2025 report from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan. A South-South learning exchange on GCF accreditation and programming was held in South Africa for representatives from Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Tunisia. In Sri Lanka, GWP supported the operationalisation of the National Climate Change Data Sharing Network portal. In the Philippines, a Roundtable Discussion on the Impacts of Technology on Men and Women Engaged in IWRM was organised.

Additionally, training sessions on Environmental Flows Assessment were conducted for Limpopo basin Member States.

- **Social media:** Social media generates great visibility and provides a set of versatile platforms for showcasing GWP's work to a wide audience. By strategically planning, organising, and monitoring social media efforts, GWP grew its presence on social media in 2025 with LinkedIn, Facebook and X/Twitter serving as its primary channels. LinkedIn has proven particularly effective, given the strong presence of GWP's most relevant audiences on the platform. A snapshot of GWP's social media engagement between 15 November 2024 and 15 November 2025 is provided below.
 - 78,683 followers on Facebook (net increase of 1.67% during this period)
 - 47,721 followers on LinkedIn (net increase of 15.62% during this period)
 - 23,317 followers on X/Twitter (net decrease of 0.94% during this period)

GWP was very active during the largest water events of the year, and some political events, including the AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit, World Water Week, UN General Assembly, Regional Water Week of Latin America and the Caribbean, Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) Sector Ministers' Meeting, the Association of Water Institutions in South Africa (AWSISA) Africa & Global South Water & Sanitation Dialogue, and the UNFCCC COP30.

Illustrative highlights – We Mobilise

We Mobilise focuses on enhancing the viability and effectiveness of GWP's Network by strengthening partnerships and partner organisations to catalyse change, enhance learning, and improve financial sustainability. Some of the main groups of activities include i) partner engagement and strategic alliances, ii) strengthening the Country Water Partnerships, iii) GWP institutional performance, and iv) GWP locally raised funding. Illustrations from 2025 include:

- **Partnership development and strategic alliances:** A few illustrative examples from 2025 include the consolidation of the alliance with the NDC Partnership through project implementation in Panama and El Salvador. In Latin America and the Caribbean, alliances were strengthened with UN ECLAC and CAF as co-conveners of the LAC High-Level Panel. In China, the Establishment Conference of the Professional Committee on Water Rights and Water Market took place in Changsha, marking an advancement in academic collaboration.
- **Institutional performance and network strengthening:** Since 2017, an annual regional assessment grid reflecting numerous performance data markers has been used to assess each GWP Regional Water Partnership. These include, inter alia, target achievement, financial and programmatic reporting, resource mobilisation, and overall governance. Performance agreements to address the recommendations arising from these assessments are formally agreed between the GWP Executive Secretary and the Regional Chairs.

- **Locally raised funding:** Locally raised funding for 2024 was € 9.2 million. Whereas the final figures for 2025 will not be available until the annual audit is completed in early 2026, locally raised funds are expected to reach above € 17 million. For 2026, the locally raised funds are projected to reach € 18.4 million, a historical amount for GWP which results from the increased focus on fundraising and a shift to programmatic funding over the last years.

2.3 Regional highlights

(For further details see Section 3 and Annex A)

The following diagram displays highlighted results from each of the 13 GWP Regions achieved in 2025 (underlined text refers to tangible outcomes). A more detailed description of regional level progress, including at country level, can be found in the referenced sections within the diagram.

Mediterranean:

- Strategy on WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean Source to Sea Continuum
- Stakeholder engagement for WEFE Nexus Financing in the Mediterranean

Central and Eastern Europe:

- EU funding for cooperation in the Danube region
- Stakeholder engagement for drought management in the Danube region

Central Asia and Caucasus:

- New Water Code Kazakhstan
- New Water Code Uzbekistan

China:

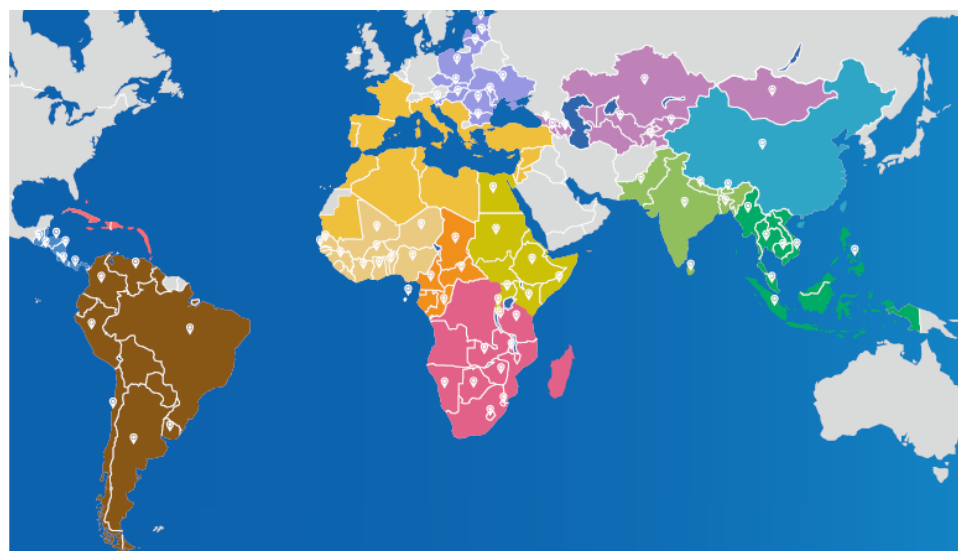
- Flood Control Law revision (in progress)
- Establishment of the Groundwater Committee in Hebei Province (in progress)

Caribbean:

- Update of the IWRM Action Framework for the CARICOM Region (in validation)
- Nature-based solution for greywater treatment in Barbados

Central America:

- National Adaptation Plan for the Coastal Marine Sector of Panama
- Regional Guidelines for the establishment of Basin Committees



South Asia:

- Nepal Water Resources Bill
- Sri Lanka Green Climate Fund National Designated Authority Pipeline Development Plan

Southeast Asia:

- LAO P.D.R Drought Management Plan
- Cambodia IWRM Plan

South America:

- IWRM Action Plan in Ecuador
- Sectoral Mitigation and Adaptation Plans in Chile (in development)

West Africa:

- Data sharing protocol developed between national institutions in the Volta Basin
- Ghana Investment Programme (in development)

Central Africa:

- Nationally Determined Contributions 3.0 in Cameroon
- Climate finance tracker tool for the Central African Republic Green Climate Fund National Designated Authority

Southern Africa:

- Tanzania National Water Policy
- Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Action Plan for the Cuvelai and Kunene basins

Eastern Africa:

- Sustainability Plan of the Somalia Green Climate Fund National Designated Authority
- Resources for climate risk management in Djibouti

3. Thematic Reviews

3.1 Climate resilience through water

The water and climate programme continued to be instrumental in shaping the organisation's approach to development more broadly. This was particularly evident in relation to investment planning and access to finance, where significant results have been achieved during 2025.

GWP adopts a country-owned approach, responding to requests for support in implementing or raising ambition in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), as well as formulating and implementing National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and National Action Plans to Combat Drought and Water Scarcity. On the climate adaptation front, GWP continues to serve as an active link between global climate change policy processes and country-level adaptation planning and investment implementation.

3.1.1 Integrated planning and investments for climate resilience and development

GWP's climate portfolio focuses on climate resilience, including adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk management and reduction. During 2025, this work expanded from global policy processes to regional investment programming and national-level planning initiatives.

- **Global initiatives:** At the global level, 2025 saw continued momentum through the Baku Dialogue on Water for Climate Action, launched by Azerbaijan under its COP29 Presidency, which emerged as a vital COP-to-COP collaboration platform, catalysing global momentum for integrating water more deeply across climate policy processes. GWP continued coordinating with Water for Climate community partners to collectively contribute to the development of indicators for the water goal in the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) through the UAE-Belem Work Programme ahead of COP30.

A technical guidance note under the [GWP-UNICEF WASH Strategic Framework](#) was published in 2025 in collaboration with UNICEF and University of Technology Sydney (UTS) titled "Monitoring the contribution of water, sanitation and hygiene to community resilience to climate change." This publication expands the existing suite of technical briefs and learning modules by providing development agencies with a WASH focus and other stakeholders involved in community development with processes to monitor how WASH interventions contribute to community resilience to climate change. The guidance note advances the connection between WASH programming to broader climate adaptation planning and investment frameworks.

- **Regional investment programming:** The African Union AIP continued to serve as the flagship model for climate-resilient water investment programming during 2025, with the AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit held in Cape Town identifying an initial pipeline of USD 10–12 billion in priority water investments, consolidating more than 80 projects through project-investor matchmaking. Building on this success, 2025 witnessed the launch of the USD 20 billion Regional Water Investment Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean, co-convened by UN ECLAC, CAF, and GWP, which aims to establish a High-Level Panel of Heads of State and mobilise climate-resilient water investments by 2030.

- **National programming and NDC support:** National-level programming also advanced, with Climate Resilient Water Investment Programmes under preparation in 13 countries: Montenegro, El Salvador, Guinea, Burundi, Mali, Republic of Congo, Malawi, Central African Republic, Sierra Leone, Eswatini, Mozambique, Somalia and Ghana. Complementing these investment programming efforts, GWP provided support to countries in updating their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs 3.0), with notable progress in Cameroon and Zambia where GWP supported the respective Ministries of Environment in the NDC revision processes.
- **Capacity building and knowledge platforms:** The first phase of the AIP Continental Knowledge Platform was completed and launched in 2025. As a core component of the GCF Multi-Country Readiness Programme (see Section 3.1.2), the platform provides AU Member States with access to best practices, case studies, and technical guidance for mobilising finance for water security and climate resilience.
- **Investment tracking and accountability:** GWP provided support to the AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard, a continental tool for driving investment tracking and accountability. The Africa Water Investment Outlook Report was developed with GWP's support, which is planned for launch during the 39th African Union Assembly in 2026 to provide high-level political visibility and further anchor the Scorecard. Plans are underway to digitalise the Scorecard, and the Secretariat will continue to engage with partners such as UNCDF, UNDP, UNICEF, and Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) in the development of an international blended facility.

3.1.2 Access to climate finance

GWP strategically focused its support to countries to increase water-related climate investments through various financing mechanisms, with particular emphasis on building technical and institutional capabilities required to access and manage climate finance.

- **Green Climate Fund engagement:** The Green Climate Fund (GCF) remains the largest financing mechanism targeted by GWP for increasing water-related climate investments. As a GCF Delivery Partner for the Readiness Window, GWP formally supports countries' GCF National Designated Authorities (NDAs) to develop and implement Readiness projects.

The African Union Multi-Country Programme to Accelerate Water and Climate Resilience Investments through the Africa Water Investment Programme (AU-AIP Multi-country GCF Readiness Project), worth USD 6.2 million and covering 15 countries, advanced during 2025 with tangible milestones across the continent. A major Africa Regional Training on Water Investment Programme Development and GCF Project Preparation was held in Cape Town. This was complemented by a series of national-level trainings for NDAs, potential DAEs, and Executing Entities in countries including eSwatini, Malawi, Mozambique, Burundi, Mali, Morocco, Guinea, and the Central African Republic. These trainings focused on institutional responsibilities and GCF project preparation, with one notable outcome being the mobilisation of BGFIBank Centrafrique to pursue GCF Direct Access Entity accreditation.

A new GCF Readiness project was approved during 2025 in El Salvador worth approximately USD 870,000, with GWP serving as Delivery Partner. The project will focus on building the capacity of key sectoral stakeholders to ensure that they are equipped to contribute to mobilizing climate finance for water-related investments. The project will also support the preparation of an investment programme for the country to advance climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, and water security targets and priorities, and will help advance the country pipeline in the area of water harvesting.

Further support to countries to access GCF resources was provided in Cameroon, in collaboration with UNICEF. In Southern Africa, a funding proposal for the SADC Regional Climate Resilient Water Investment Programme was submitted to the GCF, seeking USD 100 million for 13 countries.

Other financing mechanisms: Additional support to access climate finance was provided in 2025 through partnerships with other financing mechanisms. The NDC Partnership represents noteworthy avenue through which GWP provides practical support to countries in enhancing their NDCs and fast-tracking their implementation. During 2025, approval was secured for a project in Chile, where the National Forestry Corporation (CONAF) within the Ministry of Agriculture requested support for the analysis of financing mechanisms that contribute to compliance with NDCs on Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF). Support to access the Adaptation Fund was also provided, primarily for integrated flood and drought management initiatives. Detailed examples are presented in Section 3.1.3. In Rwanda, GWP's upstream planning support through the Global Water Leadership programme was instrumental in securing a USD 9.4 million grant from the African Development Fund for nature-based flood adaptation (see Box 1).

Box 1: African Development Fund approves USD 9.4 million grant for nature-based flood adaptation in western Rwanda

The Board of Directors of the African Development Fund approved a grant of USD 9.4 million to the Republic of Rwanda to finance the Nature-Based Flood Adaptation Project to strengthen the climate resilience of communities and water infrastructure in the western districts of Karongi and Rusizi. The project aims to reduce flood risks by implementing nature-based solutions, including agroforestry, reforestation, and landscape restoration to improve watershed health and reduce soil erosion.

The groundwork making this possible was carried out by GWP Eastern Africa, GWP-Rwanda, UNICEF, and the Rwanda Water Resources Board through the Global Water Leadership Programme (GWL) in the country, resulting in a concrete Response Strategy and Finance Plan to bottlenecks impending Rwanda's IWRM implementation. An estimated 1.2 million residents will gain from improved early warning systems and better protection of key water resources, while over 620,000 people will benefit from reduced flood and landslide risks. The project aims to strengthen climate resilience through nature-based solutions.

3.1.3 Floods and droughts

In tandem with the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) continues to guide GWP's work on droughts and floods. GWP's partnerships with WMO under the Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) and the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) advanced during 2025.

- **Enhanced access to Helpdesk support:** The establishment of an integrated Service Desk in 2025 in partnership with WMO brought together the APFM helpdesk, IDMP helpdesk, IWRM helpdesk, and newly established Agromet helpdesk. This integration allows for more coordinated and comprehensive responses to incoming requests from GWP partners and other stakeholders, while providing better connections to established communities of practice. The IWRM Helpdesk alone received 16 requests during 2025, covering capacity building, strategy development, technical platform support, and project implementation guidance.
- **Knowledge development and awareness raising:** In partnership with WMO, a Water and Climate Communities microsite was developed, hosting three new communities on Early Warning and Flood Forecasting, Water Resources Assessment, and Agrometeorology. GWP also organised three competitions: a photo competition titled "Solutions that Inspire Change" in collaboration with UNCCD attracted 135 submissions from 59 countries, showcasing innovative approaches to tackling water scarcity, drought, and land degradation; a case study competition in August received 35 submissions; and an IDMP-led youth drought competition attracted 334 submissions. Additional drought-related knowledge development initiatives are described under Section 2.2.
- **Access to climate finance for integrated flood and drought management:** GWP continued developing a pipeline targeting the Adaptation Fund in 2025, totalling USD 92.6 million and creating opportunities for integrated drought management across multiple regions, including:
 - Central Asia: Integrated Drought Management proposal covering Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, focusing on establishing regional and national drought policies and strengthening institutional arrangements with emphasis on vulnerable communities;
 - South Asia: Integrated Drought Management proposal for Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan focused on implementing the Regional Drought Strategy;
 - Drin basin: Integrated Drought Management proposal for Montenegro and North Macedonia aimed at supporting National Meteorological Services to establish drought early warning systems and implement Nature-Based Solutions at community level;
 - Central America: Proposal for Costa Rica and Panama focusing on improving hydroclimatic and early warning systems that are integrated with water resources management.

- **Regional and country-level implementation:**

- **Southeast Asia:** Cambodia and Lao PDR achieved milestones in drought management planning during 2025. Both countries finalised their National Action Plans on Drought Management through the CREWS initiative, supported by comprehensive capacity-building programmes. Cambodia launched its National Action Plan on Drought Management and Adaptation (2025-2030) and Climate Resilient IWRM Action Plan (2026-2030), requiring USD 16.7 million investment over six years. The plan was endorsed through the Technical Working Group on Water Resources and Agriculture and reviewed by 14 water-related ministries. Lao PDR launched its IWRM and Drought Management Framework in Vientiane Province, with total investment needs of USD 87.4 million across short-term (USD 24.6 million) and medium-to-long-term (USD 62.8 million) phases. A Regional Learning Exchange Workshop in Bangkok facilitated knowledge sharing between the two countries and introduced a Community of Practice on drought and IWRM aligned with UNCCD and SDG 6 platforms hosted on GWP's Water Knowledge Hub.
- **Lake Chad basin:** The Integrated Water Resources Management and Early Warning System for Climate Change Resilience in the Lake Chad Basin project was validated by the Adaptation Fund for implementation beginning in 2026. The project, with a grant amount of USD 11.7 million over five years, aims to increase the resilience of the population in the Lake Chad Basin by enhancing countries' capability to manage and adapt to climate-related risks through improvement of hydrological monitoring, data systems, and service delivery. WMO serves as the Implementing Entity while the Lake Chad Basin Commission acts as the Executing Entity along with GWP.
- **China:** GWP provided support for the revision of China's Flood Control Law, assembling a multidisciplinary team of experts in hydraulic engineering, disaster emergency response, and legal affairs. The inputs focused on refining flood control planning, enhancing project management, and fortifying emergency response mechanisms, with the revision included in the Legislative Plan of the Standing Committee of the 14th National People's Congress.
- **Mali:** Technical support was provided for the Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator project on real-time flood risk mapping using rainfall forecasts, remote sensing, and deep learning, including development of hydrological models for flood forecasting and warning in the municipality of Koula in the Koulikoro district.
- **Southern Africa:** Advances were made in capacity development and technical support to institutions in Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe on flood early warning systems, hydrometric networks, and environmental monitoring, building resilience to climate-related water extremes across the region.

3.2 Water solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals

The all-encompassing nature of the SDGs enables GWP to predominantly structure its resources according to SDG and climate programmes while accommodating the diverse agendas across its network. The cross-sectoral nature of water lies at the heart of IWRM and is captured in SDG target 6.5, making it a key entry point for advancing not only SDG 6, but also other water-related goals and targets, as well as the broader 2030 Agenda.

3.2.1 The SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme

The SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme assists governments in designing and implementing country-led responses to SDG indicator 6.5.1, serving as an entry point to accelerate progress towards achieving water-related SDGs. During 2025, the programme continued to expand its reach while deepening its focus on investment-ready action planning.

The programme, coordinated by GWP in partnership with UNDP Cap-Net, UNEP-DHI, and UNEP as the custodian agency for SDG indicator 6.5.1, measures the degree of implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) across participating countries.

The work conducted under the SDG 6 Support Programme is broadly structured across three stages:

- **Stage 1:** Strengthening SDG national monitoring and reporting frameworks, including the establishment of an IWRM score under SDG indicator 6.5.1, with a view to identifying critical areas for attention.
- **Stage 2:** Formulating appropriate responses to water resources management challenges, tailored to the specific needs, ambitions, and capacities of each country. These responses are informed by the baseline established for SDG indicator 6.5.1 and address broader national water resources management priority issues.
- **Stage 3:** Accessing implementation support for solutions that improve IWRM as a contribution to other water-related SDGs.

Progress in 2025 by stage:

Stage 1 - Monitoring and reporting:

- **Global:** A [policy note on mainstreaming gender equality in water resources management](#) was produced in collaboration with UN Women and launched on International Women's Day. Based on countries' responses to the SDG 6.5.1 survey, the note presents the global status of gender mainstreaming in IWRM and outlines seven pathways for countries to progress towards this objective.
- **West Africa:** In collaboration with the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) a regional SDG 6.5.1 status report was finalized and launched, presenting the IWRM implementation status across the WAEMU space and identifying regional priorities and best practices.
- **Asia-Pacific:** An ongoing collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) advanced significantly as part of the Asia Water Development Outlook (AWDO) 2025. The Support Programme contributed a thematic chapter on water security and water

governance in the context of SDG 6, and developed five country assessments (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Pakistan, and Tajikistan). This work utilised SDG 6.5.1 data as proxies for water governance, formulating evidence-based recommendations for countries.

- **Central America:** GWP published a regional report consolidating results from the third round of assessments for indicators 6.5.1 and 6.5.2, highlighting sub-regional trends and opportunities for enhanced cooperation. The report was prepared in collaboration with the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD), UNEP-DHI and UNECE. An online launch event facilitated exchange on how countries have advanced in IWRM and transboundary cooperation since the last reporting cycle.

Stage 2 - Planning IWRM responses:

During 2025, the online Stage 2 course on IWRM Action Planning, hosted on the Cap-Net Virtual Campus, expanded significantly and reached 216 participants registered. Twelve countries were supported to conduct multi-stakeholder processes in Stage 2 to advance national action planning to design actionable, investment-ready action plans:

- **Cambodia and Lao P.D.R.:** both countries successfully concluded their Stage 2 processes, which were funded through the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and applied the Support Programme's Stage 2 methodology. Both IWRM Action Plans were finalized and officially endorsed by their respective governments in high-level launch events in 2025.
- **Cameroon:** Efforts focused on aligning climate-sensitive budgeting for water-related administrations with SDG 6-related priorities as part of developing a new IWRM Action Plan building on lessons from the previous 2019 plan.
- **Chile:** The IWRM Action Plan was completed and officially adopted as a guiding framework by the General Directorate of Water under the Ministry of Public Works, providing structured actions, priorities, and monitoring tools to advance IWRM implementation.
- **El Salvador:** Development of the IWRM Action Plan began in the second half of 2025, with GWP supporting the National Water Authority in establishing an inter-institutional working group composed of more than 10 institutions involved in IWRM.
- **Ecuador:** The IWRM Action Plan progressed under the leadership of the Ministry of Energy and Environment, with technical support from GWP and UNEP-DHI, expected to be finalised by the end of 2025.
- **Jordan:** GWP provided support in the process aimed to establish a National Water Investment Fund, attracting international donor contributions, concessional loans, and private sector investments to ensure financial sustainability for IWRM initiatives.

Stage 3 - Accessing implementation support: In Pakistan, a project on accelerating progress toward SDG Target 6.6 progressed, developing Pakistan's Country Commitment document to align national priorities with international targets under SDG 6.6, funded by UNEP with legal support from Herbert Smith Freehills LLP. A pilot project was launched with the mission to accelerate the protection and restoration of freshwater ecosystems across Pakistan.

3.2.2 WEFE (Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems) nexus

The WEFE nexus work addresses cross-sectoral linkages between water, agriculture, energy, and environmental management. During 2025, this agenda gained recognition as countries and regions increasingly adopted nexus approaches for addressing complex water challenges.

GWP's work on the water-energy-food-environment (WEFE) nexus is grounded in the organisation's track record of working with agricultural, environmental, and energy partners through cross-sectoral projects and initiatives. The nexus approach provides a valuable framework for addressing complex water challenges, with coordination between agriculture processes and integrated water management becoming increasingly important in the context of climate change.

National and regional policy integration: Several regions advanced nexus integration at policy levels during 2025. In Southern Africa, the 11th Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue focused specifically on WEFE nexus in regional economic policy to inform decision-making at the SADC Summit ministerial level. In El Salvador, institutional coordination was strengthened through the establishment of the SDG 6.4 monitoring group by the Salvadoran Water Authority with GWP technical support, improving water efficiency monitoring across sectors.

Investment and financing for nexus approaches: The nexus approach attracted increased investment attention in 2025. Botswana received Adaptation Fund approval for its Concept Note to proceed to full funding proposal development for "Enhancing climate resilient water, food, and energy systems through sustainable natural resources management." Building on this success, Botswana undertook additional resource mobilisation efforts, submitting funding proposals for the Jwaneng Mining Community WEFE Nexus and Circular Economy for Green Livelihoods Project, and advancing proposals for the Metsimotlhabe Climate Resilience WEFE Nexus Project and sustainable land management activities.

Technical capacity and innovation: Technical applications of nexus approaches expanded during 2025. In China, GWP neared finalisation of a report on Wuzhou's green water economy development, presenting local practices, existing challenges, and targeted recommendations. Following external consultations with experts and local authorities, the report provides guidance for Wuzhou to leverage water resource advantages for green water economy development. In Pakistan, GWP organised a workshop in Quetta, building capacity across key water sub-sectors—agricultural water, municipal water, groundwater, and environmental flows—to promote water conservation through enhanced understanding and skills. In Malaysia, GWP conducted a training course on river water quality modelling with WASP8, addressing water quality challenges affecting both agriculture and drinking water by introducing participants to advanced simulation tools for managing pollution impacts under changing climatic conditions.

Knowledge platforms and community building: The WEFE nexus agenda gained momentum through strengthened knowledge platforms during 2025. The WEFE4MED Community of Practice grew to over 400 members, collected over 30 demonstration sites, and conducted more than a dozen online events and workshops, establishing itself as a platform for knowledge exchange connecting WEFE Nexus practitioners, researchers, and policy

makers in the Mediterranean region and worldwide. At the global level, GWP participated in the 9th meeting of the Working Group on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus under the Water Convention, organised by UNECE, strengthening international coordination on nexus approaches.

3.2.3 Urban water management

Urban water initiatives focus on strengthening water governance, infrastructure resilience, and service delivery in urban contexts. Urban water management represents one of the thematic areas where GWP's work has been largely driven by regional needs and funding opportunities, addressing the diverse priorities identified by partnerships at regional and country levels. During 2025, this work encompassed multiple dimensions: policy framework development, infrastructure solutions, risk reduction strategies, and innovative financing mechanisms for water and sanitation services.

In addition, GWP supported emergency water access in the Caribbean, following the passage of Hurricane Melissa in October 2025. GWP, in collaboration with Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management (PISLM) and Grenada's Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment and Renewable Energy (MoCRERE), coordinated humanitarian and technical support to Jamaica to help address urgent water needs in affected communities.

The emergency response included the donation of 10 LifeStraw Community water purification systems, handed over to local authorities to support access to safe drinking water during early response and recovery. Designed for post-disaster contexts, the systems can serve communities where formal water infrastructure is damaged, unsafe, or inaccessible, contributing to improved water security in emergency settings.

Policy frameworks and institutional strengthening: Strategic frameworks were developed across several countries to strengthen urban WASH governance. In Malawi, GWP supported the development of the WASH Advocacy Strategic Response Plan and the WASH Coordination Strategic Response Plan, providing comprehensive approaches to sector coordination and resource mobilisation. Zanzibar adopted its Water and Sanitation Policy 2025, establishing updated regulatory frameworks for water service delivery. In Zambia, GWP supported the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation in developing National Rainwater Harvesting Guidelines for Schools and establishing a Water and Sanitation Trust Fund to improve sector financing sustainability.

Urban climate resilience and risk reduction: Climate resilience remained important in urban water initiatives during 2025. In El Salvador, GWP provided training to government teams on preparing risk reduction strategies for urban spaces, resulting in the development of a risk reduction strategy for a pilot site. An online webinar on rainwater harvesting systems (RWHS) as a key technology for water resilience was organised with Church World Service and the Semi-Arid Platform of Latin America, facilitating experience exchange between Central and South America.

Nature-based solutions and water supply sustainability: Caribbean Small Island Developing States advanced ecosystem-based adaptation approaches through three projects funded in 2025: Barbados implemented nature-based solutions for greywater treatment; Grenada

developed sustainable water conservation and irrigation practices in agriculture; and Montserrat focused on rehabilitating Lawyers Spring to increase the sustainability of the island's water supply. These projects contributed directly to local water security outcomes and provided practical evidence for replication across other Caribbean SIDS.

Technical innovation and capacity building: GWP facilitated technical capacity development across multiple regions. In Bangladesh, training on water integrity in WASH services was organised in two informal settlements of Khulna, building capacity among youth groups and community-based organisations on legal rights to water, service access mechanisms, and principles of transparency, accountability, participation, and anti-corruption. A Community of Practice on water storage was created on GWP's Water Knowledge Hub, maintaining ongoing discussions between stakeholders and engaging new participants in South Asia.

3.3 Transboundary water cooperation

GWP's Transboundary Water portfolio focuses on fostering cross-border cooperation by providing a neutral space for dialogue and negotiation, backed up by knowledge products and project experience. The portfolio is built around a combination of regional dialogues, international water governance knowledge and capacity, and direct interventions targeted at increased cooperation among riparian actors. During 2025, transboundary work advanced across multiple river basins, with particular progress in institutional strengthening, knowledge development, and investment preparation.

- **Global initiatives:** GWP continued its role as one of the establishing members of the Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition (TWCC), established in 2023, which brings together more than 40 governments, international organisations, international financing institutions, NGOs, academia, and research centres. During 2025, GWP contributed to operationalising the coalition, resulting in the adoption of the TWCC Work Plan 2025–2027, with clear responsibilities for priority activities.
- **Institutional capacity development and transboundary cooperation:** In Southern Africa, multiple basin organisations advanced their institutional frameworks. The Limpopo Watercourse Commission (LIMCOM) was supported in developing internal governance policies and operational capacity through the setup of finance management systems and review of technical working group mandates. The Limpopo Data Sharing Protocol was developed for validation, while environmental flows harmonisation work progressed across basin countries. For the Cuvelai-Kunene basins, progress was achieved with the agreement to establish a joint secretariat for the basins through a Joint Transboundary Governance Structure, supported by the constitution of the Cuvelai Basin Early Warning and Information System (CUVEWIS) Technical Working group with technical officials from member states. The Incomati and Maputo Watercourse Commission (INMACOM) held its inception workshop for the GEF project (see Box 2).
- **International water governance:** In West Africa, regional workshops were held with UNECE, ECOWAS, and WAEMU, with Burkina Faso and Niger joining the Water Convention. In Central America, GWP facilitated dialogue between Costa Rica and Panama for identifying opportunities for joint management of the Coto y Vecinos basin.

- **Knowledge development and technical support:** In the Limpopo basin, the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis was completed, along with the development of a flood forecasting hydrometric station dashboard and a joint basin survey environmental flows assessment. A sediment transport monitoring manual was developed, and community-based sustainable land management demonstration pilots progressed in all four countries.
- **Regional cooperation and financing:** West Africa advanced several transboundary initiatives during 2025. The RIWE-Mono project launched officially in Grand Popo, Benin, with GWP supporting development of detailed information guides on IWRM, establishment of local water committees, and updating of action plans for basin committees. The REWarD-Volta River Basin project progressed with technical assistance from DHI, focusing on development of annual surface water resource allocation models and community-oriented drought early warning systems. In West Africa, the DREVE programme concept note was prepared targeting World Bank funding, designed as a multi-phase programme focusing on water security and climate-resilient development to foster socio-economic development, resilience, and peace.
- **Pan-African coordination:** The Pan-African Transboundary Dialogue and Training on National Water Investment Programming was facilitated by GWP in collaboration with the African Union. Support was provided to the African Union Commission in implementing the Blue Africa Transboundary Water Management in Africa project, funded by the European Union with the development of the Africa Water Vision and Policy. These activities contributed to enhanced continental coordination on transboundary water management and investment programming.

Box 2: UNDP-GEF Project - Strengthening Integrated Transboundary Management of the Incomati and Maputo River Basins

The Governments of Eswatini, Mozambique, and South Africa officially endorsed and kick-started the implementation of a joint transboundary water project through the signing of the project document in Maputo, Mozambique, on 16 July 2025.

The Global Environmental Facility's (GEF) investment of over USD 7.1 million in the project, leveraging more than USD 64 million in confirmed co-financing, will enable interventions that address urgent challenges facing the Incomati and Maputo River Basins, including degraded ecosystems, altered flow regimes, pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate-induced extreme events such as floods and droughts. These challenges impact the lives, livelihoods, and development ambitions of more than 3.4 million people who rely directly on the basins' resources.

UNDP serves as the implementing agency, while GWP Southern Africa is the project executing partner. Both agencies support the Incomati and Maputo Watercourse Commission (INMACOM), an organisation formed by the three African Union Member States to promote cooperation and ensure coordinated development, management, and sustainable use of the water resource. The project represents the culmination of years of cooperative dialogue, institutional strengthening, and policy visioning among the three countries.

3.4 Cross-cutting areas

The GWP Strategy 2020-2025 recognises that gender equality and youth and private sector engagement are fundamental pillars in the pursuit of water security. During 2025, progress was made in operationalising cross-cutting approaches across all three areas with enhanced frameworks, leadership structures, and practical implementation advancing the integration of these priorities into GWP's core work.

3.4.1 Gender

Gender equality continued to be prioritised as a fundamental pillar in the pursuit of water security, with 2025 witnessing strengthened leadership structures, expanded community engagement, and enhanced integration into investment frameworks.

A significant development in 2025 was the appointment of H.E. President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, President of the Republic of Namibia, as GWP's Global Champion for Gender Equality. This role is dedicated to promoting gender-transformative water investments worldwide, including through the G20 Global Outlook Council on Water Investments' USD 10–12 billion pipeline. The appointment positions gender equality as a driving force in global investment frameworks and strengthens advocacy for women's leadership, gender-responsive budgeting, and inclusive participation in water and climate investments.

- **National and regional implementation:** Gender integration advanced across multiple regions during 2025. In Central America, Honduras included gender elements in its Climate Change Law Regulation, while Panama's Adaptation Plan for the Coastal-Marine Sector incorporated gender considerations. In West Africa, a regional workshop was held in Lomé to validate strategic tools for the RIWE-Mono project, including the Gender Strategy for 2025–2030. Southern Africa continued implementing Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Action Plans for the Cuvelai-Kunene, Incomati-Maputo, and Ruvuma basins, integrating gender equality into transboundary water management and demonstration pilots.
- **Community building and awareness raising:** The Global Gender Community of Practice grew to 153 members during 2025, with synergies sought with other gender-related initiatives. This platform continues to facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building on gender integration in water management across the GWP network. The II Workshop "Women, Let's Talk About Water" was held in Guatemala to reflect on progress and challenges in women's participation and inclusion in the drinking water and sanitation sector.

3.4.2 Youth

Youth engagement remained a priority for GWP's work during 2025, with a focus on awareness raising, capacity building, innovation, and leadership development across multiple regions and platforms.

- **Capacity building:**
 - **Global:** Youth engagement in water governance was strengthened through multiple initiatives during 2025. The IDMP and APFM involved the Youth Water Network in the organisation of online courses on drought, where youth served as focus group participants.
 - **Burkina Faso:** GWP played a coordinating role in an awareness campaign under the WMO-supported HYDROMET-BF Project, working with national and provincial institutions, including the Directorate General of Water Resources, the National Meteorological Agency, the Provincial Directorate of Preschool, Primary and Non-Formal Education of Kadiogo, among others. Activities included the adaptation of pedagogical materials in national languages and local needs and supporting capacity building — training supervisors, teachers, and parents — to strengthen disaster-risk awareness and preparedness at the school level. The initiative benefitted around 1,000 schoolchildren in 10 central Burkina Faso schools.
 - **Central Africa:** GWP built youth capacity on IWRM in a climate change context through hybrid regional training co-organised with RECOJAC (Central Africa Water Youth Network).

- **Awareness raising:**

- **Global:** The youth drought competition led by IDMP attracted 334 submissions, demonstrating growing youth interest in water and climate solutions.
- **Panama:** GWP collaborated with the Panama Canal Authority to organise an eco-educational tour for young people from the Water Academy for young leaders committed to sustainable water resource management.
- **China:** The 22nd National High School Student Water Technology Invention Competition for the Stockholm Junior Water Prize 2025 took place in May, with 23 project teams from 19 provinces across China participating in water protection innovation challenges.

3.4.3 Private sector

Private sector engagement was positioned at the centre of addressing the global water investment gap during 2025, with new platforms, strategic partnerships, and collaborative frameworks established to mobilise private capital and expertise. This focus reflects the prominent role assigned to private sector engagement in GWP's new Strategy 2026-2030, which places private sector collaboration as a key mechanism for scaling up water investments and bridging the financing gap.

- **Platform development and partnerships:** Private sector engagement advanced through the launch of Water Sweden in 2025, a new platform designed to mobilise Swedish private sector innovation, financing, and expertise for international water investments. Water Sweden operates as an independent Country Water Partnership affiliated with GWP's global network, managed by Swedish private sector stakeholders. The launch was highlighted by the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between Water Sweden and the Association of Water Institutions in South Africa (AWSISA), paving the way for joint initiatives, technology transfer, and partnerships across Africa.
- **Strategic frameworks and collaboration:** GWP signed a Partnership Framework with AquaFed during the Sanitation and Water for All Sector Ministers' Meeting in Madrid, focusing on advancing water investments through enhanced public-private partnerships. The collaboration aims to build skills and expertise in government ministries and public authorities for developing various models of private sector collaboration, including project pipeline development and implementation of public-private-partnership projects.
- **Regional private sector initiatives:** Private sector engagement progressed across multiple regions during 2025. South America advanced partnerships with Aquafondo in Peru and the Chamber of Industries of Uruguay (CIU). The collaboration with Aquafondo promoted efficient water use among companies through the Sello Empresa Hídricamente Responsable (EHR), while the alliance with CIU supported businesses in measuring and reducing their water and carbon footprints.
- **Embedding private sector in water planning:** Progress was achieved in incorporating private sector considerations into national water planning frameworks. In El Salvador, private sector engagement was embedded into the IWRM Action Plan development

process, ensuring that private sector roles and contributions are considered from the planning stage through implementation. Similarly, Zambia developed a comprehensive Private Sector Engagement Strategy for sustainable water and sanitation, providing a structured framework for leveraging private sector capabilities and investments in the water sector.

4. GWP Logframe: Progress against targets

GWP uses a results-based M&E component to monitor quantified targets set against a standard list of impact, outcome, and output indicators in the GWP logical framework. This is combined with a more qualitative outcome mapping methodology which is described in Annex C and reported on in Annex A.

The GWP logframe contains the following:

- a. 2 Impact indicators based upon the GWP vision that measure the socio-economic and environmental benefits derived from better water resources governance and management in the countries and regions where GWP is active. These benefits can be related to one or several thematic areas depending on the actual problems solved.
- b. 14 key water governance Outcome indicators reflecting the GWP mission of advancing governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development. The indicators measure the governance improvements introduced by actors at all levels where GWP is active.
- c. 20 Output indicators that measure the services and products delivered by the GWP network which foster sustainable governance improvements of the water systems (via influenced boundary actors). There is a great diversity of services and products: facilitation packages for global, regional, transboundary, national, or local processes; knowledge products and capacity building materials; guidelines and procedures; networking and partnerships tools, etc. They can be related to one or several thematic areas depending on the actual problems targeted. The output indicators reflect the three dimensions according to which GWP designs its activities (We Act – indicators OT1.1-OT1.11; We Learn – indicators OT2.1-OT2.6; We Mobilise – indicators OT3.1-OT3.3)

As part of the planning process for the current Strategy period, targets have been set against the logical framework indicators at both the regional and global levels in the GWP regional and global 3-year Work Programmes 2020-2022 and 2023-2025, which are subsequently reviewed on an annual basis for incorporation into each GWP entity's annual workplan. Results are monitored against these targets each year as the strategy period proceeds.

The GWP logframe, including the targets and results for 2025, as well as overall progress against the three-year targets set in the 2023-2025 GWP work programme, is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1: GWP Logframe – Targets and Results 2025

Ind code and desc	Target 2025	Result 2025	Achievement 3-yr targets 2023-2025 [%]
I1 - Number of people benefiting from improved water resources governance and management	232897050	235021111	178.39
I2 - Total value of water-related investments from government and private sources influenced	78582000	84600300	63.49
O1 - No. of formally adopted national level policies, plans, strategies and laws influenced which integrate water security	19	19	90.57
O2 - No. of formally adopted policies, plans, strategies and laws influenced which integrate water security at other levels	8	7	80.00
O3 - No. of arrangements / commitments / agreements on enhanced water security influenced at transboundary / regional level	12	6	86.96
O4 - No. of capacity building and knowledge development initiatives that can be directly associated with tangible governance change	31	28	144.71
O5 - No. of processes / frameworks / institutions established or strengthened to improve cross-sectoral / transboundary coordination	16	8	55.17
O6 - No. of formal multi-stakeholder participation processes facilitated on behalf of a mandated institution	59	56	258.18
O7 - No. of policies, plans, strategies and laws influenced that integrate gender inclusion	13	7	90.48
O8 - No. of management instruments formally being used by water managers and decision-makers	15	11	189.47
O9 - No. of formal data sharing arrangements established	3	2	26.67
O10 - No. of approved investment plans and budget commitments associated with policies, plans and strategies that integrate water security	18	20	112.90
O11 - No. of funding agreements influenced to implement water-informed National Adaptation Plan and integrated flood and drought management policies and measures	12	8	144.44
O12 - No. of processes in place to raise local revenues from dedicated levies on water users at basin, aquifer or sub-national levels	3		66.67
O13 - No. of budget commitments from riparian countries to support agreed transboundary cooperation arrangements	4	14	342.86
O14 - No. of water-related infrastructure interventions founded on robust, inclusive, and effective water governance systems influenced	2	1	60.00
OT1.1 - No. of mandated institutions supported in developing and implementing arrangements for transboundary water management	40	25	220.75
OT1.2 - No. of mandated national institutions supported in developing and implementing policies, legal frameworks and/or plans based on IWRM	72	90	159.59
OT1.3 - No. of mandated sub-national institutions supported in developing and implementing policies, by-laws and/or plans based on IWRM	27	12	76.98
OT1.4 - No. of mandated institutions supported in integrating gender inclusive water components into development planning and decision-making processes	17	23	151.85
OT1.5 - No. of mandated national institutions supported in developing national investment plans or strategies	16	22	188.00
OT1.6 - No. of mandated institutions supported in the development of capacity and projects to access finance	67	49	368.75
OT1.7 - No. of mandated national institutions supported in monitoring SDG 6	1	2	105.97
OT1.8 - No. of demonstration projects undertaken for which innovation has been demonstrated	34	9	100.00
OT1.9 - No. of initiatives / demonstration projects specifically targeting gender issues	24	4	71.43
OT1.10 - No. of documents produced outlining the lessons from GWP demonstration projects and a plan for replicating solutions	12	2	154.55
OT1.11 - No. of beneficiaries supported in demonstration projects on water security and climate resilience undertaken	1064854	1000602	141.17
OT2.1 - No. of mandated institutions at national, basin and regional levels with demonstrably enhanced capacity to design and implement policies, legal frameworks and/or plans based on shared learning on IWRM processes	114	68	159.30
OT2.2 - No. of capacity building and professional development workshops/initiatives with a significant focus on women, youth, and/or other marginalized groups initiated and implemented	31	22	80.71
OT2.3 - No. of publications, knowledge products (including strategic messages) and tools for water security and climate resilience developed and	28	33	176.42
OT3.2 - No. of initiatives that mobilise underrepresented groups (incl. gender and youth) to engage with water management and governance processes and to participate in decision making	14	8	80.39
OT3.3 - No. of initiatives with private sector actors to mobilise investment, reduce impacts on water by key industries, and promote innovation and entrepreneurship	14	7	119.35

The 2025 logframe results listed in the table above illustrate the progress made in reaching the targets set in the 2025 workplan. Overall target achievement in 2025 departs somewhat from the pattern of recent years: impact-level targets were met or exceeded, outcome-level results remain mixed, and output-level achievement was somewhat lower than in preceding years.

Output results are directly linked to GWP's delivery of workplan activities and products. In 2025, a lower share of output targets was fully achieved than in recent years, with global uncertainty affecting project implementation timelines across the Network. This challenging context reaffirmed the need for the institutional transformation GWP undertook during the year, including the approval of reforms at the General Assembly, the launch of the Strategy 2026–2030, and the Global Transformation Agenda on Water Investments. These changes required significant organisational capacity and adaptation across the Network, even as GWP continued to deliver substantive programmatic results, demonstrating the quality of its programmatic efforts, the strength of its partnerships, and the adaptability of the GWP Network.

A few points to note:

- **At impact level**, the target focused on the value of water-related investments influenced (indicator I2) was exceeded, with a result of approximately 84.6 million EUR against a target of 78.6 million EUR. This result reflects successes in helping countries access climate-related finance, including funds secured through the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund, and the Global Environment Facility, building on GWP's support to governments with investment planning, proposal development, and climate finance readiness. With GWP's growing emphasis in these areas, it is expected that such results will continue to materialise in the coming years.

The value of investment indirectly influenced is likely a substantial underestimate of the actual value that could be reported. One of the major challenges remains the difficulty of tracking investment commitments after direct support to a specific process has finalised, which is resource intensive. GWP is continuing to strengthen M&E frameworks for investment-related policies and plans to allow better feedback of information.

GWP is also increasingly supporting the mobilisation of water investments through major initiatives and programmes advanced during 2025, including the AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit, the launch of the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Water Investment Programme, and GWP's role in the Global Water Investment Platform. These efforts are promising for future impact. Their structure — with clearer investment pipelines, tracking mechanisms, and accountability frameworks — will most likely allow GWP to better track and attribute its contribution to investment mobilisation in the years ahead.

- **At outcome level**, target achievement was mixed, probably reflecting both the inherent unpredictability of governance processes and, in some cases, ambitious target setting under indicators where results are not fully under GWP's control. The current unpredictability of governance processes at global and regional levels may also have affected achievement of outcome-related targets more generally, given that many of these results depend on political, diplomatic, and institutional processes that lie largely outside GWP's direct influence. A number of targets were nevertheless close to being achieved, with results falling only marginally short in several categories.

- **Enabling Environment**: GWP achieved its target under indicator O1 on national-level policies influenced. The gap under O3 could have been affected by the current unpredictability of global governance processes, which also affects transboundary and regional cooperation.
- **Financing**: Financing-related results were again closely linked to strengthening climate

resilience and investment mobilisation. Other financing-related targets fell short, probably reflecting an underestimation of the time required to move from planning and proposal development to approved funding agreements and operationalised revenue mechanisms.

- **Management Instruments:** Results under indicators O7 and O8 on management instruments and data sharing arrangements were below target, suggesting that the development and operationalisation of such tools required longer implementation horizons than anticipated.
- **Institutions and participation:** Target achievement in this category was mixed. GWP's efforts to build institutional capacity and facilitate multi-stakeholder processes were reflected in several results that came close to their targets, while shortfalls in cross-sectoral and transboundary coordination can partially be explained by the diplomatic sensitivities of such processes and the current unpredictability of global governance.

• **At output level**, the mix of target achievement was somewhat lower than in previous years. Output results reflect the activities, services and products delivered directly by GWP and are therefore mostly under GWP's control. In 2025, only a limited number of output indicators met their targets in full, while the majority of indicators recorded results close to, but below, their targets. This pattern reflects global uncertainty affecting the pace of project implementation across the Network, in a year when GWP also undertook deep institutional transformation — a response that the challenging implementation context further reaffirmed as necessary.

5. Budget Expenditure report 2025

GWPO BUDGET Vs ACTUALS 2025: REVENUE AND EXPENSES

Section	Line Item	Approved Budget EUR	Actual EUR	Variance EUR
		2 025	2 025	2 025
1. Revenue	1.1 Institutional Funding	3 632 500	3 621 163	11 337
	Sida	2 294 000	2 215 931	78 069
	The Netherlands	1 000 000	1 000 000	-
	Sweden MFA (Rent and Taxes)	302 000	326 298	- 24 298
	Austria ADA (WACDEP-G)	34 000	33 741	259
	China MWR	-	39 272	- 39 272
	DENMARK (DANIDA FWC)	2 500	3 048	- 548
	Other income (Assets sold)	-	2 872	- 2 872
	1.2 Project Revenue (Grants) all projects	1 921 753	1 711 440	210 313
	a. Water & Climate coordination	1 007 892	763 410	244 481
	DRESS-EA	447 500	188 518	258 982
	GCF El Salvador	50 498	38 707	11 791
	GCF Montenegro	177 570	216 357	- 38 787
	GCF Sri Lanka	104 049	92 625	11 424
	NDC El Salvador	99 034	97 879	1 155
	NDC Panama	78 541	77 447	1 094
	NDC Chile	5 270	5 653	- 383
	NDC, PAF Peru	-	793	- 793
	Project: WMO Help Desk	45 430	45 430	-
	WACDEPG (see institutional funding)	-	-	-
	b. Transboundary Water Governance	275 123	299 688	- 24 565
	Drin II	211 050	205 323	5 727
	WMO DrinCA	-	61 440	- 61 440
	FAO Clean Healthy Oceans	3 669	3 361	308
	IWLEARN	40 154	29 563	10 591
	Drin AF CN	20 250	-	20 250
	c. Innovation, Knowledge and Capacity development	215 631	334 970	- 119 339
	WEF4MED	28 061	24 990	3 071
	CAPNET	5 000	149 710	- 144 710
	UNCCD	123 496	110 730	12 766
	WMO CoP	47 673	38 139	9 534
	Netherlands, NSO CoP	11 401	11 401	-
	d. Blended Finance & Private Sector Investments	423 107	313 372	109 735
	Heidelberg	10 000	10 000	-
	UNEP DHI 661	108 750	38 933	69 817
	UNEP DHI 651	205 914	125 469	80 445
	Water Storage CoP	6 689	6 728	- 39
	UNEP Caribbean	11 310	52 671	- 41 361
	ADB	54 180	53 344	836
	Lesotho NAP	3 264	3 226	38
	Deltares VWI	23 000	23 000	-
	1.3 GWPO Reserve Fund			
	1.4 Cost Recovery Income	250 815	187 476	63 339
	a. Water & Climate coordination	139 712	96 705	43 007
	African SIDS GEF	-	-	-
	AU MC GCF	77 712	64 121	13 591
	SADC AIP PPF	-	29 957	- 29 957
	WaterCord HOR	-	-	-
	WMODRINCA	62 000	-	62 000
	NPC, GWPSA UNEP Eswatini	-	2 627	- 2 627
	b. Transboundary Water Governance	6 075	21 175	- 15 100
	CUVKUN	6 075	4 353	1 722
	NPC, GWPSA GRDSA	-	16 822	- 16 822
	d. Blended Finance & Private Sector Investments	105 028	69 596	35 432
	MALTEMED	34 820	30 956	3 864
	Greece Microsoft	46 608	38 640	7 968
	SAF_UNCCD	23 600	-	23 600
	1.4 Cost Recovery Income		10 615 930,00	-10 615 930,00
	TOTAL REVENUE	5 805 068	16 136 009	- 10 330 941

Section	Line Item	Approved	Actual	Variance
		Budget EUR	EUR	EUR
		2 025	2 025	2 025
2. EXPENSES	2.1 GWPO Support Staff	1 673 009	1 015 681	
	2.2 GWPO Project Implementation Costs Including Staff Cost	1 462 021	2 016 475	- 385 107
	UNCCD	76 897	110 730,36	- 33 833
	GCF Sri Lanka	88 849	92 625,25	- 3 776
	NDC El Salvador	88 675	97 878,61	- 9 204
	NDC Panama	68 539	77 447,2	- 8 908
	WMO CoP	30 461	38 138,69	- 7 678
	IWLEARN	39 279	29 563,26	9 716
	MALTEMED	33 976	30 955,53	3 020
	ADB	19 180	53 344,37	- 34 164
	Microsoft	11 000	38 640,25	- 27 640
	Deltares VWI	1 749	23 000	- 21 251
	IWMI Water Storage	61	6 728,18	- 6 667
	WMO Help Desk	3 317	45 430	- 42 113
	Caribbean	1 530	52 671,39	- 51 141
	Drin AF CN	6 647		6 647
	Lesotho NAP	28	32 26,15	- 3 198
	SAF UNCCD	15 300		15 300
	WMO DrinCA	7 000	61 440,36	- 54 440
	NSO CoP	5 506		5 506
	DANIDA FWC	2 500	30 48,31	- 548
	DRESS-EA	296 839	188 518,21	108 321
	Drin II	205 294	205 322,9	- 29
	GCF El Salvador	25 000	38 707,01	- 13 707
	GCF Montenegro	114 707	216 357,36	- 101 650
	Heidelberg	8 105	10 000	- 1 895
	NDC Chile	5 828	56 53,05	- 175
	NDC PAF Mali		38 932,72	- 38 933
	UNEP DHI 661	94 560		94 560
	WEF4MED	2 743	24 989,93	- 22 247
	Clean Healthy Oceans	307	33 61,41	- 3 054
	UNEP DHI 651	203 373	125 469,48	77 904
	WACDEPG		33 741,28	- 33 741
	UNEP LAC	4 771	19 120,62	- 186 435
	China MWR		39 272,47	- 39 272
	UNEP Stage 1		11 401	- 11 401
	NDC, PAF Peru		793,43	- 793
	NPC, GWPSA AUCI		64 120,61	- 64 121
	NPC, GWPSA Cuvecom		4 353	- 4 353
	NPC, GWPSA ZAM NAP		16 821,81	- 16 822
	NPC, GWPSA AUC II		26 27,23	- 2 627
	NPC, GWPSA SADC AIP		29 957,45	- 29 957
	GWPO Project Administration Overhead			
	2.3 Governance & Institutional Costs	196 514	192 571	
	- Legal	36 000	36 824	- 824
	- Steering Committee (Chair)	45 000	45 302	- 302
	- TEC (Chair)	32 000	33 129	- 1 129
	- Global Processes	11 500	10 130	1 370
	HQ travel	25 000		25 000
	- HQ CEO Office Cost	-	21 238	- 21 238
	- HQ Office Costs including UN Hse Shared Cost	47 014	45 949	1 065
	Finance & Administration	530 957	487 098	43 859
	- HR & Ombudsman	20 000	7 839	12 161
	- Audit	28 500	24 032	4 468
	- bank costs	20 000	8 490	11 510
	- IT including 25 Laptops	159 400	120 438	38 962

Section	Line Item	Approved		
		Budget EUR	Actual EUR	Variance EUR
		2 025	2 025	2 025
	Misc.	1 150		1 150
	Office Rent - SW HQ	136 724	141 322	- 4 598
	Taxes - SW	165 183	184 976	- 19 793
	Global Policy & Partnership	46 500	48 931	- 2 431
	- Resource Mobilization and Partnership	10 000	11 550	- 1 550
	- Communication	36 500	37 381	- 881
	Programme Development & Delivery	48 000	66 962	
	- Innovation Knowledge & Capacity Development	-	-	-
	- Blended Finance and Private Sector Investment	-	-	-
	- Climate Theme coordination	30 000	36 383	- 6 383
	- Gender and Youth Engagement		12 616	- 12 616
	- TB Theme coordination	18 000	17 963	37
	2.4 Regional Programme Support	1 685 000	1 521 732	
	2.5 GIP Blended Investment Derisking Facility-RWP		-	
	2.6 CONTINGENCY			
	2.7 Regional Locally Raised Funds		10 615 930	- 10 615 930
	TOTAL EXPENSES	5 642 001	15 965 379	- 10 959 609
SURPLUS/DEFICIT		163 067	170 629	- 7 563
DEFICIT 2024/2025		- 375 000	- 374 751	- 249
DEFICIT 31.12.25/26		- 211 933	- 204 122	- 7 812

6. List of annexes

Annex A – GWP results (by entity)

Annex B – GWP Results Framework

Annex C – List of GWP Global Publications 2025

Annex D – Abbreviations and Acronyms; Glossary of Key Terms



The Global Water Partnership is an intergovernmental organisation and a global network supporting countries in the financing, governance, and management of water resources for sustainable, climate resilient, and equitable development.

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