



GWPO **ANNUAL REPORT** 2025

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Key headline results

- ✓ Approximately **84 million EUR** of water-related investments influenced by GWP's work across 23 countries
- ✓ **42** key water governance improvements influenced by GWP activities in 29 countries
- ✓ **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 basin agreements and management frameworks across 4 basins

Reflecting on a year of progress

A decisive year of strategic transformation

2025 was a pivotal year for GWPO and the Partnership. It simultaneously marked the final implementation stage of the GWP Strategy 2020–2025, and the start of a bold Global Transformation Agenda on Water Investments – operationalised through the [GWP Strategy 2026–2030](#). This new global agenda fundamentally reshapes the operational, governance, and financial architecture of GWP to address the escalating global water and climate crisis. Crucially, it 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.

To ensure an efficient transition, NIRAS Sweden AB conducted an [independent external evaluation of the GWP Strategy 2020–2025](#) on behalf of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, in coordination with the GWP Financing Partners' Group. This evaluation confirmed GWP's impact and future readiness, concluding that the organisation had substantially delivered its ambitious strategy and effectively contributed towards its vision of a water-secure world. The evaluation also provided recommendations that align closely with the new GWP Strategy 2026–2030.

In the sections below, GWPO's leadership reflects on defining developments in 2025, and how these will drive future progress – through renewed commitment to climate-resilient water investment and strong collaboration with donors, partners, and country stakeholders.



Hon. Pablo Bereciartua
GWP Chair
Minister of Infrastructure and Mobility
City of Buenos Aires, Argentina

In 2025, GWP entered a new phase in its institutional evolution. The Global Transformation Agenda on Water Investments, launched in February 2025, is not simply a new initiative: it represents a

fundamental shift in how the organisation supports countries and partners in addressing water security, climate resilience, and sustainable development. At its core is a recognition that achieving water security will require a significant increase in investment and stronger partnerships for mobilisation and delivery.

This strategic change is reinforced by the most significant institutional reforms in GWP's recent history. In 2025, as part of the Global Transformation Agenda, [GWP Partners and Sponsoring Partners approved decisions](#) that opened a new chapter for the organisation: the relocation of the GWPO Global Secretariat from Stockholm, Sweden, to a new host country in the Global South; the establishment of a Transition Office in Pretoria, South Africa; the opening of GWPO's intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding to new states and governments for the first time in more than two decades; and the adoption of the GWP Strategy 2026–2030. Together, these decisions provide a powerful mandate for GWP's next chapter.

As GWP initiated these transformations, there was another defining moment at the [AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit in Cape Town in August 2025](#), where H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa, launched the Global Outlook Council on Water Investments as a G20 Presidential Legacy Initiative. Guided by this council is a new [Global Water Investment Platform \(GIP\)](#) – which operates with GWP leading its secretariat. This positions GWP at the heart of efforts to mobilise water investment on a global scale.

Designed following the model of the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme, which has successfully leveraged more than USD 2 billion in water investments, the GIP will support the strengthening of enabling environments – building institutional capacity and identifying investment pipelines across all regions of the globe.



Abdoulaye Sene
Chair of GWP Regional Chairs

Across the GWP Network, 2025 demonstrated the enduring value of partnership, trust, and regional leadership. Regional and Country Water Partnerships continued to connect global ambition with

realities on the ground, working with governments, river basin organisations, regional institutions, financing partners, and civil society to advance water security, climate resilience, and sustainable development.

The Global Transformation Agenda on Water Investments reinforces the importance of GWP's regional architecture. A more decentralised and regionally empowered model, supported by thematic hubs anchored in the regions, will help bring the organisation closer to the regions most affected by water insecurity and climate change. At the same time, decentralisation will

strengthen GWP's ability to respond to diverse priorities and opportunities – as well as its ability to convene and enable strong regional partnerships.



Alex Simalabwi
CEO - GWPO
Executive Secretary - GWP

The year 2025 was both a culmination and a beginning. In August, on the sidelines of World Water Week in Stockholm, GWP launched its Strategy 2026–2030, setting out an ambitious vision to unlock USD 15 billion in water investments by 2030 and mobilise USD 500 million directly for countries and partners. The launch was welcomed by H.E. Retno Marsudi, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Water, alongside donor partners, multilateral development banks, and leaders from across the GWP Network.

The new Strategy is grounded in delivering essential support to countries and regions – to enable future-proof solutions in climate resilience, sustainable investment, water governance, and transboundary cooperation. It includes improving access to Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund processes, national policy and legal reforms, and institutional cooperation through river basin organisations.

Underpinning all GWP's efforts is a reinforced commitment to social inclusion. Critically, the appointment of H.E. President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah of Namibia in October 2025, as GWP's Global Champion for Gender Equality helps ensure that gender-transformative approaches remain central to the new water investment agenda and Strategy – with renewed ambition, strengthened partnerships, and a new institutional architecture for measurable progress on outcomes for women and girls.

Looking ahead, the decisions taken in 2025 are already shaping GWPO's next institutional chapter. Preparations are underway for a dual Global South headquarters – with Windhoek, Namibia, serving as the primary headquarters of GWPO, and Cape Town, South Africa, hosting a second headquarters focused on water finance and investments. This anchors the organisation closer to regions at the forefront of water insecurity and climate change, while strengthening its capacity to mobilise investment and support country action.

How we achieve impact

Advancing water solutions for the SDGs



As climate change, pollution, population growth, and competing water demands place increasing pressure on water resources, integrated water resources management (IWRM) remains essential for strengthening water governance and advancing water security. Indeed, monitoring IWRM implementation is defined by UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 6.5.1.

In 2025, GWP continued to support governments in this area through the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme – in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNEP-DHI Centre, and Cap-Net. Through its global coordination role, GWP supported countries in translating SDG monitoring of IWRM into implementation processes, governance reforms, and investment planning.

Key achievements:

- **SDG 6 action planning:** The [SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme](#) guided 12 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean through multi-stakeholder action planning and implementation support. This included finalising plans in Cambodia and Lao PDR, while the Salvadoran Water Authority developed a new IWRM Action Plan for El Salvador through a technical and participatory process based on assessment of SDG indicator 6.5.1.
- **SDG monitoring and assessment:** GWP Central America published an assessment of the region's progress towards SDG indicators 6.5.1 and 6.5.2, providing a comprehensive picture of progress and gaps in IWRM and transboundary water cooperation, while in GWP West Africa contributed to a regional SDG 6.5.1 status report for the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU).

- **National water governance frameworks:** At the national level, GWP's support was instrumental in strengthening the enabling environment for water 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.
- **Climate-focused IWRM planning:** Ecuador launched an IWRM Action Plan for 2026–2030 to strengthen climate-resilient water management and water security. In Chile, GWP South America supported regional and sectoral climate action plans aligned with the country's Nationally Determined Contributions.
- **Asia Water Development Outlook 2025:** GWPO and GWP South Asia contributed to the Asian Water Development Outlook 2025, including national assessments for Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan examining how water governance influences water security to inform country partnership strategies and actionable water projects.
- **Regional WEFE (water, energy, food, and ecosystems) governance:** The “Strategy for WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean Source-to-Sea continuum” was adopted by the Union for the Mediterranean's Regional Platform on Water, with GWP Mediterranean supporting both the consultation process and development of the Strategy to strengthen integrated governance and investment approaches.
- **Urban water governance and resilience:** Zanzibar adopted its Water and Sanitation Policy 2025, while Caribbean Small Island Developing States advanced ecosystem-based adaptation projects to strengthen local water security and climate resilience.

Building climate resilience for water security



In 2025, GWPO's climate and water portfolio was fundamentally reshaped by the organisation's Global Transformation Agenda on Water Investments. This strategic shift focused on mobilising climate-resilient water investments, strengthening implementation pathways, and supporting countries in accessing climate finance from mechanisms including the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Adaptation Fund. Through this lens, GWPO continued

to provide a bridge between global climate change policy processes and country-level adaptation planning and investment implementation.

The Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) continued to serve as GWP's flagship model for regional climate-resilient water investment programming. A major milestone was the the African Union (AU)-AIP [Africa Water Investment Summit](#) in Cape Town, which identified an initial investment pipeline of USD10–12 billion across more than 80 priority water projects in 38 African countries.

GWP also accepted the invitation to lead the secretariat of the [Global Water Investment Platform \(GIP\)](#) – a flagship 2025 G20 Presidency Legacy Initiative, designed to scale up the AIP model globally. Part of this expansion involved laying the groundwork for establishing a [USD20 billion Latin America and the Caribbean Water Investment Programme](#) – championed by a High-Level Panel including GWP, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF), and other regional partners.

Key achievements:

- **Water investment programming and GCF readiness:** The USD6.2 million AU-AIP Multi-country Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Project advanced during 2025, through regional and national training on water investment programming and GCF project preparation across 15 countries.
- **Climate finance access:** In El Salvador, a new GCF readiness project worth approximately USD870,000 was approved, with GWP Central America serving as delivery partner. In Montenegro, the Government launched a strategic GCF Readiness Project to accelerate the design of inclusive, bankable climate-resilient water investments, supported by GWPO and GWP Mediterranean. A USD100 million proposal for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Climate Resilient Water Investment Programme was also submitted to the GCF.
- **Climate-resilient water investment planning:** National-level programming gained momentum, with Climate Resilient Water Investment Programmes under preparation in 13 countries across Africa, Europe, and Latin America.
- **Climate policy implementation:** In Cameroon and Zambia, GWP supported the revision processes for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) 3.0, while continuing implementation support linked to NDCs in Peru, Paraguay, Chile, El Salvador, and Panama through collaboration with the NDC Partnership.
- **Flood and drought resilience:** GWP continued developing an Adaptation Fund pipeline for integrated flood and drought management totalling USD92.6 million, with proposals covering Central Asia, South Asia, the Drin Basin, and Central America. Through the joint Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP), GWPO and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) contributed to global drought resilience efforts under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), including at the 23rd Session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC23) in Panama. In China, GWP supported

revision of the country's Flood Control Law to strengthen flood control planning, project management, and emergency response mechanisms.

- **Resilience in the Lake Chad Basin:** A USD11.7 million Adaptation Fund award will support improved flood and drought forecasting and resilient water management for more than 40 million people across Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria.
- **Finance for nature-based adaptation:** In Rwanda, a nature-based flood adaptation project to strengthen climate resilience for more than 100,000 people was granted USD9.4 million from the African Development Fund – secured following groundwork carried out by GWP Eastern Africa, GWP Rwanda, UNICEF, and the Rwanda Water Resources Board through the Global Water Leadership Programme (GWL).

Facilitating transboundary water cooperation



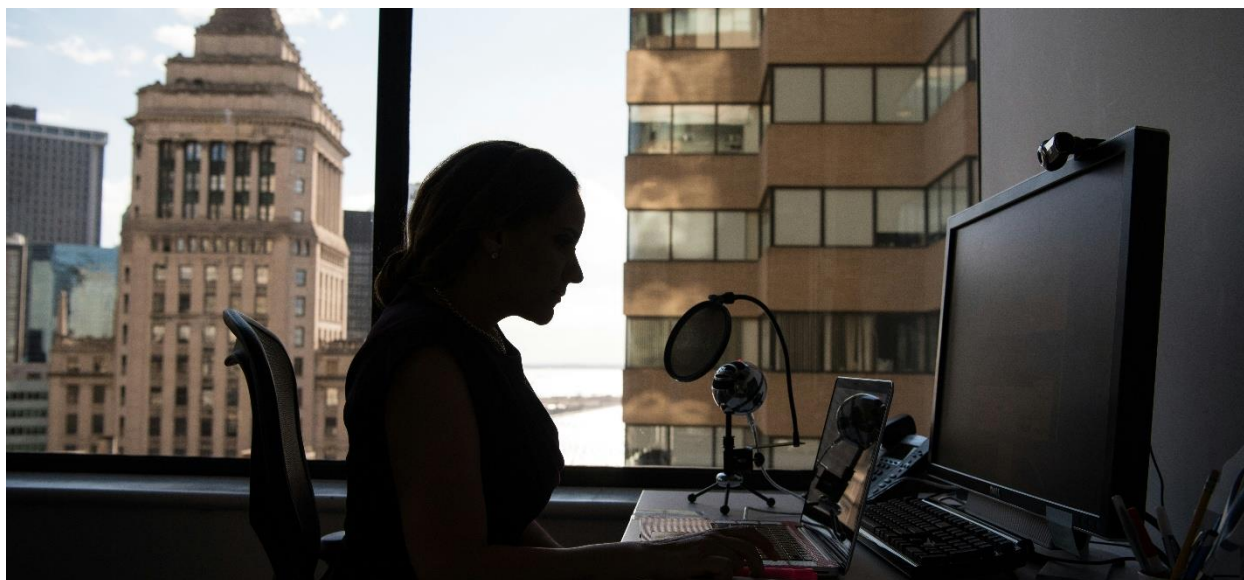
GWP continued to foster transboundary water cooperation through continental and regional multistakeholder dialogue and coordination, institutional support to multiple river basin organisations, technical work, and knowledge development. In 2025, transboundary work advanced across multiple river basins, with particular progress in strengthening institutional frameworks, enhancing regional coordination, and supporting climate-resilient water investment programming. GWP also contributed to global cooperation processes through the Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition (TWCC), supporting implementation of its Work Plan 2025–2027.

Key achievements:

- **Transboundary cooperation and investment planning in the Limpopo basin:** Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe – Member States of the Limpopo Watercourse Commission (LIMCOM) – approved a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis of seven priority water-related challenges in the Limpopo River Basin. This joint fact-finding exercise provided the foundation for a basin-wide Strategic Action Programme and National Action Plans to address these challenges, mobilise investments, and strengthen climate resilience.

- **Regional dialogue and legal cooperation:** GWP West Africa facilitated regional workshops with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), supporting dialogue on transboundary water governance, and contributing to the processes towards accession of Burkina Faso and Niger to the Water Convention. In Central America, GWP facilitated dialogue between Costa Rica and Panama on opportunities for joint management of the Coto y Vecinos basin.
- **Continent-level coordination on transboundary water investment:** GWP supported the African Union in coordinating work and dialogue on transboundary water management and investment programming, including through the Pan-African Transboundary Dialogue and Training on National Water Investment Programming, and the Blue Africa Transboundary Water Management in Africa project.
- **Joint transboundary investment implementation:** Eswatini, Mozambique, and South Africa launched the implementation of a joint transboundary water project supported by the Global Environment Facility with a USD7.1 million investment leveraging over USD64 million in co-financing. With GWP Southern Africa as executing partner, the INMACOM project supports coordinated management of the Incomati and Maputo river basins and aims to boost the resilience of over 3.4 million people.

Mainstreaming gender equality



Gender equality remained a fundamental pillar in the pursuit of water security, with strengthened leadership structures and increased integration of socially inclusive approaches into water governance, climate adaptation, and investment planning. A significant development was the appointment of H.E. President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah of Namibia as GWP's Global Champion for Gender Equality – a high-level advocacy role promoting gender-transformative approaches as a core part of the global water investment agenda.

Key achievements:

- **Gender equality in transboundary water governance:** In Central America, Honduras incorporated gender-responsive provisions into its Climate Change Law Regulation, while Panama integrated gender considerations into its Adaptation Plan for the Coastal-Marine Sector. In West Africa, strategic tools validated under the RIWE-Mono project included a Gender Strategy for 2025–2030. Southern Africa continued implementation of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Action Plans in the Cuvelai-Kunene, Incomati-Maputo, and Ruvuma basins, integrating gender equality into transboundary water management and demonstration pilots.
- **Leveraging gender-transformative approaches across Africa:** Building on the AIP WACDEP-G experience and partnerships, GWP applied gender-transformative approaches across its policy, investment planning, and resource mobilisation support. In 2025, this included contributing to the Africa Water Vision and Policy 2063, advancing the AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard and first Africa Water Investment Outlook Report covering 55 AU Member States. GWP also supported more than ten countries to integrate gender equality into climate-resilient water investment and climate finance planning, while strengthening political commitment to inclusive water investment through PANAFCON-3 and the inaugural Africa Water Investment Summit.
- **Women's empowerment through improved water access and livelihoods:** In Djibouti, drought resilience measures supported by GWP Eastern Africa improved water access for 120 households through water harvesting infrastructure that reduced the need for women to travel long distances to collect water. Women-centred cooperatives and microcredit schemes also supported livelihood and income-generating activities.
- **Global exchanges on gender and water security:** The Gender and Integrated Water Resources Management Community of Practice continued to grow, facilitating knowledge exchange and capacity building on gender integration across the GWP network.

Mobilising youth for water management



Empowering the next generation of water leaders remained a priority for GWP during 2025, with initiatives focused on raising awareness, capacity building, innovation, and leadership development to ensure young people can actively contribute to a climate-resilient future.

Key achievements:

- **Climate awareness and preparedness among young people:** In Burkina Faso, a school-based awareness campaign helped strengthen disaster-risk awareness and preparedness among around 1,000 schoolchildren. Operating under the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)-supported HYDROMET-BF Project, the campaign adapted educational materials and training for teachers, supervisors, and parents.
- **Youth empowerment through practical climate action:** In Romania, the 'Tiny Forests in Schoolyards' initiative engaged students in transforming underused urban spaces into micro-forests. These youth-led, nature-based solutions improve water retention, reduce urban heat, and enhance biodiversity, while strengthening environmental awareness and practical skills among young people.
- **Youth innovation and engagement in water governance:** To drive the innovation needed for future climate-resilient water investments, the joint GWP-WMO Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) and Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) engaged young people in drought-related learning initiatives, including through a youth drought innovation competition that attracted 334 submissions. In China, students from 19 provinces participated in the national Stockholm Junior Water Prize competition on water innovation and protection.

Working with the private sector



During 2025, GWP advanced its private sector engagement from broad advocacy to targeted, practical collaboration. Recognising the private sector as an essential stakeholder for scaling up water investments and bridging the global financing gap, GWP focused on establishing concrete mobilisation platforms, strategic partnerships, and inclusive planning frameworks. These initiatives successfully channeled private sector innovation, expertise, and capital directly into national and regional climate resilience efforts.

Key achievements:

- **Platform development and partnerships:** Water Sweden was launched as a new platform to mobilise Swedish private sector innovation, financing, and expertise for international water investments. Water Sweden operates as an independent Country Water Partnership affiliated with the GWP Network and managed by Swedish private sector stakeholders. Launched at the sidelines of World Water Week in Stockholm, a Memorandum of Understanding with the Association of Water Institutions in South Africa (AWSISA) was signed later in the year, 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, Spain to advance water investments through enhanced public-private partnerships and strengthened capacity for project pipeline development and implementation.
- **Private sector integration into public water planning frameworks:** In El Salvador, private sector engagement was integrated into the IWRM Action Plan development process. Meanwhile, Zambia developed a Private Sector Engagement Strategy for sustainable water and sanitation.
- **Private sector collaboration for local water resilience:** In Greece, GWP Mediterranean partnered with the Municipality of Tanagra and private sector partners under the Zero Drop programme to upgrade the Schimatari Water Treatment Plant. This helped

strengthen local water security while eliminating water loss from filter backwash water, saving more than 1.3 million litres of water daily.

- **Ramping up water replenishment solutions:** GWP has defined a new approach to translate companies' water replenishment commitments into public-private collaboration opportunities through the GWP Network. Collaborations with multinational companies advanced in 2025.

Regional impact

How we measure results

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

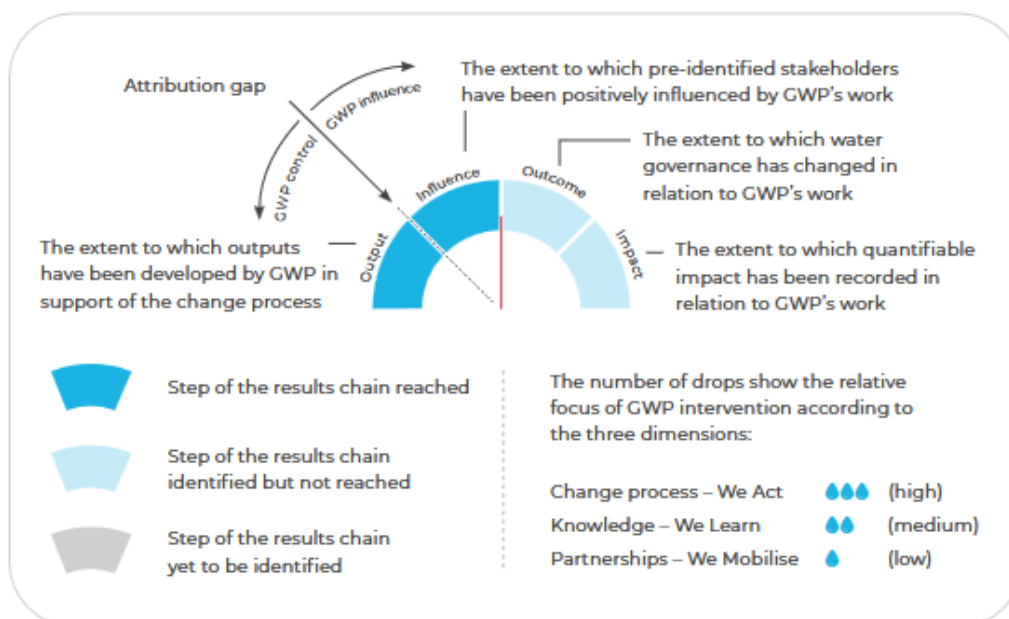
Firstly, activities are implemented with the aim of influencing targeted stakeholders, such as national governments, regional economic development bodies, river basin organisations, and community-based organisations. Some of these actors are then instrumental in the development of key water governance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

The implementation of these water governance outcomes leads to socio-economic benefits among the target populations through increased investment in appropriate infrastructure, empowerment of vulnerable groups, and more sustainable use of resources.

To achieve such outcome- and impact-level results, GWP organises its work around three dimensions, as outlined in the 2020–2025 Strategy:

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

Some of the stories in this report describe initiatives that are at the initial stage of development, where higher-level results have yet to materialise. Others reflect contributions to processes, often supported over a number of years, that can be linked to tangible impact on the ground. With each story, a graphic indicates the point along the GWP results chain (output > influence > outcome > impact) that had been reached at the end of 2025. The graphics also illustrate how GWP's work was roughly distributed across the three dimensions (We Act, We Learn, We Mobilise) to achieve the results. For more information: [Our results, influence, impact, and theory of change](#).



Caribbean



Caribbean nations develop IWRM action plans to progress SDG 6



Countries across the Caribbean are increasingly challenged by the effects of climate change. Droughts and pollution combine with ageing infrastructure and fragmented institutions to compound water stress and threaten water security. Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is therefore a regional priority.

To accelerate implementation of IWRM in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and make progress towards SDG 6 indicator 6.5.1, GWP Caribbean acted as lead organiser of a two-day workshop that attracted more than 50 regional experts, government representatives,

and development partners from six Caribbean countries to Grenada in July 2025. Attendees – from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago – explored the region’s water management challenges, institutional gaps, practical solutions, and financing pathways and identified country-specific priorities for reform.

They emerged with their own national mini IWRM action plans, with GWP Caribbean offering technical assistance after the workshop to help refine the plans, support financing proposals, and move the countries from dialogue to implementation.

“Water security is not just a development issue – it’s the foundation of our region’s resilience, health, economy, and environment. Caribbean SIDS face rising climate threats, ageing infrastructure, and chronic underinvestment. The time to act is now.” – Professor Paulette Bynoe, Chair, GWP Caribbean

With reinforced regional collaboration around common water security priorities, and improved capacity to respond to climate change-associated events, Caribbean SIDS can move towards tangible action to tackle the challenges that threaten their water security, economic resilience, and water-dependent sectors such as public health, tourism, and agriculture.



Wastewater reuse: a real-world application of IWRM principles



The Caribbean, one of the most water-stressed regions in the world, faces a suite of climate change-related challenges including water scarcity, climate variability, pollution, and rising demand for water from agriculture, tourism, and

other sectors. Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) offers a practical governance approach to tackling these challenges but is instead often viewed as a framework or policy tool.

To demystify IWRM for policy-makers, practitioners, and other stakeholders from the water, wastewater, and waste management sectors, GWP Caribbean, with support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), organised a panel discussion to help move IWRM

from theory to implementation across Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Held during the 34th Annual Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association Conference in San Pedro, Belize, in October 2025, the event also highlighted wastewater reuse as a real-world application of IWRM principles.

Under the moderation of Dr Roxanne Graham-Victor, GWP Caribbean Regional Coordinator, panel members, including representatives from GWP Caribbean, UNEP, and the public and private sector, helped regional stakeholders better understand IWRM, and presented examples from countries already applying wastewater recovery and reuse systems. In so doing, they elevated integrated wastewater reuse as a viable climate resilience and water security solution for Caribbean SIDS that could reduce freshwater stress, pollution loads, and infrastructure risk over time.

Central Africa



Lake Chad Basin climate resilience project secures US\$11.6 million funding



Change process ●●●
Knowledge ●●●
Partnerships ●●●

More than 40 million people in one of the most climate-vulnerable regions in Africa will benefit from improved flood and drought forecasting, and more resilient water management following the award of US\$11.7 million to a

project to enhance adaptability to climate-related risks.

Funding for the 'Integrated Water Resources Management and Early Warning System for Climate Change Resilience in the Lake Chad Basin' project, spanning Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria, was awarded by the Adaptation Fund in April 2025. The project will establish the first basin-wide governance framework for hydrometeorological early warning systems, enabling the collection and delivery of timely, locally relevant climate data to better manage and reduce the impact of climate-related hazards.

Agreement of the funding marked the culmination of a multi-year, multi-stakeholder process to draw up the full project proposal. GWP's core programme supported the process financially, while GWP Central Africa brought together government and basin stakeholders, provided technical inputs, ensured alignment with Integrated Water Resources Management principles, facilitated consultations and workshops, and supported project design. GWP Central Africa will now act as an implementing partner for the project alongside the World Meteorological Organization and the Lake Chad Basin Commission.

"I am very pleased with these outcomes, which endorse the great work the Fund is already doing in delivering tangible impacts to developing countries and will help us fund more and larger projects to meet their growing adaptation needs." – Mikko Ollikainen, Head of the Adaptation Fund

As well as demonstrating GWP Central Africa's ability to turn a complex process into tangible funding, developing the project proposal built regional expertise in preparing similar proposals. This successful outcome is therefore being heralded as the most significant achievement for the Central Africa region in the final year of GWP's 2020–2025 strategy.



Central African Republic Bank seeks accreditation for Green Climate Fund



Easier access to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) will enable significant investment in water, agriculture, and infrastructure-related climate projects in the Central African Republic (CAR). As parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate

Change, countries in Central Africa can access the GCF; however, without a GCF Direct Access Entity (DAE), they must do this via international accredited entities – a process that limits the process of national entities building the capacity and track record for accessing international climate finance. But this could soon change in CAR where BGFI Bank Centrafrique is seeking

accreditation as the first GCF DAE in the country. This will enable CAR to directly access and manage climate finance, reducing its reliance on external intermediaries.

GWP Central Africa and GWP Southern Africa assessed the bank under the African Union's GCF Readiness Project for Accelerating Climate Resilient Water Investments in Africa. Informed by the assessment, GWP designed a tailored capacity building programme to strengthen the bank's readiness for GCF accreditation, offering training in accreditation requirements, documentation, digitalisation, and fund operationalisation. This was followed by a capacity building workshop held in August 2025 in Bangui. An accreditation roadmap was also developed and submitted to the bank, which has now established a dedicated implementation team, with support from GWP Central Africa.

"We are honoured to contribute to this national effort to have the first entity accredited to the Green Climate Fund in CAR, to facilitate the mobilization of climate funds." – Dr Sarra Touzi, GWPO Water and Climate Expert

CAR's experiences are being used as a model elsewhere in Central Africa, with GCF accreditation processes for nominated national entities also underway in Chad and Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Central America



El Salvador strengthens its climate action and water resilience capacities



El Salvador is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather events, increasing water stress, and growing urban risks. As part of its efforts to advance climate action and resilience under

the framework of its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the country has identified an

urgent need to strengthen the capacity of its national institutions in integrating water management into climate adaptation and territorial planning.

In 2025, GWP Central America supported El Salvador's capacity-building efforts by facilitating training for both government and water authority teams. The training was made possible through a grant from the NDC Partnership Action Fund.

Government technical teams benefitted from training in preparing risk reduction strategies for urban spaces, and drafted a climate vulnerability reduction plan for a pilot urban site in San Salvador. Linking capacity development to a tangible planning outcome enhanced inter-institutional coordination and evidence-based decision making, and helped integrate climate considerations into urban water management and development processes.

Training workshops for technicians from the Salvadoran Water Authority enhanced their understanding and use of geographic information systems and hydrological modelling. This will strengthen the management and administration of the country's Water Information System as a tool for supporting decision making for basin planning and water resources management

By helping to translate El Salvador's climate commitments into concrete, locally grounded actions, GWP Central America continued to reinforce the links between water governance, climate resilience, and sustainable development.

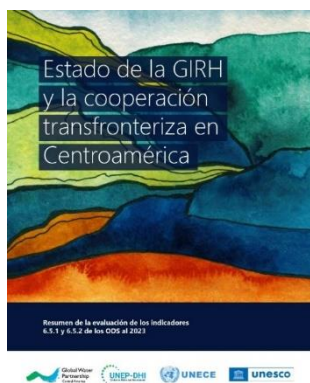
Central America makes 'significant progress' towards IWRM



In an important step towards strengthening Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and transboundary water cooperation across Central America, GWP Central America published an assessment of the region's

progress towards achieving SDG indicators 6.5.1 and 6.5.2. This revealed that, although the region as a whole will not reach the SDG 6.5 target by 2030, significant progress has been made since previous assessments in 2017 and 2020, with the countries of Central America generally

progressing from low scores for IWRM to low-medium scores. The region, however, scored poorly compared with the global average for cooperation over shared water resources (SDG 6.5.2).



The earlier assessments had considered only SDG 6.5.1 (IWRM implementation). By including SDG 6.5.2 for the first time, the latest assessment, published in September 2025, offers a more comprehensive picture of progress, recognising the importance of shared river basins and aquifers, as well as the need for cooperative governance arrangements. Aimed at national authorities, regional organisations, and technical, cooperation and financing partners, the

assessment improves understanding of progress and gaps in IWRM and transboundary water cooperation across Central America. It also includes recommendations to help country focal points (e.g. environment ministries, water authorities) to set intermediate targets towards achieving both indicators.

“Continuous monitoring of this indicator [6.5.2] is key because it allows us to decide where to prioritize or accelerate action. It enables us to track how water management evolves against previously defined standards and to guide public policy decision-making.” – Maria Pérez, Salvadoran Water Authority, El Salvador

In developing the report, GWP Central America led regional coordination, facilitated the analysis and consolidation of results, and promoted the findings as a strategic tool to inform public policy and future investments in water governance.

Central and Eastern Europe



Sustainable wastewater and stormwater solutions launched in the Danube Basin



Change process
Knowledge
Partnerships

Wastewater pollution and ineffective stormwater management are persistent but often overlooked problems in small settlements across the Danube River Basin – where conventional infrastructure is

frequently unaffordable, and rural communities are increasingly exposed to heavy rainfall and extreme weather events driven by climate change.

Recognising the need to mobilise action, GWP Central and Eastern Europe brought together 10 project partners from seven countries under the D-CLEAN project. Through this collaboration, launched in 2025, partners are developing practical solutions, strengthening capacities, and shaping a shared framework aligned with EU water directives and regional needs.

“Rural wastewater management is a challenge in all countries of the Danube region but mostly neglected. D-CLEAN supports creating awareness and provides tools to manage wastewater and stormwater in rural areas, thus contributing to improving water quality of receiving waters.” – Günter Langergraber, BOKU University, Vienna

Through a series of six webinars, pilot demonstrations, and targeted knowledge-exchange activities, D-CLEAN is creating opportunities for water authorities, municipalities, practitioners,

engineers, and researchers to strengthen their capacities in planning, designing, implementing, and maintaining sustainable wastewater and stormwater solutions adapted to local contexts.

Mechanisms for coordinated change include pilot co-design, decision-support tools, training programmes, and exchange of experiences among countries facing similar challenges. The initiative aims to support better-informed decision-making, improve technical capacities, and increase awareness of sustainable approaches among relevant stakeholders.

Over time, D-CLEAN is expected to contribute to reducing environmental pollution, improving water quality, and increasing resilience to climate pressures across the Danube Basin – while creating stronger foundations for future investments in sustainable sanitation and stormwater management



Urban schools create climate-resilient green spaces in Romania



Change process
Knowledge
Partnerships

Urban areas are frequently hit hard by the effects of climate change: rising temperatures, reduced water retention, and declining ecological diversity. Reversing or mitigating this trend requires long-term

environmental stewardship, with young people at its core.

Supported by GWP Romania, the 'Tiny Forests in Schoolyards' initiative has engaged students at three schools in the city of Galați through hands-on learning – transforming underused spaces into micro-forests that improve water retention, reduce urban heat, and provide biodiverse habitats.

The initiative has strengthened collaboration between local authorities, educators, and environmental experts. More broadly, it has encouraged the inclusion of small-scale green spaces and infrastructure in urban planning and education practice.

“The initiative increased ecological awareness and practical skills among students, reinforced collaboration...and set the foundation for future scaling and replication in other schools.” –

Irina Șerban-Atanasiu, GWP Romania

Beyond its immediate environmental benefits, the school yards initiative is building practical skills and climate awareness among young people. It also offers a replicable model for other cities seeking cost-effective ways to enhance climate resilience

Central Asia and Caucasus



Uzbekistan’s new Water Code helps ensure its water security



Change process ●●●
Knowledge ●●●
Partnerships ●●●

Situated at the epicentre of climate change in the Aral Sea basin, the Republic of Uzbekistan faces escalating water scarcity. With its 1993 legislative framework for water no longer fit for purpose, developing a new, unified Water Code

was a strategic imperative. The country needed to systematise legal norms, introduce economic incentives for water use, and strengthen transboundary water cooperation.

GWP Central Asia and Caucasus supported Uzbekistan to draft the new Water Code, which took effect in October 2025. The code consolidates fragmented water regulations, establishes a clear governance hierarchy, defines the legal status of water-saving technologies, and institutionalises the principle of ‘user pays’ for water delivery services. An accompanying Roadmap helps ensure its provisions are implemented systematically at national and local levels.

GWP Central Asia and Caucasus helped ensure that international best practices were included in the new legislative text and that global standards for transboundary water management were adapted to national realities in the country.

By eliminating legal ambiguities, the Water Code enables the launch of large-scale, long-term infrastructure modernisation programmes. It also substantially enhances the attractiveness of Uzbekistan’s water sector to international financial institutions. More widely, the reform

guarantees Uzbekistan's population access to quality water and mitigates environmental risks in the Aral Sea region, contributing to the overall hydro-political stability of Central Asia.

“This document serves the vital mission of ensuring the water security of our country. By eliminating overlapping mandates and increasing the accountability of both water providers and users, we have created the necessary conditions for the efficient and frugal management of our water resources.” – Rashid Tashev, Chief Specialist, Ministry of Water Resources, Republic of Uzbekistan

China



New China Regional Steering Committee sets a course with the GWP Strategy



The 2025 Regional Partners Meeting of GWP China was also the launch meeting for its Fifth Regional Council, opening a significant new chapter for China's water resources partnerships. The convening was organised in

Beijing by GWP China's host, the Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (IWHR).

The new Regional Steering Committee, chaired by Zhong Zhiyu, Chief Engineer of the Ministry of Water Resources, entered its role already equipped with the GWP 2026–2030 Five-Year Strategy. The executive summary of the Strategy had been translated into Chinese by the GWP China Secretariat.

After years of engagement in strategic water resources research, GWP China has already seen many of its outputs adopted by the government and used in the course of decision making on high-profile projects. The new Regional Steering Committee will maintain and build on this course. In line with the government's reform and development of social organisations and the work of the Ministry of Water, GWP China will continue its academic efforts and support of sustainable water resources practices. Through the Fifth Regional Council, it will bring Chinese partners together to pool their scientific and technological strengths in a platform of substantial expertise and influence.

"The Regional Steering Committee will uphold its original aspiration of serving water resources management through academic efforts, effectively exert GWP's platform role, continuously enhance its capacity, performance and influence, and make significant contributions to pooling scientific and technological strength." – Zhong Zhiyu, Chair of the Fifth Regional Steering Committee



China's Flood Control Law regains practical relevance in a new era



Change process
Knowledge
Partnerships

China faces escalating flood risks due to climate change, rapid urbanisation, and ageing water infrastructure. The Flood Control Law, first passed in 1997 and last amended in 2016, requires a thorough

modernisation to address these contemporary challenges. Technological advances in flood control hold great promise but call for coordination, fast emergency response, and a turn from simple flood discharge to integrated water utilisation.

The Ministry of Justice therefore mandated GWP China to engage in research, provide insights, and recommend enhancements to the Flood Control Law, which the Ministry oversees. As a knowledge broker and convening platform, GWP China is well placed to ensure the revision reflects practical governance needs.

To fulfil the role, GWP China established a multidisciplinary team including experts on hydraulic engineering, emergency management, and law. In 2025, the team conducted grassroots consultations across regions, interviewing local water staff, enterprises, and residents affected by floods. GWP China incorporated public demands and industry pain points into formal recommendations, which it submitted to the Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Justice. A comprehensive consultation report and legal revision proposals on

the Flood Control Law cover planning, project management, emergency response, and floodwater utilization clauses, directly informing the official draft revision of the Flood Control Law. The revised Law is slated for adoption in 2028 or 2029.

Eastern Africa



Drought measures bring new lease of life to women in Djibouti



Water scarcity creates a huge burden for women in Djibouti: collecting water is time-consuming, limiting women's ability to engage in other activities, and exposing them to increased risk of gender-based

violence, especially on journeys made in the dark of early morning.

Recognising this disparity, GWP Eastern Africa put Djibouti women at the heart of key water initiatives in 2025. As the regional executing body for the "Strengthening Drought Resilience for Smallholder Farmers and Pastoralists in the IGAD Region" (DRESS-EA) project, GWP Eastern Africa provided technical and managerial expertise to the Ministry of Agriculture, Water, Fisheries and Livestock, and the Ministry of Women and Family, to support women in two important ways.

Firstly, the project developed local capacity to construct water harvesting infrastructure – such as solar-powered borehole pumps and multi-purpose dams – to bring water closer to home for 120 households. Secondly, it established seven women-centred cooperatives trading in the craft, agriculture, and livestock sectors, as well as 18 microcredit schemes.

"I used to walk almost a whole day searching for a water source...Since the DRESS-EA project facilitated us to construct this multi-purpose dam to harvest runoffs, I no longer fear going out early in the dark." – a beneficiary of the Abu Yousef multi-purpose dam

As a result, Djibouti communities are less dependent on erratic rainfall for both domestic use and small-scale agriculture; women no longer have to travel long distances to collect water; and through the new cooperatives and microcredit schemes, women have the means to embark on business ventures and increase household incomes.



Djibouti builds early warning systems for community action against drought



Drought is a severe problem in Djibouti, costing the country up to 4 percent of annual GDP through lost crops and livestock. Smallholder farmers and pastoralists are especially vulnerable, as

they lack access to climate data and are unable to prepare for sudden deficits in rainfall.

To markedly improve community access to critical climate information, through the Adaptation Fund-supported USD13M ‘Strengthening Drought Resilience for Smallholder Farmers and Pastoralists in the IGAD Region (DRESS-EA)’ project, GWPO and GWPEA, the regional executing entity of the project, in partnership with the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), initiated a drought early warning system capacity-building programme in November 2025, held in partnership with Djibouti through the Ministry of Agriculture, Water, Fisheries and Livestock, and the National Meteorological Agency. The first training provided hands-on technical training for experts from meteorological, agricultural, water, and humanitarian agencies alongside high-level consultations with key policy-makers involved in early warning systems and disaster risk management. The capacity-building programme forms part of a regional initiative that is also being rolled out in Kenya, Sudan and Uganda, helping to strengthen drought early warning systems and climate information services across the four DRESS-EA participating countries.

Participants learnt how to create ‘drought bulletins’ – which translate complex climate data into actionable advice for farmers – as well as how to use the cloud-based communication platform Husika, designed to bridge information gaps between government agencies and rural communities. Field testing and technical support for the trainees will ensure the skills gained can be applied into the future.

“With tools like Husika and the new drought bulletins, we are building systems that will endure far beyond the DRESS-EA project and deliver real value to communities on the frontline of climate risks.” – Theobald Bizuhoraho, GWP Eastern Africa

These innovations will ensure that Djibouti’s early warning system for drought is not confined to government offices but reaches the farmers and pastoralists who need it most. With up-to-date information to hand, farmers can plan effectively, scheduling the planting of crops and storage of animal feed for maximum yields and increased food security.

Mediterranean



Greek water treatment plant upgrade eliminates losses and boosts water security



Greece is facing increasing water scarcity as a result of both prolonged drought and antiquated distribution networks, which suffer high rates of water loss. To assist local climate resilience, GWP Mediterranean designed and installed an innovative system for reusing filter backwash water to upgrade the largest water treatment unit in the Municipality of Tanagra in central Greece.

At the Schimatari Water Treatment Plant in Tanagra, water used for cleaning filters was previously discharged into the sewerage system. Now, by collecting, treating, and redirecting this water into the main supply, losses have been eliminated and more than 1.3 million litres of water are saved daily, equivalent to 15 percent of the total raw water intake of the treatment plant. This corresponds to savings that can meet the needs of approximately 6,500 people (based on an average consumption of 170 litres per person) and a 7–10 percent reduction in energy consumption. Drinking water quality has improved and water security has been strengthened for the Municipality of Tanagra.

The Schimatari project was implemented by GWP Mediterranean alongside the Municipality of Tanagra, and supported by The Coca-Cola Foundation, Coca-Cola Hellas, and Coca-Cola HBC. It was part of the broader Zero Drop programme for sustainable water management, through which GWP Mediterranean has implemented similar initiatives in Folegandros island and Heraklion, Crete, and previously upgraded the Kallithea Water Treatment Plant, also in Tanagra.

“I would like to congratulate Coca-Cola Hellas, Coca-Cola HBC, The Coca-Cola Foundation, the Municipality, the Region, and also the scientific staff of the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean, the people who did something pioneering: they helped ensure that not a single drop of water is lost.” – Stavros Papastavrou, Minister of Environment and Energy,

Greece



Montenegro takes action to boost investments in water resilience



Change process
Knowledge
Partnerships

Water is a top climate priority for Montenegro's Green Climate Fund (GCF) Country Programme, with the country facing multiple water-related threats from climate change, including reduced water

availability and increased frequency and severity of floods, droughts, and landslides. Despite this, a water sector initiative is not yet part of the country's pipeline of climate finance projects.

Responding to these challenges, in May 2025, the Government of Montenegro launched a strategic GCF Water Readiness Project with the aim of laying the foundations for paradigm-shifting climate investments to improve water management and strengthen the resilience of the country's ecosystems, economy, and livelihoods. It benefits from the support of GWP Mediterranean as executing partner and GWPO as delivery partner. Readiness activities are building technical and institutional capacity to accelerate the identification and design of inclusive, bankable, and climate-resilient water projects for the country. This includes training key stakeholders in climate change planning and climate finance, establishing a Water and Climate Change Working Group to facilitate investment preparation, and drawing up a Climate-Resilient Water Investment Plan to optimise climate finance investments for sustainable development co-benefits.

By creating a robust pipeline of water sector projects, the initiative is expected to transform Montenegro's ability to attract and utilise international climate finance, particularly from the GCF.

“Sustainable water management is not just a technical issue – it is a strategic and developmental priority of national importance.” – Željko Furtula, Director General for Water Management, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Montenegro



Strategy offers pan-Mediterranean framework for source-to-sea WEFE Nexus approach



Change process
Knowledge
Partnerships



As one of the world's most climate-vulnerable regions, where the foundations of human well-being – water, energy, food, and ecosystems (WEFE) – are under increasing pressure, the Mediterranean region needs a

coordinated, cross-sectoral approach to addressing the complex challenges it faces.

At the end of 2025, after extensive consultation, the “Strategy for WEFE Nexus in the Mediterranean Source-to-Sea continuum” was adopted by the Union for the Mediterranean’s Regional Platform on Water. It is part of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2026–2035 adopted by the Barcelona Convention’s Conference of the Parties.

By taking a source-to-sea perspective and acknowledging that coastal areas are directly affected by upstream influences in mountains, agricultural land, and cities, the Strategy aims to help countries enhance governance settings, assess trade-offs, identify synergies, and promote solutions that maximise integrated resource security while respecting the ‘no harm’ principle. An Action Framework will operationalise the Strategy supporting Mediterranean countries in turning their WEFE Nexus ambition into concrete policies and solutions, and in mobilising investment.

GWP Mediterranean played a key role in both facilitating the consultation process and developing the Strategy in partnership with UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention; Union for the Mediterranean; EC Directorate-General for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf; PRIMA

Partnership; and EU Water and Environment Support – Biodiversity and Climate Action Project, building on work under the Global Environment Facility-funded MedProgramme.

Servicing the WEFE Nexus agenda, GWP Mediterranean and its partners have used regional technical and consultation processes to advance the thematic of digital transformation – preparing recommendations for action; optimised desalination – proving a forward-looking lens; and finance and investments – particularly through EU instruments. In addition, a growing WEFE Nexus Community of Practice has attracted more than 500 members.

South America



Ecuador acts to strengthen water security



A new climate-focused integrated water resources management (IWRM) Action Plan for Ecuador has been described as a significant step towards strengthening water security in the country as climate change intensifies pressure on its water

resources.

Announced in February 2025, the new Action Plan for 2026–2030 provides Ecuador with a clear framework and roadmap for implementing climate-resilient IWRM. It was developed by Ecuador's Ministry of Environment and Energy under the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and coordinated by GWP South America alongside UNEP-DHI and Cap-Net. The action plan defines 12 strategic actions and integrates regulatory, institutional, technical, territorial, and financial aspects of water management.

Almost 90 national stakeholders representing public institutions, international organisations and development partners, academia, research institutions, civil society and community-based organisations, and water funds came together to develop the plan using a structured and inclusive process. This began with an assessment of the status of IWRM in Ecuador through a climate lens, followed by a strategic planning phase. A series of workshops then allowed discussion among institutions, sectors, and government to consolidate the plan.

“Today we close a fundamental cycle for the management of our country’s natural resources. This robust, technical, and consensus-based instrument has brought together the voices of diverse sectors to address the greatest challenge of our generation: the climate crisis.” –

Freddy Muñoz, Deputy Minister of Water, Ecuador

GWP South America played a key role in the plan’s development by serving as the overall coordinator for meetings, technical exchanges, and three participatory workshops that led to the final plan. GWP’s technical experts also reviewed the plan to ensure methodological consistency and alignment with existing government priorities.



Chile turns climate commitments into action



Change process  
 Knowledge  
 Partnerships  

As Chile makes progress with implementing its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), it has become clear that translating national commitments into action requires strong sectoral and regional planning

instruments.

In February 2025, Chile’s Ministry of the Environment and GWP South America announced the successful completion of a project to develop and strengthen a series of Sectoral Mitigation Plans, Sectoral Adaptation Plans, and Regional Climate Change Action Plans that together provide a structured and coordinated framework for climate action in the country, aligning sectoral policies with regional needs and national policy goals. The sectoral plans cover key sectors such as energy, mining, and tourism, while the regional plans apply to Tarapacá, Coquimbo, La Araucanía, and Los Ríos. The project received financial support from the NDC Partnership.

Developing the plans required a combination of technical input and extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including sectoral ministries, regional governments, civil society, academia, private sector representatives, and Indigenous communities. Throughout, GWP South America provided the Ministry of Environment with coordination support, including designing workshops, facilitating technical meetings with specific ministries, and running dialogues with regional governments and other stakeholders. GWP technical experts also provided inputs to ensure that regional and national planning outputs were aligned and consistent with Chile's national climate commitments. This involvement was essential in ensuring the plans were technically sound, regionally relevant, inclusive, and actionable.

Overall, by engaging a broad range of stakeholders in developing the plans, the process fostered collaboration between different sectors and governance levels, and laid the foundations for implementation which began in 2025. The plans will contribute to a more integrated and resilient approach to climate action that is better able to address Chile's diverse environmental and territorial challenges.

South Asia

South Asia shows how water governance influences water security



Change process
Knowledge
Partnerships

Critical insights on water security and water governance across Asia are among the early outputs of a new partnership between Global Water Partnership Organisation (GWPO) and Asian Development Bank

(ADB). These will be used to inform country water partnership strategies and design actionable water projects aligned with national development goals and SDG targets.



The partnership was launched in January 2025 and aims to strengthen the evidence base for water-related decision making across Asia. It will do this by aligning five dimensions of water security (rural household, economic, urban, environmental, and disaster-related water security) used in the ADB's flagship knowledge product, the Asian Water Development Outlook (AWDO), with SDG indicator 6.5.1, which evaluates the enabling environment, institutional arrangements, management instruments, and financing for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

In the most recent AWDO, published in December 2025, three GWP South Asia member countries – Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan – were selected as case studies for an examination of how water governance influences water security in Asia. National experts used country-specific data to compare scores for the AWDO's dimensions of water security with IWRM implementation levels as reflected by SDG 6.5.1 survey data, national policies, laws, and programmes.

GWPO provided technical oversight throughout the analysis with the support of GWP South Asia. Internal GWP consultations and expert group discussions with ADB were held before the assessments were finalised to ensure they were technically sound and contextually grounded.

Moving forwards, the AWDO-IWRM assessments offer a strategic roadmap for South Asian countries to enhance water governance, helping shape evidence-based policies, targeted investment, and regional cooperation.



South Asian countries take ownership of regional drought strategy



GWP Country Water Partnerships in Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh are helping countries take ownership of a new Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Strategy for

South Asia, which was unveiled at the end of 2024. The primary objective of the strategy is to reduce vulnerability to and enhance resilience against drought – representing a fundamental shift from reactive to proactive approaches to drought in the region.

To create ownership of the strategy among decision- and policy-makers, GWP country water partnerships facilitated consultations with stakeholders, running until February 2025, which included national and sub-national governments, government departments and institutions, non-governmental organisations, and research and academic institutions. Acknowledging that each country faces its own distinct barriers, the consultations aimed to help identify national priorities for drought management and mitigation. They also supported regional exchange and cooperation.

The next step, supported by GWP South Asia, will be to develop a regional project to strengthen integrated drought management in South Asian countries. This will be achieved by establishing national drought policies, reinforcing institutional frameworks, and enhancing capacity in integrated water and drought management. The project will lay the foundations for the Climate Information and Early Warning Systems required for immediate drought risk

management, and will inform investment planning for medium- to long-term drought risk mitigation.

Southeast Asia



Cambodia and Lao PDR move from planning to implementation on drought resilience



Cambodia and Lao PDR reached a major milestone in 2025 with the official launch of national frameworks for drought management and integrated water resources management (IWRM), marking

the culmination of several years of planning, consultation, and capacity development. In June, Lao PDR's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE) launched the Preliminary Integrated Water Resources Management Action Plan (2026–2030) and Drought Management Framework, while Cambodia's Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MoWRAM) launched the National Action Plan on Drought Management and Adaptation (2025–2030) and the Climate-Resilient IWRM Action Plan (2026–2030). Both launches were held as high-level national events attended by senior government officials, technical experts, development partners, and international organisations.

The new frameworks provide practical roadmaps for implementation, strengthening drought preparedness, climate-resilient water governance, and investment planning. In Cambodia, the plans prioritise early warning systems, climate-resilient policies and infrastructure, river basin governance, and more efficient water use, while identifying investment needs of USD 16.7 million over six years. In Lao PDR, the frameworks establish a coordinated approach to managing the country's 62 river basins while strengthening governance, coordination, and data sharing, with identified investment needs of USD 87.4 million, including USD 24.6 million for short-term actions and USD 62.8 million for medium- to long-term implementation.

["The action plans were not simply technical outputs but expressions of Cambodia's growing institutional readiness to address climate threats."](#) – H.E. Dr Seth Vannareth, Advisor to the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology

The milestone builds on collaboration between the governments of Cambodia and Lao PDR, GWP Southeast Asia, the Country Water Partnerships, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and partners through the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) initiative. A Regional Learning Exchange in Bangkok further supported implementation by bringing

together practitioners from both countries to exchange experiences and launching a Community of Practice on drought management and IWRM through GWP's Water Knowledge Hub.

Southern Africa



International leaders unite to close Africa's water investment gap



Change process
Knowledge
Partnerships

The facts are stark: 300 million Africans lack access to clean drinking water; 700 million lack access to good sanitation; and Africa faces an annual US\$30 billion water investment gap to achieve SDG 6. The best

sustainable, long-term option for securing water resources across the continent is to accelerate investment in climate-resilient water infrastructure, information, and institutions.

Against this background, preliminary investment pipelines valued at US\$10–12 billion per year were presented at the inaugural Africa Water Investment Summit, held in Cape Town from 13–15 August 2025 – a clear indicator of growing financing momentum.

GWP Southern Africa, as host of the African Union (AU) – Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) Secretariat, was proud to support the Summit, which was convened by the Republic of South Africa, the AU Commission, the AU-AIP International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa, the AU Development Agency–NEPAD, and GWP. More than 1,700 delegates attended, including 38 African water ministers, heads of state, and representatives of international governments, financiers, civil society partners, academics, and diplomats.

Following the initial pledges from development banks, investors, bilateral partners, and governments, further pledges are expected through a dedicated online portal established during the Summit.

The Summit was hosted under South Africa's presidency of the G20 intergovernmental forum, and the agreed declaration – the Cape Town Declaration on Africa Water Investments in the Context of G20 – reaffirmed Africa's urgent need for investment. One of the most celebrated outcomes of the Summit was the launch of the Global Outlook Council on Water Investments, established as a G20 Presidential Legacy Initiative of South Africa. This body serves as the premier high-level platform to champion the Global Investment Platform (GIP) which is elevating water on the global agenda, aligning financing with climate and development priorities, and tracking commitments leading into the 2026 United Nations (UN) Water Conference.

The Summit Declaration, capturing these and other outcomes, has been submitted to G20 leaders and AU decision-making bodies and will also be presented at the 2026 UN Water Conference.

“This summit is a landmark moment not only for Africa, but for the global movement for access to safe water for all. If we rise together, water can become not just a means of survival but a driver of economic transformation, innovation, and peace.” – H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President, South Africa



Transboundary cooperation consolidated in the Limpopo River Basin



Change process
Knowledge
Partnerships



The four riparian states that share the Limpopo River Basin (LRB), and together form the Limpopo Watercourse Commission (LIMCOM), established plans to tackle seven key water-related challenges in June 2025.

Land degradation; sedimentation; deteriorating water quality; loss of biodiversity; weak transboundary water resources management; low resilience to climate variability, climate change, and extreme events; and declining availability of water resources will be prioritised for action by Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe.

A consultative process involving the four Member States led to the collective approval of a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) report, which sets out the transboundary priorities

for the LRB. The report was developed within the “Integrated Transboundary River Basin Management for the Sustainable Development of the Limpopo River Basin” project. This ambitious project is being implemented by LIMCOM in partnership with GWP Southern Africa, with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and aims to raise living standards for the LRB’s population and conserve resources and ecosystem services.

Approval of the TDA report marks a significant step towards collective ownership of the TDA process and its outcomes, and provides a factual basis for a basin-wide Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and country-specific National Action Plans (NAPs). LIMCOM will use the SAP to unlock transboundary investments in the LRB, while the NAPs will tailor interventions to each nation’s unique context and help governments prioritise actions and mobilise resources from national budgets and development partners.

“The Strategic Action Programme is a policy document that requires high-level endorsement across relevant government sectors. It sets clear priorities for actions, including policy, legal, and institutional reforms, as well as targeted investment projects to address the key transboundary issues identified in the [Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis].” – Sergio Siteo, LIMCOM Executive Secretary

West Africa



Mali sets precedent for scaling up flood-warning systems



Change process
Knowledge
Partnerships

Flooding in West Africa can be devastating, forcing hundreds of thousands of people from their homes and destroying farmland and crops. In Mali, a partnership between GWP West Africa, the Climate Technology Centre

and Network, and national hydrological and environmental agencies has taken decisive action to help predict these extreme events and manage climate risk.

Mali's National Directorate of Hydraulics, the National Agency for Environment and Sustainable Development, and Mali Météo, the national meteorological agency, used a suite of interventions in 2025 to strengthen the country's early warning system for flood events, supported by GWP West Africa's technical assistance and expertise. This included introducing innovative technologies such as low-cost sensors, hydrological models, remote sensing, and AI deep learning – and improving knowledge management and communication systems to enable a quick and timely response to flood events.

“Mali is today becoming a pioneer in West Africa in the use of artificial intelligence and remote sensing for climate risk management. Our role is to support this innovation so that it serves as a model for other countries in the region.” – Navon Cissé, Chair of the Country Water Partnership, Mali

Among the key outcomes, robust forecasting technology is now in place in the flood-prone region of Koulikoro. A real-time flood risk mapping platform has been launched in Mali's capital of Bamako. And training sessions provided by GWP West Africa have equipped policy-makers with the skills and knowledge they need to continue developing the country's flood-warning system, increasing climate resilience for the future.



Transboundary cooperation in the Volta Basin shifts from consultation to co-governance



Across the Volta Basin, natural resource users including farmers, fishers, pastoralists, and women's groups have long been under-represented in regional decision making. Recognising this failing, GWP West Africa and the Volta Basin Authority (VBA) have worked with West African nations to turn participation into a functioning governance mechanism – by establishing 'national user coordinations' through the REWARD-Volta River Basin Project.

Following national consultations, stakeholder mapping, and awareness-raising missions in 2024, Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, and Togo have all engaged with the co-governance project. By mid-2025, each country had established or formalised its user coordination.

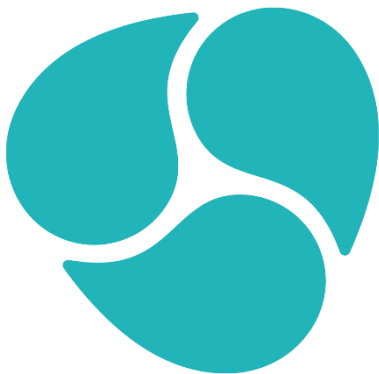
GWP West Africa has used its technical expertise and regional links to support both the national initiatives and VBA. Crucially, in partnership with VBA, it organised a workshop on regional coordination of resource users in the Volta Basin. This workshop led to a key milestone: the election and installation of a Regional Executive Board, providing basin resource users with an official and representative transboundary structure for the first time.

"Experience shows that sustainable management policies cannot succeed without the direct involvement of those who use resources on a daily basis, derive their livelihoods from them and suffer the effects of environmental degradation." – Dibi Millogo, Volta Basin Authority

The national and regional co-governance initiatives have already generated tangible outcomes: improved representation of grassroots resource users in national and regional governance; enhanced coordination among user organisations; greater local ownership of basin-wide initiatives on ecosystem restoration and water security; and stronger alignment between local priorities and transboundary policies.

Advancing water knowledge

Water Knowledge Hub



In 2025, GWP's global knowledge and learning platform, previously known as the IWRM Action Hub, was rebranded as the [Water Knowledge Hub](#). The platform continued to strengthen its role as a central resource for water management professionals and decision-makers worldwide, reaching more than 5,200 registered users between January and November 2025.

The Water Knowledge Hub hosts 26 Communities of Practice (CoPs), including the Mediterranean Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystems (WEFE4MED) Community of Practice, the UNCCD Community of Learning and Practice on Drought Management, and the Water and Climate Community. These communities are supported through dedicated microsites hosted on the platform and are developed in close collaboration with partners including the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and a wider consortium of organisations.

Three new Communities of Practice were also launched in 2025: the Valuing Water Community of Practice, the Flood Forecasting and Early Warning Community of Practice, and the Danida Fellows Water Community.

The Hub further expanded its knowledge resources through strategic partnerships with UNCCD, the Economics of Land Degradation Initiative, and The Nature Conservancy, adding 44 case studies to the UNCCD Community of Learning and Practice on Drought Management.

A significant milestone was the integration of a Learning Management System into the Water Knowledge Hub, enabling structured online courses and training. The first course, 'Drought Risk and Impact Assessment', was developed jointly with UNCCD, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and more than 20 partner organisations. It provides practitioners and decision-makers with practical tools and methodologies to strengthen drought resilience and risk management.

Publications and knowledge products

Throughout 2025, GWP produced over 30 publications – at global, regional and country levels. Examples include: a [Baseline Assessment of Drought Impact Monitoring](#), as part of the joint WMO–GWP Integrated Programme on Drought Management; and [Mainstreaming gender equality in water resources management](#), a policy note published jointly with the UNEP-DHI Partnership Centre on Water and Environment, and UN Women.

Capacity development

In 2025, GWP delivered in-person and virtual capacity development initiatives to strengthen countries' preparedness and capacity to access climate finance, advance IWRM, and build climate resilience.

GWP organised national and Pan-African training programmes on accessing resources from the Green Climate Fund and on the design of Climate-Resilient Water Investment Programmes, and facilitated a South–South learning exchange among Direct Access Entities from Nepal, South Africa, and Sri Lanka, supporting peer learning on Green Climate Fund processes and readiness.

Technical capacity training covered IWRM and environmental flow assessments in Central Africa and the Limpopo River Basin, while a partnership with the WMO strengthened Regional Climate Centres' capacity to deliver climate information through helpdesks.

Virtual learning included a Geographic Information Systems and Water Management webinar series in Central America, engaging 357 participants from 22 countries, and nine UNCCD Community of Learning and Practice webinars on drought-related topics. Under the Adaptation Fund-funded DRESS-EA project, learning exchanges in Eastern Africa promoted sustainable rangeland management and soil and water conservation.

About GWPO & the Partnership

Vision and mission

Vision is a water secure world.

Mission is to support countries in the financing, governance, and management of water resources for sustainable, climate-resilient, and equitable development.

Who's who

Global Water Partnership Organisation (GWPO)

GWPO is an intergovernmental organisation supporting countries in the financing, governance and management of water resources for sustainable, climate-resilient, and equitable development.

GWPO is also the Global Secretariat and headquarters of the Global Water Partnership Network of 13 Regional Water Partnerships, more than 75 Country Water Partnerships, and over 2,800 institutions.

Technical Committee

The [GWPO Technical Committee](#) consists of internationally recognised professionals selected for their experience in different disciplines relating to integrated water resources management.

Sponsoring Partners

The [Sponsoring Partners](#) are the nation states and international organisations that formed GWPO (by signing and formally approving, through parliamentary or other similar actions, a Memorandum of Understanding in 2002). In 2025, GWPO opened its Memorandum of Understanding for signature by new states and governments.

Steering Committee

The [GWPO Steering Committee](#) is equivalent to a Board of Directors, overseeing all GWPO and network operations and reviewing annual reports for final approval by the Sponsoring Partners.

Global Secretariat

The [Global Secretariat](#) is the executive arm of GWPO, providing strategic, technical, operational, and administrative support to the GWP Network. Since its establishment, the Global Secretariat was hosted by the Government of Sweden. Following the endorsement of GWP Partners and the subsequent approval by the GWPO Sponsoring Partners in 2025, GWPO established its primary HQ in Windhoek, Namibia in May 2026, with a complementary Finance Investment HQ in Cape Town, South Africa.

Regional Water Partnerships

The GWP Network comprises 13 [Regional Water Partnerships](#). A Regional Water Partnership is comprised of all GWP Partners in a region.

Country Water Partnerships

GWP currently has 77 accredited [Country Water Partnerships](#) that provide a neutral, multi-stakeholder platform for facilitating improvements in the way water resources are managed.

GWP Partners

The entire GWP Network is dedicated to working with countries towards the equitable, sustainable, and efficient management of water resources. As a long-time advocate for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) – a process that promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land, and related resources to maximise economic and social welfare equitably without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems – GWP draws on implementation experience at the local, national and regional levels and makes links across its network as well as to global development agendas.

The GWP Network is open to all organisations that recognise the principles of IWRM endorsed by the Network. That Network includes states, government institutions at all levels, non-governmental organisations, academic and research institutions, private companies, and service providers in the public sector. GWP's diverse and inclusive Network is a platform for policy dialogue and bottom-up development of action plans and programmes, providing a voice for communities on water management. At the end of 2025, the Network comprised 13 Regional Water Partnerships, 77 Country Water Partnerships, and over [2,800 Partners](#).

GWP Partners by region

GWP Regions	2025 Partners
Caribbean	122
Central Asia and Caucasus	136
Central Africa	184
Central America	157
Central and Eastern Europe	175
China	71
Eastern Africa	312
Global	282
Mediterranean	99
South America	263
South Asia	359
Southeast Asia	238
Southern Africa	275
West Africa	202
Total	2875

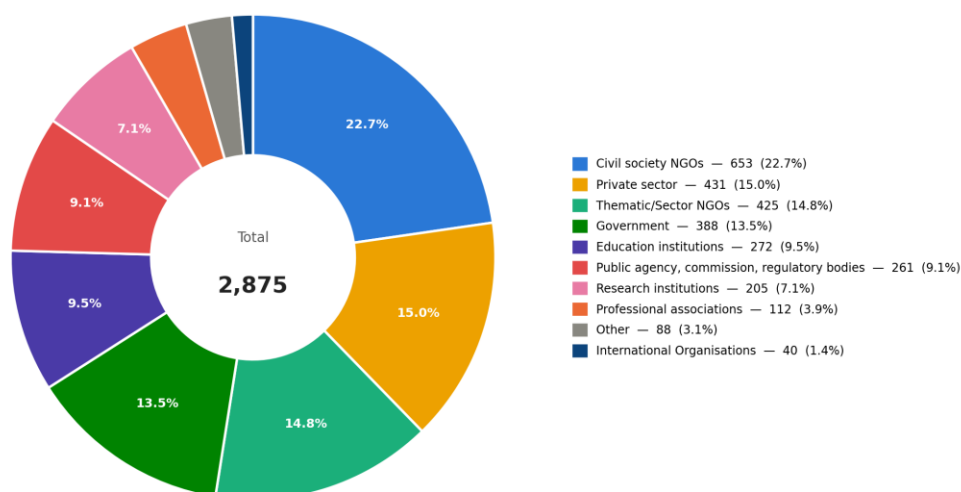
New GWP Partners in 2025

Organisation Name	Country
Avondale Private Capital	Canada

Yes We Can Drinks Inc	Canada
BioSense Institute	Serbia
Universidad Peruana Unión	Peru
Industrias Guaralact c.a.	Venezuela
GOLD WATER OF THE AMAZON	Brazil
ADSTigre Argentina	Argentina
Cámara Colombiana del Agua	Colombia
Fundación SuwoDI	Costa Rica
Confederación Nacional de Federaciones, Ligas y Uniones de Acueductos Comunales de Costa Rica	Costa Rica
Slovenian native fish society	Slovenia
RENDSCO	Philippines
ASB Indonesia and the Philippines	Indonesia
Mekong WASH and Agro-Ecology Resilience	Vietnam
Stancroft Trust Limited	United Kingdom
HydraLink Infrastructure Solutions	Canada
WaterShed Monitoring	Canada
Centre for Development Research and Communication	United Kingdom
Global Water Center	USA
Moses West Foundation - Atmospheric Water Generation (AWG)b	USA

GWP Partners by type

Category	2025 Totals
Civil society NGOs	653
Thematic/Sector NGOs	425
Private sector	431
Government	388
Education institutions	272
Public agency, commission, regulatory bodies	261
Research institutions	205
Professional associations	112
Other	88
International Organisations	40
Total	2875



Financial Report 2025

The complete audited accounts are available at GWPO's website: [Annual and Financial Reports](#)

Income through GWPO

In 2025, 22 Financing Partners provided funds through the GWP Organisation (GWPO): Austria, China, Cyprus Institute, DHI/UNEP, European Union, FAO, Green Climate Fund, Heidelberg, Malta, NDC, Netherlands, Sweden, UNCCD, UNDP, UNESCO, WMO, Deltares, ADB, OSS, Microsoft, DANIDA, and World Resources Institute. They contributed a total of €5.5 million, of which €4.5 million was for restricted activities, including about €0.2 million for Cap-Net (2024: 22 partners, €7.7 million, of which €7.2 million restricted, including about €0.6 million for Cap-Net).

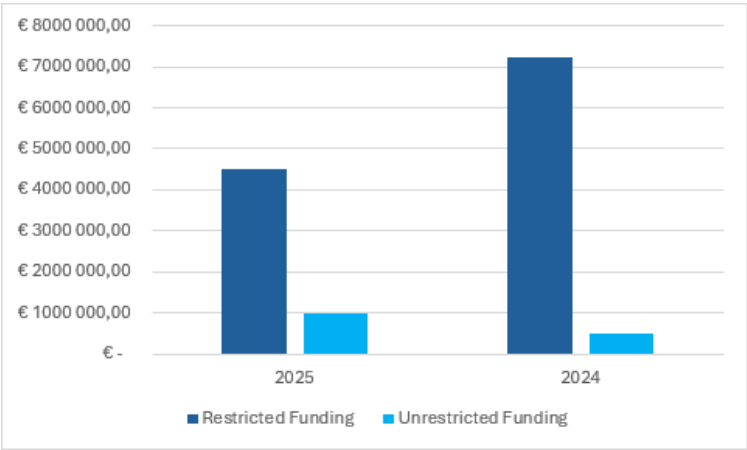
Locally raised income

The regions and countries are encouraged to raise their own funds. During 2025, €10.6 million (€9.2 million in 2024) was raised by the regions/countries. In some cases, locally raised funding might be labelled as globally raised because GWPO signed the agreement with the donor, but it was the region or country which secured the funding. For example, the Drin Project, funded by UNDP, is a project initiated by GWP Mediterranean.

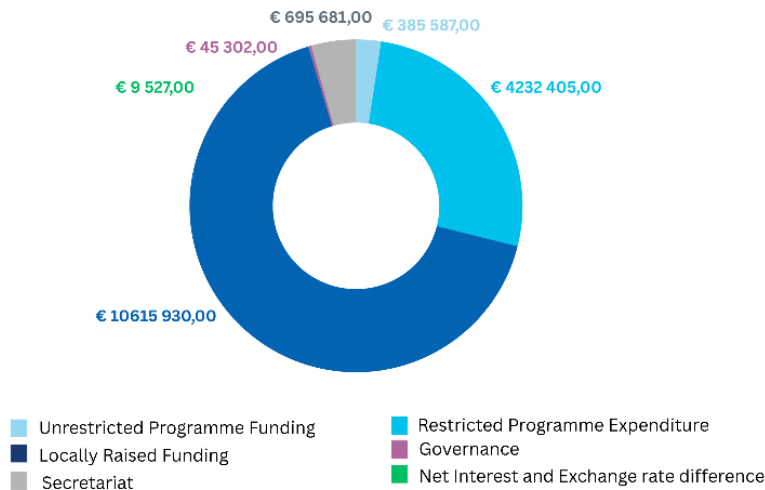
In-kind contributions

The income reported in the Annual Financial Report does not include funds provided in kind from governments, organisations, or individuals. Nevertheless, in-kind contributions are gratefully recognised as a substantial source of funding. GWPO received in 2025 in kind contributions of approx. €1.7 million from different sources.

Restricted and Unrestricted Funding 2025 and 2024



Expenditure 2025



Acknowledgements

This year’s annual report presents snapshots of our key achievements, partnerships and events, and includes stories that illustrate how our work advances global and national water security objectives and partnerships.

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

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The Global Water Partnership Organisation serves as the Secretariat of the Global Water Partnership Network, which comprises of 13 Regional Water Partnerships, over 75 Country Water Partnerships, and more than 2,800 partner institutions. Together they promote the effective, efficient, and sustainable management of water resources and climate-resilient investments for a water secure world.

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