

6th Regional Consulting Partners Meeting
12 and 13 July 2006
Gaborone, Botswana

Information Note

1. Focus and Theme

The major focus of the 6th GWP-SA Annual Consulting Partners Meeting is integrating IWRM into regional and national developmental process. For the first time, the GWPSA CP theme is in line with the WARFSA/WaterNet/GWPSA symposium, to encourage stronger cooperation and coordination between the three regional IWRM programmes.

In September 2005 Head of States at the Millennium +5 Summit stated that IWRM plans should be integrated into national developmental processes. IWRM plays a key role in the achievement of the MDGs and also in economic growth and in our region, SADC can play a key role contributing to regional development. GWP-SA has been making significant contributions to realising the MDGs through facilitating the development of National IWRM Plans that will ultimately help reduce poverty at country level. Regionally GWP SA has been supporting SADC in the development of the Regional Water Policy and the Regional Water Strategy, which maps out the water sectors contribution to regional development.

It is critically important in this 'facilitation' that GWP SA ensures that the different stakeholders' priority actions are integrated and add value to national development programmes and regional process. **How** this is achieved is the major challenge and the 6th GWPSA CP is dedicated to tackling how the integration can realistically be achieved and what the partnership offers as well as what it needs to effectively fulfill this 'facilitating integration' role. In view of this, the theme for the 6th CP Meeting is

"Mainstreaming IWRM into regional and national developmental process"

Regional Processes – From the Regional Strategic Action Plan I (RSAP I) – the SADC Water Division developed the Regional Water Policy, which has since been adopted by the ICM (in full) which provides context and intent for water resources management at a SADC regional level. The Regional Water Strategy has also been developed through intensive regional stakeholder consultations. GWP SA has been instrumental in both processes - facilitating technical input and review, as well as bringing together the regional stakeholders to contribute to the policy and strategy development. The regional water partnership was also instrumental in the development of the Regional Framework for Action, which was an important input to the regional water policy.

National Processes – A number of countries have undergone reforms in the water sector to make their policies and acts IWRM friendly – a lot has been done also in implementing these policies in the region. A number of countries are also currently developing their IWRM Plans – and these plans are a response to the WSSD call for the development of IWRM Plans and should contribute to sustainable development.

Clearly the enabling environment has been set for both regional and national IWRM processes however a lot needs to be done to show the value of IWRM to developmental processes both at a regional and national scale and this is the focus for this year GWPSA CP.

It is important for the partnership to strategise and come up with ways of integrating IWRM into developmental processes. The issue of water efficiency will also be discussed; its relevance to the region and how it should be incorporated in the content of the IWRM plans.

With HIV/AIDS also becoming the biggest individual killer in sub-Saharan Africa it is important as a partnership to discuss ways of integrating and mainstreaming HIV/AIDS issues into IWRM at all levels. The partnership should discuss ways how this can be done, develop and adopt tools that can be used to strengthen the partnership in this regard. Discussions will also be on how to Mainstream HIV/AIDS within the partnership (Secretariat, Steering Committee and the Consulting Partnership).

In all its activities, GWPSA endeavors to strengthen linkages with key partners. The SADC Water Programme is one such partner. SADC will share with the partnership the RSAP II and the regional water partnership will

discuss ways in which the partnership and other regional partnerships can contribute to the implementation of the RSAP II.

2. Objectives

Based on the focus of the meeting, the overall objectives are:

1. To develop strategies on integrating IWRM into regional and national development processes.
2. To raise the understanding of water efficiency in the IWRM planning process
3. To raise awareness on the concept of sharing of benefits as a contribution to regional integration based on the SADC Protocol on Shared watercourses
4. To share and discuss mainstreaming of HIV and AIDS in IWRM processes and the Partnership
5. To develop ways in which the partnership and regional partners can contribute to the implementation of the RSAP II.

3. Outputs

1. Strategic actions on the techniques of integrating IWRM into the national development processes
2. Increased understanding of water efficiency in the IWRM Planning processes
3. Increased understanding of the concept of Sharing benefits in transboundary shared watercourses
4. Recommendations on mainstreaming HIV and AIDS in the IWRM processes, implementation and the Partnership
5. Strategies on how to contribute to the implementation of the RSAPII developed.

4. Meeting Content

The CP meeting has a dual purpose of serving as an AGM where GWP Partners discuss Partnership business and to address the importance of IWRM in the region. As explained above, the content for this year's meeting will be Partnership Business, Regional integration, and integration of IWRM to developmental processes. Three parallel working group sessions will discuss technical IWRM issues on integrating IWRM into developmental processes, understanding the water efficiency components in the plans and the issue of sharing benefits in a transboundary context what this means for us in SADC. There will be a 4th parallel session that will focus on GWPSA Partnership issues this session has been recommended by CP to be an annual session since the 5th CP meeting in 2005. The 5th CP session will be on Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into the IWRM process this session will be to discuss recommendations from the Harare SIDA workshop and see how these recommendations can be integrated into IWRM and the partnership itself.

GWPSA Partnership Governance and Business Matters

CP serves as an AGM where the partners discuss regional partnership matters. The Steering Committee reports to the consulting partners on the following:

- a. Programme and Financial Performance (*Exec. Secretary – ES report to CP*)
- b. GWP-SA Governance (Chair's report)
- c. Outcomes and recommendations from CP2006 (Chair's report)
- d. On-going GWP SA visioning exercise

4.2 Forging Regional Integration

The purpose of this component in the programme is to offer SADC Water Division a platform for sharing information on key SADC initiatives to obtain regional stakeholder inputs as well as encourage discussion on integrating national initiatives into the regional framework. During this session, there will be a presentation the Regional Water Strategy and the RSAP II and the links to the national IWRM Plans. The Consulting Partners and regional partners will be expected to discuss ways in which GWP SA and regional partners can contribute to the RSAP II.

4.3 Parallel Working group Sessions

Session 1: Integrating IWRM into national developmental processes

Session objective

- To develop strategies on how to integrate IWRM into regional and national development processes.

Session Output

- Strategic actions on the techniques of integrating IWRM into the national development processes

Session 2: The Water Efficiency component in the IWRM/WE plans

Session objective

- To raise the understanding of water efficiency in the IWRM planning process

Session Output

- Increased understanding of water efficiency in the IWRM Planning processes

Session 3: Sharing benefits in transboundary waters – what does this mean for us in SADC

Session Objective

- To raise awareness on the concept of sharing of benefits as a contribution to regional integration based on the SADC Protocol on Shared watercourses

Session Output

- Increased understanding of the concept of Sharing benefits in transboundary shared watercourses

Session 4: Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into IWRM processes and the partnership

Session Objective

- To share and discuss mainstreaming of HIV and AIDS in IWRM processes and the Partnership
- To develop strategies on how to institutionalise HIV and AIDS within the partnership

Session Output

- Recommendations on mainstreaming HIV and AIDS in the IWRM processes, implementation and the Partnership

5. Enquiries

For any further information on the CP meeting please contact the GWP-SA Secretariat at:

Tel: +27 12 8459100

Fax : +27 12 8459110

Email: r.mafemba@cgjar.org (for logistical matters)

a.simalabwi@cgjar.org and a.takawira@cgjar.org (for programmatic matters)