

PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES INFORMATION SHEET

Name of the Partnership/Initiative

Dialogue on Effective Water Governance

Expected date of initiation: January 2002

Expected date of completion: December 2015

Partners Involved:

Governments:

The initiative is global and only a selection of governments can be listed here: Through the GWP and UNDP the governments of Uganda, Ghana, China, Japan, Costa Rica, Chile, Greece, UK, Netherlands and Sweden have been involved in the dialogue so far.

Intergovernmental organizations:

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Global Water Partnership (GWP)

Major groups:

International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)

Other:

Many national NGOs and academic institutions are involved in the dialogue.

Leading Partners:

Global Water Partnership (GWP)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)

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Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

The water crisis is mainly a crisis of water governance. Consequently, the Dialogue on Effective Water Governance aims at bringing together as many stakeholders as possible to examine water governance systems and, where needed, plan action strategies to improve them. The Dialogue will serve as a place for increasing information exchange and cooperation among stakeholders where negotiation, improved capacity building and collective planning and decision-making can be done in an atmosphere of confidence and trust. The issues discussed will vary depending on the socio-political context as different

countries have different cultural and political traditions and regimes. Although some issues are country specific, there are many areas where common experiences can be shared. The Dialogue will put participants together in multi-stakeholder discussions and political roundtables (see attached documents for more detailed explanations of how the Dialogues will be carried out).

The Dialogue sets out to:

- raise awareness among politicians, decision-makers and opinion-formers of the need for effective water governance
- mobilise political support for the analysis of reigning governance systems with a view to providing alternative solutions for more effective water governance
- facilitate discussion among politicians and decision-makers on water governance issues in their own countries, encouraging them to facilitate the required changes with solutions that respond to the priority needs of water users
- examine governance regimes from various locations around the world to determine what works and what does not, and why
- demonstrate integrated water resources management (IWRM) as a practical and ongoing process for water resources management. Based on the lessons learned from analysis of practical experiences from around the world, develop national and local action plans to address identified problem areas and contentious issues.
- promote various concrete outcomes for enhancing water governance systems and capacity building. Such outcomes will lay the foundation for the continued work on implementing action plans, improve existing water programmes as well as initiating new water governance programme areas.

Please also provide a brief description of the relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the objectives of Agenda 21 as well as relevant goals and objectives of the United Nations Millennium Declaration:

To quote the Rio Declaration on Agenda 21, “The fragmentation of responsibilities for water resources development among sectoral agencies is proving to be an even greater impediment to promoting integrated water resources management than had [previously] been anticipated”. And nearly a decade later, the section on water in the Millennium Summit Declaration focused on water security as the principal concern for sustainable development in the 21st Century. At the Millennium Summit, governments reaffirmed the intrinsic relationship between environment and development, and the need for more holistic development strategies. Water management was identified as an integral component of efforts to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable and equitable development. The Summit Declaration also set goals of:

- halving the number of people who are unable to reach, or to afford, safe drinking water by 2015
- discontinuing the unsustainable exploitation of water resources by developing water management strategies at the regional, national and local levels, which promote both equitable access and adequate supplies.

Chapter 18 of Agenda 21 stated that, "Water is needed in every aspect of life" and specifically draws attention to seven programme areas for water. Effective water governance was seen as an essential component of each of the identified areas and the one that is critical to get right to ensure there are adequate supplies and of good quality for maintaining and improving ecosystem integrity and water related services.

But the idea that effective water governance is critical for sustainable development and water resources management has only recently been taken up by a broader following. This increased understanding has been made more public in the Second World Water Forum held in The Hague in 2000 and in the International Conference on Freshwater held in Bonn in December 2001.

Expected results:

Effective water governance will help to avoid the frequent mismatch between central government policies and priorities and people's concerns and aspirations. Greater transparency and accountability and better social, environmental and economic links are needed to make governance more effective. The Dialogue will help to raise these issues, and the Dialogue process itself is considered an important part of the outcomes.

Some specific *outputs of the Dialogue* will include:

- a background document on the conceptual thinking behind effective water governance
- a series of roundtable discussions on the critical issues in governance
- a synthesis report of the main outcomes from the roundtable discussions conducted in the regions and countries
- reports analysing governance regimes in different countries and regions
- reports from virtual electronic water forum debates
- further identification of case studies for inclusion in the IWRM ToolBox.

These specific outputs will facilitate the work for the further implementation of effective water governance at national and local levels.

The Dialogue will analyse water governance from two very different perspectives:

- i. developing and managing *water resources*, and
- ii. providing *water services*

and taking into account the different institutions and priorities that go with each. For example, the former relates to the governance of a public good that involves water allocation decisions, while the latter involves public, private or community management with issues concerning regulation and pricing. It is also important to look at *all aspects of water* across sectors to avoid fragmentation. Other important aspects to be addressed include a greater understanding of the role of water in the community and "risk management", especially on how to reduce risks through improved policy making.

Drawing from the *lessons learned* from real case studies, the roundtables will identify and document the sequence of the reform processes and how the building blocks required for effective water governance can be put into place.

Panel sessions, documents and visual material will be prepared for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 and for the 3rd World Water Forum in Japan in 2003. These events are seen as important stepping-stones towards the realisation of effective water governance.

Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:

Around 20–25 roundtable and multi-stakeholder meetings are expected to take place during 2002 and through to the 3rd World Water Forum in March 2003. The majority of these events will take place in developing countries around the world.

The Dialogue will focus on real processes and actual cases — both good and bad practices — and will involve as wide a range of stakeholders as possible in reviewing governance systems needed for sustainable water resources development and management. The Dialogue will also provide the opportunity for the participants to

explore how integrated water resources management can be put into practice. In the near term, the outcomes of the Dialogue, the analyses and the electronic discussions, will be fed into special panel debates on water governance that will be convened at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg and the 3rd World Water Forum in Japan.

In the longer term, the results of the Dialogue will be used to strengthen water governance procedures at national and local levels and bring us closer to our overarching goal of water security — that every human being should have access to safe water for drinking, appropriate sanitation, food energy and other uses at a reasonable cost, while maintaining and protecting the environment in the process.

Coordination and Implementation mechanism

In collaboration with UNDP and ICLEI, the GWP is co-ordinating the Dialogue on Effective Water Governance. The initiative is being implemented through the existing organisational structures of the Dialogue partners. Through the GWP, UNDP, and ICLEI networks, mechanisms have been established to manage the Dialogue and to ensure the broadest participation of stakeholders possible — including Governments, other UN agencies, NGOs and the private sector — in the events.

To manage the Dialogue a *Task Force* consisting of members from each of the three partners has been set up. The Dialogue will take place within the regions and countries covered by the GWP and its two partners. Consequently, the GWP Regional Water Partnerships and the UNDP and ICLEI local offices will shoulder the majority of the responsibility for the execution of the Dialogue.

To handle the practical day-to-day management of the Dialogue, the following *Task Force* has been created:

Overall responsibility:	Torkil Jonch-Clausen
Output Driver:	Alan Hall
Secretariat co-ordination:	Nighisty Ghezae
GWP Members:	Judith Rees (Europe), Miguel Solanes (S. America), Peter Rogers (N. America), Albert Wright (Africa), Madar Samad (Asia)
Local Government liaison:	Bowdin King, ICLEI
UNDP:	Ingvar Andersson, Håkan Tropp.

Representatives from the GWP Regional TACs are intimately involved in national dialogues. The Task Force will also work closely with the Water and Poverty Initiative of the Regional Development Banks. It is also the aim to add other partners to participate in or set up their own Dialogues, such as the World Bank and Regional Banks, NGOs and the private sector.

The Dialogue will draw together many related activities where effective water governance is critical, such as the issues covered by the GWP Associated Programmes (AP), or the local campaigns of its partners. The AP on *Developing and Strengthening Basin Organisations* (led by INBO) which focuses on governance at the basin level, and the *Water Campaign for Local Authorities* (led by ICLEI) which builds on an existing network of local governments and draws on a rich experience in public participation, for example. Other relevant programmes include the capacity building network, CAPNET, and the programmes of the Gender and Water Alliance. The Dialogue will also make use of existing experience related to water governance, such as the Pietersberg and UN processes on shared waters and the work of the World Commission on Dams.

In addition to providing contributions of a substantive nature, the GWP, UNDP, and ICLEI

are strongly positioned to implement the Dialogue by virtue of their worldwide networks to identify participants at appropriate political levels. While the GWP will reach out to the water expert community, and ICLEI to the local authorities, the UNDP will use its country offices and sub-regional resource facilities to identify relevant government authorities and facilitate their participation in the Dialogue. It is clear therefore, that the GWP, UNDP and ICLEI compliment each other's efforts in conducting the Dialogue at all levels.

In a long-term perspective UNDP will be in a position to financially support relevant activities that have been identified at these national and local dialogues. UNDP can implement water programmes at the national level through its wide network of UNDP country offices with the involvement of public and private sectors and civil society. At the local level water programmes can be implemented through the UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme.

Arrangements for funding

The Dialogue on Effective Water Governance will build on the on-going activities and work of the three principle partners and others. Funding in hand is sufficient to have covered the start-up costs, but additional financial resources are required to extend this work, for holding regional/country Political Roundtables for example, and for producing the key communication products, and for holding the events in the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the 3rd World Water Forum. Additional funding would be especially crucial for the long term implementation of effective water governance.

The GWP Financial Partners Group has already recognised the importance of the Dialogue on Effective Water Governance and expressed overwhelming support for this initiative. Help is being provided from these donors in the form of expert knowledge and experience, not just in terms of funding. But over and above this, the Dialogue needs more financial support if it is to yield the important outcomes required for the world to improve the management of its water resources.

And there is something in it for donors too — the Dialogue will be an opportunity to share ideas and build a good basis for knowledge exchange on water governance across the donor community. The European Union for example, already includes Water Governance as a priority theme and has expressed interest in working with the Dialogue.

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer

Institutional and human capacity building are important elements for enhancing and implementing effective water governance. The initiative focuses on developing a wide range of institutional and human capacities, such as the promotion of broad participation in the implementation of effective water governance systems, tailored to national and local needs and conditions.

Capacity building and educational tools will be derived from the outputs from the Dialogue. Such material, developed in association with appropriate institutions such as CAPNET, will become key resource material for all stakeholder groups and located in the IWRM ToolBox.

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any)

The Dialogue on Effective Water Governance is closely linked with the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the 3rd World Water Forum. Various side-events on effective water governance will take place in Johannesburg and a whole day, Shiga Day, is being set aside in Japan to present and discuss the outcomes of Dialogue

Aspects of water governance have a direct bearing on the other Dialogues — on Water and Poverty, on Water, Food and Environment, on Financing Water Infrastructure and on Water and Climate. All efforts are being made to link with these initiatives. Importantly, as effective water governance is so central to improved water resources management, the outcomes of the Dialogue will provide background material for the planned Ministerial Declaration at the 3rd World Water Forum in Japan and its implementation.

Monitoring Arrangements

The partners, through the *Task Force*, are closely monitoring the progress of the Dialogue. The *Task Force* meets on a regular face-to-face basis, as well as through electronic means (also see previous section on coordination and implementation mechanisms).

Other relevant information:

See attached brochure for more detailed information.

Web-site: www.gwpforum.org

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