

Gender and Water Alliance

Progress Report 2006

Phase II well on its way

Putting gender mainstreaming in IWRM to work:

Focusing on implementation and impact

For the Steering Committee



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1. Introduction

The first year of Phase II of the Gender and Water Alliance has come to an end. Phase I has been fully closed with the audited accounts and completion of the Final reports of 2002-2005 and of 2005. The financial report and audited statement for 2002-2005 and for 2005 took a lot of effort, but were successfully completed. Some of the activities which started in the first phase are still continuing, and are in the process of being completed.

The Secretariat has expanded since the beginning of 2006. Apart from the ED, there is one Programme Officer plus another part-time Programme Officer, a Fin/admin Officer and an intern. Two part-time staff have contributed to the work for particular activities. Two large events in which the GWA had a high profile, the Fourth World Water Forum and the Stockholm Water Week, took a lot of Secretariat staff time. GWA staff and members also contributed to a number of other conferences during the year. The Capacity Building output is currently receiving particular attention: regional workshops and training programmes are being planned for 2007.

Contacts with donors have been moderately promising, but much more effort is needed for long-term financing for the core programmes of GWA. The budget for year I of phase II was 65% covered by DGIS, with the remaining 35% coming from co-financing of specific activities and contributions in kind. This is considered satisfactory, and for 2007 more than 35% of the total budget is expected to come from co-financing sources. Already 21 % of the total budget has been assured from co-financers.

The co-financed programmes which continue include: the updating of the Resource Guide with UNDP support; the Minimum Agenda for Water professionals with NOVIB support; and the Water for African Cities programme (WAC-II) with UN-Habitat. The CD-Rom of the new Resource Guide (version 2.1) in four languages was completed in early 2006 and was distributed widely at the 4th World Water Forum (March) and Stockholm Water Week (August). Hard copies of the Guide are still being finalized, to be ready in early 2007. The NOVIB project is nearly completed; the CD-Roms in five languages are available and the hard copies are being printed. The production of language versions of "For Her It's the Big Issue" (Evidence Report) resulting from GWA's partnership with WSSCC, has been delayed in its final phase, but will soon be completed.

An interim agreement with UN-Habitat has been signed and a new Cooperative Agreement for Water for African Cities II and for Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative, is being negotiated. Negotiations with the Global Water Partnership (GWP) on the establishment of a strategic partnership continue, but have been delayed. Collaboration with Cap-Net and IRC has been positive and productive. For the first time GWA will have two pages in the hardcopy version of the Source Bulletin each quarter.

Both the external Evaluation and the Strategic Planning Workshop (Arnhem, June 2006) influenced our thinking, planning and prioritising. However, the main problem remains that the demand for GWA services is far beyond its capacity to respond with by a Secretariat of only a few persons. It has been difficult for GWA to say "no" to outside requests that could add to its objectives, goals and results.

2. Activities according to outputs

2.1 Output 1: Network of GWA

Membership management:

The GWA network has grown steadily and rapidly, with a number of new applications for membership coming in weekly. By early 2007 the number of members had risen to 715 from 94 countries. The database has been revised and is updated weekly. Membership forms are included in four of the language websites. The Yahoo group listserv still functions, while letters to members are sent through PHP lists software. Many members (and non-members) approach the Secretariat with a great variety of questions and requests, which the secretariat responds to as appropriate.

GWA Websites:

All GWA staff and interns attended a one day course given by IRC on how to manage the GWA website, hosted by the IRC portal. Then three GWA staff participated in a one-day users' meeting on the EZ-publish software in Delft, organised by IRC and attended by the website-software producer EZ-publish. A lot of work has been done to improve the accessibility of the contents, as well as its relevance and completeness. The *English language website* is managed by the GWA secretariat, and its structure, shape and content keep improving. The *Spanish website* is managed by CAZALAC in Chile, and the *Portuguese* by IPANEMA in Brazil. Instead of identifying a *French language* institute, for the time being the Francophone SC member has set up the site. An extra and rather unforeseen activity within this output is the *Arab language website*, which has been developed in conjunction with the Resource Guide. The GWA secretariat has translated many documents and core texts, and it can be said that the website is now a very useful and unique resource for the Arab region.

The different language website-managers all appear to have different criteria, wishes and practices. This is not necessarily a problem, but the website, in whichever language, is GWA's face to the world and therefore very important. During the 4th WWF a meeting was held to discuss the different perceptions and, since then, the website management is more coherent. In November the GWA staff attended a one-day course in Delft, which was also attended by the web-managers of the Arabic, French, Spanish, and Portuguese sites. This course was followed by a one-day meeting of all five site-managers in Dieren, to discuss the coordination of contents and other shared issues.

General Assembly:

A meeting of the General Assembly was held for the first time in March 2006, in conjunction with the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico. This was considered cost effective, as so many GWA members were present there. The session was held in the evening, but time was rather short. The Chair of GWA gave introductory remarks, and members were asked to express their opinions about GWA and what its priorities should be. Then the Strategic Plan and Annual Plan for 2006 were presented and discussed and approved. In Stockholm GWA members and other interested parties, were again invited for an evening members' session. Although it was not a formal General Assembly, all members present (about 30) briefly introduced themselves and their work, and it was seen as more positive and useful than the official GA.

Regional meetings:

Because of the dynamic membership and leaders in the *Latin American region*, and because the 4th WWF was held in Mexico, this region was favoured above other regions in Phase I and the beginning of 2006. In Mexico a meeting was held with the whole group of Latin American members present. A regional plan for the coming years was received by the Steering Committee and Secretariat. It includes various activities, but detailed proposals with budgets are lacking except for the proposal for a ToT in Ecuador in December 2006. This bi-national workshop focused on cross-boundary water conflict situations and gender, which is important for possible replication, and was financed by GWA alone. Participants were from Ecuador and Peru. One other activity in Latin



America is support to the Government of Bolivia for engendering its water policy and documents. A proposal to include a needs assessment and budget is to be prepared in coordination with the most important stakeholders.

Other regions are now becoming more active. The regional members' meetings, supported by GWA and regional partners, generate plans that will be followed up in priority areas, including training of trainers and other regional and national activities. As the regionalisation of GWA proceeds, regional focal points will be nominated and activities will increasingly be decentralised to the regions. During the current period, programme and budget accountability will remain with the GWA Secretariat in the Netherlands.

In the *Arab region*, a beginning has been made by providing Arabic translations, setting up the Arab language website and most of all holding a planning workshop for the Arab Region in Beirut 4-6 July. A strategic plan was produced by the partner organisations, and the first ToT is planned in collaboration with Awarenet and the other participating organisations. Moreover, a 3-hour gender session was organised by GWA for the 3rd Arab Water Regional Conference in Cairo in December 2006, together with Gender and Water in the Mediterranean Region (GEWAMED) and the Mediterranean Agronomical Institute-Bari.

The ED has been asked to take a seat on the Advisory Committee of GEWAMED, which is an EU-funded programme that coordinates gender and water activities of 14 different organisations. Also working with GEWAMED, GWA contributed substantially to a Gender Training Workshop of the EU-funded programme Aquastress in *Poland*.

In January 2007, support was provided for a Regional Members' Meeting in South Asia, with partners WaterAid and Cap-net. The meeting, which was held in Nepal, developed a plan of action and will be followed by a Training of Trainers in Gujarat India in April 2007. Other regional members' meetings in 2007 are planned for Francophone West and Central Africa, Anglophone West Africa, Lusophone countries and South-east Asia in response to members' requests.

In *West and Central Francophone Africa* there are a number of interested and qualified institutions with whom to work together. GWA has already committed itself to contribute to a ToT on Gender and IWRM by CREPA, the Cap-net partner in West Africa. Furthermore, to get to know the needs and capacities of the region, it has been decided to start with a regional members workshop, for which the planning is taking place with the Francophone SC member. GWA has been approached to assist the government of Burundi to engender its water policy and to develop a Capacity Building Programme on all levels. Concrete proposals are awaited.

The activities in *East Africa* are many, mainly because of the UN-Habitat partnership, but a proposal for a regional workshop has not yet been received. Ongoing IWRM trainings by Cap-Net member organisations could benefit from increased gender awareness. At the Climate Change Conference in Nairobi in November, GWA material was distributed. In *Southern Africa* activities are developing around the Travelling Exhibit (with IW-Learn), but regional ToTs or workshops have not been initiated. Some members in *Nigeria* have requested support for a full Gender and IWRM training programme, but a feasible proposal is still required.

In *South Asia* there are many activities related to water and some also to gender-and-water. The South Asia SC member will organise a Regional members workshop in Kathmandu in January 2007. The important stakeholders will discuss and develop an action plan for the coming years, which will include the ToT planned by GWA and Utthan in Gujarat in March 2007. A workshop on gender, water and corruption is also planned for mid-2007 perhaps in Kerala, possibly in collaboration with IRC and the Water Integrity Network(WIN). Corruption takes different forms for

men and for women, a matter which is so far ignored in water and (anti-)corruption literature and activities.

Together with the Asia-Pacific Water Forum and the Japan Water Forum and JICA, GWA will assist in organizing a plan for a workshop in *South East Asia*.

Regions which are not mentioned in this section are not necessarily left out. Proposals on capacity building from members in other regions are also welcomed. In all regions it is important that new persons be involved. So far, a small group of members are called on for most of GWA and other partner activities, which results in overworked experts. GWA would like to call on others who would welcome the opportunity. This issue has been discussed in the General Assembly and by the Steering Committee. Changes can only take place step by step, by involving other stakeholders and organisations in inclusive regional meetings, and training new people.

Steering Committee meetings

Back to back with the 4th WWF and the Stockholm WWW two Steering Committee meetings were held. A brief meeting was also attached to the Strategy workshop which took place in Arnhem in June 2006. Newly elected members to the SC -- Catharien Terwisscha van Scheltinga and Jean Bigagaza -- were present at Arnhem, and all four new members (Dr Demitrios Christofidis, Dr Sara Ahmed and the two already mentioned) participated in the SC meeting in Stockholm in August 2006. New elections will take place from December 2006 onwards. A final SC meeting for the current members is planned in Capetown in March 2007. Leaving SC members after that meeting are: Ethne Davey, Karin Krchnak, and Maria Angelica Alegria, although they can be re-elected. The UN adviser Marcia Brewster will be replaced, and advisers from GWP (Alan Hall) and the Japan Water Forum (Taeko Yokota) are formally nearing the end of their terms. We welcome a new adviser from IRC, Joep Verhagen.

2.2. Output 2: Knowledge and Information

Resource Guide for mainstreaming gender in water management:

The update of the Resource Guide, funded by UNDP, greatly expanded the guide which now includes 13 sub-sectors, and four languages (English, Spanish, Arabic and French). It was thus much more work than expected, not only for the experts who were involved from the beginning, but also for the translators, all of whom did a tremendous job. IRC's contribution of formatting the large texts into web pages, in four languages, was a substantial part of the whole effort. Cap-Net assisted with the duplication process and the design of the cover. As promised, the CD with the Resource Guide in 4 languages was launched and distributed in Mexico, and was received with enthusiasm. Up till January 2007 5000 copies were distributed at various events and sent out by post.

After the revised version was distributed in Mexico, the work continued by reviewing the full texts again, and adding and translating case studies, in order to assure that a high quality, complete and cosmetically groomed version was available in November. The version 2.1 has now been produced and 4000 copies are available. Hard copies are in production, but conflicting software in use by authors and designers make this process time-consuming and expensive. The hard copies were produced in four languages by late December, and these will be disseminated in early 2007. The main use is still through the websites: more than 23,000 visits to the RG and more than 800 downloads were recorded in 2006.

UNDP has invited GWA to submit proposals with budgets for other languages. Researchers from Uzbekistan have shown an interest for a Russian language version, and a proposal for a



Portuguese language version is awaited. These versions need to include a few case studies from their own regions, written originally in their languages whilst the remaining text can be translated.

GWA material:

Reports and manuals which were produced in Phase I are still much in demand. French translations are ready and being disseminated. To use available funds for wider distribution, CDs are preferred above hard paper copies. The original CDs have been copied and distributed at the 4WWF and other events.

Both ENDS, GWA, Comprehensive Assessment of water management in agriculture:

The NOVIB funded programme “Effective gender mainstreaming in water management for sustainable livelihoods: From guidelines to practice” has yielded interesting information about how water professionals at different levels make use of existing gender manuals and guidelines. A Minimum Agenda for various target groups including politicians has been prepared based on interviews, meetings, workshops and an extensive web-conference with a lot of enthusiastic participation. GWA produced various reports in the framework of this programme. The Synthesis Report including the Minimum Agenda has been produced on CD-rom in five languages.

Fact Sheets, Policy briefs and Brochures for schools:

The 13 sector overviews together with the sub-sectoral resources, as written for the Resource Guide, form a strong start for the planned Fact Sheets. GWA has also discussed with IRC the development of a number of joint Policy Briefs focusing on gender. One suggestion is a Policy Brief on Gender, Water and Corruption, which could be an outcome of the workshop in Kerala (see under 2.1. Regional meetings, South Asia) and of an e-discussion amongst GWA members. SIWI is also interested in this subject. As part of this effort, GWA joined the Water Integrity Network (WIN).

A second suggestion for a policy brief with SIWI is on gender and financing water supply and sanitation, as linked to privatisation.

For another publishing activity a meeting was held with the Centre for Global Education in the Netherlands to develop a brochure about gender and water related to meeting the Millennium Goals, for secondary school children. Such a brochure with simple jargon-free language could later be translated into various local languages, when funds are secured. Suggestions for authors of youth books are welcomed.

Case Studies:

A number of case studies have been produced for the Resource Guide, especially related to environment and coastal management in French and some in Spanish. For the version 2.1 of November there are case studies for all sub-sectors in all four languages.

Source Bulletin:

GWA and IRC agreed and signed a contract that two A4 pages with GWA news and articles will be included in their paper version of Source Bulletin, published four times per year. The advantage is that many more people and organisations will be reached with GWA information. It will be posted beginning of December in English, French and Spanish. For the next issue, Cap-Net will also fill two pages. As part of the agreement, all GWA members receive the electronic version of Source-Weekly as well.

Pilot Projects:

All GWA pilot projects were implemented in Latin America. Again, this was the result of the high level of initiative and enthusiasm from that region. Nevertheless, the pilot projects did not proceed as expected. To improve the communication and get better information about progress, the Secretariat has appointed a temporary programme officer, especially for the Latin American work (in total for 5 months in 2006).

In *Guatemala* the destruction of villages and their water supply as a result of landslides after tropical storm Stan convinced GWA of the urgency to help reconstruction of drinking water facilities in a few villages. The implementing NGO is SER (Servicios para el desarrollo), a GWA member. The process is technically supported by CAZALAC, Chile, and the gender aspects were strengthened by a member from Costa Rica. The implementation process is to be carefully documented from a gender perspective by SER, so that it will be a useful case study for GWA members and others. In November our SC member who represents Latin America together with the PO visited the project area to monitor progress¹.

The *MUDE* (Mujeres en Desarrollo Dominicana, Inc.) pilot project in the Dominican Republic has not shown any positive progress. It was discussed in Mexico, but so far without result. The time has now come to close the project. One active GWA member in the country has written a final report with lessons learnt, which is useful for the GWA Secretariat.

FENAPRU (Federación Nacional de Asociaciones Gremiales de Agua Potable Rural) - Chile Pilot Project: "Women's Experiences with Privatization of Rural Water": GWA has supported the Federation with the collection and documentation of women's experiences from a gender perspective, through a participatory process and a training workshop. The results have been systematically analysed and reported and shaped into a document appropriate for legal action. The document is available on the Spanish website of GWA. Legal gender criteria have also been incorporated by the Federation in its other work. The project has been completed, although the Federation has still to send an English summary about the pilot project, as was agreed.

CEDEM (Corporación de Estudios para el Desarrollo de la Mujer) – Chile Pilot Project: "Empowering and Mainstreaming Gender and Water Issues: Towards a Fully Integrated Water Resource Management Plan and the 7th Millennium Development Goal." GWA implements this project in coordination with CEDEM and the General Direction of Water (DGA) of the Government of Chile. The first phase of the project resulted in a situational gender assessment which identified gaps between men and women in access to and management of water resources. At the same time there has been progress in activities to sensitise the government and also civil society, as part of phase II of the implementation of an action plan. Progress reports have been received.

WSSCC Evidence report: For Her It's the Big Issue:

GWA has worked together with WSSCC in their effort to collect and compile evidence that projects have more impact and are more efficient when gender is mainstreamed. It was launched in Mexico, where GWA's Chair participated in a Press Conference. Hard copies in English were handed out in

¹ **Pilot project Guatemala: reconstruction of drinking water facilities, including a gender perspective.**

The rehabilitation of four drinking water projects took place, and the schemes have been handed over officially to the water users organisations. Capacity building on gender issues in the communities has led to participation of women in water users associations, which was not the case before. SER is interested in continuing to work with GWA in other future projects.

Mexico and Stockholm. It has since been translated into Spanish, French, Arabic and Portuguese, and produced on CD-rom in all languages.

E-conferences

In the framework of the collaborative project with CA and BothEnds, an enthusiastic e-conference was organised and a report was issued. GWA staff and the web-managers of the different languages websites took a course at IRC in November, where e-discussions were one of the themes. That will make it easier for GWA to organise e-conferences in-house. (The externally organised e-conferences in Phase I turned out to be very expensive). Suggestions for topics are: 1. Corruption, water and gender; and 2. Gender, privatisation and financing of water.

2.3 Output 3: Capacity Building

Various training:

In the Strategy Planning Workshop in Arnhem it was clear that this output, although given due importance, was behind in implementation. Discussions with IRC, Cap-Net and GWP did not result in significant concrete joint activities. It was noted that GWA members often request special GWA training workshops for their constituencies. Thus, GWA is now planning workshops with its regional partners in South Asia, Brazil and the Lusophone countries, Francophone West and Central Africa and others (see information on regional meetings under Output 1). The work envisaged for UN-Habitat, under the Cooperative Agreement which is in the process of being signed, entails massive capacity building on various levels, including the lowest (see sections 2.4 and 4). Therefore, although a lot of planning and preparations were ongoing, only two real training sessions took place in 2006: in Ecuador and in Poland.

For the *Lusophone countries* Ipanema regularly organises trainings and gender is always part of it. Still, a specific GWA Gender and IWRM training is now being discussed. Participants from Angola and Mozambique are to be included, which will be easier now that the Lusophone countries have entered into an agreement.

In *Latin America and the Caribbean* the Training of Trainers workshop was organised in Ecuador in December. Two countries, Ecuador and Peru, share water sources which need serious coordination. This ToT focused on Shared Waters Management in Conflict Zones with a Gender Perspective together with the Project Catamayo Chira. Three GWA members and two experts from UNESCO IHP were the trainers of this activity. The 35 participants, men and women from Ecuador and Peru, are all related in some way to the bi-national project and/or its institutions. Meanwhile LA-WETnet plans to organise its Gender and IWRM trainings together with GWA.

The plan which resulted from the *Arab regional* meeting in Beirut, included a regional ToT for mid 2007. After that national ToTs or training of water professionals are planned. AWARENET is also planning a gender and IWRM training together with GWA.

In *South Asia* there are three plans at present: 1. The regional workshop in Nepal in January, with many new contacts, to develop a regional strategic plan, 2. A ToT together with Utthan in Gujarat in March, and 3. A training or workshop related to corruption, gender and water, perhaps in Kerala.

In *Europe* the ED was invited by GEWAMED to contribute substantially to a two-day Training for Mainstreaming gender in water management in Poland, for the EU-funded programme Aquastress. The ED is also invited to give a full day training in Malta for an EU-Mediterranean programme OPTIMA.

For *Francophone Africa* GWA also has two plans: 1. To contribute to ongoing plans by CREPA and Cap-Net in the West African region, and 2. To organise a regional workshop with different stakeholders to develop a regional plan. The Francophone SC member is taking the lead. GWA's invitation to GWA members, institutes as well as individuals, has yielded a lot of potential contacts in Africa.

GWA is awaiting formal proposals from Nigeria, Burundi and Bolivia to assist with engendering water policies at the country level. GWA will support and contribute to efforts at the national level, but the stakeholders in the countries themselves should take the lead.

The GWA ToT manual will gradually be revised following the experience in some regions. Modules for new themes have to be developed, and the Resource Guide forms a solid basis for that.

Cap-Net Tutorial:

Cap-Net together with GWA developed a CD-based tutorial on Gender and IWRM: Gender Matters. It is meant for training water managers and it was first tested at 4th WWF in English. The tutorial, now in two languages, forms the basis for sessions or modules and it is meant to be adapted to the context. It is downloadable from the website in pdf format, like a book.

2.4 Output 4: National Water-related policies

Collaboration with GWP and other partners in Africa PAWD

A meeting was held in February 2006 in Stockholm with GWP to discuss the possible collaboration in the PAWD programme, in which a number of countries are supported in the development of National IWRM Plans (financed by CIDA and DGIS). Already in Phase I the Executive Secretary started to assist with gender training sessions for actors in this programme.

GWP held a Consulting Partners Meeting and a Conference for its 10th Anniversary Celebration in Stockholm, in which GWA's ED was invited to speak about aspects of being an Associated Programme of GWP. The participating APs suggested that GWP should organise workshops to share experiences and see what joint activities would yield synergy, but so far GWP has not initiated such a workshop. Representatives of many Country Water Partnerships were present and contacts were made.

In PAWD GWP is making use of one English language and one French language GWA member to contribute to the regional and national IWRM trainings. It is however important that from each of the countries a gender-and-water specialist be involved, not just for the training, but throughout the whole process to make it more participatory and effective.

Regarding the IWRM Toolbox, in which GWA was planned to be involved, a new version has been published, but gender still needs to be mainstreamed in it.

UN-Habitat partnership

As of 31 January the first partnership with UN-Habitat for WAC II came to an end with the finalisation of the Synthesis Report by Prabha Khosla. The methodology as developed for WAC II will not only be useful for other cities in Africa, Asia and Latin America, but also the PAWD programme will benefit from the experience GWA has gained.



At a meeting in Nairobi (end January 2006), it was agreed that before starting a full-fledged new partnership agreement, a transition period could be planned in which a number of activities could take place. GWA handed in a proposal and eventually a transition proposal was approved for 4 months, during which the full fledged partnership and a lot of activities are to be prepared. The interim proposal includes LVWATSAN, WAC II, and other collaboration, such as gender training for the Water Branch of UN-Habitat and participation in each other's events.

The ED was invited to the 3rd World Urban Forum in Vancouver (May 2006) to speak about the partnership between GWA and UN-Habitat, and about gender aspects of partnerships in general. Because not all sessions related to water, the WUF was less hectic than the WWF, and some useful contacts were made. More serious commitment and attention to ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples worldwide is necessary.

In addition, GWA invited the new Chief of the Water Branch Bert Diphoorn to give a presentation at GWA's Gender Session in Stockholm. GWA was also invited to support the development and engendering of the Vision 2020 paper for the Water for Asian Cities programme, to which both the ED and the South Asia SC member contributed. Finally, the official responsible for gender and capacity building for the Water for Asian cities programme is invited to GWA's Regional Workshop in Nepal.

In October the Water Branch of UN-Habitat held a large workshop in Nairobi for the Lake Victoria water and sanitation programme for small cities, LVWATSAN, where a capacity building programme was developed in which many stakeholders participated. The ED and Prabha Khosla participated for GWA. It was publicly announced that LVWATSAN will be implemented with 4 partners: GWA, Unesco-IHE, FCM (Federation of Canadian Municipalities) and SNV (Dutch Development Organisation), for respectively gender, vulnerable groups and communities, technology, municipalities and local governments. The programme began with a joint reconnaissance mission including the other partners of one week to six towns in November. Prabha and two local GWA consultants, who were selected in Nairobi took part in the mission.

For the follow-up to WAC II Jeanne Bushayija has been appointed to support Prabha with the French language cities. At the beginning of December a workshop was held for the City Managers, to revitalise the process. For each city a GWA facilitator will be appointed again, some the same as before, and some new ones. Prabha Khosla was appointed as Programme Manager for GWA, and she will have a lot of work in coming months, especially after the full fledged Cooperative Agreement is signed.

Contacts with National Governments

The National IWRM policy of *Brazil* has been engendered with the support and advocacy work of GWA. Now its implementation is being monitored. In Mexico GWA was approached by the Water and Environment Minister of *Burundi*, with a request to support the participatory capacity building programme for all levels of her programme. As soon as a proposal is received, GWA will have to follow it up.

A Senator from the Water Ministry of *Bolivia*, who is also a GWA member and Gender Ambassador, came with a similar request, which also awaits a concrete proposal, which could be prepared by a local GWA member as consultant.

From *Nigeria* we are awaiting a proposal for a first ToT and further Training for lower than national levels.

Other options



In a meeting with the Women's Desk of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, it was suggested that GWA should visit Dutch Embassies where work is done in the water sector. Support with PRSPs, to engender the water chapters, could be part of the collaboration.

2.5 Output 5: International events

Fourth World Water Forum, Mexico, March 2006

The preparations for and the follow-up to the 4th WWF consumed a large share of the time of the first half of this year. SC member Maria Angelica Alegria took the lead in organising our sessions in collaboration with the specially created Women's Coalition. It is clear, however, that the GWA is not a women's organisation; about 40 % of GWA members are men who would probably not feel welcome in the Women's Coalition. Three sessions were organised with GWA's involvement and a few more where GWA members themselves were active. The ED participated in the Rain Water Harvesting Session as a panellist. One training session using the Cap-Net tutorial was held, with the ED as a trainer, as mentioned above. Activities related to GWA and our members are too many to mention here. Please refer to the Synthesis report of 4th WWF on the website.

The 4th WWF has been used for many meetings with partners. A number of interviews for press took place and resulted in a few articles about GWA, both in English and in Spanish. One article written by the ED for iDM (the British International Development Magazine) was handed out in Mexico.

General Assembly GWA

As an Association, the GWA is to hold General Assemblies every three or four years. The first one was held in Mexico during the 4th WWF, where over 50 members (and interested non-members) gathered. Of these, about 25 had been paid (partly) by GWA and an equal number paid from other sources, such as their own organisations.

Kyoto Water Prize

Three of our members were nominated for the Kyoto water prize: Maria-Angelica Alegria's "Gender Perspective in Rural Drinking Water Systems in Chile"; Rajeshwar Mishra's "Technology and knowledge for gender equity and justice"; and Kusum Athukorala's "Tsunami and sanitation in Sri Lanka".

Stockholm World Water Week, August 2006

SIWI invited the GWA to develop a seminar together with them and with UN-DESA. GWA developed the programme with presenters and panellists. The subject was comparable to the programme with Comprehensive Assessment and Both ENDS: Why is existing knowledge on gender and water not utilised on a large scale to mainstream gender in all water management? How do power relations work at the higher levels, so that gender is only paid lip-service? It was a three-hour seminar with more than 110 participants and a lively, in-depth discussion.

A meeting was held with the Women's Coalition to evaluate the cooperation at 4th WWF and to see if and how we would like to continue this kind of cooperation. Generally speaking it was decided to continue working together in the future on major international events like 5th WWF, but from GWA's point of view, preferably under a different title, with gender instead of women.

The Water Week was the second major event of 2006, which took a lot of the Secretariat's time. The advantage is that our experience with this type of organising grows.

3rd World Urban Forum, Vancouver, May 2006

Invited by UN-Habitat (see 2.4), WUF offered an opportunity to discuss with various of our contacts in the Water Branch about our partnership. UN-Habitat was evaluated about a year ago, and the work in partnership with other organisations was one of the strong recommendations. Many of the partners were present, and it was suggested to form a forum of UN-Habitat partners. The GWA-UN-Habitat film about the gender aspects of the Water for African cities programme was launched in Vancouver in an interesting session.

A meeting with the CIDA representative also proved useful.

GWP Southeast Asia Regional Conference on Water Financing, Manila, May

One of our Philippine members represented GWA in this conference in May and distributed GWA books and CDs.

South Asian Conference on Sanitation SACOSAN, Islamabad, September

The ED spoke at this conference, which had been postponed a number of times. The gender session turned out very interesting, with the ED's general gender and sanitation presentation, followed by two cases of Bangladesh and Pakistan, and a lively discussion. The governments showed enormous progress in availability of sanitation facilities in their countries compared to the 1st SACOSAN in Dhaka in 2002. GWA's members need to monitor what governments claim. Availability of sanitary facilities is a vague notion with many definitions: one toilet for many hundreds or even thousands of persons is sometimes called access to sanitation.

3rd Arab Water Regional Conference, Cairo, December 2006

Together with GEWAMED of IAM-B (Mediterranean Agronomical Institute-Bari) a 3 hour gender session was organised in Cairo in December. For GWA the ED and Soumaya Ibrahim from Egypt spoke.

Other events:

- GWA's Programme officer participated in a high level Policy Summit on the World Water Crisis in Brussels.
- The ED participated in the Stakeholder Forum about land-based pollution of the marine environment in London.
- Members of GWA have been sent materials and have distributed them in various events.

3 Donor relations

DGIS

DGIS approved funding for 65% of the total budget of the TMF proposal for 2006 – 2010. The remaining 35% was contributed in cash and in kind by some joint projects and shared activities. It is still urgent for GWA to find additional funding for its core activities during the coming years.

DGIS has recently introduced a new reporting style. GWA has filled in a Monitoring Protocol, which looks at a limited number of indicators, but these have to be clearly measurable and quantitative (SMART). During the five-year period it must be shown that 20% of the outputs have been achieved after one year, 40% after two years, etc. It was difficult to determine the best indicators for GWA's work, as much of it is not easily measurable and hardly quantitative. Nonetheless a few indicators were selected and defined for each of the outputs. The Monitoring Protocol has been filled in and approved for 2006. It is important that GWA members become familiar with them, but that GWA continues to work towards its mainly qualitative objectives as well.

GWA's contact officer in DGIS participated in the Strategic Planning Workshop in Arnhem, which gave him a better idea about GWA, and that will prove helpful for the good relations with the donor.

GWA together with its accountant has produced the final financial report of Phase I, 2002 – 2005, and a financial report for 2005. The accountant has added the audited statements. Furthermore, the accountant wrote a letter to the Steering Committee, suggesting a way to improve accountability, by using a standard form per activity to be signed by someone in the region, preferably an SC member. The reports took a long time to produce because GWA's data for the first years were embedded in IRC's archives. Now that GWA is responsible for its own administration, this situation should not arise in the future.

The ED has accepted an invitation to join the Think Tank of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about research on water and sanitation.

DFID and DGIS Evaluation

The evaluation which was planned for October 2005 took place in March 2006 in England, the Netherlands and in Mexico. The outcome has been overall positive, based on the positive feedback of members and partners. Many of the recommendations are already practiced, and some can be implemented in the future. Others are not very practical nor feasible with the present staff and financial resources.

The report was presented in a video conference with DGIS and DFID present from remote locations. It was decided that GWA would prepare a response to the recommendations, to avoid some of them becoming the rules for the future. This response was approved by the SC and sent to the donors.

DFID

After receiving the evaluation report and composing the response, GWA's ED visited DFID's contact officer in London to discuss the present situation and further possibilities for funding. The meeting concluded with the promise that GWA would send the current Strategic Plan and Annual Plan for 2006, as well as proposals for other activities, such as some of the regional initiatives, including a Nigeria Capacity Building Plan, and a plan for Eastern and Southern Africa. Other activities requiring funding, such as translations of documents, can also be included. Now that the Strategic Plan and annual report have been completed, GWA will prepare the proposal for DFID

SIDA

In February the ED had a meeting with SIDA, and she was told that SIDA has no funding mode for non-Swedish NGOs. The Director of the Water Division explained that the Swedish Government wants to finance only one water network, and that is GWP. If GWP needs GWA to help it mainstream gender in its work, GWP should pay GWA for their contribution. SIDA did, however, agree to fund Cap-Net, also a water network.

CIDA

The meeting with Canadian CIDA in Vancouver was very pleasant, but there do not seem to be possibilities for funding. GWA will explore ways of making its contribution to the CIDA-funded PAWD countries work better.

4 Partnerships (in alphabetical order)

Some partnership activities have been described under headings above.

ADB Asian Development Bank

The partnership finished after one year, and was not as productive as expected. This did not turn out to be a real partnership, as two partners were not equals. While GWA had to contribute the same amount of funds as ADB, the latter decided the rules of the game. The Gender Scan prepared by Helen Derbyshire was finally approved by ADB, and is now featured on their and our website. One case study of an ADB project in Pakistan was only approved by featuring its positive aspects. Together with the author, the Secretariat decided to upload the original report, with a disclaimer for ADB, because it is an interesting case for our members.

Both ENDS

See 2.2.

Building partnerships for Development

The planned methodology for engendering partnerships is still pending. In Mexico and in Stockholm some discussion about this plan took place, but nothing concrete has been agreed. Maria Angelica Alegria has been elected to the BPD Board, so may be able to follow up on this activity.

Cap-Net

For the Tutorial "Gender Matters" see above, 2.3.

In Mexico one meeting was held with all Cap-Net managers present. In October a week-long Managers Meeting was held, in which the Secretariat took part. The Arab Region Planning Workshop was held in collaboration with Cap-Net and Awarenet. One francophone Gender and IWRM training will be organised together with Cap-Net's member, CREPA, as well as one with LA-WETnet in Latin America. GWA has agreed to share the costs by contributing gender specialists and comments to Cap-Net's members' Gender and Water Trainings.

CAWTAR Centre for Arab Women Training and Research

Collaboration with CAWTAR has been related to various French and Arabic translations, as well as to work as co-author for the Resource Guide. CAWTAR is also a major GWA representative for the Arab Region, for example in the Planning Workshop in Beirut. They will play a major role in the implementation of the Arab Regional plan.

CAZALAC in Chile

Cooperation for case studies, Guatemala and for management of the Spanish website.

Comprehensive Assessment for water in agriculture

See 2.2.

CIHEAM Istituto Agronomico Mediterraneo in Bari, Italy

This Institute coordinates the GEWAMED programme, a EU-funded collaboration programme of institutes in 14 countries: Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions into Water Resources Development and Management in the Mediterranean Region. Their work is comparable to GWA's, but in a limited region of 14 countries. GWA's ED has accepted an invitation to join the Steering Committee, in which FAO and World bank also are represented. CAWTAR is one of their contact institutes.

GWP

See above, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3.

Global Scoping of Private Sector Participation

In 4WWF and in Stockholm side events were organised, but GWA has not been informed of the progress on this initiative.

IW-Learn



The Travelling Exhibit has been on show in a number of Latin American countries, each of them adding to the panels, and attracting lots of visitors, including school children. A meeting was held in Mexico to discuss further collaboration regarding the Travelling Exhibit in Africa, and other work together. The Latin American chapter still continues in Argentina where it will be on display in various places, 50% of it financed by GWA.

GEF had an annual meeting in Cape Town at the end of August, where GWA's Chairperson spoke, and GWA material was sent for distribution. GWA prepared a case study on the Travelling Exhibit for the GEF Assembly, according to a fixed format, for a book which is to be published. After the GEF meeting the African chapter was discussed with the University of Western Cape, where GWA's Programme Officer was present to ascertain smooth process and agreement about the contents and the conditions of the partnership. A contract with the Gender Equity Unit of UWC has been signed in coordination with IW-Learn, which considers GWA as an interesting partner, to link up with in many places.

Ipanema

Ipanema is our most important Lusophone partner, looking after the management of the GWA website in Portuguese. More cooperative activities, such as training of trainers, is planned for 2007.

IRC

See 2.1, 2.2, 2.3. and 3.

UN Interagency Task Force Gender and Water

Regular collaboration worked naturally with Task Manager Marcia Brewster in our SC. As she has now left the UN, her successor has been appointed, but she has not yet assumed the functions as Manager of the Task Force and adviser to the GWA Steering Committee. It may be that a regional member of the TF would be a more appropriate contributor to the GWA Steering Committee.

NOVIB

NOVIB supports the programme of the Comprehensive Assessment, with BothEnds and GWA, establishing a Minimum agenda for Gender in water management and other outputs. See 2.2. The Secretariat needs to write a final administrative and financial report.

SIWI

See 2.2 and 2.5.

Stakeholder Forum

The Stakeholder Forum in London invited the ED to represent women as major group in the formation of a plan to pay attention to land-based pollution of the marine environment. Various gender aspects were listed and contributed. Regrettably none of this more than "the involvement of stakeholders and local communities" came into the final declaration of the meeting on the subject held in Beijing in 2006.

UNDP

See 1 and 2.2.

In the last Advisory Group meeting, Joakim Harlin of UNDP invited GWA to write proposals with budgets for translation of the Resource Guide in other languages, first Portuguese, then Russian, Japanese, Chinese, etc. In general he is positive about our partnership and interested to continue to work together with GWA. For Russian a few suggestions for case studies have been received.

UNEP



UNEP has invited GWA to become accredited to its Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum. An application and a large number of documents have been collected and sent to them.

UNESCO-IHE

For the training programme for WAC II for UN-Habitat, GWA keeps contact with IHE to coordinate the gender mainstreaming in the programme. In the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation programme IHE are partners, along with GWA and SNV.

UN-Habitat

See 2.4. and 2.5.

WEDO

The Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) has started planning four programmes for UNEP. They asked GWA for suggestions and comments, which we supplied. GWA's contribution to these programmes may be requested.

WSSCC

See 2.2.

On request GWA has given an opinion about the future position of WSSCC.

WfWfW

For 4th WWF a group was established: the Women's Coalition. Our collaboration at WWF was mainly through this collective. In a meeting at the Stockholm Water Week with various organisations, WfWfW offered to represent us all in meetings with WWC; however, GWA has decided to send its own representative too to the kick-off meeting in Istanbul in March 2007.

5. The GWA Secretariat

The office

In mid-2005 the Secretariat of GWA moved out of the IRC premises, to establish an office in Dieren, a small town in the East of the Netherlands, which is easily reached by train or car. Five fully equipped working desks and a space for meetings facilitate the work. Three persons, each appointed for 89% of the time, keep the office going. Additional temporary staff, interns and volunteers can have access to a working place. Personnel management under Dutch laws is being learnt. An accountant assists with calculation of salaries, taxes and other social insurance contributions. The local network, server and internet connections have been established with the help of an external IT firm. There is space for more than ten internet connections with 24 hour fast access.

At the Strategy workshop in Arnhem, it was considered that a location outside the ED's house was desirable, and so some investigation took place. Recently a suitable location for an office has been identified which is close by, with a rent of €16,000 per year, which excludes telephone, Internet, furniture, energy costs, heating, cleaning, etc. Compared to other places, this is a good value, and the space is big enough for nine desks. GWA plans to sign a rental contract in 2007 and move into the space by mid-2007.

Work load

Even with three persons plus temporary assistance, the work of the Secretariat exceeds capacity, and it may always be so. As an international network on such an important subject, there is no end

to the work GWA could do. It is important to continue discussing the strategy GWA should follow in this sense: how does GWA determine what it follows up and what are its priorities, so that a workable plan can be drawn up. Planning should relate directly to the working days available, not to all that could and should be done. In the past, much of the administrative work was done by IRC, but now GWA is required to do all of those tasks: finances, administration, personnel management, taxes, office management, mail room, reception, system management, maintenance of equipment, software installation, website and other technical support. Over and above all that, the ES had much more work than a person can be expected to cope with. GWA cannot afford to have its staff be burnt out within two or three years and lose again very valuable institutional memory. It must be clarified to donors and members that salary costs are not all overheads, because staff also is involved in core activities of the five outputs.

Although the Strategic Planning Workshop was useful in some ways, many unresolved issues were not sufficiently discussed, let alone solved. The SC meeting in Stockholm followed up on this subject, and many of the SC members suggested activities to which they could contribute.

Reporting

The Secretariat plans to be more precise and regular in reporting to the members, but as part of the above mentioned analysis, there is often much more urgent work to be done first. This is regretted.

6. Elections for Steering Committee

Problems with software and the inability to send letters to large groups obstructed the process in the beginning of the year. Also the low number of candidates forced GWA to postpone the elections. Thus, the new SC members could not yet be installed during the SC meeting in Mexico. Lessons have been learned for the next elections, which should proceed more smoothly and began at the end of 2006 to have new members in place in May 2007.

7. Finance

The budgeted amount for the first half of 2006 was transferred by DGIS in time, facilitating smooth continuation of the programme, contrary to the financial situation in 2005. The second instalment is expected in early 2007, following the submission of the Monitoring op Maat in December.

When we drafted the budget, it was in a spirit of uncertainty about new funding, so amounts were kept low. This meant that we continued to spend in an economizing manner. As mentioned above, the accountant has finished his work for 2002-2005, and is positive about how our administration is now structured.

The financial report 2006 and the summary of the income and expenditure per output for 2006 are sent simultaneously.

JM/MBMarch2007