

## **GWP Six-monthly Regional Journal Format for semi-annual reporting**

Names of individuals conducting this progress assessment: Diego Diaz Martín (GWP Venezuela), Gisela Dam Forattini (GWP Brazil), Daniel Allasia (GWP South America) and Baldomero Castillo (GWP Argentina from January 2008).

Date of the assessment: 15/01/2008

Time period covered by the assessment: July-December 2007

### **1. IWRM Water Policy & Strategy development facilitated at relevant levels**

#### **1.1. Activities of past six months on regional and national level, when appropriate:**

##### **Dialogues in Venezuela : Implications of the New Water Law.**

Throughout the year, the members of GWP Venezuela participated in several meetings with key actors related to the legal issue of water, and particularly with the New Water Law. On 8 and 9 November the seminar was carried out in Caracas : Law and Policy for Water Conservation, as part of the third National Conference on Environmental Law and Policies in Venezuela. The topics covered were: The Water Law and its implications for the country; trends of Environmental Policies on Waters; Venezuelan institutions related to water; The French Public Management of Water Resources: Basin Agencies; Areas under Special Administration (ABRAE in Spanish) for the integrated management of water; Venezuelan legislation about coastal and marine areas, including the issue of legal rights acquired by continuous use by individuals; the use of water and concessions regime taking into account the statement that water is a public domain; major problems of Venezuela in terms of its water resources; chemical contamination of water and related international conventions; water as a public service; social participation in water management; Integrated Water Management, Challenges to be undertaken.

##### **Strengthening the Lusophone Water Partnership**

Activities focused in the divulgation and promotion of the initiative among Portuguese Speaking countries. One special session was held during the *XVII Simpósio Brasileiro de Recursos Hídricos e do 8º Simpósio de Hidráulica e Recursos Hídricos dos Países de Língua Oficial Portuguesa* to address common problems, and the session was coordinated by Oscar Cordeiro representative of the National Water Agency and member of GWP Brazil.

A document in the form of a Concept Note (in English) was prepared in order to facilitate that the RWPs of all continents involved in the initiative have a better understanding of the initiative in order to include activities in their Work Plans and help to raise funds.

There were translated several documents of GWP to Portuguese in order to help the understanding of IWRM and administrative procedures of GWP.

##### **I Peruvian Conference for Legislators. "Key points to the governance of Water Resources in Peru" and meeting with the President of Peru**

60 people, between Congressmen, employees responsible for the institutional management of the IWRM and key actors attended this meeting.

As a follow up to the Conference for Legislators, it was organised a meeting with President, Alan García. Other participants in this meeting were the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Sanitation (Garrido Lecca), legal expert from CEPAL (Miguel Solanes), INRENA Representative (Enrique Salazar), and the Chair of GWP Perú (Nicole Bernex).

## 1.2 Outcomes and the past activities that influenced them:

### **Dialogues in Venezuela : Implications of the New Water Law.**

There is a wider knowledge and awareness of the new water legal framework of the country; A total of 127 professionals from 63 organizations from 14 Federal entities participated in the dialogues developed in Venezuela. This initiative was supported with a divulgation component that spread the message to more than 250 thousands people.

After the Seminar in Venezuela, there were interactions with National Assembly and the Ministry for the Environment to share some weakness of the new water law framework. There is an important interest among water actors to maintain these dialogues in the future.

### **Strengthening of the Lusophone Water Partnership**

There was a larger interest in the initiative and it was seen as an opportunity to share ideas and compromise using GWP Brazil as focal point, because, among Lusophones countries, has the most developed IWRM system. Brazil is seen as a source of experience for the other countries, and, in turn, some local ideas implemented on these countries could be adopted in Brazilian regions. In addition, under the Lusophone Water Partnership, GWP Brazil will receive during the period from 11 to February 17, 2008, a team composed of members of the CWP of Cape Verde, for a study visit.

### **I Peruvian Conference for Legislators. "Key points to the governance of Water Resources in Peru" and meeting with the President of Peru**

As a result of the training, it was decided the establishment of a commission of legislators to work on a proposal for the creation of a National Water Agency

The meeting with the President had a strong influence in the decision to establish the Peruvian National Water Agency and work on a unified and holistic water bill that will replace the existing bills submitted to the Congress.

## **2. IWRM Programs & tools developed in response to regional and country needs**

### 2.1. Activities of past six months:

#### **Preparation of a document on Principles of Water Management Plan**

GWP is supporting the production of a document presenting the basis of IWRM principles to assist the development of National Plans in Latin America. It is expected that this document helps to identifying the key elements and challenges related to the development of National IWRM Plans. It will highlight long-term policy elements and guiding principles to be included as part of an integrated approach involving all water-related sectors and stakeholders, including the identification of key areas and stages requiring participation and consultation processes in order to set the foundation for sound cross-sectorial cooperation in the future. The document will be introduced during the Latin American Seminar on IWRM National Plans to be held in Lima early in 2008..

#### **Review of GWP Publications**

Interesting feedback has been done between GWP Brazil and TEC about the Policy brief under preparation about *IWRM Plans and National Development Strategies* by Mike Muller. The document was disseminated through partners and some improvements were discussed.

### **Printing and distribution of IWRM in Urban Drainage book.**

It is being printed a Spanish version of this book by Carlos Tucci and Juan Carlos Bertoni. The book was originally edited and printed in Portuguese and has been translated into Spanish by Mr Bertoni and into English by WMO. The book is used by CAPNET and GWP Brazil as part of an international course on this subject. GWP South America and Central America are planning to implement this course in several countries as a response to members' request.

### **South American Journalists Workshop on IWRM**

GWP South America in joint cooperation with some GWP partners in Colombia, organized a Workshop for Journalist about the importance of IWRM. The workshop was attended by 80 professionals from all countries of South America and Cuba. The main objective of the workshop was to improve the knowledge and understanding about IWRM principles amongst key mass media communicators to reach a broader audience. Other objectives of this workshop were:

- 1) Promote integration, exchange of experience and cooperation between environmental journalists and communicators about IWRM.
- 2) Disseminate IWRM policies, programs and projects, developed in South American.
- 3) Raise awareness on the need for promoting the development of IWRM National Plans.
- 4) Increase the visibility of GWP in the region, particularly in Colombia.
- 5) Contribute to the development of practical skills, capacities and networking initiatives required to promote an integrated approach to WRM.

The conclusions of the seminar were widely disseminated in the main newspapers of South America (e.g. El País from Uruguay, ABC Color from Paraguay) and created the basis of a South American Network of Communicators on water issues.

### **REGA Journal Production**

The Latin American Journal on IWRM (REGA) was born under the last Chair of former SAMTAC who continued its publication in the past years. GWP South America is supporting the development of a special issue related to the state of IWRM in South America in order to produce a reference material of the state and challenges of IWRM in the region.

### **Dialogues for the Rio Tocuyo, Venezuela**

This project started in 2006 with the aim of promoting opportunities for dialogue to support the conservation of Tocuyo River Basin. Efforts exceeded expectations because was achieved combining several public and private conflicting interests.

Activities included roundtables, technical meetings with experts, *in situ* evaluations on the river basin, meetings with local media and a regional forum held as part of the celebration of the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of an important local university (Universidad Centro-occidental Lisandro Alvarado). The project was a joint initiative of this university, the NGO Vitalis and AVEAGUA (GWP Venezuela).

### **Workshop for Capacity Building on IWRM in Venezuela**

On 19 and 20 November GWP Venezuela, Cap-Net, LA-WETnet, UNIMET and VITALIS jointly organised the I Workshop on Capacity Building on IWRM. The Workshop focused on the integrated approach to water, drawing on specific problems and incorporating local knowledge. The participants were trained on the basic principles of IWRM, their interaction with access to water and sanitation, environment and the essential elements for its implementation, highlighting the role of institutions and the various management tools available to help the implementation IWRM (Ex, GWP ToolBox). The course was

attended by a multidisciplinary group of people composed of professionals from public and private organizations such as: Electrification of Caroní CA (CVG-EDELCA), Municipal Institute of Water and Water del Municipio Sucre (IMAS), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Ministry for the Environment (MinAmb), Instituto Pedagógico de Caracas (UPEL-CPI), Environmental Consulting Company ARBOREA. Water treatment projects company VENEAGUA, Universidad Metropolitana and VITALIS. The course was conducted by Mario Schreider, Maria Elisa Febres, Diego Diaz Martin and Hervé Jegát.

The workshop was a good example of cooperation between organizations, such as GWP and CAPNET. The original course provided by CAPNET was adapted by GWP partners in Venezuela to fit the actual social and legal framework in this country. It is expected to replicate the experience in Bolívar State, specifically in Puerto Ordaz, with the participation of two public universities and the local coordination of CV-Edelca.

### **IWRM courses in Peru**

Three courses were developed in Peru about IWRM, with special focus in physical and environmental instruments for territorial organization. The course was developed jointly with Univ. de Wageningen, IHE-UNESCO, SNV, IPROGA, and professionals of two of the three planning regions of Peru.

### **Workshop about IWRM Taller GIRH in the Huatanay sub-basin in Perú.**

The workshop had the objective of creating awareness and discussion about the IWRM process with focus on governability and institutions. The Workshop was conducted and attended by professionals of the “Centro Guamán Poma” and key actors of the basin.

### **Diagnose on the status of IWRM in several basins in Perú**

In some basins in Peru, like the Huatanay, Nanay, Caballo Moro, Huepetuhe, Caychihue y Zaña the status of WRM was diagnosed in order to evaluate the basin needs. The diagnosis included data mining in subjects like water availability, water needs, actual and expected conflicts. Several recommendations were issued, like proposals to improve institutional performance. Dialogues complemented the diagnosis in order to include all voices and actors and create ownership of the results. Materials to train participants and disseminate the results were also prepared.

### **Translation into Portuguese of the Toolbox and the IWRM Training Manual – Lusophone Water Partnership by GWP Brazil**

The documents were translated and reviewed considering the social and legal framework of the countries that participate in the Lusophone Water Partnership. A CD based on Toolbox and e-libray joint publication between CAP-NET and GWP is being updated and customized by GWP South America for Latin American and Lusophone realities. It is intended to have a media to disseminate the Toolbox (with the new version in Portuguese) and updated version of key publications related to IWRM.

## **2.2. Outcomes and the past activities that influenced them:**

### **Dialogues for the Rio Tocuyo**

As a result, of the dialogue there has been an increased interest amongst local people to be involved in the management of their natural resources. A permanent technical round table was established with participation of key stakeholders who will help monitoring the management of the watershed, based on IWRM principles within the institutional and legal framework of the new legislative context in Venezuela. It was produced a comprehensive

document on all available and updated information on the watershed.

Among the key future actions of this working group include: (1) monitoring problems and proposing suitable solutions in the high basin of Rio Tocuyo, (2) promoting awareness and implementation of the principles of Dublin in the region, and (3) promoting opportunities for dialogue around the coordination of development plans on water, land and related resources with the objective of increasing their effectiveness, from an environmental, economic and social equity perspective.

### **Workshop for Capacity Building on IWRM in Venezuela**

The multidisciplinary content of the course and its relevance to local scenarios, constituted a valuable contribution to the participants, who could become multipliers of knowledge and key players for the construction of a new water management approach in Venezuela, within their organizations and areas of influence.

## **3. Linkages between GWP and other frameworks, sectors & issues ensured**

### **3.1. Activities of past six months:**

#### **Gender and Water Alliance's (GWA) Workshop on Strategic Plan to Mainstream Gender in IWRM initiatives of Lusophone Countries – GWP Brazil activity**

A workshop on this issue was held by the Ipanema Institute and supported by GWP Brazil, which occurred in the period from 25 to June 29, 2007, in Angra dos Reis / RJ. The objectives of the workshop were: to establish strategies, facilitate the development of skills and support to the policy to incorporate gender mainstreaming in IWRM in Lusophone countries.

In the Workshop participated 35 members and was directed to professionals related gender mainstreaming. There were analyzed cross-cutting issues, such as achievement of the millennium goals for water and sanitation, climate risk management, social inclusion, generation of employment and income, among others.

This meeting promoted the encounter of experts and representatives of community organizations in the Lusophone community committed to facilitate, plan and conduct the incorporation of gender mainstreaming in water policies, practice and in the institutional arrangements through exchange of information, development of training and connections in the network, in order to form partnerships based on the values of fairness and respect of gender, diversity and participatory process.

#### **XI National Congress of Limnology of Brazil**

The XI National Congress of Limnologia XI was held in Macaé / RJ on August 27, 2007 and GWP Brazil was represented by Ninon Machado at the Round Table - Governance and Networking Information and Aquatic Biodiversity. The event promoted specific thematic workshops in the interest of the sectors related to water resources, with emphasis on the issues related to the hydroelectric industry.

The workshops addressed issues whose discussions are fundamental to the process of environmental management and water resources and that becomes necessary as many conflicts were observed as result of the lack of information and scientific knowledge to support decisions.

The sessions held within the congress included the participation of important researchers, specialists in different subjects, students in graduate and post-graduate levels, and public and private companies related to hydropower production, as well as representatives of the

governmental institution related to environment and water resources.

The following topics related to water resources management were addressed: Strategic Studies for Watershed; Ecological flow rate; Frontiers of Environmental Sanitation; Monitoring and Information Networks in Aquatic Biodiversity.

### **I Brazilian Workshop on Integrated Management of Water Resources for Journalists - Water, Communication and Society**

The I National Workshop on IWRM for Journalists - Water, Communication and Society, was held in Brasilia, on 06 December 2007. It discussed the issue of IWRM with those responsible for communication.

The workshop included discussions around the National System of WRM – (SINGREH), its progress and addressing communication as a way of exchanging information and strengthening the system.

In the event participated 98 people linked to communication in the federal, state and municipal government, NGOs, basin committees and agencies, members of GWP Brazil, independent journalist linked to the environment and water resources, among others.

### **Support to the development of GIS of Huatanay basin in Perú**

It was given technical support on IWRM to the team of the “Centro Guamán Poma de Ayala” that was developing a GIS to be used as an IWRM Tool.

### **Latin American Conference on Water Management Plans**

GWP South America is actively participating in the organization and preparation of this event, including the task of preparation the agenda and invitations. The event is to be held on March 2008 in Lima, jointly with AECL, and is also an opportunity to develop an interregional Meeting with GWP Central America, where all members of GWP are invited, but specially those of Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries.

The next steps after Lima include to use GWP Forums in CWPs to discuss ideas about the Plans and to organize local meeting in the countries to follow the developments of National Plans. It is expected a Workshop for Technical Staff approximately 6 months after Lima, in order to group all countries. It is expected that this workshop permits the participants to share experiences and challenges. After this technical workshop, it is expected a Legislator Workshop in order to create awareness of the necessity to adequate legislations to impulse IWRM Plans.

### **Participation in CAPNET meeting**

Members of GWP in the region and GWP South America Secretariat participated in the Network Managers Meeting of CAPNET held in Paraty Brazil, where it was discussed how to develop closer links between both networks. There was a large participation of LaWetNet in order to establish alliances and mutual agenda. Concept Notes of joint activities with both networks are under development, and some products like *Toolbox and e-library CDROM* were produced as consequence of this meeting in support to the Lusophone initiative.

### **3.2. Outcomes and the past activities that influenced them:**

The linkage to other Institution, such us the strong relationship in Brazil between CapNet and GWP enabled the involvement of some 500 professionals in the area in Seminars, Workshops and other activities related to water resources and communications, generating greater awareness on the activities of GWP the strengthening of the relationship between the networks dealing with IWRM and the adhesion of new members to the GWP. As

consequence of this seminar, some specialized publications reported the activities of GWP.

#### **4. GWP Partnerships established & consolidated at relevant levels**

##### 4.1. Activities of past six months:

###### **Establishment of GWP Argentina**

The General Assembly of Partners carried out in December led to the establishment of GWP Argentina in January of 2008, locally called Foro Argentino del Agua. This process started in 2006 and since the membership increased from 5 to more than 30 partners. The process also created awareness about GWP principles and the need for embracing IWRM as a tool to manage water and associated resources. In the meeting, were approved the statutes that were submitted to GWPO to be accredited as GWP Argentina

###### **GWP Venezuela**

Due to social conflicts in the country GWP Venezuela Assembly was postponed to the first quarter of 2008. However, GWP Venezuela remained in constant communication with the partners through the regular newsletters and various activities during the period, including, a number of interagency meetings to monitor planned activities. During this period of time an informative leaflet on GWP in Venezuela was produced, as well as two e-bulletins of AVEAGUA activities, which had been widely distributed in various meetings, seminars and conferences related to water issues at the national level.

###### **GWP Brazil**

The General Assembly of GWP Brazil was held in Sao Paulo on 29 November, with the participation of 17 members of GWP in this country and the Regional Coordinator.

###### **GWP Uruguay**

Is working on addressing some governance issues detected as part of the monitoring of their activities. In this task, GWP Uruguay is being supported by Regional SC and Secretariat. A special meeting with Uruguayan SC was held on August to discuss possibilities and directions. It is expected that during 2008 GWP Uruguay will be fully operative.

###### **Regional Water Partnership**

Regional SC meeting was postponed to the first quarter of 2008 due to agenda conflicts. However, RWP remained in constant communication with members in spite of only hiring the regional Communication Officer on December.

A new Communication Plan with the objective of disseminate in a more powerful way GWP objectives is under preparation. Fund raising trips are expected to be held during 2008 in order to get the necessary funding for activities in the region.

Links with GWP Central America were reinforced through inter-regional meetings. GWP South America Coordinator attended GWP Central America Assembly, and met with this regions secretariat at least twice since that. This meeting allowed coordinating actions and synergies in order to get bigger impacts and reduce costs. There were also interregional contacts with African RWPs in order to support Lusophone Water Partnership at Regional Levels. An IWRM Management Plan Workshop, similar to the one being held in Lima, is under discussion to be held in Cabo Verde during the first half of 2008.

##### 4.2. Outcomes and the past activities that influenced them:

Con formato: Subrayado

## 5. GWP Network effectively developed & managed

### 5.1. Activities of past six months:

There was an increase close to 50% of the partners of GWP in the region, including countries where a CWP was still not consolidated. The increase of the partners is expected to continue at the actual rates, as in the following weeks are expected to be received 10-15 memberships from Colombia; 2-3 from Chile; one from Brazil and 5-6 from Paraguay.

During the year it is expected the request of accreditation of Paraguay, Colombia and Chile as CWPs, and, in a near future, Ecuador.

### **Regional Activities:**

- Fundação Universidade Federal de Rio Grande do Sul was elected as the new host institution (HI) of GWP South America in June, but due to Host institution failure to deal with some Brazilian taxes, the funds for the RWP activities arrived in late September.
- RWP Secretariat moved to a new building that counted with a more adequate space for the office in mid December.
- The communication officer of GWP South America started working in December 10 and is under training
- Due to the impossibility to develop the GWP South America SC meeting in this second half of the year, Daniel Allasia met separately with most members of SC in order to create synergies and increase mutual understanding.
- Daniel Allasia visited GWP Secretariat for an induction on GWPO administrative and governance systems.
- After return, a discussion on financial and administrative guidelines was held in Porto Alegre for Regional HI. This discussion was also reproduced with GWP Brazil and GWP Venezuela Staff during work visit to these countries/headquarters.
- The Partner database was updated and completed in order to keep track of the continuous movement of people in the institutions that form GWP.

### 5.2. Outcomes and the past activities that influenced them:

- The visit of Daniel Allasia to GWPO gave him a better idea and frame of understanding regarding the vision, goals and principals of GWP and the discussion held with administrative staff helped both sides (GWP and Hosts) to produce better reporting than in those countries where the discussions were not held.