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Brief Progress Update (July-2019)

Global Water [and Ocean] Governance Support Programme

Project Number: Project [Proposal] 00115482 / ATLAS Output **00113069**
Start Date: 1 January 2019
End Date: 31 December 2023

Introduction

The Global Water Governance Support Programme, presently being enlarged and amended to become the Global Water and Ocean Governance Programme, aims to contribute to SDG 6 on water management and sanitation and SDG 14 on conservation and sustainable use of marine resources; along with poverty reduction-related targets like 1.4 on equal rights to resources/services, 1.5 on reducing vulnerability, and 2.3 on increased productivity and income of small-scale food producers.

Built on UNDP's Water and Ocean Governance theory of change, this Governance Support Programme assists partners in formulating, coordinating and implementing water/ocean governance reforms by providing policy advice and technical assistance, knowledge and capacity development. Through the present project amendment; the previous freshwater focus is expanded to include more of coastal and marine resources governance, and a self-standing component to foster 'ocean innovation' is added.

The [amended] project has four mutually supportive project outputs/components:

- 1) Water/ocean governance thought leadership, thematic expertise, technical support and policy advocacy promoted and strengthened globally.
- 2) Freshwater and coastal resources management frameworks strengthened at local and national level.
- 3) Enhanced individual and institutional knowledge and capacities for sustainable water management.
- 4) Innovative and scalable solutions to ocean challenges identified and supported.

The present brief details action for starting and highlights what has been achieved during the first six months along with some pointers for next steps.

Inception – Project Start-Up

The Global Water Governance Support Programme document was cleared by the Project Appraisal Committee on 21 December 2018 and the project document was signed 16 January 2019. Going forward, the Programme constitutes the main mechanism to implement the long-standing support by the Swedish Government to UNDP's [Water and Ocean Governance Programme](#). As a continuation of previous phases of support, the project reinvigorates some existing relations and, as appropriate, also starts new ones.¹

¹ Previous separate projects for the UNDP-SIWI Water Governance Facility, Cap-Net UNDP and support to country-level governance reforms are closing during 2019. Yet, most endeavors continue through the new Global Water [and Ocean] Governance Support Programme.

During the first six months of 2019; responsible parties have been contracted and project operations initiated at global and national levels. Agreements have been signed with two responsible parties:

- the Global Water Partnership Organization (GWPO), responsible for the implementation of the UNDP Cap-Net endeavours towards capacity development, and
- the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) for the implementation of the UNDP-SIWI Water Governance Facility (WGF), responsible for supporting knowledge management and country-level action.

Four Delegations of Authority to UNDP Country Offices have been sent for the implementation of national/local-level water governance support, see further under Output 2.

Achievements – Project Activities under Implementation

Since much of the endeavours of the Global Water [and Ocean] Governance Programme constitute a continuation of pursuits of previous/existing projects, there has been considerable action during the first months of the project's life:

Project Output/Component 1: Water[/Ocean] Governance thought leadership, thematic expertise, technical support and policy advocacy promoted and strengthened globally

In support of the UN delivering 'as one' and agencies working jointly in support of UN Country Teams; UNDP is (together with UNICEF) co-leading a UN-Water Task Force on Country-Level Engagement. The Task Force has developed a joint UN-Water 'offering' on how the UN can support countries in the achievement of SDG6. This will be disseminated to Country Teams and Resident Coordinators in collaboration with UN Development Coordination Office.

Further joint UN work on water includes the drafting of the annual UN World Water Development Report (WWDR). UNDP led the chapter on *Water Governance for Resilience to Climate Change* of the 2020 WWDR on *Water and Climate Change*. Previously, UNDP had led the chapter on *Political, legal and institutional dimensions* and contributed to various other chapters of the [2019 WWDR entitled *Leaving No One Behind*](#). A presentation of the report was given at Sida in March 2019.

For more effective global SDG monitoring; UNDP participated actively in the review of UN Environment's survey instrument to monitor the status of implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). A mini-work group was instituted to help revise questions to help capture gender dimensions of IWRM more effectively.

The [UNDP-SIWI Water Governance Facility \(WGF\)](#) assists UNDP with knowledge management and in providing technical assistance to Country Offices and partners. The major such support in 2019 has gone to the UNDP Country Office in the Comoros, helping the Government to update its Water Code. This involved an initial review of the proposed law and – given that the proposal had major weaknesses – to assist the Comoros with further stakeholder consultation and re-drafting of the Water Code. It is expected that the Code will be presented to the parliament in September this year.

WGF has also conducted two training workshops – with water utilities in Laos, and the regulatory agency in Liberia – to enhance ‘integrity’ / reduce corruption in the water sector. WGF also supports UNDP climate/water endeavours in Serbia.

Already during the first half year, the project has responded to some 20 requests for advice and support on water management.

Project Output/Component 2: [Freshwater and coastal resources] management frameworks strengthened at local and national level

Project Output 2 helps national/local partners to implement improved frameworks for water and coastal resources management. It is delivered through UNDP Country Offices with technical assistance and strategic management support from WGF. In previous phases, support was thematically oriented towards water supply and sanitation under the UNDP [GoAL WaSH](#) signature programme. During 2019, the national/local level support has been thematically reoriented towards water resources and coastal management. The new signature programme, entitled **GoAL-Waters**, focuses on water and coastal resources management with the application of a ‘source-to-sea’ perspective.

Four sets of new GoAL-Waters activities have been initiated since the start of the new global project.² These activities relate to *drought management* in Jordan, *wastewater and tariff guidelines* in Bosnia & Hercegovina, *climate-proofing of water systems* in Paraguay, and *water quality/ wastewater management* in Tajikistan. New/additional GoAL-Waters activity proposals are expected from the Comoros, Chad and other countries.

GoAL-Waters activities are also to be pursued³ in the approximately ten focus countries of the anticipated future *Sida-UNDP Strategic Collaboration Framework on Environment and Climate Change*. GoAL-Waters will also be assisting with global IWRM SDG monitoring/diagnosis/planning as a short-term action which may serve as potential entry point to long-term governance reform. Water resources/coastal resources management activity proposals are also expected from additional countries (Philippines, Liberia, Laos and Cambodia) that are closing water services-related activities of the previous (GoAL WaSH) phase.

Project Output 3: Enhanced individual and institutional knowledge and capacities for sustainable water management

The enhanced individual and institutional capacity for sustainable water management is delivered through Cap-Net UNDP. [Cap-Net](#) is composed of 23 affiliated regional- and country-level capacity development networks delivering training to water professionals in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. As of April 2019, Cap-Net is implemented through GWPO, as a way to harness the synergies and complementarities between Cap-Net and the [Global Water Partnership](#).

Networks are supported to strengthen their outreach and capacity to support professionals in their respective regions and countries. This includes the development and continuation of project

² These build on previous relations generated through the predecessor GoAL WaSH programme.

³ The size of the endeavour hinges upon additional resources mobilization and/or the availing of existing WOGP balances for programming in 2020.

ideas and activities, e.g. *SDG-IWRM-Support* and *Learning Delta Asia Initiative*. Through the various networks, five face-to-face courses have been delivered on the topics of *Climate Change Adaptation* and *Drought Risk Management*.

Cap-Net's online "Virtual Campus" has been up and running throughout the transition. During 2019, two courses – on *Ocean Governance* and *Transboundary Marine Spatial Planning* – have been delivered in collaboration with GEF [LME:LEARN](#). Continuing a collaboration with Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC/COSUDE), through the Swiss Embassy in Colombia, a new edition of the Spanish online training on *Water Footprint ISO 14.046* is currently being delivered with 75 participants.

Online courses planned for the second half of 2019 include *Water Integrity*, *WASH Climate Resilience*, *Water Funds*, *Solar-Powered Water Systems* and *Sustainable Water Governance*.

Training materials presently being updated include those on *Water Pollution Management* and *Drought Risk Management*. For the future, training packages are also contemplated to accompany the WWDRs produced by UN-Water.

Project Output 4: Innovative and scalable solutions to ocean challenges identified and supported

The Ocean Innovation Facility/Challenge (OIF/C) has already been given its necessary start-up financing for a first year of 'proof of concept' from the Government of Sweden. The start-up requires formalization into a project [component] and the provision of necessary personnel resources. An Ocean Advisor⁴ will lead the implementation of the Challenge. Initial steps have been taken towards collaborating / information exchange with the complementary and much larger [PROBLUE](#) initiative of the World Bank.

Way Forward

The most imminent future step for the project is to formalize its amendment to fully comprise support to freshwater, coastal and marine resources governance. This will constitute the formal ground for the Ocean Advisor recruitment and the launch of the Ocean Innovation Challenge.

Ongoing and future endeavours of the project will be presented during the last week of August at the World Water Week (WWW) in Stockholm. The WWW will also be the locus of the first meeting of the project's Technical Advisory Group (face-to-face meeting scheduled for 29 August).

Project web-sites and platforms are being revamped or transferred to new providers during the coming months. This is the moment to develop project-specific visibility and communications guidelines to ensure efficiency and consistency in outreach.

Since the expanded focus of the project has not been accompanied by a commensurate addition of resources; the highest priority going forward will be continued and intensified resources mobilization to cover shortfalls in coming years.

⁴ Terms of reference have been drafted and the position will be advertised as soon as the amendments to this project are approved.

