Brief Progress Update
(August-2019)

Global Water and Ocean Governance Support Programme

Start Date: 1 January 2019   [as Global Water Governance Support Programme]

End Date: 31 December 2023   [as part of Sida-UNDP Strategic Collaboration Framework on Environment and Climate Change]

Introduction
The Global Water and Ocean Governance Programme aims to contribute meaningfully to SDG 6 on water management and sanitation and SDG 14 on conservation and sustainable use of marine resources; along with poverty reduction (especially 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).   Building on UNDP's Water and Ocean Governance Programme's pursuits and theory of change, the Global Water and Ocean 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.   The [recently amended/expanded] 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 progress update briefly outlines starting-up activities and highlights initial achievements and plans of the four components.

Inception – Project Start-Up

The Global Water Governance Support Programme,[1] starting in January 2019, builds on a number of existing mechanisms and ongoing efforts benefitting from a long-standing support by the Swedish Government to UNDP's Water and Ocean Governance Programme.[2] During the first months of [new] project implementation; responsible parties were 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 the UNDP Cap-Net endeavours towards capacity development, and
- the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) for the [continued] 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, and several other punctual local/national level support efforts are being discussed.

Initial 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:

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[1] Initiated as Global Water Governance Support Programme but presently expanded to Global Water and Ocean Governance Programme, expanding to include ocean/marine governance thought leadership and the new Ocean Innovation Facility mechanism.

[2] 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.

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 working together and delivering 'as one,' most knowledge management and thought leadership efforts are in relation to UN-Water endeavours [and increasingly potentially also with UN-Oceans].

One UN-Water flagship product is the annual UN World Water Development Report (WWDR). UNDP led the chapter on *Water Governance for Resilience to Climate Change* in the 2020 WWDR on *Water and Climate Change,* with support from WGF. In the 2019 WWDR entitled *Leaving No One Behind*, UNDP, with WGF support, led the chapter on *Political, legal and institutional dimensions* and contributed to several other chapters.

In support of coordinated action on the ground UNDP is co-leading (together with UNICEF) a UN-Water Task Force on Country-Level Engagement. The task force has developed a joint UN-Water 'offer' to help UN Country Teams in assisting countries achievement of SDG6 and the 2030 Agenda. This will be disseminated to Country Teams and Resident Coordinators in collaboration with UN Development Coordination Office.

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, and also inserted a question on the inclusion of vulnerable groups.

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 contributed to a BMZ-supported Marine Litter Prevention review, and has 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 over 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. During 2019, the national/local level support has been thematically reoriented towards water resources, marine and coastal management. The new signature programme, entitled **GoAL-Waters**, applies the 'source-to-sea' perspective through the governance support approach developed by its predecessor programme of GoAL WaSH.[3] The thematic scope and ambitions of the **GoAL-Waters** programme is outlined in a programme [flyer](#).

New GoAL-Waters activities have been initiated so far in four countries.[4] These 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, Cambodia, Chad, Laos, Somalia and other countries. Ways to help initiate work SDG6 support by way of IWRM diagnostics and monitoring are explored with UN Environment and the GWP. One-off short-term support to specific activities are in this way to serve as potential entry point to long-term governance reform.

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](#).

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[3] In previous phases, support was thematically oriented towards water supply and sanitation under the UNDP [GoAL WaSH](#) signature programme, whose achievements have been summarised in a brochure on [Supporting Water Governance at Country Level](#).
[4] These build on previous relations generated through the predecessor GoAL WaSH programme.

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 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 being delivered.

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 (OIF) has been given its necessary start-up financing for a 'proof of concept,' and is now formalized into a dedicated project component part of the present [amended/expanded]. The first call (or 'challenge') of the OIF is to be organized and advertised in the coming months and will draw extensively on the preparatory process leading up to the next Ocean Conference to be held in Portugal in June 2020.

The concrete work involves the publication and reaching out[5] with the launch itself, to gather new, innovative and scalable solutions to ocean challenges, to be followed by a review and award of seed funding to the most promising solutions. (Final review rounds anticipated to draw on [parts of] the Technical Advisory Group.)

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[5] The challenge will be launched through the dedicated OIF home page (oceaninnovationfacility.org – to be launched) and the existing Ocean Action Hub (OceanActionHub.org)

In due time, an Ocean Advisor under recruitment[6] will lead the implementation of the OIF and contribute to the water/ocean thought leadership and technical assistance to country level ocean/water governance reform.

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. The ensuing step on project formalities will be to start rolling over into the 'joint' project document embracing the Sida-UNDP Strategic Collaboration Framework on Environment and Climate Change.[7]

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

Great emphasis will be given to the swift start-up / implementation of the OIF (component 4), and towards the strategic (and initially short-term) programming of support to local/national governance efforts (component 2).

Finally, the expanded focus of the project requires additional resources to keep its momentum. Hence, additional resources mobilization needs continued and intensified priority to cover shortfalls in coming years.

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

[7] The water/ocean work is envisaged to constitute one thematic area in a project embracing also biodiversity/ecosystems/natural capital, climate action, and sustainable food systems.