

TITLE: **Monthly Report - GWP South Asia**

REV. NO.: **0**

DURATION: **February 2011**

REGION: **South Asia**

MEMBER COUNTRIES: **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka**

SUBMITTED BY: **Global Water Partnership – South Asia (GWP–SAS)**

SUBMISSION DATE: **7th March 2011**

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PART 1: REPORT BY GWP-SAS REGIONAL OFFICE

1. The GWP SAS Regional Office was actively involved in the organising of the GWP TEC - IWMI Workshop on Climate Change, Food and Water Security held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on the 24th and 25th of February 2011. This workshop attended by 75 - 80 regional and global experts and participants had over 30 presentations on related aspects and issues. Mr. Naseer Gillani, Chair, Pakistan Water Partnership made a presentation on Flood and Drought Synergies while Dr. Azharul Haq, Regional Council Member made a presentation on Ground Water Quality – Arsenic Contamination in Bangladesh. Chair, GWP South Asia, Mr. Sardar Muhammad Tariq chaired the session on Using the IWRM Approach in South Asia. Among others, the workshop accepted the need for the establishment of a platform as a way forward to enable institutional and individual expert interaction on Climate Change, Food and Water Security issues and concluded that GWP South Asia Network should lead this effort.



2. Chair, GWP SAS and the Regional Coordinator participated at a session of GWP TEC on invitation on the 23rd of February and made a presentation on the GWP South Asia achievements and its anticipated role in the proposed virtual platform to service issues of Climate Change, Food and Water Security to be established for the region.
3. GWP SAS also made a presentation to GWP Executive Secretary, Head of Network Operations, GWPO and the Network Officer for the region on the activities undertaken by the Regional Office since its establishment at IWMI in January 2010 on the 21st of February at IWMI. A report on the implementation of GWP SAS Learning Review 2005 prepared by GWP SAS was also discussed.
4. A new Regional Coordinator for GWP South Asia was recruited in February and will take up appointment from 1st May 2011. Mr K. A. U. S. Imbulana, the selected applicant is currently the Additional Secretary to the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources and has operational and policy level experience of over 25 years in the water sector, including a period as a Research Officer at IWMI. He is a Chartered Engineer and holds a Master's Degree in Irrigation Engineering from the Utah State University in USA.

PART 2: REPORT BY BANGLADESH WATER PARTNERSHIP (BWP)

1. Participation in Workshop on Developing Innovative Approaches for Management of Major Irrigation Systems:

On 2 February 2011, Mr. Shahidul Hassan, President, BWP and Dr. K. Azharul Haq participated in a workshop titled "Innovative Management of Major Irrigation Schemes" a TA Project funded by the ADB. Mr. Nurul Islam, the Team Leader of the TA Project is also an EC Member of the BWP. Dr. Madar Samad from IWMI also participated in the workshop and presented a paper on the "International Perspective on Irrigation Management". Representatives from the ADB including Ms. Yasmin Siddiqi also spoke in the inaugural session. The Honourable Ministers for Agriculture, Water Resources and the Honourable State Minister for Water Resources was present in the inaugural session as Chief and Special Guests respectively. Mr. Shaikh Md. Wahiduzzaman, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources chaired the session. The TA project was implemented by the Bangladesh Water Development Board.

The keynote paper "Challenges Faced in Management of Major Irrigation Systems" was presented by Mr. Abdul Latif Mia, the Project Director from BWDB. Five designated panellists from home and abroad commented on the presentation. From workshop presentations and discussion from the panellists and the floor, involvement of the private sector was considered as a viable option. It was also recommended for pilot testing.

It may be mentioned here that the proposed GWP-ADB collaboration in Bangladesh will be a follow up of this project. Dr. K. Azharul Haq had a discussion with Ms. Yasmin Siddiqi of ADB on the status of GWP-ADB collaboration. Ms. Siddiqi informed that this was moving in the right direction and the collaboration is expected to be finalized in the next few months.

2. Participation in Audit Report:

BWP staff assisted the Auditors to finalize the Audit Report for the year 2010 and forwarded to GWP-SAS regional office in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Ms. Reba Paul, consultant to BWP provided valuable assistance.

3. Participation in BAWiN Meeting:

BWP is a founding member of the Bangladesh Water Integrity Network. Mr. Shahidul Hassan, President, BWP, Prof. Moniruzzam Mia, Vice-President, BWP and Dr. K. Azharul Haq, EC Member, BWP and Ms. Reba Paul, Consultant, BWP attended a meeting of BAWiN on 10th February 2011. The meeting discussed the possibility of holding a program on the occasion of the World Water Day and BWP agreed to participate. It was also decided that as there will be many other programs on the World Water Day, BAWiN event will be held during the later part of the 4th week of March.

4. Halda River AWP dissemination workshop on IWRM principles and importance of those for future water security:

A two part program to create awareness among the people of Halda River Basin was implemented by Halda River Area Water Partnership and NOWZUAN, a local NGO. The Part I of the program was held at a place called Madhuna Ghat on 20th February 2011. 50 Participants from different stakeholder groups such as fishermen, businessmen, students, journalists, government officers and NGOs participated in the discussion meeting to create awareness about the importance of saving the Halda River from pollution, encroachment, etc. and to impress upon the environmental and economic importance of Halda River. Mr. Kazi Md. Shafiul Alam, Director, Family Planning was present as the Chief Guest and NOWZUAN Chief Executive, Mr. M. H. Choudhury coordinated the program. The Chief Guest indicated that the Halda River is a valuable resource of the country and government and non government organizations, civil societies, stakeholders, all should join together and help protect the river and its surrounding environment. Other speakers included Mr. Keshob Kumar Barua, President of the local press club and President of Raozan Fisheries Society. The speakers echoed the sentiment of the Chief Guest and emphasized the eco-friendly use of the immense opportunities offered by the Halda River.

Part II of the program was to create awareness through Folk Songs and Poetry presented by renowned local Kabial (Rural Poet) Mr. Md. Abu Yusuf and his team. This program was staged on 20th February 2011 which was presided over by Ms. Sazeda Choudhury, Vice-Chairman of Raozan Upazilla. Mr. Zakir Hossain, Team Leader of Halda project and Mr. Md. Elias, President of Halda Raksha (save) Committee were also present. The Kabial and his team presented the glorious past of the river and called for the revitalization of the river through their songs and poetry. The large gathering attending the function went away with the message that for their economic and social wellbeing, it was extremely important to protect

the river from degradation. It may be mentioned here that such “Kabials” are extensively used in rural Bangladesh as messengers of public awareness programs and they are being effectively used in family planning and HIV-AIDS prevention programs.

5. Climate Change, Food and Water Security Workshop:

Professor Ansarul Karim, Mr. Giashuddin Choudhury, EC Member and Dr. K. Azharul Haq, participated in the workshop held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on February 24th and 25th, 2011. The workshop was jointly organized by GWP-TEC and IWMI. Dr. K. Azharul Haq presented a paper titled “Groundwater Quality-Arsenic Contamination in Bangladesh: A Threat to Water - Food Security and Livelihood”. Around 75 - 80 participants from the region, national and international agencies participated in the workshop.

The principal objective of the workshop was **to bring together professionals and experts in the region to identify the current stage of knowledge related to climate change, food and water security and establish and operationalize a long term platform of professionals to deal with the South Asian Climate Change, Food and Water Security.**

In the final session of the workshop on behalf of GWP-SAS, Dr. Haq, announced the launching of the Regional Program on Integrated Drought Management. This was chosen as all the counties in the region suffers from this natural calamity almost every year though the duration and intensity varies from country to country and from region to region within the countries. Launching of this regional program was decided at a dinner meeting of the GWP-SAS region which was presided over by Regional Chair Mr. Md. Sardar Tariq on 24th February 2011.

6. GWP - ADB Collaborative Work:

A lunch meeting of participants from the countries expected to be involved in the proposed collaborative work between GWP and ADB, and GWP officials was held at the IWMI cafeteria to discuss the status of the collaborative work. Ms. Mercy Dikito-Wachtmeister appraised the development and indicated that negotiation with the ADB was on track and there is all possibility that the work will start in September 2011 in countries proposed for Phase I.

PART 3: REPORT BY BHUTAN WATER PARTNERSHIP (BhWP)

No report submitted due to discontinuation of work in the month of February, owing to current ongoing institutional changes within the BhWP.

PART 4: REPORT BY INDIA WATER PARTNERSHIP (IWP)

1. Wainganga Integrated River Basin Management Master Planning:

- 1.1. Working on community driven IWRM, capacity building and network strengthening, the West Zone Water Partnership through its coordinating agency, Gomukh Trust, Pune is now moving into the second phase of the IWRM Master Planning process for Wainganga river basin. The objectives for this phase include data collection and analysis, and project identification.
- 1.2. Accordingly, four visits were organised during February, 2011; namely to Nagpur (the project site), Gadchiroli, Bhandara and to Aurangabad (Head Office, Godavari Valley Development Corporation) to collect secondary data on planning variables like hydrological data, socio-economic conditions, meteorological data, etc. of the Wainganga river basin. Constant communications by field teams with various government departments like the Groundwater Survey and Development Agency (GSDA), etc. is under progress.
- 1.3. The Nagpur visit on 10th February 2011 was coordinated with a seminar on 'Traditional Water Resource Management' held by an organization called 'Sinchan Sahyog'. Few members of the West Zone Water Partnership made their presentations at the seminar. It also proved as a platform for discussing the Wainganga Master Planning process. After the seminar, data was collected from some of the regional Government Departments including the Water Resources Department, Forest Survey of India, Agriculture Department, Fisheries Department, Department of Soil and Land Use Survey and the Geological Survey of India.

A meeting was organised with the members of the Cultural Group at Pauni District. The group submitted their proposal for primary data collection, objectives for identification and development of pilgrimage sites along the river, etc. During the visit to Bhandara on 11th February 2011, a brief discussion was organised with the Urban Heritage and Tourism Group in Bhandara District. Their work in the past two months was reviewed. The proposal sent by the group was discussed and some changes were suggested. Both the groups have decided to submit their preliminary report by the 15th of March 2011, and will be included in the Monthly Report for March. While visiting Aurangabad, the field team was in constant communication with the Aurangabad Office of the Godavari Valley Development Corporation for procuring Hydrological data. On the 22nd and 23rd of February, the data along with toposheets of the project region were also acquired from the Department. Efforts to collect some primary data will also be made through the agency of the "Abhyas Gat" (Study Groups) established in the project region. Analysis of available data will continue in the month of March 2011.



Meeting with members of Abhyas Gat regarding data collection



Another meeting with Abhyas Gat regarding data collection

2. Participation of Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, IWP in a Conference on “Transforming Municipal & Industrial Water Landscape” on the 12th of February 2011 in New Delhi:

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized a two day conference on “**Transforming Municipal & Industrial Water Landscape**” in New Delhi on the 11th & 12th of February 2011. This two day conference has showcased all the latest advancements in the municipal and industrial sectors. In the CEO’s Meet on Water organized on the 11th of February 2011, Mr. Suresh Prabhu, GWP Ambassador, participated as a panellist and expressed his views on issues & challenges in transforming the municipal

and industrial water landscape. Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, IWP participated in the technical sessions on Water Purification Technologies and Innovative Saving Products in Domestic, Municipal & Agriculture sectors on the 12th of February, 2011. GWP-India partner organizations like Jain Irrigations and Sulabh International & Social Reforms also participated and shared their views and experiences with national and international participants. Mr. Vincent H. Pala, Honourable Minister of State for Water Resources, Government of India was the Chief Guest during the conference. Mr. Dhruv Vijai Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India and Mr. Arjun Thapan, Special Senior Advisor (Infrastructure & Water), ADB were the eminent persons present at the Conference.

3. Review of New Water Policy of Rajasthan for Better Implementation:

During 2010, IWP with the support of its Northern Zone Water Partner, Centre for Environment & Sustainable Development, Jaipur (CEDSJ), Rajasthan organized two workshops, one each in the Western Arid Region and the Sub-Humid Southern Plains & Aravalli Region of Rajasthan for the capacity building of NGOs involved in the implementation of the New State Water Policy.

In January & February, 2011, IWP had done an extensive review of the New Water Policy. In the New State Water Policy, the major emphasis is on two things; the IWRM approach, and the efficient working of Water User Groups (WUG). Both these factors have their inherent limitations / weaknesses. IWRM concept and principles are widely debated and its success in Indian conditions is questionable on many counts. Yet if committed efforts are being made, things can be different. The other point is about the WUGs. This too requires a lot of effort on the part of the State and the people. Whether the WUGs will be a legal entity with powers to own and manage village water resources and what its relationship will be with the Panchayat, are pertinent questions to be clarified for its effective implementation. NGOs can play a very significant role in the successful formation and functioning of these groups. NGOs have the strength in peoples' mobilization but lack in policy analysis and understanding of IWRM. Therefore, there is a strong need to build the capacity of all stakeholders, i.e., NGOs, People and PRIs, WUGs, Administrative Officers, etc. as envisaged in the policy, that community based capacity building will include training of WUGs and other community based stakeholders associated with the water sector. This task is impossible without the support of the NGOs in the state. Unfortunately, the policy lacks clear guidelines on the role of NGOs and their capacity building. Wider involvement of stakeholders and public debate was lacking in the process of policy formulation. This resulted in the lack of awareness and understanding about the policy and its implications. It is surprising that even the people's representatives and NGOs are unaware of the water policy document.

After the review, IWP has come to the conclusion that it is very important and necessary to further enhance the capacity of other NGOs, Panchayati Raj Institution members, farmers, WUGs and the block / administrative officers of the State Government who are the key stakeholders in planning, implementation and administration of the water resources projects and implementation of IWRM. To build capacity of these stakeholders, India Water Partnership in association with its partner organization Jheel Sanskaran Samiti (Lake Conservation Society) would organize three workshops during March / April, May and July 2011. For this purpose, separate manuals for three different levels of stakeholders along with suggestive and reference documents would be prepared. The workshops would be given wide publicity through media coverage so that the outcome can reach millions of people.

PART 5: REPORT BY NEPAL WATER PARTNERSHIP (NWP)

1. 11th Annual General Meeting:

The Eleventh Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Nepal Water Partnership / JVS was held at Hotel Himalaya in Lalitpur on 4th February 2011 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Iswer Raj Onta. The institutional and individual partners of NWP / JVS and invited experts on different water related areas participated in the meeting. The Annual Report - 2010 of NWP / JVS was presented by Mr. Surya Nath Upadhyay at the meeting.



2. Release of Book on Climate Change:

A book titled "Climate Change Trends and Instances of Socio-Economic Efforts in Nepal" written by Dr. Keshav Prasad Sharma, Deputy Director General, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology was released by Dr. Tirtha Bahadur Shrestha, a noted Senior Ecologist and Life Member, Nepal Academy, on the 4th of February 2011 in Lalitpur. The book was published (five hundred copies) by NWP / JVS. The book launching ceremony was largely attended by NWP / JVS Members, Researchers, Academics, Media Persons, etc.



3. Participation in the South Asian Regional Workshop on Climate Change, Water and Food Security:

Mr. Som Nath Poudel, Vice-Chairman, Nepal Water Partnership / JVS, Dr. Keshav Prasad Sharma, Deputy Director General, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology and Mr. Shital Babu Regmee, Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Government of Nepal, participated in the South Asian Regional Workshop on 'Climate Change, Food and water Security: Identifying Critical Issues and Exploring Cooperative Strategies in an Age of Increased Risk and Uncertainty for South Asia' organized by GWP-TEC and IWMI from February 24th to February 25th in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The participants shared ideas, experiences and challenges of climate change on water and food security across the South Asian region including Nepal.

4. Relocation of Nepal Water Partnership / JVS Office:

Nepal Water Partnership / JVS office is now located at the following address:

Ratopool, Rudramati Marg,
House No. 2567, Ward No. 2,
General Post Box No. 20694,
Kathmandu, Nepal.

Phone: +977-1-4434424

Fax: +977-1-4434431

PART 6: REPORT BY PAKISTAN WATER PARTNERSHIP (PWP)

1. On direction of the Regional Chair, GWP-SAS, the Country Coordinator, PWP perceived the concept and drafted a brochure for the Fourth South Asia Water Forum (SAWAF-4), proposed to be held in Islamabad, Pakistan during September / October 2011. The SAWAF-4 is proposed to brainstorm on the issues of Climate Change, Food and Water Security, Transboundary Water Issues of the South Asia region and Integrated Drought Management. The brochure was ready for circulation but held up till financial commitments from GWP and other potential donors were to be met by the Regional Chair at the Regional Workshop on Climate Change, Food and Water Security held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on the 24th and 25th of February 2011.
2. Country Coordinator, PWP has been assigned the task of collaborating with the Ministry of Environment, Government of Pakistan, for holding the Second Pakistan Conference on Sanitation, which will be held in Islamabad on the 29th and 30th of March 2011. He will act as Conference Coordinator to monitor all processes of the conference.
3. PWP Auditor, M/s. A. F Ferguson & Company completed their audit process on the Financial Statements of PWP for the year 2010 and submitted initialled report on 15th February, which was scanned and forwarded to the Regional Coordinator, GWP-SAS on the same day and the original report was handed over to him on 24th February 2011.
4. GWP-TEC / IWMI Regional Workshop on Climate Change, Food and Water Security was attended by the Chairman and Country Coordinator, Pakistan Water Partnership in Colombo, Sri Lanka on the 24th and 25th February 2011.
5. Chairman, PWP presented a paper titled "Flood and Drought Synergies" in the Modelling of Climate Change and Policy Making session held on the 24th of February 2011. He also Co-Chaired the Groundwater Management session on 25th February 2011.
6. On request of the Regional Chair, GWP-SAS, Chairman, PWP accompanied by the Country Coordinator, PWP visited Male, Maldives from 26th to the 28th of February 2011. They had highly successful meetings with three senior officials of the Department of National Planning of the Ministry of Finance & Treasury, and Ministry of Housing & Environment and two Ministers of State for Fisheries & Agriculture and Finance & Treasury. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Maldives and the Global Water Partnership – South Asia (through Chair, PWP) was finalized and submitted for approval by the Maldives Government which would pave the way for the establishment of the Maldives Water Partnership in the coming months.

PART 7: REPORT BY SRI LANKA WATER PARTNERSHIP (SLWP)

1. The Sri Lanka Water Partnership and its partner NetWwater took a lead role in organising the Conference on Water Security and Climate Change - Challenge for South Asian Women, held on 2nd February 2011 at Hotel Galadari, Colombo. Over 60 participants including individuals from state institutions and NGOs as well as experts attended this conference. This conference was a collaborative effort of SLWP, NetWwater, Women for Water Partnership, SasiWATERS and IWMI. The First Lady of Sri Lanka, Madam Shiranthi Wickramasinghe Rajapakse was Chief Guest at this event. Prof. Mohan Munasinghe, Nobel Laureate and Founder of the Munasinghe Institute of Development, the globally renowned climate expert delivered the keynote address. Dr. Chanda Gurung Goodrich and Dr. Anjal Prakash represented SasiWATERS in Hyderabad, India while Dr. Mark Giordano made a presentation on behalf of IWMI.



2. The 2nd Programme Committee Meeting of SLWP was held on 8th February 2011 at IWMI.
3. SLWP and the National Water Supply and Drainage Board organised a Provincial SACOSAN Awareness Programme for the Central Province on 24th February 2011. This programme is linked to the overall SACOSAN programme of SLWP with culmination in April when SACOSAN will be held in Sri Lanka.