

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

REV. NO.: **0**

DURATION: **September 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 September 2011**

CONTENTS

	Page No.
Part 1: Report by GWP-SAS Regional Office	2
Part 2: Report by Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP)	3 - 5
Part 3: Report by Bhutan Water Partnership (BhWP)	No Activities
Part 4: Report by India Water Partnership (IWP)	5 - 9
Part 5: Report by Nepal Water Partnership (NWP)	9
Part 6: Report by Pakistan Water Partnership (PWP)	10 - 11
Part 7: Report by Sri Lanka Water Partnership (SLWP)	11 - 13

PART 1: REPORT BY GWP-SAS REGIONAL OFFICE

Activities and Outputs

1.The activities of Regional Office concentrated on organizing the 17th Regional Council and 5th General Assembly meetings. In September, it was finally decided that the meetings will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 28-29 November 2011. Following the General Assembly, a Round Table Dialogue on “Benefit Sharing in Hydropower Development” will be held on 29th November 2011.

2.Regional Chair, GWP SAS participated at the “International Conference on Green Economy and Sustainable Mountain Development: Opportunities and Challenges in View of Rio+20,” organized by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) with support from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 5-7 September 2011. He contributed to the “Kathmandu Declaration on Green Economy and Sustainable Mountain Development.”

3.Regional Coordinator, GWP SAS participated in the “HELP and Water and Energy Nexus: Consultative Workshop” conducted by the Department of Electricity Development, Nepal, UNESCO, and National Committee for UNESCO-IHP in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 5 -7 September 2011. He made a presentation, chaired a session and participated in a panel discussion.

4.With the contribution from India Water Partnership, a Newsline titled “Process Planning for Preparation of Integrated Water Resources Development and Management Plan (IWRD&MP) in Wainganga Sub Basin, Maharashtra” was published. This is the third Newsline for 2011.

5.Monthly report for July-August 2011 was completed and conveyed to GWP.

6.Despite the absence of a Communications Officer, the website of GWP SAS was regularly updated.

PART 2: REPORT BY BANGLADESH WATER PARTNERSHIP

1. The Third Expert Group Meeting (3EGM) on Monitoring of Investment and Results (MIR) in the Water Sector in Asia and the Pacific

The Third Expert Group Meeting (3EGM) on Monitoring of Investment and Results (MIR) in the Water Sector in Asia and the Pacific was held on 22-23 September 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in collaboration with the Global Water Partnership Southeast Asia (GWP-SEA). This 3EGM on MIR assessed progress made in water-related goals since the APWS-1. It also discussed a possible generic framework of strategies and action plans acceptable for member countries. To support this objective the 3EGM were:

- compile recent water-related development projects in Asia-Pacific countries;
- discuss and analyze development and trend of Public-Private Participation (PPP) in Asia and the Pacific countries;
- explore possibilities and alternatives of available, new and alternative innovative financing modalities for regional and national development;
- look at new emerging issues of urbanization and climate change; gaps and needs for investments;
- review existing frameworks for Monitoring Investment and Results (MIR) in agriculture, water and sanitation, as well as Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM);
- propose a possible framework of strategies and actions at the different levels; regional, sub regional, national and local levels.

The output of this EGM will also help frame the discussions in the awareness creation workshop on MIR at the Second APWS in Bangkok, 5 and 6 February 2012.

Dr. Khondaker Azharul Haq, Executive Committee Member, Bangladesh Water Partnership and RC member GWP-SAS attended on that event. He also presented a paper on “Investment Trends in IWRM in South Asia: Experiences from Bangladesh”. In his presentation, he presented the historical scenario of water sector and trend in investment in water sector of Bangladesh. He also explained how the government has introduced IWRM concepts in managing the water resources and its frame work.

2. Meeting of Bangladesh Water Integrity Network (BAWIN)

The 9th Meeting of BAWIN was held on 26th September, 2011 at TIB Conference Room. Executive Director, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) welcomed the participants and explained the objective of the meeting, which was to review the prospects of BAWIN and discuss the way forward.

He briefed the agenda of meeting which were update on funding, appointment of Secretary and status of the proposed papers for planned seminar at the launching event of BAWIN and any further activity that can be undertaken. The participants reviewed and approved the minutes of the last meeting with some correction

3. Seminar on “Water & Environmental Problems in Padma-Gorai Rivers: Role of Elected Representative from Local Government”



A Seminar on Seminar on “Water & Environmental Problems in Padma-Gorai Rivers: Role of Elected Representative from Local Government” was conducted by Gorai Area Water partnership and Folklore Research Institute Bangladesh (FRIB) with the financial assistance of Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) on 29th September, 2011 at Kustia. Mr. Babu Bonmali Bhoumik, Deputy Commissioner, Kustia district was the Chief Guest. Mr. Obaidur Rahman, Superintend Engineer, Bangladesh Water Development Board & Dr. Abdul Karim Khan, former Dean, Law Department, Islami University, Kustia were present as special guests and delivered their speech. Prof. Dr. Anwarul Karim, Executive Director, FRIB and Chairman, Gorai Area Water Partnership presided over the meeting. In the inaugural session Dr. Anwarul Karim delivered the welcome speech. M. A. Kader, Director, FRIB pointed out the objective of the seminar which were:

- Status of Water Quality of the river Gorai and its tributaries
- Develop awareness among the communities for environment pollution, health and sanitation issues
- Work closely with the local governments such as union council, municipalities, civil societies and non-govt. organizations, industries, restaurants and hotels to address the problem of waste disposal to the river or elsewhere.
- To develop a consensus with the government and local government institute to help implement the existing regulations in regard to water use and waste disposal to the river.

Prof Shafiul Islam, Geography Department, Kustia Government College presented a paper on the current situation of Gorai river and the impacts and problems arisen due to decreasing fresh water supply in the Gorai catchment. It has caused a number of hydro-morphological and environmental impacts. These include a northward penetration of salinity, increase sedimentation of rivers, deterioration in the quantity and quality of ground water, reduced surface water availability, reduced irrigation opportunity, reduction in navigation services, impacts on domestic water supply, reduced crop and fish production, declining bio-diversity in the riparian zone, the Sunderbans Forest and associated migratory species. He also recommended some measures to minimize the impacts.

Prof. Anwar Hossain, Dhaka University and Ph.D. Candidate, the University of British Columbia presented a paper on Local Governments' Performance for The Empowerment of Water Dependent Agricultural Communities in Kustia, Bangladesh". During open discussion further explanations were made by Dr. Anwarul Karim, Mr. Obaidur Rahman and Prof. Anwar Hossain. Dr. Azharul Haq, Executive Committee Member, BWP delivered the concluding remarks and vote of Thanks. Around 50 participants from government, non-government organizations, and reporters of TV channels, newspapers and journals participated in the program.

Part 3. REPORT BY INDIA WATER PARTNERSHIP

(Prepared by : Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, IWP&ManglaRai)

1. Sustainable Water Resources Management approaches to effectively address adaptation to Climate Change in villages of Jharkhand State

Supported by India Water Partnership, Action for Food Production (AFPRO), New Delhi is undertaking a small study on "Sustainable Water Resources Management approaches to effectively address adaptation to Climate Change in villages of Jharkhand State" since March, 2011 to find out community practiced water saving technologies from the villages of Jharkhand State and document best practices.

As part of the study, AFPRO organized one sensitization workshop on "Best Practices on Water Conservation and Affordable Water Saving Technologies", at Block Ichak, Hazaribagh (Jharkhand) on 28th September, 2011. The objective of the workshop was to generate awareness and sensitize the Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members, Government and NGO Officials, and community members. Around 40 participants, including members user group groups and PRI members from different villages (Simradhab, Nagri, Nano, Urukka, Darha, Dighi, Phuphandi, Simra, Barwan, Kaladuar, Jamdiha of Ichak and Churchu blocks) of Hazaribagh district participated in the workshop and were actively engaged in the discussion. Mr. Birbal Prasad, Secretary, ManavVikas, Ichak, Hazaribagh facilitated the workshop. In the welcome address, Mr. Birbal Prasad stressed for the need to adopt low cost water saving technologies to save water and better crop management. In the workshop equitable water sharing was also discussed with the participants. The technologies shared and discussed at the workshop were: (i) Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting ; (ii) System of Rice Intensification (SRI) Cultivation; (iii) Earthen Check Dams; (iv) Drip Irrigation System; (v) Gravity Flow Irrigation System; (vi) Well Irrigation; and (vii) Photovoltaic Water Pumps (PVP). Apart from the case studies, the different successful low cost water harvesting and irrigation systems, implemented by AFPRO, in different locations across the State were also discussed.



Lighting Ceremony in Progress

The next technical session on Water Management and Crop Planning was facilitated by Dr.D.K.Raghav, Scientist and Resource Person of KrishiVigyan Kendra (KVK). The main focus of this session was on selecting crops according to the availability of water. The topics following topics were discussed in this session were: (i) Importance of water conservation; (ii) Watershed development; (iii) Different water saving variety of wheat and rice; (iv) Drought tolerant crop which can be grown in Hazaribagh; (v) Water requirement of different crop; (vi) Rainwater harvesting system which can be followed in Jharkhand; (vii) Drip irrigation; (viii) Sprinkler irrigation; (ix) Selection of crop according to water availability; and (x) Mulching.



Dr.D.K.Raghav,KVK, Hazaribagh taking the Technical Session

In the post lunch session, a brief interactive session was held in which the Resource persons responded to the queries of the farmers. The farmers generally asked questions related to crop water and disease management. This was a very useful session in which the farmers learnt about proper water management, pest management and biological method of pest control for crops, as revealed by the participants.

As a part of the feedbacks session (on the relevance and success of the workshop) participants expressed their hesitation to implement water harvesting techniques like drip and sprinkler irrigation as they felt these technologies are too difficult to practice at the local conditions. However, they felt that rainwater harvesting is an important and easier technology to implement. Thus, more efforts are required to convince people regarding alternate water harvesting and water saving technologies.

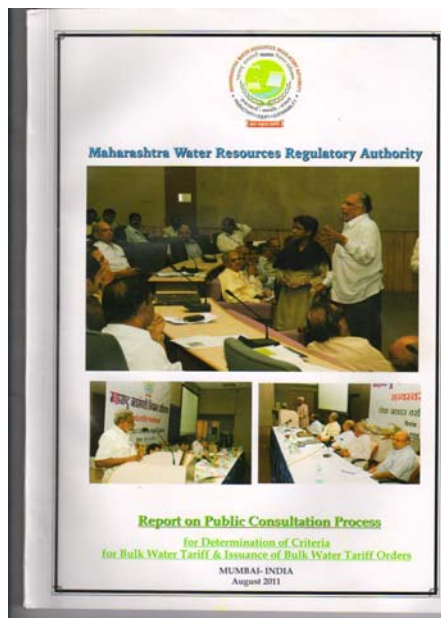
2.Consultation of Stakeholders with Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority (MWRRA)

2.1 Since the formation of the MWRRA in 2005, the Government body has been involved in two simultaneous processes; namely (i) Establishment of River Basin Organizations for preparation of plans for river basins in Maharashtra (2008 onwards) ; and (ii) Series of consultations on Bulk Water Tariffs and Water Tariff Orders (2008 onwards).

Gomukh Trust along with its partners from the West Zone Water Partnership participated in both these processes. Through WZWP's contribution in the Wainganga Integrated River Basin Management Master Planning Process, WZWP is also involved the process of operationalizing the Godavari River Basin Agency. Apart from this, WZWP has also been an active participant in the 'Public Consultation Process for Determination of Criteria for Bulk Water Tariff and Issuance of Bulk Water Tariff Orders'. Since 2010 onwards, a process on continuous formal and informal correspondence and meetings were conducted between MWRRA and members of the WZWP including SOPPECOM (Pune), PRAYAS (Pune), Dharamita (Wardha), Gomukh Trust and representatives of stakeholders from the Wainganga river basin. The result of the discussions and suggestion-objections process was published in August 2011 by the MWRRA to translate and simplify this report for distribution to the stakeholders River Basin and the Water Users' Associations which would be the ultimate beneficiary of this process. Secretary, MWRRA has sent an appreciation letter dated 14th September, 2011 to WZWP Coordinator, Prof. Vijay Paranjpye acknowledging his efforts and contributions.



Copy of Appreciation Letter



Report on Public Consultation Process

2.2 Stakeholders' Workshops to Set-up a community based River Basin Organisation

Kathani River is a tributary of the Wainganga river and is the only un-intercepted sub basin in the Wainganga river basin. The river had undergone massive pollution due to the increased use of fish poisons for fisheries in the basin (2008). However, with the efforts of local NGOs and community, the water quality of the river was revived again.

In order to support and motivate the communities of the Kathani river basin, the India Water Partnership, WZWP Coordinating Agency (CA) has proposed the formation of an Area Water Partnership (AWP) in the Kathani River basin. The WZWP (CA) has been in a process of continuous formal and informal discussion with local partners such as Mr. Mohan HirabaiHiralal, DevajiTofa and Manish Rajankar for the establishment of the AWP. However they opined that since the area had tribal communities, a capacity-building process would be needed before the formation of the AWP. It was therefore decided that the first step toward the formation of the AWP would be the formation of informal study groups.

Accordingly, the study groups have been formed and are involved in the identification of projects for the development of the Kathani river basin and are working toward the preparation of a community led Kathani River Basin plan. These processes are being co-ordinated by WZWP convening partners and stakeholder groups, Vrikshamitra and BNVSAM from Gadchiroli and Bhandara respectively.

2.3 Data Analysis for the IWRDM Planning of Wainganga River Basin

During the month of September 2011, extensive analysis of the data received from various sources on the rainfall and river gauging stations in the Wainganga basin was conducted by WZWP (CA). Water demand schedules for the next thirty years were projected and water availability within the project area was determined through rigorous scientific analysis. This analysis forms the crux of the planning process, and would greatly influence the identification of projects and deciding the priorities of the final Plan.

A comprehensive base map of 1:50,000 scale was prepared for the project area, which will be used for further analysis by superimposing additional layers of information such as data on groundwater levels, flood prone areas, location of wells and traditional water structures, etc.

Motivational workshops for formation of Water Users' Associations for Participatory Irrigation Management, Fisheries Associations, etc., at specific locations identified through the analysis of these base maps, will be conducted in October and November 2011.

3. Activities undertaken by IWP supported Peoples' Area Water Partnership (PAWP)

The following activities were undertaken by PAWP in the month of September, 2011:

1. After discussions of PAWP office bears with Dhenkanal District officials, Mr. PBeura, Junior Agriculture Officer- In Charge of Kamakhyanagar Block was directed by the District Agriculture Officer to extend support to the PAWP representatives at regular intervals to carryout joint activities for crop and water management.
2. A 'KrishiPanchayat' (Agriculture Panchayat) was organized by Block Agriculture Office at KusumjodiSabhaghar on 8th September, 2011 in which PAWP members from Salpada, Anlaberani and Khatuahata villages participated in the sessions that dealt with small duration Rabi crop planning in the fields where the paddy crop was destroyed due to scanty rain during July & August, 2011.
3. A 'Dhrana' (Demonstration) was made before the Collectorate by KrishakSangharshSamiti. In the Dharna PAWP members from Shasan, Jagannathpur and Jamunakote villages located on the Southern bank of river Ramial) participated. The Dharna was made against the poor work on the Rengali Irrigation left main canal that caused a breach in August, 2011 resulting in silting of crop fields.

4. Large number of data has been collected on the industries that cause pollution of water in River Brahmani. There are about a dozen of large & medium industries on the banks (or close to) Brahmani river. The major industries are NALCO's Smelter Plant at Angul and NTPC's Thermal Plant at Kaniha. These industries burn Coal (drawn from the MCL's Talcher Coalfields) to generate thermal power for their own use. There are half a dozen upcoming plants exclusively to generate thermal power by burning coal and dumping the ash-slurry into huge ash-ponds, apart from releasing their waste directly/indirectly into Brahmani and/or its tributaries at various points. These industries also draw water in huge quantity from river Brahmani, even being defaulters of water rent/levy.

After collection and compilation of some more data by the end of October, 2011, the PAWP has planned to bring out a small booklet on waterpollution, to be shared among the PAWP members and other wateractors in the Dhenkanal district & Orissa State.

1. On 27th September, 2011 there was a meeting-cum-planning session at Kanpal-Kamagara with Local Area Water Partnership members and farmers to assess the post-flood situation and (i) to plan for early 'Rabi' crops with support & guidance from the Agriculture Department, (ii) to place demands with the Revenue Authorities to compensate the crop loss, and (iii) to press the Irrigation Officials to plan for renovation of water channels.

4. Workshop on Integrated Resource Management (IWRM)

JheelSanrakshanSamiti (JSS) with the support of India Water Partnership organized a workshop on IWRM (focusing human health hazards) on 1st September, 2011 at Udaipur, Rajasthan. In the workshop, Mr. Anil Mehta, Joint Secretary, JSS called upon the Doctors, especially the lady nurses to generate mass awareness among the people regarding water borne diseases. Mr. Mehta further said that by providing safe drinking water and community toilets, water borne diseases can be minimized by 50 %. He also said that personal hygiene and community hygiene is important for avoiding human health hazards. Mr. Mehta also told the participants that intake of unsafe or contaminated water leads to many diseases.



5. Participation of Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, IWP in Workshops/Consultations

2. Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India would be organizing "India World Water Week-2012" during April, 2012 at New Delhi. For the purpose, the Ministry has constituted an Organizing Committee comprising of 17 Government/ Non-Government organizations to help Ministry for organizing this mega event.

The Organizing Committee represents members from; Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), National Water Academy (NWA), Indian Chambers of Commerce (ICC), International Commission on Irrigation & Drainage (ICID), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industries (ASSOCHAM), The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, etc. and India Water Partnership. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) working under the Ministry is the Nodal agency.

As a member of the Organizing Committee, Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, IWP participated in the first meeting held on 6th September, 2011. In the meeting, Additional Secretary (Water

Resources) and Chairman of the Committee briefly outlined the very purpose of celebrating India World Water event on the lines of similar events celebrated at **Singapore and Stockholm**. Various members/ representatives present in the meeting gave their valuable suggestions on organization of above event, venue time, event management, hospitality, advertisement and logistics, public private partnership, international participation. In the meeting, 4 sub-committees/groups were also formed viz ; (i) Technical Committee; (ii) Exhibition Committee; (iii) Event Management Committee and (iv) Core Group.

3. Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, IWP participated in the **National Consultation on Ganga Action Plan** organized at New Delhi on 12th September, 2011 by IWP partner organization; Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development, New Delhi.

The Ganga Action Plan (GAP) is an ambitious plan to clean the River Ganga. It originated from the personal intervention and interest of the late Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi, who requested a comprehensive survey of the river in 1979. After five years, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) published two comprehensive reports, which formed the base from which the action plan to clean up the Ganga was developed.

The theme of the consultation was ***“Networking Community Groups and NGOs with Urban Local Bodies/Utilities & PRIs for effective action to prevent pollution of river Ganga”***. Dr. Veena Khanduri in her address, informed the participants about India Water Partnership’s contribution in river basin management of Maharashtra State and preparation of Integrated Water Resources Development and Management Plan (IWRD&MP) for Wainganga Sub Basin, Maharashtra by India Water Partnership’s West Zone Water Partnership Coordinating Agency.

6. Postponement of Multi-stakeholders’ Dialogue on IWRM in Context of Odisha due to Flash Floods

As reported in our July/August, 2011 report, the above multi-stakeholders’ dialogue was scheduled to be organized on 15th September, 2011. However, the same was postponed due to flash floods in Odisha. IWP East Zone Water Partnership (the organizer) is now trying to fix a new date for holding the dialogue in consultation with State Government officials and ADB officials.

Part 5. REPORT BY NEPAL WATER PARTNERSHIP

- Dr. Dibya Ratna Kansakar, the research consultant, submitted the draft report of the project entitled "The Law and Legislation on Groundwater" to GWP Nepal. The draft is under the peer review and the report is expected to be finalized by September, 2011.
- GWP Nepal/JVS appointed Dr. Khem Raj Sharma as a research consultant to "review and evaluate study works carried out in Begnas lake through the lens of IWRM" under the GWP Nepal/JVS program on Promoting River Basin Organizations for better implementation for IWRM.
- The 126th Executive Committee Meeting (ECM) of Global Water Partnership Nepal/JVS was held on 21st September, 2011 in Kathmandu. The meeting discussed programmatic and administrative issues of Global Water Partnership Nepal/JVS.

Part 6. REPORT BY PAKISTAN WATER PARTNERSHIP

1.Nara Canal and Indus Delta Area Water Partnerships are actively working to rehabilitate the affected communities of Sanghar, Badin and Thatta areas from the disastrous flood of August 2011. Other than immediate relief through food grain and medical supplies, seeds and pesticides are also being provided to the farmer communities to restore their agriculture and livelihood on sustainable grounds. Chairman PWP is visiting both AWP's himself to ensure effective relief and rehabilitation activities in the area.

2.Under the technical and financial support of PWP, the Potohar AWP, , has started implementation of the programme of "Rain Water Harvesting for Domestic Use as potable drinking water for household" in 4 areas of Union Council Narah, Rawalpindi to establish model rainwater storage tanks in September 2011. Expected completion is in October 2011.

3.International Conference on Green Economy and Sustainable Mountain Development: Opportunities and Challenges in view of Rio+20 was held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 5 – 7 September 2011 with the cooperation of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) Kathmandu, Nepal, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) wherein over 120 participants including prominent scientists, development practitioners, policy makers, civil society and private sector representatives deliberated on the role of mountains in green economy.

Mr. Naseer Ahmad Gillani, Chairman, PWP participated in the conference as Panelist in the Session titled "Role of policies for increasing water use efficiency in green economy and green growth" on first day and also acted as Panel Discussant on second day in the Session titled "Key learning, experiences, and messages from the Asia-Pacific mountain regions". He also chaired a session and contributed in the Kathmandu Declaration of the Conference.



On behalf of the Executive Secretary, Global Water Partnership, Sardar Muhammad Tariq, Regional Chair, GWP-SAS participated in this conference as panelist in the Panel Session titled "Policies for Improving Water Governance for Better Livelihoods – Managing Water for Green Economy and Green Growth". He also contributed in the Kathmandu Declaration of the Conference.

4.PWP collaborated and participated in the National Workshop on Pakistan's Preparations for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development organized by SDPI, Un One and the Rio+20 Secretariat in Islamabad on 12-13 September, 2011. Dr. Pervaiz Amir, Member PWP/ Partner GWP contributed a paper on Agriculture. Using this opportunity, PWP held a side event to promote IWRM and water saving/recycling and environmental conservation measures at ground level. In this side event, short speeches were delivered by some of the participants of the main event. PWP also distributed pamphlet, stickers and booklets containing awareness material among the participants of the workshop.



5. Chairman PWP participated in the Third Expert Group Meeting (3EGM) on Monitoring of Investment and Results (MIR) in the Water Sector in Asia and the Pacific held at UNCC Bangkok, Thailand on 22 and 23 September 2011. He presented a paper on “Trend in Investment in Agriculture and Hydropower in Pakistan” and also chaired a session.

6. PWP held online Board of Directors Meeting on 28 September 2011 to formally review and approve the PWP Work Plan 2012 and Budget 2012 for submission to the GWP-SAS Regional Office.

7. SAWTEE and Oxfam organized the South Asian Consultation on Food Justice in a Resource Constrained South Asia in Kathmandu, Nepal on 26-27 September 2011 which was attended by Dr. Pervaiz Amir, Partner GWP on behalf of GWP-SAS and PWP. He was the discussant in Session 4: Water Scarcity in South Asia— Current Situation and Opportunities to Promote More Sustainable Water Use.

8. PWP office was visited by the following partners during September 2011 to enhance collaborative efforts for imparting water awareness and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management in the country:

- i) Brig. Muhammad Aslam Khan, Partner, Mari Gas Company.
- ii) Dr. Pervaiz Amir, Director, Asianics Agro-Dev International.
- iii) Mrs. Hamida Masood Shah, President, Women Welfare Association/ Regional Council Member Pakistan.

Part 7. REPORT BY SRI LANKA WATER PARTNERSHIP

A Decision Maker Consultation on Colombo Wetlands based on a Research Activity conducted by the University of Moratuwa was held on 8th September at IWMI. Jointly organised by the University, SLRDC and SLWP it was attended by 27 participants representing the relevant stakeholders and other interests. The current situation in Kolonnawa and other Colombo wetlands, issues arising and recommendations for research and management were discussed. It was agreed that all the state stakeholders should submit an integrated joint proposal to the Wetlands Sub Committee to the basis for conservation and management. It was agreed that a knowledge network needs to operate between the technical /regulatory agencies and researchers be also opted to the Wetlands Sub Committee. A presentation to politicians to be also made for political support to help reduce land filling and mitigate environmental changes taking place in the wetlands. Recommendations will be integrated into overall natural resources and environment policy paper to be developed as a move towards IWRM.

A Media Tour and Briefing on Landslides is finalised with a view to give publicity to the new regulations and processes to be followed in constructions in declared landslide prone areas by NBRO. A field visit to rural and urban landslide areas in and around Kandy was organised for both the local print and electronic media on 30th September. A special media briefing and presentation was held in Kandy on 1st October with the Hon Governor Central Province as Chief Guest.

This event as a follow up activity to a similar media event held in 2007 in Kandy and a Workshop for officials in March 2011 in Colombo was organised by NBRO and SLWP. 15 Participants attend the field visit and 34 including 24 from the media attended the briefing on the 1st In Kandy.

The media has been a vehicle through greater depth of coverage and outreach is possible and therefore as in the case of river sand mining the feature and news articles that are generated and radio programmes would help the affected communities to be briefed and informed on the issues involved and processes to be followed under the new regulations. Dr Alice Bouman the GWP SC Member who was on visit to Sri Lanka for the international sanitation conference on 29th and 30th attended the full SLWP programme on the 1st of October. Some photos of the field visit including mitigation measures being taken and of the media briefing are attached.

The 7th Programme Committee of SLWP was held on 1st September 2011. The 2012 SLWP Work Plan and Budget was Approved by the PC and submitted to the Regional Office GWP South Asia.

The 8th Programme Committee Meeting is scheduled for 27th at IWMI.

Chair SLWP attended the NSC Meeting of SACOSAN convened by NWSDB on 7th September.

Chair SLWP and Alternate RC member met with the Principal Ladies College on the 10th September with a view to collaborating on a school sanitation activity under the SLWP *Sisu Jala Hamuwa* Programme of SLWP in Colombo.



Mitigation at Landslide Site



Explaining to the Media



At Media Briefing at 1st October