GROUNDWATER GOVERNANCE: A Global Framework for Country Action

THE REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

Concept Model

1. Regional Consultations and Diagnosis:

The regional consultation will be fundamental to:
   1- Build agreed definitions of groundwater governance
   2- Learn lessons from representative set of regional case studies.
   3- Compile a diagnostic report
   4- Compile a Framework of Action (FA)
   5- Mainstream viable groundwater management practice in GEF Programs
   6- Inform the UNESCO IHP Intergovernmental Council

The project Steering Committee came in the agreement to use the UNESCO-IHP networks to prepare and host the regional consultations. It was considered that the involvement of the intergovernmental constituency to channel the key messages and outputs of this project would be essential for eventual uptake of the FA. It was agreed that the UNESCO-IHP programme would offer the most inclusive platform for the regional consultations and would therefore support a broad intergovernmental process through its IHP regional mechanisms. For that reason the UNESCO-IHP network will facilitate and support the regional consultations, with the technical collaboration of IAH.

1a. Outcome

The results of the regional consultations will contribute to the finalization of thematic papers, the preparation of a Global Groundwater Diagnostic that will projected globally by mainstreaming viable groundwater management practice in GEF Programs and projects and across focal areas. As a result from the regional consultations and the global diagnostic, it will be possible to draw a list of recommendations that will be compiled in a Framework of Action (FA) document.

This will be presented by the project team (FAO-UNESCO-IAH-WB) at the dedicated GEF conference for the project. The FA will be also presented at the Intergovernmental Council of the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (IHP) at its session in July 2014 with the call to all member stated to consider it and take appropriate actions. Moreover, when possible the project
recommendations will be implemented through the IHP Programme Groundwater Component in cooperation with the IHP partners.

2. Organization of Regional and a Private Sector Consultation

The consultation process (Table A) will consist of:
I. Five regional consultations (UNESCO-IHP regional mechanism) through which groundwater issues emerging from the Case Studies and Thematic Papers will contribute to prepare a Global Groundwater Diagnostic, and a Framework for Action and
II. One event dedicated to the private sector, aimed at exploring opportunities for partnerships, information sharing, and support.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional Consultation</th>
<th>IHP – Regional Focal Point</th>
<th>Invited Regional Organization</th>
<th>Provisional Timing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>IHP LAC Montevideo office</td>
<td>OAS</td>
<td>1st Regional Consultation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Host Country Uruguay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>18-20 April 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Host Country Kenya</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arab Countries</td>
<td>IHP Amman and UNESCO office</td>
<td>UNESCWA</td>
<td>8 - 10 October 2012</td>
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<td>Host Country Jordan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asia (East/South East)</td>
<td>IHP Asia Beijing - UNESCO offices</td>
<td>UNESCAP</td>
<td>December 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Host country China</td>
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<tr>
<td>Europe (including SEE Central Asia)</td>
<td>IHP Europe</td>
<td>UNECE</td>
<td>1st quarter 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>+ Private Sector</td>
<td></td>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Host country Netherlands</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Table A. Regional Consultations
The last regional consultations for Europe could be organized back to back with the Private Sector Consultation

The regional consultations will be organized with the contribution of the UNESCO-International Hydrological Programme (IHP) through its regional networks. Support will be provided by the FAO and UNESCO-IHP Regional Offices (including UNESCO Category 2 centres and chairs and the UNESCO-IHP National Committees) and regional partner agencies, with technical support from the IAH Regional Vice Presidents, in association with recognized groundwater centres and related institutions in the corresponding region, and would each involve representatives of responsible governments officials (water, environment, finance, agriculture etc.), stakeholder interests and regional specialists, together with members of the Project Team and related GEF projects in the region will be also invited.

The regional consultations will be designed to acquire first-hand knowledge of regional issues from governments, local groundwater experts, resource managers and stakeholders at all levels. Several thematic papers are in preparation (list attached from the Briefing note) and their first outline will be presented at the project inception meeting on 6-7 September 2011 in Paris. The mainly results of the thematic papers will be then presented at the regional consultations, revised and provided by the project expert network and the contribution of the results of the regional consultations in order to capture the regional specific characteristics, challenges and priorities.

**Actions expected at the Regional Consultations:**

1. Take stock from lessons learnt in the regions;
2. Raise awareness and promote the global groundwater agenda;
3. Allow multi-sectoral role players to engage on groundwater issues.
4. Discuss issues that arise from the regional specific characteristics, challenges and priorities in order to using case studies prepared by the national experts to contribute to prepare the Global Groundwater Diagnostic;
5. Strengthen national and regional participation and foster contribution to the project results;
6. Strengthen ownership of the Framework of Action (FA) throughout different regions;
7. Build partnerships among the collaborating project agencies, cross-sectoral stakeholders, decision-makers and specialists.

These consultations will be held on a regional geographic basis and their agenda will include focus around key regional groundwater and aquifers characteristics with the emphasis put on a given theme varying by region.

In addition to the regional consultation process described above, the project will convene a Private Sector Roundtable, with the participation of representatives from the Oil Industry (exploration, drilling, geophysics, reservoir engineering, re-injection and storage), from the Geothermal Industry (low and high enthalpy resources exploration and exploitation), and the bottled water and soft
drinks industry (DANONE, Nestle’, Coca Cola, etc.). Purpose of the Roundtable will be to explore opportunities for collaboration in defining key messages, disseminating the Framework of Action (FA), sharing information.

The outcomes of each consultation event will be captured in a specific report that will be used for preparing the Global Diagnostic Report and the Framework of Action (FA). A Communication Team that together with Partner Agencies will define the communication strategy including communication approach and media mix to be adopted will support project management. This will be particularly a support of the Private Sector Roundtable.

3. The list of the Thematic Papers:

IAH:
2. Conjunctive use and management of groundwater and surface water.
3. Urban-rural tensions; opportunities for co-management.

UNESCO:
5. Groundwater Policy and Governance
6. Legal frameworks for groundwater governance

FAO:
7. Local groundwater management institutions/user partnerships.
8. Social adoption of groundwater pumping technology and the development of groundwater cultures.
10. Governance of the underground space – emerging uses for aquifers

4. Regional Consultations Concept model

DURATION: 3 days-programme of three days

ASSEMBLY: 60 participants

Report: One general rapporteur will secure preparation of the consultation report, he/she will be assisted by rapporteurs who will secure record of the debates and the panels in plenary sessions and working groups reports.

A. Main Partners:

a. Ministry of the country hosting the consultation and providing organisational support and cooperating in the preparation of the programme of the event (Ministry of Environment or Water Resources or Water related – the involvement of Ministry of Agriculture needed for each one of the regional consultations).
b. Main regional intergovernmental organizations

c. Main regional and national research institutes

B. Methodology:

First day:

**Plenary**

i. Presentation of the project objective by Project Team and Framework of Action (FA);

ii. Presentation of concepts on groundwater governance and thematic papers:

iii. Key note presentations and

iv. Panels debate.

Second day:

**Plenary**

i. Presentation from regional and national representatives of cases studies on specific regional characteristics of national and regional groundwater governance;

ii. Discussions in plenary debates.

iii. Rapporteurs compiling Note

Third day:

**Morning session: Working groups on thematic issues:**

2. Legal and institutional frameworks and recommendations for the Framework of Action (FA)
3. Studies and research – gaps, challenges and priorities- Aquifers characteristics and specific governance requirements - and recommendations for the Framework of Action (FA)
4. Capacity and education needs for good groundwater governance and recommendations for the Framework of Action (FA)
5. Economics of the invisible resource and recommendations for the Framework of Action (FA)

- **Meeting of rapporteurs to coordinate:**

**Afternoon session: Plenary**

- Presentation by rapporteurs of working group and recommendations:
- Wrap up and Conclusion:
- Press conference:
C. Target Audience:

- Regional governmental representatives
- Regional economic commissions
- Regional development banks
- UNESCO-IHP network (IHP national commission – centres – chairs)
- FAO Offices
- IAH regional President and network
- Regional academy and researchers
- Users associations
- Regulatory associations
- Private sector
- Professional regional associations
- NGOs
- Civil society – local level
- Media