

# Multi Stakeholder Partnerships for Knowledge Sharing - GWP experience

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Expert Group: sharing knowledge and expertise to  
support the SDGs

16 June 2015

# Multi-stakeholder partnerships - the new norm?

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Dynamic, participatory, complement formal systems.

Build trust and confidence between different actors.

Facilitate more distributed governance and open communication - the world is shrinking.

Provide collective action to manage complex social and behavioural change.

Create an “enabling environment” for action and investment.

# Challenges

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Measuring achievements - hard to attribute intangibles

Project tyranny - formalising the informal

Bureaucracy and Governance - legitimacy at a cost

Fragility - trust easily lost

Capture - dominant stakeholders

Sustainability - managing funds, fickle donors

Fear of failure - safety trumps innovation

# Examples: partnerships for Knowledge and capacity





13 Regional Water Partnerships

80 Country Water Partnerships



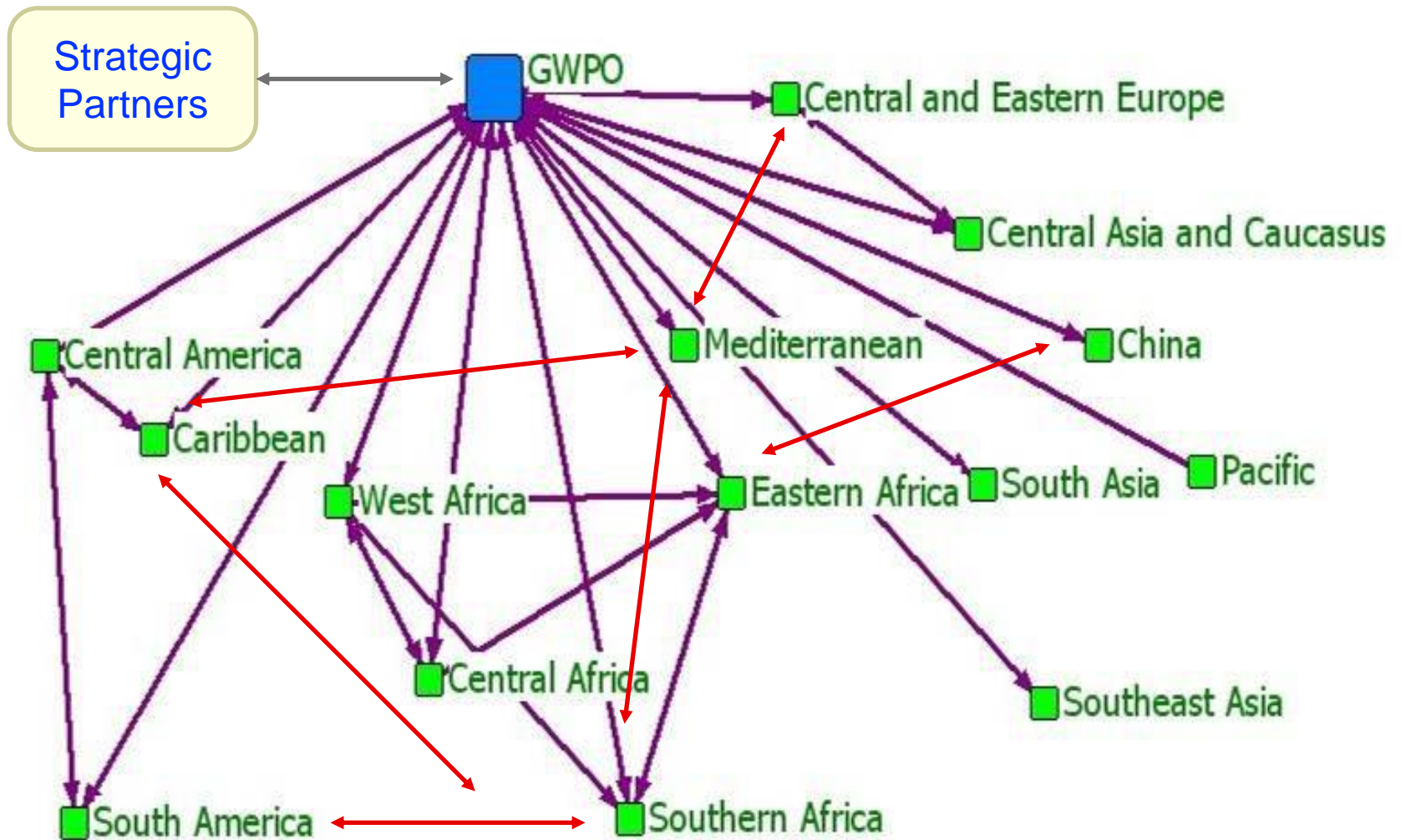
# Knowledge product

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## **ToolBox on water resources management:**

- Free, open database of 'tools' available online in 4 languages (plus local versions in local languages)
- Includes: Conceptual papers, Policy briefs, Technical briefs, Guidelines, Case studies, References and Links.
- Used for teaching/training at universities, training institutes, workshops, planning etc
- Partners contribute material.

# Partnership interaction



# Country Partnerships in practice

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Water Climate and Development in Africa.

**Aim:** to help countries put in place adaptation measures to improve climate resilience.

**Countries:** Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Ghana, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tunisia, Zimbabwe

**Partners:** UNDP, GEF, AfDB, AMCOW, SADC

**Work packages:**

- Regional cooperation and national development planning,
- Project preparation for 'no regrets' investment (implementing knowledge),
- Partnership capacity and sustainability.

**Lessons:** Structure critical - link planning to practical capacity on projects and investments



# Policy partnership for knowledge

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## **GWP and OECD partnership:**

Global Dialogue on Economics of Water Security:

- Task force of 14 leading academics, researchers and practitioners from 10 countries.
- Stakeholder dialogues in 40 countries - government, civil society, private sector.

## **Outcomes:**

- Provided through UN-Water country voices to the OWG.
- Policy Statement and Major report giving economic evidence-base for “Securing Water, Sustaining Growth”.

**Lessons:** added value from a clear focus and link to a political process

# Challenges: SDG Implementation

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Partnerships, Knowledge and Capacity are a key part of SDG 17 on means of implementation, but:

- Need to shift mentality from 'lobbying' to application
- Partnerships must avoid slowing down action
- Shift knowledge away from the abstract or theoretical, avoid new jargon/paradigms etc
- Ensure capacity development is practical. (e.g. capacity to prepare projects for investment)
- Build capacity in-country, avoid promoting skills drain <sup>10</sup>  
to the north