

World Water Quality Alliance – Work Plan 2019 -2020

The United Nations Environment Programme which provides for the Alliance Coordination in collaboration with the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC) hosted the Second Global Workshop of the World Water Quality Alliance (WWQA) in Ispra, Italy (16-18 Sep. 2019). Following the inception meeting of the WWQ Assessment in November 2018, which established a community of practice (the Alliance) with the strong desire to raise the global profile of ambient freshwater quality, this meeting set out to substantiate the various work flows such as thematic commitments, expert groups, the baseline World Water Quality Assessment and the Alliance’s general working structure and principles. These commitments and proposed milestones will be subject to targeted follow up and can be found in summary in the following tables:

Alliance: Strategic and Technical Advisory Committees, Declaration, next Global Meeting

OCT 2019	WWQA Secretariat facilitates the election of the Strategic and the Technical Advisory Committees by sending out the ballot papers with nominated organizations.
JAN 2020	Secretariat announces the 6 elected members for each committee and announces the additional selected members for each committee.
Q1 2020	Secretariat to organize a first constituting meeting of the committees (remotely). Confirmation of selection and confirmation of the outcomes of the Ispra meeting.
	WWQA Declaration to be shared with partners for signing.
Q3/4 2020	Next Global Meeting (co-hosting offer received by AMCOW)

Implementing partners:

- African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW)
- UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

Africa Use Cases

NOV 2019	Social Engagement Process to be kicked off by attending relevant meetings in the areas (Cape Town, Victoria Lake, Volta Lake and Basin).
DEC 2019	Draft Use Case capacity reports including identified capacity gaps.
MAR 2020	Stakeholder information and service demands defined and documented
	Data repositories integrated & prepared for baseline assessment/product dev.
JUN 2020	Baseline assessment (including drivers, pressures, state) conducted & documented. Comparison and alignment with scalable efforts of similar focus (e.g. PRIMA – EU project Mediterranean)
	Use Case briefs and results of the baseline assessments and pilot products.
SEP/OCT 2020	Review conference with Alliance members, Use Case stakeholders and donors. Outlook report compiled and published (e.g. associated to the WWQ-Alliance Global Meeting).

Implementing partners:

- EOMAP
- Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ)
- Institute of Engineering Hydrology and Water Resources Management (Ruhr-University Bochum)
- Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology
- UMVOTO
- UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Local partners

Baseline World Water Quality Assessment, and GlobeWQ STI Platform development

NOV 2019	Project intern kick-off workshop in Leipzig, Germany
JAN/FEB/APR 2020	Meta-analysis of regional, national and global water quality modelling and Earth (Satellite) Observation programmes as well as in-situ programmes , and related databases – achieving a common work-plan for a baseline 2021 based on a triangular data assimilation approach) and a full case study illustrated assessment by 2023
JUN 2020	Initial formal specification of the GlobeWQ case studies completed (actors, priorities, demands, data, workplans, ...)
JUN 2020	Demand analysis concerning the GlobeWQ prototype platform completed

Implementing partners:

- EOMAP
- European Environment Agency; and European Topic Centre (Freshwater/Coastal/Marine)
- German Environment Agency – Umweltbundesamt (UBA)
- Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ)
- Institute of Engineering Hydrology and Water Resources Management (Ruhr-University Bochum)
- terrestris GmbH & Co. KG
- UN Environment Programme (incl. its relevant workflows, e.g. in SDG Unit linking SDG 14)
- Multiple partnering Alliance members as identified in Ispra and joining subsequently (i.e. a living partnership, incl. DELTARES, PBL, Univ. Wageningen, IIASA, EAWAG, JRC, CEH, McGill... etc.) – see hereunder for detail)

Modeling and Earth Observation; the “Magic Triangle” – a key innovation component of the World Water Quality Assessment

Q1 2020	Alliance partners working on modeling/satellite observations/in-situ data to develop an outline working proposal on data fusion and co-analysis providing for global water quality coverage.
Q1-Q3 2020	Physical meetings to take place in January 2020 in Delft and Leipzig to bring together modelers, data providers and the Earth Observation community. Subsequent technical meetings to align and harmonize workflows and archive common content and structure for UNEA demonstration in 2021
Q4 2020	Initial findings to be presented at the 5 th Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in February 2021 and provide an initial baseline assessment.

Implementing partners:

- Multiple partnering Alliance members as identified in Ispra (living partnership, incl. DELTARES, PBL, Univ. Wageningen, IIASA, EAWAG, JRC, CEH, McGill, ... etc.) Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ)
- Institute of Engineering Hydrology and Water Resources Management (Ruhr-University Bochum)
- Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL)
- Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (EAWAG)
- Africa Use Cases (see above) will feed in as much as possible

Capacity Development

Q4 2019	Completion of the series of regional workshops held by the GEMS/Water Capacity Development Centre (CDC) to assess national and regional capacity needs for water quality monitoring and assessment.
Q1 2020	Compilation of requirements, demands and criteria for a future capacity development strategy in GEMS/Water. Exploring common and complementary agendas and capacities among Alliance members to support a broader network and to prepare for a WWQA Capacity Development Consortium; the consortium shall work collectively with the GEMS/Water CDC and UNEP towards a multi-year capacity development strategy; (Incl. virtual session of partners by the Expert Group of water quality and wastewater convened by GEMS CDC and UNEP)
Q2 2020	Global report on water quality capacity development requirements (incl. SDGs) to be published by the GEMS/Water Capacity Development Centre.
Q2-Q3 2020	Physical meeting of selected consortium partners interested in engaging in capacity development to discuss the strategy and a way forward (2021).
Q3 2020	UNEP GEMS/Water CDC to trial summer schools on water quality monitoring (field work, data management, analysis and assessment)

Implementing partners:

- University College Cork (UCC) – GEMS/Water Capacity Development Centre (CDC)
- UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- International Centre for Water Resources and Global Change, at Federal Institute of Hydrology, Germany, GEMS/Water Data Centre (DC) - GEMStat
- Joint Research Centre (JRC)
- Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH)
- German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR)
- IHE-Delft
- United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH)

Ecosystems

2020	Development of a whitepaper or internal concept note on the impacts of (poor) water quality on ecosystem services.
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Implementing partners:

- IHE-Delft
- Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH)
- Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ)
- IWMI
- UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH)

Friends of Groundwater

Q4 2020	Development of a whitepaper on main issues and a potential work programme (overview of groundwater quality monitoring programmes in selected countries, socio-economic issues associated to groundwater, incorporation of findings of Africa Use Cases; foundation for a groundwater-focused proposal)
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Implementing partners:

- German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR)
- International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH)
- International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC)
- IWMI
- Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (EAWAG)
- Trinity College Dublin
- UMVOTO
- World Bank
- United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH)
- Institute of Engineering Hydrology and Water Resources Management (Ruhr-University Bochum)

Interest of future Engagement expressed:

- International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH), Commission on Groundwater Quality
- International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC)
- International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
- The World Bank (WB)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO IHP), Groundwater Systems and Settlements Section (GSS)
- Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR), Germany
- National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training (NCGRT), Australia
- Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag), Department Water Resources & Drinking Water
- UMVOTO
- Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin (TCD), Ireland
- University of Florida (UFL), USA, Landscape Hydrology, Soil and Water Sciences Department
- School of Environment, Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech), China

Friends of Urban Health and Cities

Q4 2020	Pilot to be developed around citizen engagement and low-tech monitoring alternatives.
	Link to UNEP's World Environment Situation Room to be established.

Implementing partners:

- Joint Research Centre (JRC)
- Eurecat, Centre Technologic de Catalunya,
- Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology
- UN Environment Programme (UNEP) – incl. GRID Geneva and other centres as appropriate

Plastics

NOV 2019	Conceptualization of 2020 workshop on plastics do be developed by JRC and contributing partners.
Q4 2019	Publication of two Norway-sponsored reports focusing on monitoring plastics in freshwater and prevention and treatment solutions.
Q2 2020	Workshop on plastics focusing on solutions and the upscaling. Potential case studies from the Danube, South Korea, Mekong, Mississippi.

Implementing partners:

- German Environment Agency – Umweltbundesamt (UBA)
- Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ)
- International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
- Joint Research Centre (JRC)
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- UN Environment Programme (UNEP) – Open-ended Working Group (Marine Litter and Plastics) led by Norway

Social Engagement Platform

DEC 2019	Action plan co-created by committed representatives in the Alliance to be prepared. Plan provides a simple, realistic and economically modest roadmap which ensures the following steps: a) Global problems to local solutions b) Complex systems to simplistic language c) Data to knowledge d) Knowledge to action. (underlying is the Quadruple Helix paradigm and system concept of multi actor engagement, knowledge sharing and production and capital generation)
2020	JRC together with Eurecat, UNEP and SDC to convene a group of experts and scientists and artists to develop a joint concept for a workflow and initial pilots incl. a science storybook on water quality. Presentation suggestion posed to Stockholm Water Week as “Show Case”

Implementing partners:

- Joint Research Centre (JRC)
- Eurecat, and Water Europe
- UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- SDC

Private Sector Engagement

DEC 2019	Scoping meeting towards conceptualizing private sector engagement in water quality and development mainstreaming (engagement in the solution space of technology and social innovation in the Agenda 2030)
JAN/FEB 2020ff	Drafting a value proposition and 2 pager pitch for private sector engagement in advocating water quality solutions in a nexus perspective e.g. food, energy health and ecosystems;
Q1-Q4 2020	<p>a) Value proposition for private sector engagement in the Alliance illustrated by an “insight piece” on key water quality driven issues affecting current and future businesses and markets (enabling to prioritize); plus 2-3 year strategic workplan</p> <p>b) Initial short/mid-term workplan for 2020</p> <p>Presentation for wider discussion and follow up at WWQA second global meeting end of 2020</p>

Implementing partners:

- World Economic Forum
- SDC
- UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- further contribution to be brought in in an organic approach incl. World Bank, Eurecat, Water resources Group, Carbon Disclosure Project, WWF, ...
- United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH)