



Community of Practice Charter

Mission:

The Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA) is established to provision tools, partnerships, and technical assistance to improve effective decision making, action, governance, and analytical processes in water resources management, focusing on climate adaptation and climate change relevant scales.

Vision:

Effective climate change adaptation practices are mainstreamed and enabled within water resources management decision-making processes and policies.

Purpose:

- To serve as a member network for sharing knowledge, developing analytical tools, creating methodologies, and coordinating joint actions to assist in resilience building that can be implemented through projects and programs.
- To contribute to water and climate policies and practices to ensure they are integrated to resilient communities.
- To encourage dialogues between individuals and entities working on adaptation and mitigation of climate change respectively, recognizing water resources and their management as a bridge between the two.

Community Membership

Individual members and institutional partners represent governmental, non-governmental, research, and private sector organizations that share its objectives and purpose and are willing to join efforts and capacities, within their own fields of action, to attain the Alliance's objectives and purpose. This includes global/regional organizations supporting water programs and projects on the ground, groups that build climate adaptation and water management capacity, researchers and tool development teams for enabling better analysis, the donor community, private sector groups invest in and rely on water resources, and institutions involved in local, national, and trans-boundary water governance as a means for adaptation to climate change.

Partner and Member participation in the alliance is voluntary. Our intention is for partners and members to use AGWA to enable us to:

- Collaborate to develop tools and methodologies intended to promote resilient water resources management.

- Share and implement technical assistance within and beyond the network around resilient water resources management.
- Are willing to share and disseminate knowledge and experiences and collaborate on Alliance products.
- Connect researchers, practitioners, end-users, disciplines, and institutions to foster collaboration and resilient solutions.
- Work together to promote integrated water and climate policy on the global level (to fill the gap between policy and implementation).

Community Purpose/Intent:

AGWA seeks to help build resilience for adapting to climate change by closing the gap between existing knowledge and policies and their practical application for water resources management. The Members of AGWA are dedicated to supporting governmental, non-governmental, research, and private sector in developing the knowledge and skills to design programs that can better address issues of water-based climate change adaptation by a) closing the gaps between emerging areas of expertise and b) translating the next generation of best practices into operational reality.

Community Roles:

Host Institution:

At least one member of the co-chairs and the AGWA support staff will be housed and employed by the host institution. The term for hosting is three years. The host for the period August 2014 to August 2017 is SIWI. This organization directly covers costs for the general overhead of housing and administration for AGWA staff and programs including: offices, office furniture and equipment (printer, computer, photocopier, telephone, etc.), personnel administration, grant administration (for incoming and outgoing core AGWA grants), IT support (email, file servers, website, networking, etc.), communications, legal, and general operations. Grant administration of project grants should be covered by the responsible member organization.

The AGWA host institution would ideally also have an institutional focus on water and adaptation or consider them to be emerging programmatic priorities. The host institution is offered a place on the steering committee, but shall not direct the mission/vision of AGWA outside of existing AGWA member roles.

Co-Chairs:

AGWA governance and activities are coordinated by the co-chairs. The co-chairs will be members representing two different types of relevant organizations; the co-chairs are currently SIWI and the World Bank. They are empowered to make interim decisions between general assemblies. Key responsibilities of the co-chairs include:

1. Guide and refine the over-arching strategic direction of the alliance, maintaining the focus of AGWA activities.

2. Oversee the implementation of AGWA deliverables.
3. Track and report progress against deliverables to donors, the steering committee, and the membership at large.
4. Represent AGWA at strategic events, including taking a lead function like moderating events, facilitating member participation, and supporting contact points. However, representational duties do not include making statements that represent the view of individual members or institutions.

Steering Committee:

The steering committee will consist of seven (7) appointees and the two (2) co-chairs. The appointees will be nominated and approved by the active members. The appointees will be individuals who have been engaging with the Alliance on a regular basis and have played a part in its development to date. The steering committee will serve two three-year terms, with the option to renew between terms. These individuals are expected to engage in AGWA activities 10 and 15 hours per month not including committee meetings. The steering committee will meet at least 1–2 times per year, either in person or via teleconference. The steering committee is responsible for ratifying all major decisions presented by the co-chairs. Decisions will be reached by consensus wherever possible. In the event of a tie vote, the co-chairs will decide the course of action. The responsibilities of the steering committee include:

1. Represent a cohort of peer organizations that are leaders;
2. Provide input into the preparation (and approval) of work plans;
3. Aid in raising funds to support the alliance as a part of their work stream, in coordination with the co-chairs;
4. Create awareness about the Alliance and represent AGWA in an official capacity;
5. Review Alliance activities/strategy at regular intervals (every 6 months) from guidance against deliverables; and
6. Review and approve AGWA publications, position statements, proposals, and communications materials.

Steering Committee members are responsible for all individual cost incurred while participating in steering activities and business.

Secretariat responsibilities:

The secretariat makes day to day decisions in regard to AGWA, communicating in a regular and timely manner with the co-chairs in regard to strategic decisions, between general assemblies. The secretariat is independent of the steering committee and co-chairs and does not sit on the steering committee, but the secretariat reports to the co-chairs and steering committee. The steering committee as a whole confirms the selection of the coordinator for the secretariat and can likewise remove the coordinator.

- Direct the implementation of AGWA deliverables.
- Track and report progress against deliverables to chairs and the steering committee.

- Represent AGWA at strategic events, including taking a lead function like moderating events, facilitating member participation, organizing and managing the annual meeting, and serving as the central contact point. However, representational duties do not include making statements that represent the view of individual members or institutions.
- Coordinate the membership in the execution of fundraising, communications, and outreach efforts.
- Coordinate actions by the steering committee and co-chairs between general assemblies.
- Manage the AGWA website and partners; support the preparation of AGWA meetings and side events, network between the working groups and the steering committee, and facilitate the production of AGWA publications.

Members:

The membership community of AGWA is made of two groups; individual members and institutional partners. All members and partner representatives are expected to be active contributors to AGWA’s products and projects through:

1. Participating in an annual quorum over AGWA operations;
2. Co-authoring or editing AGWA papers, policy statements, case studies, or other documents;
3. Training events and courses;
4. Share best practices from projects and processes that members are involved for the benefit of the AGWA community and as input towards achieving its mission; and
5. Other annual contributions to AGWA goals and deliverables.

All partners and members agree to work jointly to fundraise for and/or contribute in kind to AGWA.

Resources:

AGWA is not intended to be a resource-intensive endeavor requiring large amounts of investment in time, finances, or other resources. However, many of the activities and work products will require some level of investment in order to ensure success. The host institution will not solely be responsible for providing all of the necessary investments; rather, it will coordinate efforts to secure appropriate levels of investments to ensure AGWA is successful. This support will come in the form of grants, in-kind contributions from associated organizations or external service providers, and funders. In most cases, except for in-kind contributions, it is expected that the host institution will act as the fiscal agent for any funds raised by AGWA.

Deliverables:

A key aspect to AGWA's work is to deliver tangible work products to support decision-makers and provide greater resources for planning adaptable work projects. Initial deliverables include but are not limited to the following:

1. Decision-support system developed through technical working groups.
2. Rules for Tools, which will provide a gap analysis of the existing assessment tools allowing for strategic decision to be made regarding new tool and resource development.
3. A dynamic online "living" case-study library.
4. Online learning modules.
5. The Climate and Water "Help Desk," which will act as a consultancy, linking technical experts to specific projects.

Memorandums of Understand (MoUs) or Partnership Agreement will be established between the necessary organization when appropriate to address issue of intellectual property and the like.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The steering committee will during its meeting address the performance and achievements of the AGWA work since its previous meeting. When needed, the steering committee can decide and facilitate more targeted evaluation of specific work tasks.