Lessons Learned on facilitating IWRM planning

Birguy Lamizana
GWP/WA
Countries where GWP is currently facilitating IWRM planning
Experience coming from programmes funded by different donors
Different parts of the world, have
Different experiences and
Different focus. But we have common lessons for all, drawn from where we work.
L1: GOVERNMENT is the owner & the leader of the process

- Political will & support at country level is critical to the success of the planning process and needs to be nurtured.

- Then, IWRM planning process needs to be linked to the National Dvpt Plans
L2: A CHAMPION supporting the IWRM planning process is needed

Champions are needed to create a common understanding about the meaning, purpose and approach to an IWRM planning process among all players
L3: Sustained PARTICIPATION is the driver of the process

- Putting cross-sectoral and multi-level participation into practice can be a tough, complex, time consuming and political process

- But at the end of the day, the decisions can’t make everybody happy
**L4: Development of LOCAL CAPACITY at all levels is a must**

Local capacity of the project team members as well as central and local stakeholders is fundamental for successful planning and implementation.
L5: The PLAN needs to be FOCUSED

- Simply put, a National IWRM strategy or plan is a roadmap of the changes needed for better water management, which clearly defines doable actions and sets out time frames.
L6: The GENDER perspective is needed from the start...

Gender mainstreaming needs to be part of the project planning & implementation right from the beginning...

...easily said than done.

Guidelines & practical tools to support gender sensitive approaches are needed.
**L7: COMMUNICATION is needed throughout the process**

To get people involved, they should first have a clear understanding of IWRM, its process and its aim.

Translate IWRM into practice for local communities
Feed their knowledge back into the process
Communication strategy is a knowledge management instrument
L8: LOCAL & CONCRETE ACTIONS are needed while developing the plan

- Identify possible concrete actions and implement them during the process
IWRM therefore appears like a “puzzle” in which one must ensure from the beginning that all the elements are present and see to it permanently that all the pieces of the system are working coherently.
THANK YOU for your attention