

Australia – water partners for development

THE
AUSTRALIAN
WATER
PARTNERSHIP

ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN WATER PARTNERSHIP (AWP)

The AWP is an Australian international cooperation initiative helping developing countries in the Indo-Pacific region, and beyond, work towards the sustainable management of their water resources. We enable this by facilitating collaboration between governments, international water agencies and organisations, and our partner network of more than 180 Australian public and private organisations to share Australia's water sector expertise internationally.

The AWP was established by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in May 2015. DFAT has funded two consecutive 4-year grants (to 30 June 2023) totalling AU\$44M.

THE WATER IMPERATIVE

Water is fundamental to all life on Earth and its sustainable management is critical to the well-being of human societies. Rarely is one sector so important to achieving positive outcomes in numerous other sectors – food security, energy security, biodiversity and ecosystem health, disaster management – and meeting many human needs from water supply and sanitation to recreation, spiritual and cultural requirements. Water has risen to be a key issue on the international development agenda, fundamental to achieving the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Australia has been successful in addressing its own water scarcity and security challenges by developing strategies to better account for, allocate, protect and use water, which are recognised internationally as leading practices. Australia's Foreign Policy White Paper highlights a priority for AWP to share our water management expertise to help enhance agricultural productivity, improve health outcomes, strengthen economies and reduce poverty.

Our vision

Enhanced sustainable management of water in the Indo-Pacific and beyond

We aspire to deliver meaningful and enduring change by supporting, championing, promoting and enabling sustainable water resource management and water security.

Our mission

Through trusted partnerships, mobilise Australian water sector expertise to address demand from the Indo-Pacific and beyond

We are actively responding to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals by catalysing change – working collaboratively with International and Australian Partners to implement development activities, share knowledge, build capacity and improve water management approaches.

Long Term Outcomes

There are four long-term outcomes that support our vision and mission and are used in our overarching Monitoring and Evaluation:

- Improved water planning, allocation and governance by governments, industries and civil society.
- Enhanced public, private and civil society engagement and competence in sustainable water management.
- More equitable, efficient and environmentally sustainable water use by public, private and civil society water actors.
- Australia is a trusted and valued development partner in water resources management in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

Our Partners

Our Australian Partners include Federal, State and local government agencies, water service and technology providers, universities and research institutes, water experts, industry associations and NGOs. They have experience in many water-related fields, including effective governance and institutional arrangements; applying science to policy; and developing and implementing innovative technologies for climate change, weather and streamflow forecasting, river basin planning and modelling, irrigation modernisation and efficiency, integrated surface-groundwater management, water sensitive urban design, and delivering water for the environment.

Our International Partners include governments and multilateral organisations such as the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the International Water Management Institute.

How we work

The AWP responds to requests for assistance from developing countries. We identify and facilitate the engagement of the most appropriate Australian Partners for a particular activity, location and time. The AWP is an agile, collaborative initiative that can quickly respond to critical needs, ensuring positive development outcomes and diplomatic successes.

We also establish long-term, transformative programs with our International and Multilateral Partners, working with DFAT in-country diplomatic Posts and water specialists to define priorities and implement activities. Under the umbrella of addressing water scarcity and achieving water security, these priorities cut across four domains: river basins, irrigation modernisation, integrated urban water management and environmental water (quantity and quality).

Geographically, we primarily undertake activities throughout the Indo-Pacific – our larger programs being in the Pacific, Greater Mekong, China, Indonesia and India – with some strategic activities in the Middle East, Africa and South America.

eWater Ltd, a not-for-profit company owned by the Australian and four State Governments, is contracted by DFAT to manage the AWP. An AWP Advisory Committee oversees the program and gives advice to the eWater Board on which activities to fund. The AWP program management team is based in Canberra, working closely with DFAT and with Australian and International Partners.

Strategic Directions & Values

To guide the AWP towards its vision and mission, and support of the SDGs, we are focusing on six key strategic directions for 2018–2023:

Enhance sharing of knowledge and tools for sustainable water management

Developing a framework for Australian water knowledge relevant to international development and supporting the sharing of Australian water tools that encapsulate Australian knowledge.

Secure development outcomes

Working side-by-side with the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other international multilateral partners to enhance their large-scale development investments with Australia's unique expertise.

Implement gender equality and social inclusion

Building awareness of, commitment to, and the implementation of principles of gender equality and social inclusion throughout all AWP work.

Enhance capacity development in priority countries

Introducing innovative and alternative capacity development paradigms and supporting in-country programs to empower young water professionals and future water leaders.

Strengthen and diversify our partnerships

Pursuing ongoing engagement and collaboration with leading international institutions and strengthening a 'Team Australia' approach.

Focus our scope

Prioritising geographies and domains where Australia has strategic interests and unique capabilities.

CONTACT US

For more information and to subscribe to AWP news, visit www.waterpartnership.org.au

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