

Project Evaluation Series

**Mid-term evaluation of the project
“Monitoring water productivity by
remote sensing as a tool to assess
possibilities to reduce
water productivity gaps”**

Project code: GCP/INT/229/NET

Management response

Management response to the mid-term evaluation of the project “Monitoring water productivity by remote sensing as a tool to assess possibilities to reduce water productivity gaps”					July 2020
Evaluation Recommendation (a)	Management response (b) Accepted, Partially Accepted or Rejected	Management plan			
		Actions to be taken, and/or comments about partial acceptance or rejection (c)	Responsible unit (d)	Time frame (e)	Further funding required (Y or N) (f)
<p>Recommendation 1. It is recommended to increase the involvement and ownership of the national and local stakeholders in Project implementation.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>The project team fully agrees with this recommendation, which is being implemented in current project phase as much as possible, and constitutes the core of the proposal for a second phase of WaPOR project, under discussion with the Government of The Netherlands. National stakeholders are fully involved in the recently added pilot areas of Gezira (Sudan) and Lamego (Mozambique). In particular, the activities in Gezira respond to a specific request for assistance and collaboration formulated by the Government of Sudan and implemented in partnership with the Sudanese Hydraulic Research Center.</p> <p>With respect to activities that are already close to completion, project partners are increasing efforts to take stock of lessons learnt and share findings with national and local stakeholders. In particular, IWMI will organize a workshop in Koga (Ethiopia) to discuss results of the field level activities, in addition to the online seminar held on the 18th of June. IHE Delft is also taking stock of the activities carried out in the Litani and Awash River Basin. Results were shared and discussed with key stakeholders in the Litani river basin in Feb 2020 further plans have been developed to implement stakeholder mapping and a questionnaire for needs assessment, which will be instrumental for further engagement and targeted capacity development.</p>	<p>CBL is responsible for overall coordination and uptake of recommendation in WaPOR phase 2 proposal.</p> <p>IWMI and IHE Delft, as project partners, are responsible for engagement with stakeholder in sharing findings of their respective activities in the framework of LoAs.</p> <p>FAO Regional and Country Offices are increasingly engaged (Sudan, Mozambique, Ethiopia) and future activities will be coordinated by national consultants.</p>	<p>Stakeholder engagement in current and closing activities by end of October 2020.</p> <p>Workshop in Koga by August 2020. Questionnaire and needs assessment in Awash by October 2020.</p> <p>Concept note for new project proposal, taking into account this and other recommendations, by 31 July 2020.</p>	<p>Y (concept note under discussion)</p>

<p>Recommendation 2. Capacity Building activities should be action-centred, i.e. directly linked to field applications of WaPOR for increasing Water Productivity in real cases. For this purpose, national stakeholders should be progressively involved in planning and implementation of Capacity Building activities, with particular focus on problem owners and national service providers involved around major water systems.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>The project team agrees with this recommendation while acknowledging that, in the initial phase of the project, there was a need to raise general awareness of the data and tools in the countries we work with. Action-centred training is now the natural follow-up in a situation where WaPOR has become known among practitioners and subject field specialists in several countries, a condition that is conducive to identification of possible applications and real cases example on which future capacity development can be designed. To foster this process, the concept note for WaPOR phase 2 (under discussion) proposes to start in-country activities with a thorough country needs assessment in terms of capacity development and applications priorities.</p> <p>The recommendation is currently being implemented in the framework of the agreement with the Government of Sudan, for improving water productivity in the Gezira scheme. And for water accounting a first step in co-design and interpretation will be made in 2020 in two river basins (Litani and Awash), this process will be further developed in the second phase.</p> <p>A specific on-line training package with targeted modules (water accounting, water productivity, etc.) is being developed by IHE Delft and will be hosted on the institution’s Open Course Ware.</p>	<p>CBL is responsible for overall coordination and uptake of recommendation in WaPOR phase 2 proposal.</p> <p>IWMI and IHE Delft, as project partners, are responsible for proposing strategies for improving capacity development along these lines, also as part of the final report of LoAs.</p>	<p>“Action-centered” capacity development will be piloted in Sudan by the end of 2020 and it is proposed in the concept note for WaPOR phase 2.</p> <p>Final reports from project partners are due in August and October 2020.</p>	<p>Y (concept note under discussion)</p>
<p>Recommendation 3. It is recommended to enhance the Project capacity of Monitoring field activities and their Impact, and of Knowledge Building (collection, networking and treatment of information), so as to steer and readjust/enforce</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>The limited time left until project closure will not allow for a full implementation of this recommendation. However, the project team is developing a catalog of applications on the basis of the table provided as annex in the MTE report and is enriching it also through collaboration with other partners’ activities (WaterPIP project). Additional effort is also being put in developing clear and simple examples on use of WaPOR data for specific applications.</p> <p>A monitoring and knowledge system will be proposed in phase 2 of WaPOR to facilitate sharing of lessons learned, promote uptake of successful applications and ensure a</p>	<p>CBL is responsible for overall coordination and uptake of this recommendation, with inputs from CIO with regard to feedback on portal usability.</p> <p>IHE Delft directly contributes to feedback generation through the data quality assessment</p>	<p>Catalog of applications and information products on WaPOR portal by end of November 2020.</p> <p>Identification of “Outreach & Knowledge manager” profile</p>	<p>Y (concept note under discussion)</p>

<p>activities and results, to take stock of applications being developed and capitalise on lessons learned, and to make profitable use of inputs and feedbacks received by WaPOR users on WaPOR usability and applicability.</p>		<p>smooth feedback process, linking field activities to WaPOR usability</p>	<p>included in the water accounting activities. IWMI is performing an assessment of WaPOR data usability in the framework of their field activities in Koga.</p>	<p>and role proposed for next phase of WaPOR by December 2020. A stronger M&E component will be proposed in the concept note for WaPOR phase 2</p>	
<p>Recommendation 4. The Project should look for opportunities to cross-check WaPOR data on Water Productivity with ground data on women access and use of water resources (both in rainfed and irrigated land) enabling further Gender Analysis on Water Use and Productivity.</p>	<p>Partially Accepted</p>	<p>Gender information was included in the capacity needs assessment surveys at field level, although no further analysis came out of the data collected. Stronger gender consideration will be proposed in field scale applications where relevant in the next phase of the project.</p> <p>The linkage between WaPOR based Water Productivity estimates and women access to land and water resources is very complex. Spatial resolution of the data can be a limitation, particularly in situations where women role is centered around small home gardens. Furthermore, understanding the linkages between access to resources and water productivity improvements requires thorough household analysis of decision making processes. A stronger gender and inclusion component can be further proposed around needs assessment and usability of WaPOR data.</p>	<p>Gender and inclusion components will be addressed in collaboration with local service providers and under coordination of project team and partners. CBL is responsible for overall coordination and uptake of recommendation in WaPOR phase 2 proposal. IWMI and IHE-Delft, as project partners, are co-responsible for developing gender and inclusion activity plans in the concept note for WaPOR phase 2.</p>	<p>A stronger gender and inclusion component will be proposed in the concept note for WaPOR phase 2</p>	<p>Y (concept note under discussion)</p>
<p>Recommendation 5. The Project should assess to what extent the use of WaPOR data is instrumental to feeding the</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Assessing the potential for informing 6.4 is definitely foreseen and facilitated by the fact that WaPOR is de-facto part of FAO AQUASTAT programme. Its use in disaggregation of the indicators is being explored by FAO team working on the SDG 6 monitoring initiative. At the same time, project partners have plans to develop specific tools for guiding</p>	<p>CBL will be testing disaggregation options, including with use of remote sensing and WaPOR, in three countries.</p>	<p>Preliminary findings on 6.4 disaggregation by end of 2020, development of GIS tool is foreseen by</p>	<p>Y (concept note under discussion)</p>

<p>monitoring system for Target 6.4 of SDG6, as expected.</p>		<p>users in this process, as part of related initiatives (WaterPIP, for example).</p> <p>Continental scale monitoring of water productivity over time is instrumental for assessing progress against 6.4 target. It allows for spatial and sectoral disaggregation and, more specifically, for enhanced understanding of progresses and trends in the agriculture sector.</p>	<p>IHE Delft plans to develop a specific tool as part of WaterPIP project, to which FAO also contributes.</p>	<p>2021 as part of a different project.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 6. FAO, together with the resource partner, should develop an open financing mechanism for WaPOR that is independent of dispersed project funding and secures the continuity, upgrading and further development of WaPOR.</p>	<p>Partially Accepted</p>	<p>Pooled financing has been explored by the project team but, until now, no practical solution has been identified in that sense. Pooled funds entail reporting mechanisms that are not easily accepted by donors, at least those concerned in this case. The project team has however implemented a flexible mechanism, though a long-term agreement contract, that allows for additional database products to be acquired through different projects’ funds. In addition to that, the team is exploring the possibility to engage with other resource partners for the database update and maintenance, which would allow for longer continuity.</p> <p>FAO-CBL will develop a human and financial resource plan for WaPOR as part of their tool portfolio to ensure sustainability post project. At the country level, the implementation plan will contain activities, which includes the assessment of potential business/finance/scaling pathways for WaPOR with the public and private sector.</p>	<p>CBL is responsible for overall coordination and uptake of recommendation in WaPOR phase 2 proposal.</p> <p>IWMI (experienced in developing business models) and IHE-Delft, as project partners, will support this activity particularly in the target countries of the concept note for WaPOR phase 2.</p>		<p>Y (concept note under discussion)</p>
<p>Recommendation 7. The Project, together with main international and national stakeholders, should develop a strategic vision at global and country level to roll out WaPOR and optimizing its impact</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>A country-tailored route map, as described in the recommendation text of the MTE, is the core of the new proposal under discussion. For the next phase of the WaPOR project, it is proposed to implement demand driven activities in 10 different countries, based on a four-step approach to ensure applicability and scalability as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. analyze: Identify user interest and needs in new countries and strengthen user-engagement in ongoing countries; 	<p>CBL is responsible for overall coordination and uptake of this recommendation, in close collaboratin with the two main project partners, IHE Delft and IWMI, who will each coordinate activities in 5 countries.</p>	<p>From January 2021 onwards.</p>	<p>Y (concept note under discussion)</p>

<p>on water management on the ground.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. co-develop: Co-design and implement solutions and practical applications with identified users; Develop mechanisms to support scaling of solutions and practical implications; iii. reflect: Observe and reflect on use of WaPOR data in assessments, tools and approaches; Observe and analyze the scaling pathway of developed innovations; Incorporate lessons learnt from solutions and practical applications into the scaling pathway; iv. engage: Partner with interested user across the different domains of products, tools and approaches; Establish a community of Practice; Use of Multi-stakeholder dialogues; Engage with existing innovation platforms and multi-stakeholder dialogues. 			
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