

Implementation Plan of Recommendations

Project Title and Reference No.: GEMS/Water Programme

Water Quality: Strengthening the normative basis for planning, monitoring, and managing water quality for aquatic ecosystems” (2015-2018, PIMS ID 01845) and “Capacity building for national and regional environmental information and knowledge management” (2018-2022, PIMS ID 02020)

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	PLANS			
RECOMMENDATIONS	ACCEPTED (YES/NO/PARTIALLY)	WHAT WILL BE DONE?	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	REONSIBLE OFFICER/ UNIT/ DIVISION/ AGENCY
#1 Considering the essential role played by GEMS/Water as the primary world project supporting ambient water quality and SDG indicator 6.3.2, GEMS/Water should extend its current 2020-2024 strategy until at least the end of 2025, coinciding with the current 2022-25 UNEP strategy and outline a UNEP	Partially New GEMS&EWE ProDoc until 2027 New Secured Funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIZ Project until 2026 (400k annually) • SDG IMI-6 Phase 3 until 2026 	Suggestion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write Proposals • Engage potential donors • Update outreach materials 	End 2024	Kilian Christ GEMS/Water GPCU

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<p>ambient water strategy until 2030. Based on the extended strategy, the management of UNEP should engage current and potential bilateral donors to secure and mobilize core funding, including by activating the GEMS/Water fund, to secure at least USD 1.5 million per year.</p>	<p>(200k annually) In-Kind Secured</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension of agreement with BMUV on data until 2030 (In-kind 700k annually) <p>GAP: CapDev (400k annually)</p>			
<p>#2 The science division (sic) should obtain formal commitments, such as a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the project and regional offices to implement activities described in the new GEMS/Water project document</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Following UNEP’s new delivery model Regional Offices will be consulted and engaged, however this does not require the obtainment of MoUs.</p> <p>The need for an approach that involves closer coordination with the Regional Offices is acknowledged.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Kilian Christ GEMS/Water GPCU</p>
<p>#3 The project team should liaise closely with the Project Review Committee to ensure that changes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>New Project Document is expected to be finalized before the end of 2024 and will reflect all the newly secured resources.</p>	<p>End 2024</p>	<p>Kilian Christ GEMS/Water GPCU</p>

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<p>that are driven by securing funds, or changes in the external context (like SDGs) are properly reflected in project documentation and that the project is following UNEP's guidance on results-oriented projectization of its work</p>				
<p>#4 Maintain the blended format for capacity development (in-person and online) and workshops, taking advantage of the proven efficiency and general acceptance of such channels in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Online meetings and courses reduce costs and environmental impacts, allowing for more focused addressing national or regional water quality problems.</p>	<p>Yes – conditional to availability of funds</p>	<p>Linked to #1 on fundraising</p>	<p>End 2024</p>	<p>Kilian Christ GEMS/Water GPCU</p>

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<p>#5 The GEMStat platform needs consolidation to become the intended primary gateway for global ambient water quality data, including the SDG indicator 6.3.2. Thus, UNEP's management should ensure continuing support from the German Federal Institute of Hydrology to keep on hosting GEMS/Water data center to continue forging alliances enabling enhanced data sharing and interconnectivity of different data portals.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>GEMStat is the intended primary gateway for global ambient water quality data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GEMStat is developing a one stop water quality access page <p>Agreement with BMUV secured until 2030 providing in kind support of 700k annually.</p> <p>Closer collaboration with UNESCO IHP/IIWQ and WMO on water quality data interoperability</p>	<p>Continuously</p>	<p>Kilian Christ GEMS/Water GPCU</p>
<p>#6 Considering the courses' positive impact and barriers to access and year-long turnover of graduates, UNEP management should ensure the continuation of the University College Cork as GEMS/Water Capacity Development Centre. However,</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>A continuation of the UCC Capacity Development Centre is the ideal scenario to continue GEMS/Water's Capacity Development work, however is subject to available funding (see #1).</p> <p>Agreements with relevant institutions to deliver GEMS/Water Capacity Development products in different regions are currently being pursued, starting in Latin America.</p>		<p>Kilian Christ GEMS/Water GPCU</p>

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<p>GEMS/Water should explore agreements with relevant academic institutions, especially in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa, to facilitate access and expand the scope of GEMS/Water capacity development activities.</p>				
<p>#7 Scoping and training workshops have contributed to enhancing some capacities at national water agencies and reactivating GEMS/Water's global network. However, much more awareness about ambient water quality is needed in other key government organizations, including planning departments, ministries of finance, agriculture, etc. In cooperation with UNEP Regional Offices and other UN agencies with</p>	<p>Partially</p>	<p>More awareness is needed about ambient water quality, but the expertise on making the economic case for water quality monitoring will require relevant partners with expertise on valuing ecosystems services.</p> <p>GEMS/Water will engage UNEP colleagues working on ecosystems services to discuss a way forward.</p>	<p>Continuously</p>	<p>Kilian Christ GEMS/Water GPCU</p>

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regional and country presence, GEMS/Water should consider participation in regional events to make the economic case for investment in water quality.				
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The following is a summary of lessons learned from some of the project’s experiences and based upon explicit findings of the review. They briefly describe the context from which the lessons are derived, and the potential for wider application:

Lesson Learned #1:	Complex management arrangements, involving several divisions and regional offices rarely work in the absence of formal mechanisms (MoU, ICA or similar)
Context/comment:	In-kind contribution planned from different UNEP Divisions and Regional Offices did not materialize

Lesson Learned #2:	The transaction and administrative costs of maintaining global networks should be assumed in the project design by assigning sufficient staff time and enabling flexible contract modalities to bypass rigid contractual procedures and high labor costs.
Context/comment:	The project was chronically deprived of human resources and needed to build its current team by combining funding from diverse sources