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India-EU Water Partnership work plan 2016

Background

India's water challenges are complex and include quantity, allocation, quality and management issues. Increasing competition for water; among industry, agriculture, energy, domestic use and the environment has highlighted the importance of managing water on a river basin, and multi-sectoral basis in a sustainable manner. The agricultural sector is currently India's largest user of water, however, as urban and other demands multiply, less water is likely to be available in order to meet the nation's irrigation and individual needs. Therefore proper allocation – management of the demand and efficient measures are urgently needed.

In the context of these complex water challenges, the Indian Government has made a strong commitment to putting in place a national water framework law and to safeguarding the high socio-economic, spiritual, cultural and religious value of its waterbodies. The National Water Policy 2012 is evidence of a common integrated approach for the planning and managing water resources. The European Water Policy, centred on management at the river basin scale and integrated water management, thus presents a viable model for cooperation between the EU and India at the national and state level.

The European Water Policy supports the EU Member States in setting up appropriate governance structures which allow for an understanding of impacts and pressures to waters including pollutant emissions, water over-use, morphological impacts, climate change effects; land use; and effects from economic activities such as energy production, industry, agriculture and tourism; urban development and demographic changes. This framework determines the implementation of water policies and legislation at national level and could, therefore, be used by India as a source of inspiration to integrate water resource development and management across its states.

The first Indo-European Water Forum that took place on the 23rd and 24th of November 2015 initiated this cooperation between the EU and the Government of India (GoI) on Water issues. At the event, the European Union represented by the EU Delegation to India and the Environment Directorate-General of the European Commission and the GoI represented by the Ministry of Water Resources, Rural Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and the National Water Mission, met and discussed possible ways of developing their cooperation. The joint statement that summarised the conclusions from the forum and various bilateral meetings between the parties has been used to develop an initial work plan outlining the activities of the Water platform in 2016. The schedule has been updated recently.



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Work plan 2016

	Task description	Expected outcome	Estimated delivery date	Roles
1	Prepare background paper on WFD key elements and its Relevance to India	EU input to the GoI preparations for the Jal Manthan about the draft RBO act	31 January 2016	Lead: EUD. Input: MS
2	EIP Water conference, Leeuwarden (NL)	Increased presence of innovative EU water companies in the Indian market	9-11 February 2016	Lead: EIP Water. Support: EUD
3	Develop study visit of MoWR and other institutions on water security (regulation, monitoring, healthy rivers)	Study Visit	13 February 2016	Lead: UK
4	Presentation during Jal Manthan	Information on WFD as background to the Indian legal and governance set up on water	22-23 February 2016	Lead: GoI
5	Participation in Market Conference on Hybrid-Annuity Based PPP Model	Information for European Businesses to help them prepare better for the meeting with MoWR	24 February 2016	Lead: NMCG, MoWR, RD & GR
6	Organise a meeting of EU businesses active in water management in India with Secretary of the Indian Water ministry--- Review Progress on Clean Ganga Initiative	Understanding of the water sector opportunities and Presentation of innovative Business Solutions to Indian Government	7 March 2016	Lead: EUD. Support: EBTC, MS, Businesses
7	Drafting and Agreement of Memorandum of Understanding on Clean Ganga Initiative and other water management initiatives (Subject to GoI Approval)	Declaration adopted by both parties	30 March, 2016	EUD & GoI
8	Assess existing Ganga River Basin Management Plan and key inputs needed for setting up coordinated RBMPs for some Pilot Basins	Report identifying specific needs for expert input via workshops, possible missions and twinning agreements with RBOs in the EU (e.g. Peer Review scheme) Report which identifies key problems and solutions (including innovative European Solutions).	February-June 2016	Lead: EUD & MoWR. Input: OECD and MS (tbc)



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9	International Conference on Innovations in Sustainable Water and Wastewater Treatment Systems (ISWATS), Pune	Update on technologies being developed under joint research and innovation activities EU – India	21-23 April 2016	Lead: NEERI & Ecosan Services Foundation
10	Roadshow in London, Brussels and Amsterdam	Highlighting pollution and water quality treatment infrastructure needs in river Ganga	May 15-25, 2016	Lead: Oval Observer Foundation
11	1 st Work shop on RBMPs and water governance with production of technical reports to be widely circulated to Indian state's stakeholders	Exchange of Knowledge and Technical information between EU and Indian actors	14-15 June 2016	Lead: EUD. Active participation of MS (tbd) and NMCG
12	Participation in the Hindon Yatra Launch	Presentation on the IEWP	27 June 2016	Lead: WRG 2030/ GoUP
13	Participation in Basin-wide workshop on Ganga River Basin Planning Project at Lucknow	Sharing inputs based on IEWP work	18 July 2016	Lead: MoWR, RD & GR, World Bank and Deltares
14	Development of ToR for drafting River Basin Management Plans and setting up River Basin Organisations in India	Strengthened knowledge basis and water governance; application of principles of Integrated Water Resource Management and Integrated River Basin Management	June-September 2016	Lead: MoWR, RD & GR
15	Organise second study visit to EU through TAIEF by 6 Indian Officials from national and state administrations (WFD in management of Danube and Rhine rivers).	Study Visit to Brussels (Belgium), Netherlands and Romania	4-10 September 2016	Lead: EUD
16	Facilitate involvement and experience sharing of relevant Indian authorities in the EUs Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) for the Water Framework Directive (<i>During the Study Visit</i>)	Exchange of knowledge on the CIS to relevant Indian authorities as well as facilitation of access to existing CIS methodologies.	4-10 September 2016	Lead: EUD
17	Workshop on Water and Industry	Exchange of best practices on 'water and industry' between EU and Indian actors	5-6 September 2016	Lead: INDIGO Project, incl. CSIR
18	2 nd India-EU Water Partnership Workshop on Water allocation, water economics and eflows in River Basin Management	Exchange of Knowledge and Technical information between EU and Indian actors	14-15 September 2016	Lead: EUD & MS (tbd) and OECD



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19	Set-up of a longer-term expert involvement scheme	Facilitate expert input via missions and mid- and long-term twinings	Autumn 2016	
21	Organise the 2 nd Indo-European Water Forum on themes to be commonly agreed (at World Sustainable Development Summit)	Signing of MoU between EC and MoWR, RD & GR, Agreed Annual Work Programme	5-8 Oct 2016	Lead: EUD and TERI
22	Develop Longer-term vision for Indo-European Water policy cooperation and draw recommendations for the focus and implementation of the India-EU Water Partnership.	Comprehensive long-term work plan and confirmation of further interest in EU and GoI cooperation on water policy	End 2016	EUD & GoI

Note: This is a preliminary action plan and is subject to government approval. The preliminary work plan is regularly being updated