



AWARENET
Annual Work Plan 2016

Status: 01 Oct 2015

1. Introduction and Background

The Arab Integrated Water Resources Management Network (AWARENET) is an independent, impartial regional network of training and research institutes, NGOs, government institutions and experts in the field of water, engaged in the development and delivery of capacity development programs and resource material on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) policies and practices for the Arab region.

AWARENET is part of the global Cap-Net UNDP network of networks as the regional network for capacity development in sustainable water management. It was established in March 2002 during a “Workshop for Water Knowledge Consumers and Producers” held in Beirut with support from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA) and a number of regional and international organizations. The launch of AWARENET was officially endorsed in 2003 by the Member States of UN ESCWA during the 22nd Ministerial Session through Resolution 244 (XXII) on “Cooperation between ESCWA member countries with respect to shared water resources and the Arab Network for the Integrated Management of Water Resources”. It is currently hosted by UN ESCWA.

AWARENET’s main objective is to provide the public with better water and sanitation services, protect precious water resources and the environment, and promote socio-economically constructive uses of water by improving the implementation of IWRM concepts in the countries of the Arab region.

AWARENET in cooperation with its partners such as Cap-Net UNDP, UN ESCWA and others offers and supports training-of-trainers (ToT) and general training courses on themes of relevance to sustainable water management at Arab regional, sub-regional and national level. Issues addressed today include among others IWRM courses, methodologies for water footprint assessments, water governance and integrity, as well as adaptation to climate change. Together with Cap-Net UNDP, its global partners and regional networks AWARENET provides its members opportunities to interact with other initiatives for capacity development worldwide. AWARENET today has more than 400 institutional and individual members from the Arab region and beyond: more than 90 institutional members from organizations in Arab countries and overall members from 21 of the 22 Arab countries. For specific topics time bound Working Groups have been set up to allow for direct interaction between members with interests in these areas (today: Climate Change, Water Footprint Assessments and Water Governance).

AWARENET is a network. It is not an NGO nor does it have currently any specific legal status. AWARENET works primarily through partnerships with global, regional or national partners or institutional members, such as UN ESCWA its regional host or others. These partnerships are important for the facilitation of Cap-Net UNDP funding; core support for network functions, and for support to individual activities.

The present document describes the planned activities for AWARENET in the coming year 2016 and its respective envisaged costs (costs are estimated on the basis of UN rules and regulations for participant travel to training, envisaged Cap-Net UNDP contribution in brackets, s. a. Annex 1). The envisaged activities are ranked by priorities; 1 indicating highest, 2 high and 3 middle priorities. Priorities depend on existing or new partnerships and funds available for implementation.

Each of the topics might raise sufficient interest among AWARENET members that the thematic area could also be addressed through a new thematic Working Group, with an elected Chair / Deputy Chair and internal WG work plan. Such decision will be taken *ad hoc*, if considered useful for the thematic cooperation and collaboration among AWARENET members.

2. Capacity Development

2.1. Water Governance and Water Integrity (Working Group on Water Governance, WG-WG)

In 2015 AWARENET organized with its regional partners SIWI, IUCN, GWP-Med two regional training courses on water integrity (Dead Sea, Jordan in January and Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in May). Through these two activities a total of 45 participants were trained about water integrity principles and methodologies to improve overall water governance in their respective countries. The training activities are followed up by direct course evaluations and later outcome evaluations. Reports can be made available upon request. It is intended to continue the cooperation at regional level and to hold 2 more regional training courses during the year 2016.

Since March 2014 AWARENET has a Working Group on Water Governance (WG-WG) to coordinate thematic activities related to water governance and integrity among interested AWARENET network members. In 2015 the members of the WG elected through an online survey the current Chair, Mr. Adam A. Torrey (based in UAE) and Deputy Chair, Dr. Abdelrahman Tamimi (based in Palestine) for the annual period until March 2016. Today 36 AWARENET members are engaged in this WG. The WG is continuing to support the SIWI Water Integrity Capacity Building Programme in MENA (WI-MENA) with an outreach beyond the five pilot countries that are covered directly by the project countries (Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia) and intends among others to make use of the Cap-Net UNDP Virtual Campus to hold regular interactive online meetings and learning sessions.

If sufficient funds can be made available, it is intended to hold a meeting of some active WG-WG members to plan future activities and areas of work for the WG (envisaged possibly back-to-back to one of the regional training courses) and to hold new online elections for Chair / Deputy Chair of the WG.

For these activities the following costs are envisaged in 2016:

- Regional WI-MENA training (Priority 1): 2 training courses of 3 days length, 20 participants at each course: USD 57,000 per course, in total USD 114,000 (Cap-Net: USD 30,000 for two activities, USD 15,000 each),
- Cap-Net UNDP Virtual Campus WG meetings and learning sessions (Priority 1): at no cost.
- Consultation meeting of selected WG-WG members (Priority 2): 1 meeting of 2 days length, 10 participants: USD 22,000 (Cap-Net: USD 10,000), and
- Online election for WG Chair / Deputy Chair, updating of WG work plan (Priority 1): at no cost.

2.2. Climate Change and Water (Working Group on Climate Change, WG-CC)

An AWARENET Working Group on Climate Change (WG-CC) was initially set up in 2009 to address issues related to capacity development regarding the linkages between climate change and its effect on water. Under the UN ESCWA led and SIDA (Sweden) funded Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR) AWARENET members have already been involved in various activities. In this context it is planned to support and participate in a number of regional training activities in 2016.

In July 2015 interested AWARENET members restarted the WG-CC and elected online a new Chair, Prof. Fayez Abdulla (based in Jordan) and Deputy Chair, Prof. Tarek Mohamed Abdel-Aziz (based in Egypt) for the annual period until July 2016. Today 39 AWARENET members are engaged in this WG.

A survey among the WG-CC members resulted in favour of a proposed objective for the WG-CC as:

“Moving from Assessment to Implementation: Applying technical tools such as those developed under RICCAR and information from the regional knowledge hub to assess adaptation actions for different climate scenarios to further develop capacity and build resilience for coping with climate change impacts at national and regional levels.”

The survey outcome further offered a priority ranking of 20 initially proposed thematic areas. Survey participants decided to give priority to the five top ranking thematic areas as they are:

1. *Training-of-Trainers for the application of RICCAR tools and methodology at the regional, sub-regional and national levels,*
2. *Supporting training courses on the application of RICCAR tools and methodology at national levels,*
3. *Tailoring of the regional assessment approach to national levels,*
4. *Expanding the existing RICCAR methodology through further research,*
5. *Use tools and methodology to support policy development and/or test adaptation plans at the local, national and regional levels.*

The WG-CC is currently still in the initial phase of drafting a work plan to address the suggested topics. For internal consultation and capacity development among WG-CC members it is proposed to make use of the Cap-Net UNDP Virtual Campus platform for online meetings and eLearning.

If sufficient funds can be made available, it is intended to hold a meeting of some active WG-CC members to plan future activities and areas of work for the WG (envisaged possibly back-to-back to one of the regional training courses) and to hold new online elections for Chair / Deputy Chair of the WG.

For these activities the following costs are envisaged for 2016:

- Regional training courses on RICCAR tools and methodology (Priority 1): 2 training course of 3 days length, 20 participants at each activity: USD 57,000 per course, in total USD 114,000 (Cap-Net: USD 30,000 for two activities, USD 15,000 each),
- Cap-Net UNDP Virtual Campus WG meetings and learning sessions (Priority 2): at no cost.
- Consultation meeting of selected WG-CC members (Priority 2): 1 meeting of 2 days length, 10 participants: USD 22,000 (Cap-Net: USD 10,000), and
- Online election for WG Chair / Deputy Chair, updating of WG work plan (Priority 1): at no cost.

2.3. Water Footprint Assessments (Working Group on Water Footprint Assessments, WG-WFA)

In 2014 / 2015 AWARENET organized with its regional partners WSTA, OSS, MRMWR, PAEW, AGU, MENA NWC, UN ESCWA two regional training activities on water footprint assessments (Muscat, Oman in October 2014 and Manama, Bahrain in April 2015). Through these two activities a total of 59 participants were trained about the water footprint assessment methodology to improve overall water accounting in their respective countries and environments. The training activities are followed up by direct course

evaluations and later outcome evaluations. Reports can be made available upon request. It is intended to continue the cooperation at regional level and to hold 2 more regional training courses during the year 2016.

In July/August 2015 interested AWARENET members initialized a new thematic Working Group on Water Footprint Assessments (WG-WFA) and elected online a Chair, Dr. Arwa Hamaideh (based in Jordan) and Deputy Chair, Eng. Mohamed Mustafa Abbas (based in Sudan) for the annual period until August 2016. Today 15 AWARENET members are engaged in this WG.

The WG-WFA is currently still in the initial phase of drafting a work plan to address respective topics. For internal consultation and capacity development among WG-WFA members it is proposed to make use of the Cap-Net UNDP Virtual Campus platform for online meetings and eLearning.

If sufficient funds can be made available, it is intended to hold a meeting of some active WG-WFA members to plan future activities and areas of work for the WG (envisaged possibly back-to-back to one of the regional training courses) and to hold new online elections for Chair / Deputy Chair of the WG.

For this activity the following costs are envisaged for 2016:

- Regional WFA training courses (Priority 1): 2 training courses of 3 days length, 20 participants at each course: USD 57,000 per course, in total USD 114,000 (Cap-Net: USD 30,000 for two activities, USD 15,000 each),
- Cap-Net UNDP Virtual Campus WG meetings and learning sessions (Priority 2): at no cost.
- Consultation meeting of selected WG members (Priority 2): 1 meeting of 2 days length, 10 participants: USD 22,000 (Cap-Net: USD 10,000), and
- Online election for WG Chair / Deputy Chair, updating of WG work plan (Priority 1): at no cost.

2.4. Human Rights Based Approach to Sustainable Water Management (HRBA-Water)

Cap-Net UNDP in cooperation with SIWI, WaterLex and REDICA had offered in 2014 a global ToT on “Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) to Sustainable Water Management”. Four AWARENET network members participated in the ToT and became Cap-Net UNDP trainers for HRBA training courses. In 2015 the training material was finalized and is now available to offer training courses.

Following the global and regional support for water as a human right and the recent developments and transitions in the Arab region in which among others constitutional changes in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia introduced the human right to water into their constitutions, AWARENET intends to support the implementation of the HRBA for water management through the organization of possibly one training course on HRBA to Sustainable Water Management for Arab Countries. Based on the global training material and with the four trainers there might be still a need to adapt the global training material to the context of the Arab region. For this purpose a small study is foreseen that can provide a case study / case studies from the Arab region and help adapting the global material to Arab regional level.

For this activity the following costs are envisaged for 2016:

- Adaptation of global training material with cases studies and examples from the Arab region (Priority 2): USD 2,000 (Cap-Net: USD 2,000), and

- Regional training course on HRBA-Water (Priority 2): 1 training course of 3 days length, 20 participants: USD 57,000 (Cap-Net: USD 15,000).

2.5. GIS for Applied Groundwater Maps

Based on the experiences from a training course on GIS applications for hydrogeology and groundwater maps provided by UN ESCWA to one of its Member States in 2013 and if sufficient funds can be made available it is intended to adapt and update existing training material to be used for regional training courses on GIS for applied groundwater maps that can be used to assist decision making.

For this activity the following costs are envisaged for 2016:

- Adaptation and update of training material with cases studies from the Arab region (Priority 3): USD 2,000 (Cap-Net: USD 2,000), and
- Regional training course on GIS for applied groundwater maps (Priority 3): 1 training course of 3 days length, 20 participants: USD 57,000 (Cap-Net: USD 15,000).

2.6. Ecosystem (Water) Management

Based on the earlier (2013) plans to implement a regional training course for ecosystem (water) management with UNEP and GIZ, AWARENET intends to plan with the partners for one potential regional course in 2016.

For this activity the following costs are envisaged for 2016:

- Regional training course on ecosystem (water) management (Priority 3): 1 training course of 3 days length, 20 participants: USD 57,000 (Cap-Net: USD 15,000).

2.7. Fellowships for Global / Regional Conferences

To allow active participation of water experts from the Arab region in specific global or regional conferences AWARENET has in the past closely cooperated with UN ESCWA and received UN ESCWA sponsorships for specific events. It is envisaged that through this mechanism also in 2016 AWARENET members will participate in selected global or regional conference.

For this activity the following costs are envisaged for 2016:

- UN ESCWA fellowships for AWARENET members to participate in selected global / regional conferences (Priority 3): 3 global / regional conferences of 3 days length, up to 3 fellowships: USD 6,700, in total USD 20,000 (Cap-Net: n/a).

3. Strengthening Partnership – Network Core Support

3.1. Network Governance

Some years ago AWARENET had already started a process to develop the internal network governance structure and an initial draft for an AWARENET constitution / byelaws was prepared. Unfortunately, mainly due to a lack of funding, this has not yet been finalized and approved by the members. Also in 2015 no funds were available to facilitate the basic steps towards improved network governance. As such the internal network governance remains one of the priority areas for 2016 – if sufficient funds can be made available.

Due to the total size of the network with currently more than 400 members it is considered not feasible to hold a General Assembly that requires the physical presence from a large part of the members. It is envisaged that all major decisions for the network should be taken on the basis of online votes and surveys from the network members. Voting in a General Assembly, voting for members of a Board or interim Board, approval of future work plans and budgets shall be undertaken through online surveys only, i.e. through a “virtual General Assembly”.

To move forward with the internal network governance it is intended to start as early as 2016 - if sufficient funding can be secured for the whole process - to

- (1) Prepare for an online election with a call for expression of interest to network members for candidates and set up of an interim Board for AWARENET. This interim Board shall review and finalize a draft constitution and necessary regulations for the AWARENET internal governance as well as for a future regular Board of AWARENET. The interim Board is expected to give itself rules of procedure and shall consist of an uneven number of members, in total not more than seven or nine, with three places reserved for at least one representative from each of the three sub-regions: (i) Maghreb inc. Egypt and Sudan, (ii) Mashreq inc. Iraq, and (iii) GCC inc. Yemen, two to max. four places for other network members from any region or country, but based in the Arab region, one place for the regional host of AWARENET (currently UN ESCWA), one place for Cap-Net UNDP and one place for each external sponsor / donor (currently none),
- (2) Hold a constituting meeting (2 days physical meeting, preferably in Beirut if the situation allows) for the interim Board of AWARENET to review and finalize the draft constitution and internal regulations for AWARENET,
- (3) Discuss and approve of AWARENET constitution through online exchanges and voting by the network members (“virtual General Assembly”),
- (4) Hold -if necessary- second meeting of interim Board (2 days) to integrate comments or additional review and finalize constitution and regulations,
- (5) Prepare for online elections and initialize regular Board of AWARENET,
- (6) Hold a constituting meeting of regular Board of AWARENET (2 days) that shall implement the regular functions of the Board to oversee the network activities of AWARENET, the Network Coordinator and the Network Secretariat.

It is envisaged that the AWARENET Network Coordinator shall facilitate the process and esp. the Board meetings with the support of the Network Secretariat.

Total costs for one or max. two interim Board meetings in 2016 are estimated with c. USD 15,000 or USD 30,000, respectively, and shall be included in the service contract under network core support (s. 3.3 and Annex 1).

Although this activity is considered highest priority, taking into consideration the limited funding for network core support available from Cap-Net UNDP in 2015, it was so far not possible to progress as planned. Thus the activity is for 2016 again planned as Priority 1 – with the expectation that sufficient funding can be made available from Cap-Net UNDP, UN ESCWA or any other future donor.

3.2. Network Coordinator

Starting 2014 the function of AWARENET Network Coordinator was assigned to the UN ESCWA Regional Advisor in Water. Until UN ESCWA, the interim Board or regular Board of AWARENET may take another decision the UN ESCWA Regional Advisor on water shall continue to perform the function of Network Coordinator for AWARENET. The Network Coordinator is considered under Priority 1.

3.3. Network Secretariat

Since the beginning of AWARENET in 2002 the network was hosted and supported by UN ESCWA, mandated through the respective Resolution 244 (XXII). AWARENET and its members have greatly appreciated the overall support to the network as well as the outreach that could be achieved by participating in many regional UN ESCWA activities related to the water sector. However, the funding rules from Cap-Net UNDP (UNOPS) have made it increasingly difficult for UN ESCWA to service the AWARENET network especially with regard to facilitating the funding from Cap-Net UNDP for network core support and for individual activities.

To improve the efficiency of network support functions including and especially related to the facilitation of Cap-Net UNDP core funding for the network as well as funding for individual activities it is planned to engage a renowned regional institution as Network Secretariat / Network Support Office based in Beirut / Lebanon to facilitate short ways and easy communications between the Network Coordinator and the Network Secretariat.

The Network Secretariat shall comprise of one part/full time support staff / research assistant (12 months at c. USD 1,000 / month) with functioning office facilities to support the Network Coordinator with any secretariat function necessary, esp. related to the capacity development activities listed under item 2, the activities related to strengthening partnership as listed under item 3 and the activities related to knowledge management as listed under item 4 of this AWARENET Annual Work Plan. Details will be included in a respective service contract agreement between the selected institution on behalf of AWARENET and Cap-Net UNDP that is to be developed, reviewed and potentially renewed on an annual basis.

The AWARENET Network Coordinator will be overseeing the work of the Network Secretariat.

Total costs for the Network Support Office / Network Secretariat are estimated with USD 19,000 and will be detailed as part of the service contract (s. Annex 1). The Network Secretariat is considered under Priority 1.

3.4. Reporting to Cap-Net UNDP

AWARENET through the Network Secretariat / Support Office will provide all necessary reports to Cap-Net for 2016, incl. the regular annual MELP report. Network reporting is considered under Priority 1. The funds received from Cap-Net UNDP for MELP reporting are expected to assist in regular activities of the Network Coordinator and Network Secretariat.

3.5. Working with Working Groups

AWARENET today has more than 400 institutional and individual members from the Arab region and beyond. For specific topics time bound thematic Working Groups (WGs) have been set up to allow for direct interaction between members with interests in these areas (today: Climate Change, Water Footprint Assessments and Water Governance). The scope of these thematic groups is regional and includes collaborative and primarily voluntary work from various members. Through online voting it is possible to engage members as Chair or Deputy Chair of the WGs, engage WG members in decision making processes and at the same time reduce limited travel time and funds for other, substantive inputs.

Thematic Working Groups can assist in developing thematic studies and reports on the themes of the WGs. They serve also as a roster of experts for the Arab region on the thematic topic in question and - with a Chair / Deputy Chair in place - can act as AWARENET thematic focal persons for the respective theme to outside partners or initiatives.

Working with Working Groups is considered under Priority 1 (no budget requirement).

3.6. Empowering Sub-Regional and National Partners and Institutional Members

To enhance network performance and activate sub-regional activities among network members and on topics that are close to the needs of the members it is envisaged to strengthen the network structure towards a three pillar approach with sub-regional hubs in Maghreb, Mashreq and GCC / Yemen.

For this purpose it is envisaged that through a call for expression of interest institutional members from these three sub-regions can present their interest to become one of the three sub-regional AWARENET centers for a period of two to three years. These candidates for sub-regional AWARENET centers shall present their ideas for offering an active capacity development programme for each region and leveraging available Cap-Net UNDP funds and potential other regional sponsors / donors with additional funding from sub-regional or national sources. The selection of the three centers will be through online voting by the network members.

Each regional center can be later on included in the Board of AWARENET depending on the established constitution and network rules. Already starting from 2016 it is planned to strengthen the three sub-regional pillars through reserving one place of the interim Board for each of the three sub-regions.

The AWARENET Network Coordinator and Network Secretariat will continue to serve all three sub-regional hubs.

The sub-regional strengthening of network activities is considered under Priority 2 (no budget requirement).

3.7. Communication to Members and Outside

Membership directory and email contact list

AWARENET keeps an updated membership directory and email distribution list. Currently the directory includes more than 400 institutional and individual network members from the Arab region and beyond. Memberships are widely spread over nearly all Arab countries. North Africa / Maghreb is still less represented than other regions, which seems to be primarily related to the former extent of UN ESCWA. Lately UN ESCWA Member States include also Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia. It is expected that over the next years AWARENET may increase the number of members in Maghreb countries.

It is envisaged that in 2016 the Network Secretariat will largely take over the administrative servicing of both: membership directory and email distribution list (Priority 1, no additional budget requirement, included in 3.3).

Network presentation material

AWARENET regularly updates its general network information and currently uses primarily (1) a two pages flyer to describe the main aspects of the network, (2) an electronic registration form for new members, and (3) a PowerPoint presentation. The material is regularly updated as necessary.

It is envisaged that in 2016 the Network Secretariat will take over the administrative servicing of all information material (Priority 1, no additional budget requirement, included in 3.3).

Network presentation at regional meetings and conferences

AWARENET continues to be involved in a number of regional meetings and conferences.

For 2016 it is envisaged to continue the general network presentation in various regional forums as feasible based on available financial and time resources (Priority 1, no additional budget requirement, included in 3.3).

Re-launching of website

Since it was in 2015 not possible to activate the network support office it was decided to use part of the Cap-Net UNDP network core support and engage a qualified international consultant for the remaining period of 2015 to design and re-launch a new AWARENET website. The website aims to *inter alia* (1) offer up to date information on the network and its activities, (2) provide specific information on capacity

development in sustainable water management for the Arab region, (3) link to Cap-Net UNDP website, its resource base, Cap-Net UNDP Virtual Campus and through this to other regional Cap-Net UNDP networks, (4) develop a platform for exchange for thematic Working Groups as well as for members in general.

It is envisaged that in 2016 the Network Secretariat will take over the administrative servicing of the website (Priority 1, no additional budget requirement, included in 3.3).

Regular email circulars from Network Secretariat / Network Coordinator to members

Throughout 2014 / 2015 AWARENET has been actively communicating with its members through more or less regular email circulars (1-2 circulars per week); informing the members about (1) AWARENET and Cap-Net UNDP activities that could be relevant to the Arab region, (2) activities, studies or reports related to capacity development in sustainable water management and issues relevant for the Arab region, and (3) meetings and conferences with preferably regional scope or relevance that could be of interest to AWARENET members. For 2016 it is planned to continue the practice of regular email circulars and to improve the layout of the circulars through the use of MailChimp or similar tools. Email circulars are an important tool for internal network communications to members and as such should be regular, relevant, substantive, avoid duplication, not too many (normally not more than 2 per week).

It is envisaged that in 2016 the Network Secretariat will take over the administrative servicing of the email circulars, while the substantive content will still be coordinated and approved by the Network Coordinator (Priority 1, no additional budget requirement, included in 3.3).

Regular email circulars from Working Group Chairs / Deputy Chairs to WG members

Similar to the general AWARENET email circulars from the Chairs / Deputy Chairs are encouraged to also regularly communicate with their WG members.

It is envisaged that in 2016 the Network Secretariat could assist in administrative servicing of the email circulars for WGs, while the substantive content will still be coordinated and approved by the WG Chair / Deputy Chair or AWARENET Network Coordinator (Priority 2, no additional budget requirement, included in 3.3).

AWARENET LinkedIn profile

AWARENET uses and regularly updates its LinkedIn profile. Currently the LinkedIn profile has more than 300 connections of which only c. 60 are actually members of AWARENET. The non-members have been addressed directly to inform them about the difference between an AWARENET LinkedIn connection and an AWARENET network membership.

The LinkedIn profile mainly serves as an outreach platform. It is not intended to use the profile instead of the regular email circulars or website. Less than one sixth of all AWARENET members are connected to AWARENET's LinkedIn profile. If in the future more network members would become active in LinkedIn it might be worth investigating the option of a closed (or open) LinkedIn Group to encourage specific thematic discussions. For the time being this seems to be not an option.

It is envisaged that in 2016 the Network Secretariat will take over the administrative servicing of the LinkedIn profile (Priority 2, no additional budget requirement, included in 3.3).

Press Releases before / after each training activity

AWARENET aims to prepare at least one press release immediately after each training activity that can be made available through the partners of the activity, the AWARENET website, LinkedIn profile and through an email circular to members. Ideally a second press release could be circulated shortly before the activity.

It is envisaged that in 2016 the Network Secretariat will assist in the preparation and distribution of AWARENET press releases (Priority 1, no additional budget requirement, included in 3.3).

4. Knowledge Management

Knowledge management under AWARENET is facilitated primarily through the respective themes of capacity development activities, such as training courses or ToTs. In some cases time bound thematic Working Groups (WGs) are encouraged an activity is likely to continue over a longer period.

Additionally it is envisaged that AWARENET members, possibly also through smaller thematic Working Groups are developing additional training material to be used later in regional capacity development activities and – if considered suitable – also in global ToTs or training courses in cooperation with Cap-Net UNDP and other regional / national networks. The following describes a number of thematic areas in which AWARENET currently sees a potential to develop suitable training material and training courses for the Arab region and seeks cooperation partners. Each thematic area will require initial funding of c. USD 12,000 over one year to develop the respective material for training courses.

4.1. Managed Aquifer Recharge – Aquifer Storage and Recovery (MAR – ASR)

Increasing the means of intermediate water storage is among the proposed water management approaches to improve the availability of water resources and to adapt to impacts of Climate Change esp. in the semi-arid to arid countries of the Arab region. Since surface water storage options are rather limited, costly and cannot prevent losses due to evaporation, many Arab countries are looking into options for subsurface water storage in aquifers, so called Managed Aquifer Recharge or Aquifer Storage and Recovery (MAR - ASR) for storm water run-off, desalination surplus water or reusable, treated sewage effluent.

AWARENET intends to develop the capacities for MAR - ASR applications in the region through a new integrated approach to MAR - ASR, building on the experiences in Arab countries. For 2016 it is envisaged to develop training material that addresses not only the technical, hydrogeological and scientific challenges for the implementation of MAR - ASR schemes but also socio-economic aspects and the necessary legal frameworks, based on experiences from the region. The material is intended to be used later on in MAR - ASR training courses that can be combined with field visits at suitable demonstration sites for MAR - ASR.

For this activity the following costs are envisaged for 2016:

- Preparation of training material with cases studies from the Arab region (Priority 2): USD 12,000 (Cap-Net: USD 12,000).

4.2. Constructed Wetlands – Decentralized Sanitation

Most countries in the region still favour large scale centralized wastewater collection and treatment options. These often come at very high investment and operation and maintenance costs. If the centrally treated wastewater is intended for further reuse instead of discharge to the environment this again will require large investments in a treated water distribution system returning the reused water back to the users. In some cases decentralized sanitation systems such as constructed wetlands, reed bed treatment etc. offer great advantages at much less costs.

AWARENET intends to develop the capacities for constructed wetland applications in the region through the development of specific training material that addresses the relevant aspects of constructed wetlands related to the needs in Arab countries and based on experiences from the region. The material is intended to be used later on in constructed wetland training courses that can be combined with field visits at suitable demonstration sites for constructed wetlands.

For this activity the following costs are envisaged for 2016:

- Preparation of training material with cases studies from the Arab region (Priority 2): USD 12,000 (Cap-Net: USD 12,000).

4.3. Wastewater / Grey Water Reuse

Before used domestic or industrial water is collected and transferred to centralized wastewater treatment facilities, local scale wastewater and grey water reuse options often offer many benefits for water and energy efficiency.

AWARENET intends to develop the capacities for wastewater and grey water reuse applications in the region through the development of specific training material that addresses the relevant aspects of wastewater and grey water reuse related to the needs in Arab countries and based on experiences from the region. The material is intended to be used later on in wastewater and grey water reuse training courses that can be combined with field visits at suitable demonstration sites for wastewater and grey water reuse.

For this activity the following costs are envisaged for 2016:

- Preparation of training material with cases studies from the Arab region (Priority 2): USD 12,000 (Cap-Net: USD 12,000).

4.4. Water – Energy Efficiency

Many countries in the region have recognized the direct links between water and energy and vice versa between energy and water. To ensure most efficient use of resources in a given local context AWARENET intends to develop suitable training material for water and energy efficiency. The course material is intended to address the potential negative tradeoffs between the two sectors and esp. related to separate sector approaches to water and energy instead of potential win-win options through more holistic joint addressing of water and energy efficiency optimization.

For this activity the following costs are envisaged for 2016:

- Preparation of training material with cases studies from the Arab region (Priority 2): USD 12,000 (Cap-Net: USD 12,000).

4.5. The water-related SDGs and targets – and how it can be implemented and monitored

In September 2015, the Member States of the United Nations have decided an ambitious set of 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, including one specific SDG on water and sanitation as well as a number of other SDGs that directly or indirectly address and refer to water and sanitation issues. The SDGs, targets and their respective indicators will require a suitable implementation and accountability mechanism and the necessary capacity to implement and monitor progress.

AWARENET intends to further follow the global development process towards the implementation and monitoring of SDGs and the respective implementation and accountability mechanisms to develop or adapt suitable training material for regional training courses on the SDGs, incl. the specific SDG for water and sanitation and on the necessary data to monitor national achievements towards the water-related SDGs.

Based on such training courses AWARENET could develop further SDG-related tools such as an Arab regional peer-review mechanism for the water-related SDGs in which participants who successfully participated in the AWARENET training course on “The Water SDG” could be considered qualified for such country-to-country peer-reviews.

For this activity the following costs are envisaged for 2016 (Priority 2):

- Preparation of training material with cases studies from the Arab region (Priority 3): USD 12,000 (Cap-Net: USD 12,000).

4.6. Produced Water

Beside of the water-related challenges that Arab countries are facing similarly to other countries in semi-arid to arid regions, some Arab countries esp. countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are large producers of petroleum and natural gas. The production of petroleum does also produce large volumes of water, so-called “produced water”. In some cases the ratios between oil and water can be up to 1:10. Some of the produced water may be re-injected into the reservoirs to keep up the reservoir pressure for the oil production. The remaining, often substantial volumes of produced water have only marginal quality and cannot be used directly for other common uses in agriculture or for domestic / industrial uses. As such produced water requires specific approaches to prevent any negative impact on the environment and may actually with some treatment offer additional water resources for specific purposes.

AWARENET intends jointly with suitable partners in the GCC region to develop specific training material on the utilization of produced water with a special focus on GCC countries. Later on it is intended to implement training courses on produced water.

For this activity the following costs are envisaged for 2016:

- Preparation of training material with cases studies from the Arab / GCC region (Priority 3): USD 12,000 (Cap-Net: USD 12,000).

5. Summary and Outlook

AWARENET has since 2014 made substantial progress in improving the services provided to network members. However, a number of issues raised in the Cap-Net UNDP peer-review “Review of the Arab Integrated Water Resources Management Network (AWARENET)” from October 2013 have not been implemented yet primarily due to limited human and financial resources.

For 2015 it was initially planned to give priority to improved internal network governance by preparing a network constitution and setting up an interim and later regular Board of AWARENET through an increased network core support from Cap-Net UNDP. However, due to funding limitations from Cap-Net UNDP these envisaged network governance activities needed to be postponed until the required funding can be made available from Cap-Net UNDP, UN ESCWA or any other potential supporting institution / donor. The internal network governance remains one of the most important priorities and the necessary funding need to be made available in 2016 through the network core support from Cap-Net UNDP to ensure a more sustainable structure and future of the network. If the funds cannot be made available the priority will be reduced to 2.

Taking into consideration the funding limitations for 2015 that were announced by Cap-Net UNDP at its annual Network Managers Meeting in 2014 as well as the actual cost of some of the recent activities of AWARENET, the present work plan 2016 provides a realistic overview of planned activities and respective budget requirements. It is planned to increase the network core support beyond basic service functions of the Network Secretariat to include the overdue activities towards improved network governance (this priority 1 activity may need to be reduced if funds remain limited to 2015 budget). Further activities are envisaged - if funding can be made available - under “Knowledge Management” through the preparation of training material for specific thematic areas.

As such AWARENET is proposing a number of highest priority activities that should ideally be fully supported by Cap-Net UNDP in 2016 (Priority 1, amounting to a requested Cap-Net UNDP share of up to c. USD 141,500) and high or middle priority activities that could be addressed if further funding becomes available (Priority 2 and 3, amounting to an additionally requested Cap-Net UNDP share of c. USD 151,000, in total for all three priorities USD 292,500).

All three areas (capacity development, strengthening partnerships and knowledge management) will require continuous esp. financial support from the regional host organization UN ESCWA, the global mother network Cap-Net UNDP and potential new sponsors / donors. Without external support it is unlikely that any of the envisaged activities can be implemented as planned. Other risks include the current challenges of implementing any local activities in many countries in the Arab region due to the ongoing changes, transformations and unrest.

Water and the sustainable management of water will remain a cornerstone of any sustainable development approaches in the countries of the Arab region and as such also capacity development in this area remains a high priority for many international organizations, multi- and bilateral partners and donors. AWARENET expects to engage with more and different partners to provide the necessary additional support to capacity development and to achieve the main objective of the network; to provide the public with better water and sanitation services, protect precious water resources and the environment, and promote socio-economically constructive uses of water by improving the implementation of IWRM concepts in the countries of the Arab region.

Annexes

Annex 1: AWARENET Annual Work Plan 2016 – Budget Overview based on Priorities

Annex 2: AWARENET Annual Work Plan 2016 – Detailed Budget Estimate

Disclaimer:

The text of this document represents an internal report from AWARENET to Cap-Net UNDP to fulfil reporting and planning requirements. Any opinion raised is solely the opinion of the AWARENET Network Coordinator. It does neither reflect the opinion of AWARENET as a whole nor of AWARENET members. The opinions addressed in this report also do not necessarily reflect the perspectives of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA) as the host of AWARENET.

Contact:

AWARENET:

Dr. Ralf Klingbeil, Network Coordinator, c/o UN ESCWA, phone +961-1-978508, fax +961-1-978510, UN-House, P.O. Box 11-8575, Riad El-Solh, Beirut, Lebanon, awarenet-escwa@un.org .

Annex 1: AWARENET Annual Work Plan 2015 – Budget Overview based on Priorities

Area / Activity	Priority	Budget, Priority 1	Budget, Priority 2 & 3
2. Capacity Development			
2.1 Water Governance and Water Integrity	1, 2	113,511 / 30,000	22,134 / 10,000
2.2. Climate Change and Water	1, 2	113,511 / 30,000	22,134 / 10,000
2.3. Water Footprint Assessments	1, 2	113,511 / 30,000	22,134 / 10,000
2.4. Human Rights Based Approach	2		59,031 / 17,000
2.5. GIS for Applied Groundwater Maps	2		59,031 / 17,000
2.6. Ecosystem (Water) Management	3		57,031 / 15,000
2.7. Fellowships for Conferences	3		20,112 / --
Sub-Total		340,533 / 90,000	261,607 / 79,000
3. Strengthening Partnership			
3.1 Network Governance	1	30,006 / 30,006	
3.2 Network Coordinator	1	in kind	
3.3 Network Secretariat	1	19,000 / 19,000	
3.4. Reporting to Cap-Net UNDP	1	2,500 / 2,500	
3.5. Working with Working Groups	1	in kind, inc. in 3.3	
3.6. Empowering Sub-Regional Partners	2		inc. in 3.3
3.7. Communication to Members / Outside	1, 2	inc. in 3.3	inc. in 3.3
Sub-Total		51,506 / 51,506	-- / --
4. Knowledge Management			
4.1. MAR – ASR	2		12,000 / 12,000
4.2. Constructed Wetlands	2		12,000 / 12,000
4.3. Wastewater / Grey Water Reuse	2		12,000 / 12,000
4.4. Water – Energy Efficiency	2		12,000 / 12,000
4.5 Water SDG	3		12,000 / 12,000
4.6 Produced Water	3		12,000 / 12,000
Sub-Total			72,000 / 72,000
TOTAL		392,039 / 141,506	333,607 / 151,000

Overview of all envisaged activities in 2016 with resp. total / Cap-Net UNDP budget share per priority.

Annex 2: AWARENET Annual Work Plan 2016 – Detailed Budget Estimate

s. attached table