



PREFACE

The devastation wrought on billions of people through depletion of water resources and lack of sanitation is well recognized, and has brought a massive investment of effort and funding. Much progress has been made, but major difficulties remain. One such difficulty is the participation of poor women and men in the decisions regarding water management. Despite being the primary stakeholders in water resources, they have had only minor roles in water resources planning and management. The Gender and Water Alliance or GWA was created to help rectify this imbalance. Its mission is to do so not simply by pushing for greater inclusion of women especially, but more so to promote the optimum involvement of all sections of society – women, men, rich and poor, in decisions about how to sustain our precious water resources.

The question is how can we enhance human capacities to enable women and men to manage their own lives and their environment. The GWA Capacity Building Program intends to build capacities of its member organizations to improve the inclusion of gender perspectives in their own work – both at conceptual and practical levels. Our deep belief, strengthened by practice, is that the inclusion of women and men in decisions that concern their lives can without question contribute to poverty alleviation and sustainable development.

This training package and the activities described in it are intended for managers, planners and trainers who are concerned with policy development and implementation of integrated water resources management programs and projects. The main purpose of this training package is to give program and project staff a sufficiently detailed account of the gender approach in integrated water resources management to help them in their work. The contents of the package are based on participatory training methodologies based on the principle of building on experiences of all course participants, under the guidance of experienced facilitators and resource persons.

The training package is based on material on and documentation of global experiences provided by various organizations and individuals. This work was initiated in April 2002 which called for an overall effort among GWA members to develop the content and strategy of the GWA Capacity Building Program.

We are confident that this training package will make an effective contribution to progress in mainstreaming gender in the water sector.

Jennifer Francis
Executive Secretary, Gender and Water Alliance



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