

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2012-2016

The African Water Facility (AWF) is an initiative of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) established as a special fund by the African Development Bank (AfDB) in 2004 to address the increasing investment needs in the water sector. The strategic goal of the AWF is to help meet the Africa Water Vision 2025 targets and the Millennium Development Goals and its mission, to **mobilize resources for water in Africa** by strengthening water governance; improving water knowledge; meeting urgent water needs and strengthening the financial base for investment.

### Realigning Strategic Priorities to Enhance Results

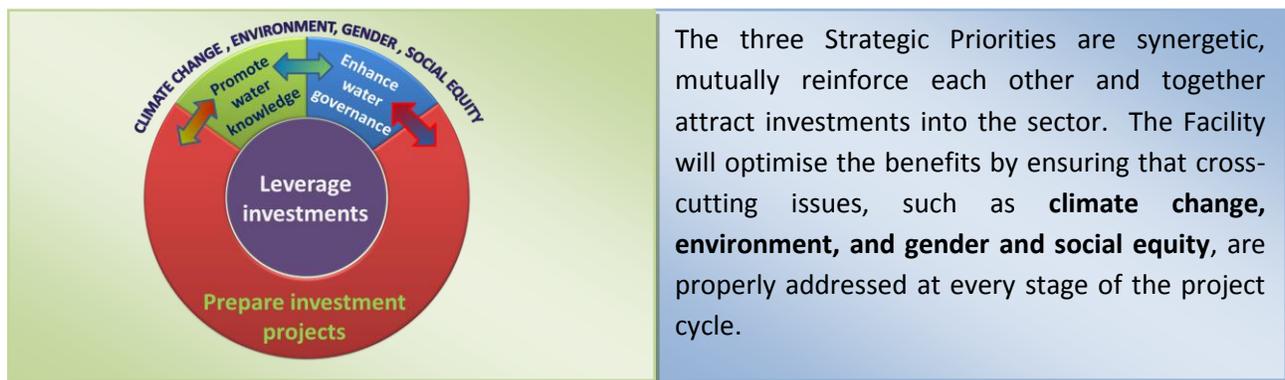
An independent assessment of five year operations has revealed that the AWF has become a successful financing instrument contributing to the development of the sector and that impacts can be greater if its focus can be sharpened by prioritizing the interventions. A revised **strategic plan for the period 2012 to 2016** was developed in response to the recommendations of the assessment, which has resulted in the Facility realigning its strategic priorities for greater impact.

The overarching strategic objective for the medium-term is to **leverage investments** to address the challenges of insufficient investments, lack of capacity of institutions and poor knowledge uptake.

The three **Strategic Priorities** for the Facility within the five-year period 2012-2016 are as follows:

- (i) **Prepare Investment Projects** to directly leverage financing for water infrastructure investments for economic growth and to meet the water supply and sanitation MDG targets.
- (ii) **Enhance Water Governance** through support for better policy environment, institutional development and preparation of strategic plans and tools at local, national, regional, and transboundary levels. This will facilitate integrated national water resources management and create a conducive environment for transboundary cooperation to foster regional integration.
- (iii) **Promote Water Knowledge** by supporting the establishment of water information and M&E systems and capabilities; and by developing knowledge product and experience sharing platforms to support informed decision making and development planning and implementation.

### Mutually reinforcing strategic priorities:



The three Strategic Priorities are synergetic, mutually reinforce each other and together attract investments into the sector. The Facility will optimise the benefits by ensuring that cross-cutting issues, such as **climate change, environment, and gender and social equity**, are properly addressed at every stage of the project cycle.

## Improved Operational Effectiveness

The Facility will deliver greater impact through its prime emphasis on **quality at entry, improved operational efficiency and results based monitoring**. This will be achieved by strengthening its core support functions, including knowledge management and communications, as well as mobilizing the required financial resources to undertake program activities.

**Enhancing Operational Effectiveness:** Emphasis will be given to enhancing the quality of the growing project portfolio throughout all stages of the project cycle to ensure quality at entry, during implementation and at exit, improving implementation support and disbursements, and mainstreaming gender, social equity, environment and climate change.

**Improving Institutional Efficiency:** The Facility will enhance key support functions required to deliver strategic priorities such as additional human resources and ensure a better skill mix to respond to changing priorities. AWF will build and sustain long-standing partnerships with other financing instruments, including other Funds and Facilities with prospects for co-financing projects. It will also build and sustain strategic partnerships with knowledge-generating and sharing institutions. Constant coordination with AMCOW will be maintained to keep the Facility aligned with the AMCOW vision.

**Enhancing Communication and Outreach:** The Facility will upgrade its communications to enhance its visibility, transparency and improve its outreach, in line with its 2010 Communication Action Plan and in conjunction with AfDB Communications Department and AMCOW.

**Resource mobilization:** The Facility has devised a robust resource mobilization strategy to attract, secure and sustain the resources needed to implement the Strategic Plan.

## Implementation Business Plan for 2012-2016

The Implementation Plan is based on a series of **action plans**, which outline the actions that will be undertaken by the AWF to improve its operational functions, effectiveness, and institutional efficiency. The strategic plan reorients the greater portion of the AWF Fund with 70 per cent allocation of its resources to the preparation of investment projects while the allocation for enhancing water governance and promoting water knowledge are set at 15 per cent each. The Facility will aim to achieve US\$ 50 million of annual projects turnover for this period and to leverage US\$ 3 billion of investment grants and loans. The staffing complement will be strengthened to efficiently deliver on the targets set in the Strategic Plan.

**The Facility will look into mobilising US\$ 200 million to deliver its five year plan.**

Governments, multilateral and bilateral financial institutions, foundations, NGOs, private sector actors and other stakeholders are called upon to strengthen partnership to increase resources commitments to the Facility and thus support accelerated achievement of basic water security in Africa.

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