

Sub-Theme 2: Infrastructure for Growth and Climate Resilience Development

Lead Convenors:

UN-Water Africa,
UNECA ACPC, and
African Union Commission

Co – Convenors

GWP
AfDB
ICA

Subtheme II – Session 1: Water Resources Infrastructure Development Opportunities and Challenges in Africa

- **Regional cooperation should be enhanced.** This should include data sharing, cooperation in development of tools and guidelines, and creating enabling conditions for involvement of the private sector
- AMCOW is urged to put some emphasis on groundwater management and monitoring with a particular emphasis on transboundary aquifers. There is also a need to fast track the operationalization of the African Groundwater Commission (AGC).
- Development of guidelines for water quality monitoring, including ecosystem components, needs to receive attention. Guidelines for pollution control and monitoring of quality of groundwater and surface water should be facilitated.

Subtheme 2 - Session 2 on “Optimizing Water Infrastructure Investments in Africa”

- 1. Focus and deepen discussion on “Project Preparation and Financing” e.g. in a theme at the 5th AWW .** *Project Preparation is key for unlocking of additional financing and leveraging of existing funding sources in order to close the financing gap in the development of water related and climate resilient infrastructure for growth. A rapid increase in sustainable infrastructure projects will foster the establishment and growth of economies. The AMCOW Strategic Framework for Water Security and Climate Resilience Development can offer some guidance on identification of investment programs and projects that could be taken for project preparation and financing.*
- 2. Ensuring accessibility and adequate allocation of Climate Finance for climate change adaptation and mitigation programs.** *Ensure the availability and accessibility of climate financing to proceed with the implementation of water infrastructure for growth and at the same time ensuring climate resilient planning and design. AMCOW & the African governments should play their role in advocating and mobilizing resources while development partners, initiatives and partners of AMCOW should assist in strengthen governments capacities in planning, designing and absorbing climate finance.*
- 3. Building up of sound information base (solid databases) is necessary for successful climate proofing of investment projects / programs.** *The decision making on different types of climate resilient investments (climate justified, climate risky and no/low regret measures) could be facilitated with a well sounded and reliable data base. CC and CV research should in that respect be translated into policy useable information.*

Sub-theme II - Session 3: Sustainable Water infrastructure planning, design and management

- AMCOW is urged to encourage and **provide support** to existing research centres, river basin organisations and national institutions in mobilising financial and other resources needed in the area of model development (including Decision Support Systems) to facilitate climate resilient infrastructure planning, design and management .
- In the planning, design and management for climate resilient water resources infrastructure development, AMCOW should consider **decision support tools** for policy decision making and facilitate the adoption of legal instruments, such as water conventions and similar instruments of interest to the sector.
- **Resource conservation and better utilisation of infrastructure and ecosystem services**, need to be prioritised as complements to water resources investment decisions on the continent

Sub-theme II -Session 4:

- Urgent action is required to **improve climate and hydrological data** (surface and groundwater):
 - Recent scientific evidence confirms climate is changing; observed average temperature increases across Africa
 - Climate variability/hydrologic variability increasing especially in Southern/Eastern Africa
- **“No/low regrets” adaptation options key** to addressing twin challenges of urbanization and climate change as well as investments for water utilities and infrastructure and wrm. AMCOW framework for water security and climate resilient development can offer guidance.
- **Enhance coordination and cooperation among initiatives** addressing climate change adaptation, data and information, e.g., CLIMDEV, UNESCO, WACDEP/GWP/AMCOW, etc.

Main Messages for Rio+20 and COP 18

1. Africa has untapped water resources, however **inadequate water infrastructure and economic water scarcity are hindering the transition to the green economy and creation of resilience to climate change.** It is important therefore that :

- funding for infrastructure development from diverse sources including GCF, Adaptation Fund, FDI, and others be extended to Africa to help overcome these identified challenges.
- Focus on preparation of enhanced bankable projects to access these funds.

2. **Data and Information on climate, quantity and quality of water resources, are inadequate and deteriorating.** There are needs to:

- rescue existing data and information, upgrade data information systems and enhance analysis as these are crucial for policy development and investment packaging.
- elevate the issue of data and information into the agenda of AMCOW and Member States and appropriate resources made available.

Main Messages for Rio+20 and COP 18

Africa's analytical and research capacity is currently inadequate to address climate change and other emerging challenges related to water resources such as surface and ground water, transboundary surface and ground water management, developing relevant tools and strategies. There is also inadequate mechanism to mobilize Africa's existing capacities. Therefore it is suggested :

- AMCOW and related institutions to strengthen mobilization and networking of capacities such as in climate modeling, and developing standard capacity building and knowledge outreaches.