



An initiative of:



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The African Water Facility at a Glance

Africa Water Vision 2025

“An Africa where there is an equitable and sustainable use and management of water resources for poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, regional cooperation and the environment.”

The African Water Facility (AWF) is an initiative of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), established to mobilize and apply resources to finance water infrastructure and investment facilitating activities in Africa. The Facility was instituted as a Special Fund of the African Development Bank in May 2004, following a formal request from AMCOW. The Bank is responsible for administering and managing the AWF Special Fund.

The main goal of the Facility is to address the principal constraints hindering the achievement of the Africa Water Vision 2025, namely lack of investment, inadequate capacity for water governance, and poor knowledge uptake for planning, implementation and monitoring.

Strategic Priorities

The AWF has defined its overarching goal as leveraging investments financing and consequently outlined strategic priorities on three areas of operational focus, designed to achieve this goal.

Preparing Investment Projects, to mobilise investment funds:

The Facility provides financial and technical assistance for the preparation of pre-feasibility and feasibility studies, investment plans, and structured public, private and PPP operations with the aim of ensuring that investment projects are bankable, feasible and can be successfully and appropriately implemented. All of these activities are necessary conditions for securing investment financing.

The Facility also supports small strategic - innovative and catalytic - investment projects, comprising the realisation of small scale water and sanitation infrastructure, notably in Fragile States and community initiatives, implemented to stimulate up-scaling.

As at January 2012, the Facility's average financial leveraging ratio was of about **1:20**.

Enhancing Water Governance, to create a conducive environment for effective and sustainable investments. The Facility provides financial and technical assistance for the design and implementation of national, regional and transboundary water policies, strategies as well as IWRM plans that lead to investment plans and resource mobilization strategies, among others, to improve the governance of the water sector, attract investments and ensure that the growth of the water sector is carried out in a sustainable way.

Promoting Water Knowledge, for the preparation of viable projects and informed governance leading to effective and sustainable investments. The Facility provides funding for the development and implementation of water information systems, M&E and knowledge products, for informed management of water resources and improved decision-making at national, regional and transboundary levels.

For more information, www.africanwaterfacility.org

Delivery of Quality Operations

An independent Effectiveness Assessment of 5 years AWF operations was completed in October 2010. The assessment has shown that AWF rooted in the AfDB with close link to AMCOW is delivering quality operations in the sector. The assessment highlighted that AWF has established sound management systems with skilled professional staff delivering on a diverse portfolio of projects designed to respond to the complex and multifaceted water resources management challenges in Africa. The key attributes of AWF operations are innovation and focus on the key water issues; scaling up and leveraging of investments with particular strengths on transboundary water resources management and support to Fragile States and responding to emerging issues such as climate change, sanitation, and M&E systems. The level of accumulated experiences and institutional capacity buildup are seen as a sound and strong spring board for scaling-up its operations and delivery of quality results over the coming years.

Committed to Environmental and Social Sustainability

The Facility is committed to promoting the sustainable development of the water sector. To that effect, the Facility ensures that cross-cutting issues, such as ***climate change, environment protection, gender and social equity*** are properly addressed at every stage of the project cycle.

Investment Scope

The Facility utilizes about two-thirds of its resources to assist its clients to mobilize project and programme financing likely to deliver more benefits to citizens, such as access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, better water control for farmers, access to electricity from hydropower. Projects with a focus on flood protection, fisheries, transport, industry, tourism and environmental management are also considered.

A Wide Range of Grant Recipients

The African Water Facility awards project grants ranging from €50,000 to €5,000,000 to a wide variety of institutions and organizations, including: central governments / ministries or agencies; local governments / municipalities; non-governmental organizations / civil society organizations; community based organizations; regional, sub-regional and sectoral organizations (i.e. regional economic communities); water basin organizations.

Results and Achievements

As at January 2012, the Facility had approved a total of 71 projects, at a cost of €86.7 million. These have **leveraged €420 million on follow-up investment projects**. The support is spread across 50 countries and range from community level to national, sub-regional and regional levels. They cover the following interventions:

- 12 projects on adoption and/or implementation of national Integrated Water Resources Management policies and institutional frameworks, and 7 projects on the development of transboundary water resources;
- 16 small strategic investment water supply and sanitation or agriculture projects designed to attract additional resources or to introduce innovative technologies;
- 21 projects on the preparation of sector investments in water supply and sanitation programmes;
- 15 projects on the information base of countries and shared river basins.

Resources Mobilization

The Facility is entirely financed by donors. Since 2006, the Facility has mobilized €131.3 million from 14 bilateral, multilateral financial institutions, foundations and African governments. These are: Algeria, Australia, Austria, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, France, Norway, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, and the African Development Bank.

2012-2016 Action Plan and Resources requirement

The AWF has finalized an implementation action plan that spans from 2012-2016 for executing the Strategic Plan. The Implementation Plan is structured around the new AWF Results Measurement Framework for 2012-2016. Consistent with the priorities established in the Strategic Plan, 70% of the operations will focus on investment projects with 15% allocation for knowledge and governance projects respectively. The Facility needs additional resources amounting to €150 million (US\$ 200 million) for implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Development partners, African Governments, Foundations, and the Private Sector are invited to contribute to the African Water Facility Special Fund to enable the AWF deliver on its objectives.

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