

Water finance: a checklist for International Cooperating Partners in the SADC region

As an international cooperating partner, your organisation works at the strategic level, influencing government planners and water managers through technical support and development assistance. The partnerships you form with SADC Member States are an investment in their future.

Here are some important things to think about.

- Understanding the role of development assistance.** Financial assistance in the development of water resources is critical, allowing developing SADC countries to improve their water infrastructure and enhance their economies and social structures. You can make it a priority.
- Linking development aid to economic returns.** Many SADC countries do not have the funds they need to develop and manage their water resources. Development aid for water resources management can help leverage significant economic returns through the many sectors that need water. These vary among countries. Plan your assistance with national economic development priorities in mind.
- Addressing climate change.** Countries with limited financial resources tend not

to prioritise climate change planning. Development aid linked to addressing climate change in water resource planning can play a crucial role in creating long-term resilience. Raise awareness of the importance of this among your country partners, and include environmental conservation and adaptation measures in all your funded work.

- Investigating and promoting transparency.** Economic planners and water managers working at basin and national scales often need help to improve their understanding of, and reporting on, many aspects of water resources. Funding from international cooperating partners to investigate and promote transparency about water resource assets, financing, cost recovery, and funding can be crucial in achieving and sustaining good practice. Help your country partners build trust through supporting sound management practices and systems.

*When we invest in water,
water pays us back*

The source of this advice is the report, *Financing Water Resources Management and Development*, SADC Water Division, February 2014.

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