



Water, Climate and Development Programme for Africa

Water is central to Africa's development. To implement the climate change commitments in the Sharm el Sheikh Declaration and address the threat of climate change in Africa, the management of water resources must move to the top of the development agenda.

Water Security for Development

The African Union Heads of State and Government adopted the Sharm el Sheikh Declaration on Water and Sanitation in July 2008, emphasizing their political priority for water and sanitation. The Declaration commits countries to put in place adaptation measures to improve the resilience of countries to the increasing threat of climate change and variability to water resources.

In response to the climate change commitments in the Sharm el Sheikh Declaration, the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) in collaboration with Global Water Partnership (GWP) developed the Water, Climate and Development Programme for Africa.

The Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP) aims to integrate water security and climate resilience in development planning processes, build climate resilience and support countries to adapt to a new climate regime through increased investments in water security.

Adaptation to climate change converges on the goal of water security for all: harnessing water's social and productive potential and limiting its destructive force. *Water security provides a focus for adaptation and a framework for action.*

The future resilience of human communities to climate change-related impacts depends on the success of water management interventions.

The mission of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) is to provide political leadership, policy direction and advocacy in the provision, use and management of water resources for sustainable social and economic development and maintenance of African ecosystems. AMCOW is a specialised committee for water and sanitation of the African Union.

The Global Water Partnership (GWP) is an intergovernmental organisation of 13 Regional Water Partnerships, 83 Country Water Partnerships and more than 2,800 Partner organisations in 167 countries. The GWP network is committed to building a water secure world with the mission to support the sustainable development and management of water resources at all levels.

Water, Climate and Development Programme for Africa

In November 2010, during the 3rd Africa Water Week, the extra-ordinary session of the African Ministers' Council on Water adopted a decision recommending that the Global Water Partnership and partners operationalise the Water, Climate and Development Programme. The programme supports the implementation of climate change commitments in the Sharm el Sheikh Declaration and contributes to the AMCOW's work programme.

WACDEP was launched in August 2011 at High-Level Ministerial Panel at the World Water Week in Stockholm. The launch was attended by nine Ministers of water from Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Egypt, Uganda, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, South Africa, and Gabon.

The initiative is being implemented at country and transboundary level and will lead to the development of national Investment and Financing Strategies for Water Security, Climate Resilience and Development. In addition, infrastructure-related fundable projects is being developed and local pilot projects implemented on the water-food-climate nexus within the context of green growth, land and water management.

Eight countries, four transboundary river basins and one shared aquifer have been identified for in-depth work; Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Ghana, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tunisia and Zimbabwe; Limpopo Basin, Kagera Basin, Lake Chad Basin and Volta Basin and the North-Western Sahara Aquifer System. The transboundary basin approach will enable at least 23 African countries to benefit from the results and outcomes of the initiative.¹

By building climate resilience, the initiative will contribute to peace building and conflict prevention, support pan-African integration and help safeguard investments in economic development, poverty reduction and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

WACDEP builds on GWP's support in 2005-2010 to 13 African countries in facilitating the development of national Integrated Water Resources Management Plans.²

The initiative intentionally aims to strengthen global-regional-national linkages. The programme will take the lessons learned at the national level into regional and global discussions on climate change adaptation. Efforts will be made to ensure that planning at the national and regional level is informed by the latest analyses and processes on the global level.

Goal and Objectives

The goal of the programme is to promote water as a key part of sustainable regional and national development and contribute to climate change adaptation for economic growth and human security. The objectives of the programme are to support countries in:

- the integration of water security and climate resilience in development planning processes
- the development of partnerships and capacity of institutions and stakeholders to build resilience to climate change through better water management
- the development of "no regret" financing and investment strategies for water security and climate change adaptation

¹ Volta River Basin - 6 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Togo) ; Lake Chad Basin - 8 countries (Algeria, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Chad, Libya, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan) ; Limpopo Basin - 4 countries (Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe) ; Kagera Basin - 4 countries (Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda) ; and North-Western Sahara Aquifer System - 3 countries (Algeria, Libya and Tunisia)

² *Water Security for Development: Insights from African Partnerships in Action* available at www.gwp.org.



Source: Aaron T. Wolf et al., 1999; Revenga et al., *Watersheds of the World*, World Resources Institute, 1996 (revised in 2001).

WACDEP is structured around four components with eight Work Packages:

Component 1: Investments in regional and national development

- Work Package 1: Regional and transboundary cooperation
- Work Package 2: National development and sector plans
- Work Package 3: Investments
- Work Package 4: Project preparation and financing

Component 2: Innovative green solutions

- Work Package 5: Demonstration projects

Component 3: Knowledge and capacity development

- Work Package 6: Capacity development
- Work Package 7: Knowledge and awareness

Component 4: Partnership and sustainability

- Work Package 8: Governance and fundraising



Expected Outcomes

- Water security and climate resilience integrated in development planning and decision-making processes
- Capacities of partnerships, institutions and stakeholders enhanced to integrate water security and climate resilience in development planning and decision-making processes
- "No regret" investment and financing strategies for water security, climate resilience and development formulated and governments begin to implement them. In addition, fundable projects (infrastructure-related) for water security, climate resilience and development defined and shared with development banks

Expected Benefits

- More efficient co-ordination and use of resources committed by development partners for water and climate change adaptation in Africa
- Improved capacity of stakeholders to support national governments in moving towards water security for national development
- More realistic and aligned implementation plans for adaptation addressing national development priorities
- Safeguarding investments by development partners/countries in poverty reduction, and accelerating progress towards MDGs
- Improved management of water leading to better climate resilience and improved livelihoods in local communities
- Increased recognition by governments of benefits of regional cooperation in addressing climate change and appreciation of efforts towards peace building, conflict prevention and regional and Pan-African integration
- "No regret" and targeted investments for enhancing water security, climate resilience and development

Financing and Management

Initial funding is provided through GWP's Financing Partners. AMCOW and GWP have committed to grow the funding base by engaging additional partners. The programme is initially expected to cost Euro 12.7 million.

Programme implementation is being led by governments in collaboration with Regional Economic Communities, River Basin Organisations and AMCOW, and facilitated by GWP with other partners. A GWP programme team will oversee day-to-day management. A WACDEP support reference group has been established with experts drawn from GWP and key African bodies and partners, including the AMCOW Technical Committee and Regional Economic Communities.

Programme Summary

Region

Eight countries, four transboundary river basins and one shared aquifer have been identified.

Goal

Promote water as a key part of sustainable regional and national development and contribute to climate change adaptation for economic growth and human security.

Duration

May 2011 to April 2016.

Management

Global Water Partnership in collaboration with other partners.

Implementation

AMCOW, governments, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and River Basin Organisations.

Supervision and Monitoring

National and Sub-Regional Steering Committees.

Oversight and Advisory

Pan-African Advisory Group comprising AMCOW, RECs and other strategic pan-African bodies.

Funding

Austria Development Cooperation, Danida, United Kingdom and other GWP Financing Partners as well as development finance institutions, and governments.

Estimated Cost

Euro 12.7 million.

Outcomes

- Water security and climate resilience integrated in development planning and decision-making processes in eight countries, four river basins and one aquifer
- Capacities of partnerships, institutions and stakeholders enhanced to integrate water and climate change in development processes and enhanced resilience to climate change through better water management
- Investment and financing strategies for water security, climate resilience and development elaborated and governments begin to implement them. In addition, fundable projects (infrastructure-related) for water security, climate resilience and development defined and shared with development banks

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