

## Emerging trends that shape our water future: A series of online dialogues hosted by the GWP TEC

### Dialogue # 2 What makes a project bankable?

Monday 13 November 2023, 1300-1230 CET

Meeting link: [Click here to join the meeting \(TEAMS\)](#)

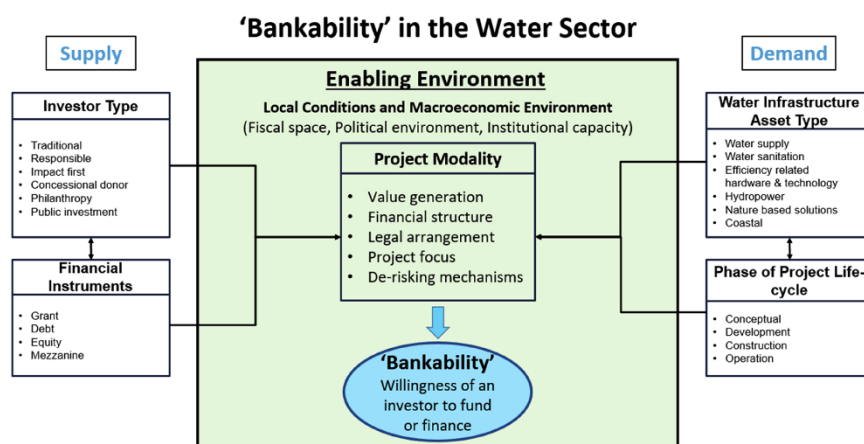
### Introducing the online dialogues

As we emerge from the 2023 UN Water Conference, with some renewed focus and momentum, it is timely to take stock of the emerging trends and look ahead to the next decade of water management and explore the opportunities for GWP leadership.

With this in mind, the GWP TEC intends to organize a series of online dialogues with the GWP network to surface and explore some of the emerging trends where GWP could take a leadership position in developing and disseminating knowledge, developing partnerships and building capacity. The intended outcome of the dialogues is to identify and elaborate on areas of strategic importance for GWP to position itself as a leader within the global water community.

### Dialogue #2 What makes a project bankable?

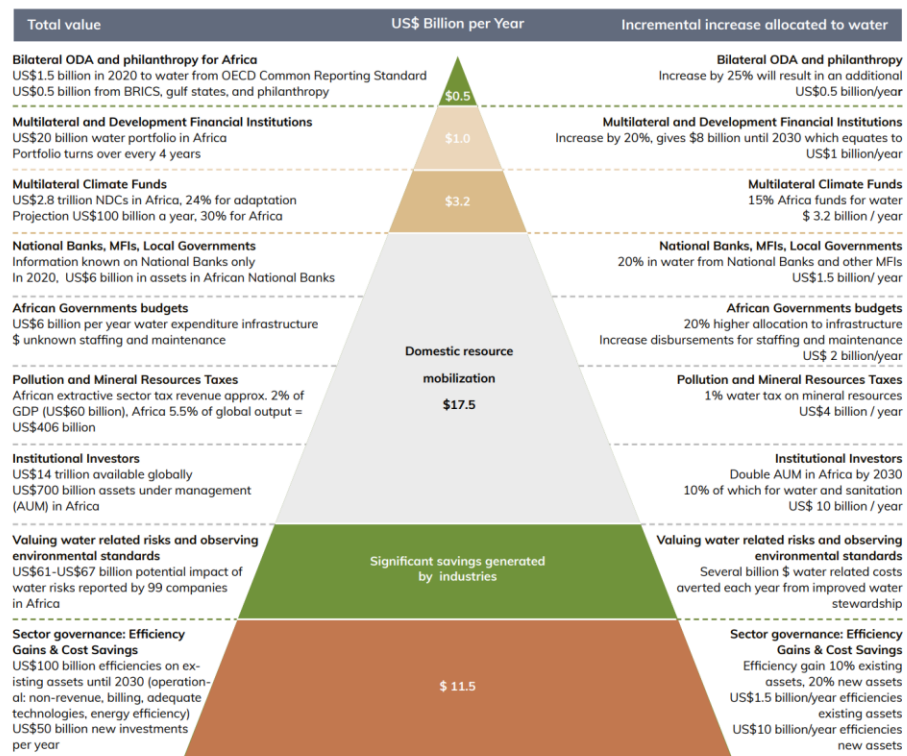
The estimated global costs of achieving SDG 6 exceed US\$ 1 trillion annually, a figure that is nowhere near being met. Meeting this demand will require improving the allocation of existing resources, mobilization of new resources and structural reforms to incentivize and de-risk financing. Within this, the concept of 'bankable projects' is important to explore and understand the nuances of what makes a water project bankable. McCoy & Schwartz suggest that the definition of bankability for water projects should encompass both financial returns and capture the social/environmental benefits of projects to create an environment in which more eligible projects are also deemed to be 'bankable' for different investors (see figure below).



Wilder McCoy, Klaas Schwartz; *The water finance gap and the multiple interpretations of 'bankability'*. *Journal of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Development* 1 January 2023; 13 (1): 19–29. doi: <https://doi.org/10.2166/washdev.2022.201>

When considering the financing needs for SDG6 and how they will be met, its important to look at national and regional supply and demand dynamics to better understand contextual drivers and constraints. Such an approach has been undertaken by *the International High Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa*, to illustrate how the water security funding gap can be bridged, see image below. Such frameworks are informative when considering what is required to make a project bankable, as it encompasses not just the supply options for finance, but the broader enabling environment that can unlock and leverage additional finance.

**At least USD\$ 30 billion additional finance could be raised for water security in Africa.**



*Africa's Rising Investment Tide: How to Mobilise US\$30 Billion Annually to Achieve Water Security and Sustainable Sanitation in Africa, International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa, South Africa, March 2023.*

This online dialogue will explore the concept of bankable projects, reflect on the various financing options available from multi-lateral development banks and seek to understand the potential role of GWP in developing bankable projects.

## Draft Agenda

Timing	Agenda Item	Notes
0-5	Welcome on behalf of GWP Technical Committee (GWP-TEC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Jaehyang So, TEC Chair, Global Water Partnership</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restate the role of the TEC</li> <li>• Introduce TEC members</li> <li>• General housekeeping</li> </ul>
5-10	Remarks from GWP Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Pablo Bereciartua, Chair, Global Water Partnership</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlight importance of topic and relevance to GWP</li> </ul>
10-15	Framing dialogue on bankable projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tom Williams, TEC Member, Global Water Partnership</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose of these dialogues</li> <li>• Introduction of bankable projects</li> </ul>
15-25	Reflections on the International High Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Alex Simalabwi, Executive Secretary, GWP SAF</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intro to high level panel</li> <li>• Focus on 'finance pyramid'</li> </ul>
25-55	Discussion with TEC members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Franz Rojas Ortuste, Director, Directorate of Analysis and Evaluation of Water and Sanitation, CAF development bank</i></li> <li>• <i>Thomas Panella, Director, Natural Capital and Climate Team, Asian Development Bank</i></li> <li>• <i>Winston Yu, Water Practice Manager for the Europe and Central Asia Region, World Bank</i></li> </ul>	Tom to moderate, questions to be developed in advanced and shaped with Franz, Tom and Winston
55-65	Open floor questions and remarks	Tom to bring any questions or comments from the chat and also invite others to contribute
65-70	Summary of discussion and preview of next global dialogue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Jaehyang So, TEC Chair, Global Water Partnership</i></li> <li>• <i>Per Bertilsson, interim Executive Secretary, GWP</i></li> </ul>	Tom to summarize and also invite any reflections from Per and Jae
70-75	Closing remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Abdoulaye Sene, Chair of Regional Chairs &amp; Chair, GWP-West Africa</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional dimensions of these discussions are important</li> <li>• Engagement with regional GWP critical</li> <li>• Next dialogue to take place (February )</li> </ul>