In February 2021 during the 34th Ordinary Session Assembly of the African Union, African Heads of State and Government adopted the Continental Africa Water Investment Program (AIP), as part of the second phase of the Africa Union Development Agency’s Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa Priority Action Plan (PIDA PAP2, 2021-2030). The AIP Transboundary PIDA Water Investments Support Programme is one of the support programmes of the AIP.

PIDA is the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, a multi sector programme dedicated to facilitating continental integration in Africa through improved regional infrastructure. PIDA is a joint initiative of the African Union Commission, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development Planning and Coordination Agency, and the African Development Bank.

The goal of the AIP Transboundary PIDA Water Investments Support Programme is to promote job creation through accelerated planning, preparation, financing, and implementation of regional and transboundary water investments. The overall objective of the Support Programme is to strengthen the enabling environment for planning, project preparation and financing of integrated regional, transboundary water investments that are coordinated with investments in energy, food health, ecosystems, and Covid-19 regional recovery plans.

With over 54 shared river basins in Africa, cooperation in the management and development of transboundary water resources is a key building block towards regional and economic integration. However, the pace of investment in transboundary water projects in Africa remains very slow hampering progress towards the continent’s economic growth aspirations and 2030 SDG targets.

The AIP Transboundary PIDA Water Investments Support Programme will accelerate preparation and implementation of climate resilient and gender transformative PIDA Water and other priority transboundary water investments for job creation, industrialisation, and SDG implementation.

Outcomes of the Transboundary PIDA Water Investment Support Programme by 2025

- **USD10 billion** water-related transboundary investments leveraged from government and private sources
- **2 million** indirect jobs and **250,000** direct jobs created for vulnerable and poor
- **Integrated corridor multipurpose source-to-sea approach is adopted and implemented by transboundary institutions**
- **Bankable projects** prepared, access to finance accelerated through public-private partnerships and blended finance instruments
- **Regional water investment programs** and priority action plans developed and under implementation
- **Africa Water-Health-Energy-Food Nexus Operational Framework** adopted by African Union member states
- **At least 5 transboundary agreements and 5 transboundary institutions** strengthened to coordinate water investments
- Regional investment in water and sanitation integrated into regional Covid-19 recovery efforts
- **100 million people** benefit
AIP Transboundary PIDA Water Investments Support Programme Components

**01 CATALYSE** leadership and commitment for transboundary cooperation and integrated water investments

**WORK PACKAGE 1:** Support shared visioning for transboundary cooperation and integrated regional water investments

**WORK PACKAGE 2:** Support institutional development of river basin organisations, identify barriers to preparation of bankable projects

**WORK PACKAGE 3:** Develop business cases for regional integrated corridor approaches in the preparation of transboundary water investments and motivate financing for project preparation

**02 MOBILISE** partnerships and capacity for planning, preparation and implementation of transboundary projects coordinated with investments in water, energy, food, ecosystems, and health

**WORK PACKAGE 4:** Map partnerships, policies and capacities for preparation of bankable transboundary projects

**WORK PACKAGE 5:** Strengthen collaboration among RBOs and establish Africa transboundary water platform for knowledge sharing, capacity development in international water law, project preparation and financing

**WORK PACKAGE 6:** Apply the Water Investment Scorecard to monitor progress made on transboundary water investments and identify priorities for unlocking bottlenecks and building capacity

**03 ACCELERATE** access to early stage project preparation and transaction advisory services of identified priority AIP-PIDA water transboundary projects, and document processes for agile learning, monitoring and evaluation

**WORK PACKAGE 7:** Develop regional transboundary water investment programmes coordinated with investments in water, energy, food, health and ecosystems/nature-based solutions

**WORK PACKAGE 8:** Accelerate support to early stage project preparation and transaction advisory services across the project preparation value chain

**WORK PACKAGE 9:** Establish programme coordination, Monitoring & Evaluation systems for project implementation, and ensure experiential learning

**Implementation**

The total budget for programme implementation in 18 countries and 5 river basins is USD 25 million from 2020 to 2025. Two categories of projects will be supported.

**01 Transboundary water projects prioritised by Lake and River Basin Organisations and Regional Economic Communities**

Prioritised transboundary and regional projects in all Africa Regional Economic Communities. The following lake and river basins have been prioritised for initial support: Volta Basin in West Africa, Lake Chad, Lake Victoria/Kagera, North-Western Sahara Aquifer System, Okavango, Limpopo, Orange-Senqu and Zambezi Basin.

**02 Priority Transboundary PIDA water projects adopted by the AUDA-NEPAD**

Transboundary water projects under the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). A secondary objective is the application of the water-health-energy-food security nexus approach to transboundary hydropower projects to realise tangible regional development benefits.
The AIP Transboundary PIDA Water Investments Support Programme is executed by the Global Water Partnership, the African Union Development Agency - NEPAD, the African Development Bank, the African Ministers’ Council on Water, River Basin Organisations, and others.

The programme is implemented with technical support and backstopping from the AIP Secretariat hosted by Global Water Partnership Africa Coordination Unit.

**AIP Theory of Change**

**Impact**

$30 billion SDG 6 Investments leveraged, and 5 million jobs created by 2030

**Goal**

Transform and improve the investment outlook for water security and sustainable sanitation for a prosperous, peaceful equitable society

**AIP Support Programmes**

- **Component 1: Accelerate** preparation, financing and implementation of regional and transboundary water investments
- **Component 2: Mobilise** partnerships for gender transformative climate resilient water investments
- **Component 3: Catalyse** implementation of coordinated SDGs on water & sanitation-health-energy-food-ecosystems

**Components**

- AIP Transboundary PIDA Water Investments
- AIP WACDEP Gender Investments
- AIP SDG Water Investments

**Strategic Objectives**

- Strengthen enabling environment for project preparation, planning and financing of regional, transboundary water investments
- Promote gender-transformative planning, decision-making and institutional development for climate resilient water investments in Africa.
- Promote integration of SDG water investments into planning, decision-making and implementation of SDGs on energy, food, ecosystems and health

**Water Investment Gap**

$64 Billion/year

- Across Africa, delivery of investments in water infrastructure, information and institutions remains below targets required to meet economic growth objectives and social needs of the continent

**Barriers**

- Project preparation, financing and implementation of bankable transboundary and regional water projects is slow
- Planning, investment decision-making and institutional processes for water climate development investments are not gender transformative
- Gender inequalities in project preparation development and implementation of water, climate development investments
- Planning, decision making, and institutional processes of ongoing and new investments in water & sanitation, health, energy, and food security are not integrated
- Fragmentation, inadequate institutional coordination across sectors in planning, implementation of SDG 6, health-water-energy-food SDGs

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The AIP at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scope</th>
<th>Africa: At least 18 Countries and 5 River Basins</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>2020-2030</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goal</td>
<td>To transform and improve the investment outlook for water security and sustainable sanitation for a prosperous, peaceful, and equitable society</td>
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</tbody>
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**Overall Objective**
The objective is to enhance job creation through gender sensitive investments in water security, sustainable sanitation, industrialisation, and climate resilient development.

**Impact**
- $30 billion leveraged by 2030 towards climate resilient water and sanitation related investments
- 250 million people benefit from resilient water investments and economic opportunities
- 4 million indirect jobs for vulnerable, poor youth, women and girls
- 1 million direct jobs created through climate resilient water and sustainable sanitation

**Targeted Outcomes**
- Regional, national water investment programmes developed and under implementation
- African Union governance framework for water-health-energy-food-ecosystem nexus adopted
- AIP Water Investment Scorecard developed and operationalised
- Business cases for water investments and profile of water in economy strengthened
- Job Creation Toolkit developed and operationalised by the African Union Development Agency
- Gender transformative investments in water, climate, and development developed and integrated in national development and Covid-19 economic recovery plans
- Bankable water projects prepared, and finance leveraged at transboundary and national level
- Delivery of critical water infrastructure accelerated, addressing the water-health-food-ecosystems nexus and meeting the needs of water dependent growth sectors and the poor

**AIP Support Programs and strategic objectives**
- **AIP Transboundary PIDA water investments**
  - Accelerate project preparation, finance and implementation of regional, transboundary water investments
- **AIP Water Climate Development and Gender (AIP WACDEP-G)**
  - Mobilise partnerships and implement gender-transformative investments in water climate development
- **AIP SDG Water Investments**
  - Catalyse commitment and leadership for coordinated climate resilient SDG water investment toward inclusive growth, jobs and Industrialisation
- **High Level International Panel for Climate Resilient Water Investments in Africa**
  - Mobilise high level political commitment and leadership for water investments, peace and security

**Activities**
- Establish a high-level international leadership Panel and mobilise political commitment for climate resilient, gender transformative water investments aligned with SDGs on water, energy, food, health and Covid-19 economic recovery plans
- Develop regional, national climate resilient water security investment programmes to improve the investment outlook for water and sanitation as key inputs to employment creation and inclusive growth
- Develop business cases for investments in SDG 6 and undertake economic analysis to determine the real value of proposed investments and their related costs and benefits
- Support countries to integrate water security, gender transformative climate resilience investments in development planning and budgets
- Develop an AIP Water Investment Scorecard to assist countries benchmark progress in water investments
- Develop partnerships, capabilities, knowledge for improved governance and coordination of gender transformative SDG 6 investments with related targets on energy, food and health
- Provide transaction management advisory services and technical assistance in early stage preparation of bankable water projects at regional, transboundary and national level
- Provide transaction management advisory services and technical assistance in early stage preparation of bankable PIDA transboundary water and hydropower projects
- Promote regional integrated regional corridor approach in planning and implementation of transboundary water projects
- Convene annual water investment summit, mobilise finance for bankable projects

**Management, coordination and implementing partners**
- Governments, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), River Basin Organisations (RBOs)

**Funding and Budget**
- $75 million: GWP Finance Partners (Austria, SIDA, SDC, EU) Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility, Adaptation Fund, Development Bank Southern Africa, national governments and other donors