



# Water, Climate and Development Programme for Africa

Water is central to development. Whether it is food security, poverty reduction, economic growth, energy production, human health—water is at the nexus. But climate change is the spoiler. And water is the principal medium through which people, ecosystems and economies will experience the impacts of climate change.

## Water Security for Development

To meet the threat of climate change, the management of the world's water resources must move to the top of the development agenda.

The Global Water Partnership mobilises multi-stakeholder partnerships to promote water as key to sustainable development and to contribute to climate change adaptation for economic growth and human 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.*

An integrated approach to water security promotes the integration of activities across sectors that use water, ensuring that activities in one sector do not undermine those in another, and that overall use does not compromise the sustainability of the resource itself. Also, integration recognises that managing trade-offs between interests requires effective institutions and ensures that "no regret" investments are identified for poverty reduction.

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

The Global Water Partnership is an intergovernmental organisation of 13 Regional Water Partnerships, 77 Country Water Partnerships and more than 2,000 Partner organisations in 157 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.

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.

# Water, Climate and Development Programme

In January 2009, the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) requested GWP Africa to support the implementation of the African Union Sharm el Sheikh Declaration on Water and Sanitation. In response, GWP developed the Water, Climate and Development Programme to support the integration of water security and climate change adaptation in development planning processes and the design of financing and investment strategies.

The Water, Climate and Development Programme builds on GWP's 2005–2010 support to 13 African countries in facilitating the development of national Integrated Water Resources Management Plans.\*

The programme will be implemented at transboundary, national and local level in eight countries and four river basins in Africa. As a knowledge broker, GWP will ensure that lessons learned from these countries are captured for further implementation. Pilot programmes at sub-national level will focus on the water, food and climate nexus.

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



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

\* *Water Security for Development: Insights from African Partnerships in Action* available at [www.gwp.org](http://www.gwp.org).

## Basins of Africa



Resources Institute (WRI), Washington DC, 1998; Philippe Rekacewicz, *Atlas de poche*,

## Expected Outcomes

- Water security and climate change risks integrated in development planning and decision-making processes
- Capacities of partnerships, institutions, and stakeholders enhanced to integrate water and climate change in development processes and strengthened resilience to climate change through better water management
- Governments begin to implement financing and investment strategies for water resources management and climate change adaptation

## Expected Benefits

- More efficient co-ordination and use of resources by development partners for water and climate change adaptation
- More realistic and aligned implementation plans for adaptation, accelerating achievement of the Millennium Development Goals
- Improved water management and climate resilience
- Increased recognition by governments of the benefits of regional co-operation in addressing climate change and appreciation of efforts towards regional integration
- "No regret" investment strategies that ensure resources are used for climate resilient development
- Improved livelihoods and poverty reduction in local communities

## Financing and Management

Initial funding will be through GWP's Financing Partners who contribute core funding. AMCOW and GWP will commit to grow the funding base by engaging additional partners. The programme is initially expected to cost Euro 10.8 million.

Programme implementation will be 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. An advisory group will be established from key African bodies and partners, including the AMCOW Technical Committee and Regional Economic Communities.

*GWP's global budget is supported in 2010 by Denmark, the European Commission, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.*



# Programme Summary

## Region

Initially eight selected countries in Africa and up to four river basins. Target countries and basins to be agreed during inception phase.

## 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

January 2011 to December 2015.

## 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

GWP Financing Partners, development finance institutions, governments and others.

## Estimated Cost

Euro 10.8 million.

## Outcomes

- Water security and climate change risks integrated in development planning and decision-making processes
- Capacities of partnerships, institutions, and stakeholders enhanced to integrate water and climate change in development processes and strengthened resilience to climate change through better water management
- Governments begin to implement financing and investment strategies for water resources management and climate change adaptation

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