

Press Release | Tuesday, September 2, 2014 | For immediate release

Call for Proposals: The African Water Facility calls on African organizations to submit climate-smart water project proposals for funding

Stockholm, Sweden, September 2, 2014 - The African Water Facility (AWF) announces today the launch of a call for proposals for the “Preparation of Water and Climate Change Investment Projects”. African organisations [eligible](#) for AWF grants are encouraged to submit their proposal by Friday November 14 2014. The AWF intends to commit a total of €16 million in grants to fund the preparation of water projects and programs aimed at building resilience to climate change in Africa, with funding to be allocated to projects ranging in size from € 1 million up to € 3 million.

This AWF initiative will receive special support from the [Nordic Development Fund](#) and the [Austrian Development Cooperation](#), who will make use of their extensive knowledge and worldwide experience in sustainable development and climate change to assist with the implementation of the call.

“The collaboration between AWF and NDF in this call for proposals combines the knowledge and experience of both organisations. By joining forces it is expected that we can support clever, effective and innovative project ideas that combine attention on water and climate change. Hopefully these can then later leverage financing for follow-on water-sector investments in Africa,” said Pasi Hellman, Managing Director of NDF. The primary objective of NDF's operations is to facilitate investments in low-income countries that address the causes and consequences of climate change.

“Extreme spatial and temporal variability of climate and rainfall coupled with climate change require urgent action in order to achieve water security as called for by the African Water Vision 2025.” says Martin Ledolter, Managing Director of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the operational unit of the Austrian Development Cooperation. “Therefore, ADA puts the nexus between water, food and energy security and the role of ecosystems at the center when thinking about climate-smart projects”.

In its selection, the AWF will prioritize projects focused on the “preparation of investment programs or projects” that show strong climate and water adaptation and/or mitigation emphasis. Components focused on improving water governance in the context of climate change and on capturing and disseminating climate and water information and knowledge will be also considered.

“We can no longer design water projects without considering the changing climate context and the significant impact it is having on water resources” said Akissa Bahri, Coordinator of the African Water Facility. “The AWF wants to select and support the most promising, sustainable climate-smart water projects to generate a real shift in the type and nature of water projects being implemented on the continent to ensure water security for future generations.”

The sub-sectors supported include water resources infrastructure, water for agriculture, water for energy, water supply and sanitation, and water for environment, among others. Support could be extended to include non-water infrastructure or natural resources, such as forestry, livestock, or a broader water-energy-land focus of interventions, where it is relevant to the overall water sector and related climate adaptation and mitigation measures.

More detailed information about this call for proposals and application requirements is available on the AWF website at www.africanwaterfacility.org/en/callclimate/

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About the African Water Facility (AWF): The AWF is an initiative of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), hosted and administered by the African Development Bank (AfDB). The AWF was established 2004 as a Special Water Fund to help African countries achieve the objectives of the Africa Water Vision 2025 through the mobilisation of resources, the promotion of water knowledge and the enhancement water governance. Since 2006, the AWF has funded 91 national and regional projects across 51 countries, including in Africa's most vulnerable states. It has mobilized more than €937 million as a result of its project preparation activities, which constitute 70 percent of its portfolio. On average, each €1 contributed by the AWF has attracted €30 in additional follow-up investments.

The AWF is funded by Algeria, Australia, Austria, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Burkina Faso, Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, France, the Nordic Development Fund, Norway, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the African Development Bank. The AWF is governed by a Governing Council representing its 15 donors, UN-Water Africa, the AU via NEPAD, AMCOW and the AfDB.

