

Press Release | For immediate release

Ghana and Togo sign project agreement to bring drinking water to Lomé and Ghana's coastal communities

Lome, January 9, 2014 – The governments of Ghana and Togo signed on 12 December 2014 a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the construction of an [African Water Facility](#) -supported pipeline to bring drinking water from the lower Volta River in Ghana to the city of Lomé in Togo and the Ghanaian communities along the water transfer route. The AWF has offered a €1.4 million grant to Ghana to support the technical, legal and financial preparation of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) project. In addition to AWF support, the African Legal Support Facility (ALSF) is providing a € 0.7 million grant to help prepare the project.

The signing of the MoU in Lomé has paved the way for the launch of the project development studies, including a feasibility study as well as a social and environmental impact assessment, and the provision of a transaction advisory service. The MoU sets out roles and responsibilities between the two countries in the organisation and implementation of the project.

“The signing of the MoU marks the beginning of the realisation of an idea hatched in the 1970s to provide sustainable drinking water from Sogakope in Ghana to the residents of Lomé as well as the Ghanaian communities along the transboundary pipeline” said AWF coordinator Akissa Bahri.

More than 4 million people in Togo and Ghana will benefit from access to improved drinking water when the preparation studies are completed and the project is executed. The AWF and ALSF grant will pave the way for the mobilisation of € 100 million from the private sector for the water supply infrastructure investments under a Public-Private Partnership arrangement.

The Ghana Water Company Ltd shall act as the Executing Agency of the project.

Togo's groundwater supply sources for the city of Lomé and surrounding communities are on the verge of depletion due to overexploitation and their quality is deteriorating. Ghana's huge lower Volta River, emptying into the Gulf of Guinea, has ample source of fresh water to augment Togo's scarce surface water sources. The project is seen as strengthening sub-regional cooperation through the sharing of the resources of the transboundary Volta River.

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About the African Water Facility (AWF): The AWF is an initiative of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB), established in 2004 as a Special Water Fund to help African countries achieve the objectives of the Africa Water Vision 2025. The AWF offers grants from €50,000 to €5 million to support projects aligned with its mission and strategy to a wide range of institutions and organizations operating in Africa. Its three strategic priority activities are (1) preparing investment projects to mobilize investment funds for projects supported by AWF; (2) enhancing water governance to create an environment conducive for effective and sustainable investments; (3) promoting water knowledge for the preparation of viable projects and informed governance leading to effective and sustainable investments. Since 2006, AWF has funded 94 national and regional projects in 51 countries, including in Africa's most vulnerable states. It has mobilized more than €1.2 billion 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 €40 in additional follow-up investments.

The AWF is entirely 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 16 donors, UN-Water Africa, the AU via NEPAD, AMCOW and the AfDB.

