

## Press Release | For immediate release

### AWF to help tackle rising sanitation demands in the Seychelles

**Victoria, Seychelles, January 20, 2015** – The African Water Facility (AWF) announced on January 19, 2015 that it has approved a €1.07-million grant for the development of an Integrated Comprehensive Sanitation Plan for the Seychelles.

The 10-year plan will follow an integrated approach, looking at the synergies with related sectors such as waste, energy, water supply and stormwater. It will also promote innovative water re-use technologies.

A diagnostic study of the sanitation sector of the Seychelles will be conducted which will include economic, environmental and societal impact assessments. The design of the plan shall include participation of communities and stakeholders to ensure that it is demand-driven, sustainable and impactful. The Public Utilities Corporation will be the Implementing Agency.

“The fast pace of urban growth coupled with dysfunctional sanitation systems are threatening the fragile environment of the islands which depend heavily on tourism. The development of a sanitation plan will in particular look at using reclaimed water for irrigation, landscape and industry, reducing waste and improving people’s livelihoods,” said AWF Coordinator Akissa Bahri.

Approximately 15% of all households in the Seychelles are served by piped waterborne sewerage systems, while the remaining population depends on on-site sanitation facilities in the form of septic tanks and pit latrines.

Sanitation in the Seychelles is very much linked to the water supply, energy and waste sectors. The AWF-funded Water Supply Master Plan (2011) estimated that the water deficit will reach 30,000 m<sup>3</sup> to 40,000 m<sup>3</sup> in 2030. It also identified investments (including desalination plants) and demand management measures amounting to €100 million to cope with the shortage. Any future reclaimed water reuse project is estimated to be potentially profitable.

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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.

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