

African Water Facility A dam in Swaziland to cover water shortages

Abidjan, Ivory Coast, 1st February 2016 – The African Water Facility (AWF) has approved a grant of EUR 1.28 million to finance feasibility studies for a multi-purpose dam on a tributary of River Lusushwana in Swaziland. The project will provide drinking water to urban areas, including Mbabane and Manzini, the two major cities of the country. The water stored by the dam will also be used for irrigation and hydro-power generation. The multipurpose dam project is a priority investment for the Swazi Government. The 300.000 inhabitants in the area will benefit from this investment.

Foreseeable Water shortage. This region, which is a strong driving force for economic growth, handles most of the country's industrial activities. Mohamed El Azizi, AWF Director, describes the context of the initiative as follows: *"For 2015, the overall access rate to drinking water supply in Swaziland is 74%, while the sanitation coverage rate is 57%. However, the increase in water demand in the two cities of Mbabane and Manzini and the riparian region, requires the urgent construction of new infrastructure. Given the rapid socio-economic development of the area, water storage and processing facilities will no longer be able to meet the needs of the population of these cities in the coming years."* The Nondvo dam project will also have very positive impact in the industrial and agricultural sectors.

Several partners support this project. The cost of the study, estimated at EUR 2.8 million, will be financed to the tune of EUR 1.28 million by the African Water Facility (AWF). The Middle Income Country Technical Assistance Fund (an instrument of the African Development Bank), the Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Facility (CRIDF), and the Government of Swaziland will participate in the financing to the tune of EUR 1 million, EUR 220 000, and EUR 300 000 respectively. The study is expected to take 24 months. The Nondvo dam project is consistent with the 2014/15-2016/17 National Development Plan and the National Development Strategy (NDS) of the Government of Swaziland.

Mina Mammeri • Communication Officer • +225 20 26 53 09 • m.mammeri@afdb.org
Jean-Michel Ossete • Acting Coordinator • +225 20 26 27 71 • j.ossete@afdb.org

www.africanwaterfacility.org



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 98 national and regional projects in 52 countries, including in Africa's most vulnerable states. It has mobilized more than €1.4 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 €35 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.