

# Strategy 2012-2016:

## *Mobilising More Resources Through Project Preparation*

Established in 2004, the AWF helps African countries meet the goals and targets for the water and sanitation sector set by the Millennium Development Goals 2015 and the Africa Water Vision 2025. Its mission is to mobilise resources to build the financial base necessary to multiply water projects to ensure **water, food and energy security** in Africa, in a context of sustainable and inclusive growth.

After eight years of operation, the AWF has developed a portfolio of grants totaling 73 projects in 50 countries including Africa's most vulnerable states, which are aimed at (i) contributing to improved governance of water resources, (ii) improving knowledge about water, (iii) meeting the urgent needs for water and (iv) strengthening the financial base.

It was then determined that the preparation of bankable projects would constitute the bulk of AWF portfolio given their potential leverage effect. This means that new grant applications of this type will now be given priority, taking into account their leverage potential.

As a result, AWF has refined its strategic priorities and redistributed its funding percentage as follows:

**1. Preparing investment projects:** the AWF will now invest 60 percent of its funding to the preparation of investment plans, feasibility studies and designs in order to prepare projects that can attract public or private funding; and 10 percent of its resources to small scale investment projects (works) that are strategic and innovative.

**2. Improving water governance:** the AWF will allocate 15 percent of its funding to the development and implementation of water sector national policies and strategies, and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plans, which should lead, among other things, to investment plans and strategies for resource mobilisation targeted at strengthening water governance, attracting investment and ensuring that the growth of the water sector is sustainable.

**3. Promoting water knowledge:** the AWF will allocate the remaining budget, i.e. 15 percent, to the design and implementation of information systems or "monitoring and evaluation" systems to serve the needs of the water sector and to the development of knowledge products, for wiser use and management of water resources and better decision making at national, regional and transboundary levels.

### Sharpening our Focus: The Preparation of Bankable Projects

Following the 2010 assessment of AWF institutional set-up and operational effectiveness, the AWF launched a participatory process for the design of a new Strategy, for the period 2012-2016, which was approved by its Governing Council in December 2011. This new strategic plan provides that AWF activities will focus on one main objective: mobilising investment.



## Effective Leverage Effect

To date, the AWF has mobilised more than € 420 million as a result of its project preparation activities. On average, each €1 contributed by the AWF has attracted € 20 in additional follow-up investment.

## Committed to Addressing Climate Change, Environmental and Social Sustainability

The AWF is committed to promoting the sustainable development of the water sector. To that effect, the AWF ensures that cross-cutting issues, such as climate change, environment protection, gender and social equity are properly addressed at every stage of the project cycle.

## Investment Scope

The AWF utilises about two-thirds of its resources to assist its clients to mobilise project and programme financing likely to deliver more benefits to citizens, such as access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, better agricultural water management for farmers, and access to electricity from hydropower. Projects with a focus on flood protection, fisheries, transport, industry, tourism and environmental management are also considered.

## A Wide Range of Grant Recipients

The AWF awards project grants ranging from €50,000 to €5 million to a wide variety of institutions and organisations,



including: central governments / ministries or agencies; local governments / municipalities; non-governmental organisations / civil society organisations; community based organisations; regional, sub-regional and sectoral organisations (i.e. regional economic communities); water basin organisations.

Thank you for supporting our mission,

**Akissa Bahri**

Coordinator, African Water Facility

Managed by the African Development Bank

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## Africa Water Vision 2025

“An Africa where there is an equitable and sustainable use and management of water resources for poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, regional cooperation and the environment.”

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