AfDB

Water & Sanitation Department

Mobilising and applying resources for adaptation to climate change

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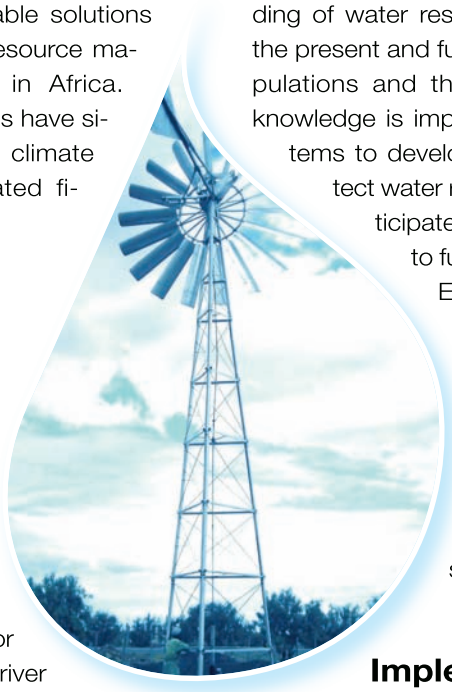
The role of the African Water Facility

The overriding objectives of the projects supported by the Facility are to mobilize resources and put in place sustainable solutions for improved water resource management and use in Africa. Many of these projects have significant impacts on climate change and associated financing needs.

These include:

- preparation of climate change projects;
- development and implementation of integrated water resources management plans and support to sector institutions such as river basin authorities;
- introduction of innovative technologies and approaches for water supply, sanitation, drainage, solid waste, and water reuse;
- improved management of water resources for agriculture; and,
- better information on national and transboundary surface water and groundwater resources.



Proper planning for adaptation is one of the most important actions to undertake to resolve the many pressures on water resources resulting from climate change. This requires better understanding of water resource availability and the present and future needs of the populations and the environment. This knowledge is important to set up systems to develop, manage and protect water resources that can anticipate, mitigate and adapt to future stress situations. Experience shows that countries with strategies that anticipate the impacts of a changing climate are better equipped to set up resilient institutions and infrastructure.

Implementation Experience

National Water Resources Management: The Facility's Integrated Water Resources Management projects and activities enable countries to understand the impact of climate change and variability on water resources management, and supports the development of strategies to achieve water security, as well as action plans to mitigate and adapt to negative impacts. Ten such national Integrated Water Resources Management projects are ongoing or completed in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Gambia, Liberia, Mauritania, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, and Tunisia. Other ongoing projects involve undertaking concrete actions to improve adaptation to climate change, such as ecosystem-based adaption in Kenya, and the recharge of natural aquifers in Morocco.

Transboundary Water Resources Management: Regional cooperation provides the greatest opportunity for analysing and understanding the problems, and designing strategies for coping with the impact of climate change and variability. Achieving water security to cope with impacts needs significant investments in infrastructure. Transboundary Water Resources Management and related project preparation interventions are addressing these climate change and water security issues, with six regional projects in Congo, the Volta and Kayanga-Geba river basins, Lake Chad, the Bugesera area of Burundi/Rwanda; and the Economic Community Central African States region, and three regional programme preparation projects in the Lake Victoria, Malawi/Tanzania, and the SADC region.

Water Resources Information Management: Data, information and know-

ledge is necessary for understanding climate change impacts, as well as the planning and designing of adaptation measures. Providing support to the development of information management systems to be used for the elaboration of national and regional plans, programmes and project designs, and to generate data for monitoring and evaluation activities for decision making, is a significant focus of the Facility, with six regional projects in Congo, the Nile and Volta river basins, the North-Western Sahara, the Lullimenden and Taoudeni aquifer systems, and the IGAD sub-region, and four national projects in Ethiopia, Mali, Togo, and Tunisia.

Water Supply and Sanitation: Building resilience of water supply and sanitation to climate change impacts requires more resilient infrastructure as well as climate responsive planning, management and governance of supply options. Many of the projects undertaken by the Facility address these issues through pilot investments aimed at promoting mitigation/adaptation technologies such as the use of renewable energies for water pumping, in Ethiopia, the recovery and reuse of methane emissions from sewerage treatment plants in Ghana, or the adoption of water conservation and efficiency measures in the Seychelles, and the strengthening of local capacities to widely adopt and scale up these types of interventions. In addition, projects aimed at preparing long term programmes and master plans include activities aimed at planning for adaptation to climate change impacts.

Water for Agriculture: Improving agricultural and land management practices to strengthen both productivity and resilience to climate changes are issues which many of the Facility's projects address. Activities of ongoing projects include improving control and management of on-farm water resources in Botswana, watershed protection in Kenya, and piloting of more productive agriculture water technologies such as use of rainwater harvesting for multi-purpose uses in Djibouti, and Rwanda. Many projects are also aimed at helping small scale farmers adapt to climate change and ensure sustained agricultural based livelihoods in Zambia and South Africa.

Mobilising Resources for Climate Financing

The role of the Facility on mobilising resources for climate change can be best described by qualitatively examining the expected impacts of its projects based on three broad types of interventions:

(i) **Programme and project preparation aimed at leveraging financing**. To date, the Facility has leveraged approximately Euro 420 million in investment funds as a result of its project/programme preparation activities. Many of these preparation projects have significant potential mitigation and adaptation impacts, such as: programmes for water infrastructure development in Africa or the management of transboundary water resources; or projects aimed at improved urban water and solid waste management, or the provision of water infrastructure for agriculture and multi-purpose uses.

(ii) **Pilot investment projects aimed at promoting new technologies or approaches for replication or scaling up**. Many pilot projects have direct climate mitigation impacts, such as the use of renewable energies for water pumping. The impact of a small AWF investment, which is normally in the order of €1 to 2 million, can be significant if the technology or approach is widely adopted.

(iii) **Projects to improve the enabling environment**. Since a well-managed sector will create the confidence needed to attract additional resources, the Facility promotes better management of Africa's water resources, more efficient and effective use of water, and better water governance.

About the Africa Water Facility

The African Water Facility is an initiative of the African Ministers Council on Water. It is hosted and managed by the African Development Bank. The Facility began its operations in 2006, and currently has a portfolio of 69 projects valued at €82 million.

For more information
www.africanwaterfacility.org

This country profile was prepared by the Water and Sanitation Department (OWAS) of the African Development Bank. Every effort has been made to present reliable and up to date information as of November 2011.