The African Water Facility (AWF) is an initiative of the African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW) managed 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 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

**Governance and funding**

The African Water Facility Governance Council (GC) provides policy direction on the management of the water fund and its operational focus. The GC is constituted by representatives of AMCOW, African Union under the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), UN –Water, Donors and the AFDB. In addition, the Board of Directors of the Bank also takes certain decisions concerning the Water Fund in accordance with the Instrument of its establishment.

**The main contributors to the African Water Facility**

Algeria, Australia, Austria, Burkina Faso, Canada, the European Commission, Denmark, Spain, France, Norway, The United Kingdom, Senegal, Sweden, The African Development Bank, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The Nordic Development Fund, Nigeria.

The resources of the Water Fund consists of contributions obtained from donor countries, organizations and member countries of the Bank.
The AWF is a financial instrument designed to support actions and initiatives that will result in enhanced equitable and sustainable development and management of African water resources for poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, regional cooperation, the environment and resilience to water-related disasters and climate change. 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 organisations operating in Africa.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS OF FOCUS**

* **Project Preparation**  
This is the primary focus of AWF operations involving preparation of projects and programmes for sustainable multipurpose water resources development and use.

* **Catalytic Investments**  
Involves deployment of small but catalytic investments or seed funding that will enable project owners to pilot water innovative projects or alternative business models and technologies.

* **Investment Promotion**  
Provision of a range of investment promotion services to increase number of investment opportunities and to mobilize higher levels of financing for projects targeting private sector.

- **Investment scope**  
The AWF utilises more than two-thirds of its resources to assist its countries to mobilise project and program financing likely to deliver more benefits to citizens, such as access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, better agricultural water management for farmers, and increased 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 to a wide variety of institutions and organisations, including:
  * central governments / ministries or agencies;
  * local governments / municipalities;
  * non-governmental / civil society and community based organisations;
  * regional, sub-regional and sectoral organisations (i.e. regional economic communities);
  * Transboundary basin organisations; and small and medium enterprises.

- **climate change, environmental and social sustainability**  
The AWF is committed to promoting the sustainable development of the water sector including climate change and environment protection. In addition, crosscutting issues such as gender and social equity, employment creation, poverty alleviation, irregular migration and displaced person, fragile states are properly addressed at every stage of the project cycle.
African Water Facility:
Contributing to Meeting the AWV & SDG Targets

Mainstreaming:
cclimate change, gender & social equity, employment creation, poverty alleviation, irregular migration and displaced persons, fragile states

**AFW** Areas of Focus

- **Project Preparation – 75%**
  - Preparation of investment ready projects (innovating, transforming, scaling up)
  - Preparation of WRD plans
  - Enabling an investment conducive environment

- **Catalytic Investments – 15%**
  - Replicating & Piloting innovative solutions
  - Providing viability gap funding

- **Investment Promotion – 10%**
  - Investment opportunities, assessment & diagnostic
  - Networking platform for investment
  - Insurance/Guarantee brokerage

**AFW** Grantees
- Central and local governments
- Municipalities
- NGOs
- Community-based organisations
- Regional economic organisations
- Transboundary basin organisations
- Small and medium social enterprises

*Actual grant ranges from €50,000 to €5 million grants*

**AFW** Top 10 follow-up investors

- African Development Bank
  - €586 million

  - Governments
    - €379 million
  - French Development Agency
    - €162 million
  - Private Sector
    - €161 million
  - World Bank
    - €159 million
  - European Investment Bank
    - €135 million
  - Bilateral Organizations
    - €120 million
  - Cent. Africa Develop. Bank
    - €101 million
  - Islamic develop. Bank
    - €72 million
  - Green Climate Fund
    - €61 million

**AFW** Facts & Figures 2006-2018

- Developed 118 Projects spread out across 52 Countries in Africa
  - 75% Project Preparation
  - Water Governance
  - Knowledge Management
- 15% - Catalytic Invest.
  - Bankable Projects
    - 58 Bank. Proj. €87.8 mil.
  - Water Governance
    - 17 Wat. Gov. €17.8 mil.
  - Knowledge Products
    - 18 KM. €21.68 mil.
  - Catalytic Investments
    - 25 Cet. Inv. €27.7 mil.

**AFW** Leverage Effect 2006-2018 – 1:32

Leverage effect

Currently, every euro invested by the AWF has attracted 32 more. 1.437 billion have been invested by development partners.

The expected leverage effect by 2025 is 1:60.
Next Steps

The AWF looks forwards to develop new partnerships with others organizations to grow its operations and share knowledge to better advance the African water sector, and increase impact on the ground.

Potential partners includes the non-traditional donors, private sector, African governments, Philanthropic foundations, private financial institutions and corporations.

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