



**African Water Facility**  
**Facilité africaine de l'eau**

*Mobilising Resources for Water in Africa*  
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AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

PROJECT BRIEF

**SOUTH AFRICA:**

# PREPARATION OF CLIMATE RESILIENT WATER RESOURCES INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND MULTIPURPOSE PROJECT FOR THE ORANGE-SENQU RIVER BASIN (OSRB-PCRWRIS&MP)

Promote sustainable socio-economic growth through climate resilient water resources development



*"This project is key for regional integration, for cooperative development. If we share resources, we can eventually develop complex, difficult and expensive projects like this, which anyone of us individually would find difficult to develop."*

*Mr. Livhuwani Mabuda, Chief Director of Integrated Water Resources Planning, Department of Water and Sanitation*

## The OSRB-PCRWRIS&MP project

The Orange-Senqu River Basin (OSRB) is of vital social and economic importance to South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, and Lesotho. Its water management poses complex challenges for safeguarding future water security, under increased hydrological variability due to climate change, deteriorating environmental conditions and lack of inclusive water resources development.

The Orange-Senqu River Basin Commission (ORASECOM) was established in 2000 to manage the water resources of the basin. Over the past decade it has developed an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Plan, which was adopted in 2015.

The IWRM plan provides the framework for a common strategic transboundary water resources management and serves as a guiding and planning tool for achieving the basin long-term development goals.

The current ongoing project, almost fully financed by the AfDB, was then put in place with the objective to prepare an optimised water resources development investment strategy and plan. This considers the IWRM implementation plan for the OSRB and preparation of multipurpose projects to be executed in the short-term.

Climate resilience will be integrated in the planning as well as development of water infrastructure. Investment financing and resources mobilisation strategies will be developed in both cases. The project promotes capacity building and institutional development as part of the stakeholders' consultation process.

## ORB-PCRWRIS&MP

**Project Code:** P-Z1-EAZ-048

**Grant Number:** 5600155000851

**Project Status:** Ongoing

**Approval Date:** 31st January 2017

**Closing Date:** 31st December 2023

**Total Budget:** EUR 3,521,952 (planned)

**AWF Funding Amount:** EUR 1,979,624 (56%) (planned)

Additional funding from the NEPAD-IP-PF (32%), GWP-SA (5%), ORASECOM (5%), Governments (2%). (Planned)

### Implementing partners:

Orange Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM)

### Other Stakeholders:

- New Partnership for Africa's Development - Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility (NEPAD-IPPF)
- Global Water Partnership-Southern Africa (GWP-SA)
- Governments of the riparian countries
- NGOs
- Private sector
- Local government and communities
- Research institutions



## Expected Impacts (ongoing project)

### Preparation of the Water Resources Development (WRD) Investment Strategy and Implementation Plan:

- Definition of the Strategic Investment Plan for the OSRB, mainstreaming climate change adaptation and mitigation into the water resources development.
- Preparation of the roadmap for operationalising the IWRM Plan.
- Development of the financing strategy for implementing the strategic investment plan.
- Building economic optimisation models and updating and integrating existing water resources planning models.

### Multipurpose Project Preparation:

- Feasibility study and analysis of the priority in selected projects to determine the technical soundness, financial and economic viability.
- Environmental and social impact assessment to establish potential environmental and social impacts and risks.

### Capacity Building and Stakeholders' Consultation:

- Creating an inclusive stakeholder's consultation platform with respect to the basin wide plan and the multipurpose project.
- Capacity building of ORASECOM's Secretariat to enable it to implement the basin wide investment strategy and priority project.

## Key Challenges

There are multiple problems related to **deteriorating environmental conditions and lack of inclusive water resources development** in some parts of the Orange-Senqu River basin, which could support economic growth and alleviate poverty.

The IWRM plan identified the **lack of integrated transboundary water resources investment strategy** as a key challenge for achieving the sustainable development of the basin water resources.

The risk associated with the achievement of the project outcomes is related to the need to determine the **priority of projects for the prefeasibility analysis and the resultant investment plan**.

The **lack of technical and procurement capacity** in ORASECOM has been identified as determining factor for implementing the project and a critical risk for achieving the project output.

*"We have a gap in our water resources; therefore, we will fill it by looking at the resources within the country, and at the same time, looking at the transboundary shared resources."*

Ms. Bogadi Mathangwane, Director of Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation (Botswana)

## Key Lessons

- The four governments understood the **duty to cooperate** and ensure that country-specific events should not negatively impact the other member states.
- **Protocols for the shared water courses** were ratified by the member countries.
- Importance to focus on infrastructure development to improve water treatment facilities capacity, as it is necessary to **look, not only to the quantity of water, but also at the quality aspect**.
- The countries quickly realised that it will be possible to **cooperate by sharing the studies and knowledge** obtained from the Lesotho Botswana Water Transfer Project.
- The role of ORASECOM, as it stands now, is to **ensure the robust scientific studies** of the Lesotho Botswana Water Transfer Project pass through the stage of feasibility and hopefully up to the design.
- ORASECOM was able to work with the partners to **identify funding opportunities** within the AfDB, the AWF, and the NEPAD-IPPF, which are both part of the AfDB.



## Recommended Actions

From the project, it is possible to identify the below recommended actions regarding structures, policies and strategic plans:

The solutions to the problems are to be addressed through optimisation of the water resources development based on **balanced economic, social, and environmental considerations**.

**Engagement of top government officials, as well as high level administrative responsible staff**, help to drive the agenda towards meeting project goals.

A **basin wide stakeholders' consultation process** should be implemented to build confidence and engage stakeholders early in the selection process and definition of project's priority. Government and key stakeholder consultation should be conducted at key stages of project development.

The project should provide for the **recruitment of qualified project manager and procurement specialists** to strengthen the ORASECOM capacity and fill the gaps in these areas.



*"The ORASECOM has taken an integrated water resources management approach, so that the four countries come together, plan together, and develop their resources together."*

Ms. Maria Amakali, *Director of Water Resources Management (Namibia)*



### Other related Project Resource

Orange-Senqu River Basin: Preparation of Climate Resilient Water Resources Investment Strategy & Plan and Multipurpose Project, Appraisal Report. October 2016. AWF.

The AWF and NEPAD-IPPF Foster Climate Resilient Water Resources Development in Southern Africa, Press Release. February 2017. AWF.

<https://projectsportal.afdb.org/dataportal/VProject/show/P-Z1-EAZ-048>



**Address:**

*Immeuble du Centre de commerce International d'Abidjan CCIA,  
Avenue Jean-Paul II,  
Abidjan 01 BP 1387  
+22520265309  
[africanwaterfacility@afdb.org](mailto:africanwaterfacility@afdb.org)*

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