



# African Water Facility

## Facilité africaine de l'eau

*Mobilising Resources for Water in Africa*

## THE AFRICAN WATER FACILITY IN ACTION

### Support to African Basin Organisations for Management of Transboundary Water Resources

#### Origin and Mission of the African Water Facility (AWF)

The AWF was established in 2004 at the initiative of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) in implementation of the African Water Vision (AWV) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The AWF is hosted and managed by the African Development Bank.

The AWF's mission is to assist African countries to achieve the objectives of the sector, in particular, by helping them to mobilise and use financing for the development of the water sector.



#### Objectives and Operational Priority of the AWF

The AWF supports a very broad range of activities to assist RMCs in the integral implementation of the Africa Water Vision. Several new areas of activity have been included to align the Facility more closely with this Vision, and to take into account the Facility's accumulated experience with the wide range of proposals and expressions of interest it has received to-date. To achieve this objective, the AWF will provide

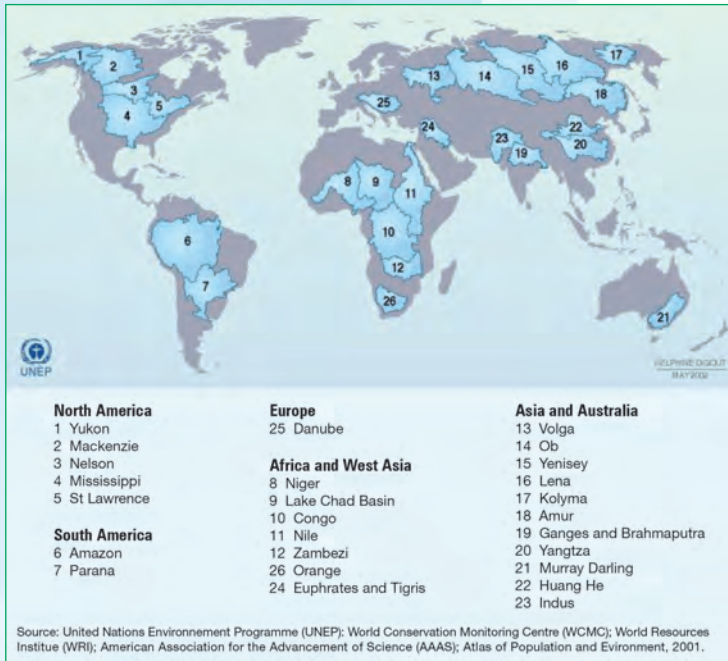
operational support mainly for achievement of the following national and regional strategic objectives:

- Strengthening water governance at the national and transboundary levels;
- Investments to meet water needs;
- Strengthening of the financial base; and
- Improving water knowledge

#### Africa Water Vision

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





The shares of total water flows of Egypt, Mauritania and Botswana made up of the contributions of neighbouring countries are 99%, 95% and 94% respectively.

The Congo, Nile and Niger basins are shared respectively by 11, 10 and 9 countries, while Guinea has 14 basins which it shares with other countries

## Challenges in Transboundary Water Resources Management (TWRM)

Compared to the other continents, Africa's water resources are characterised by a large number of hydrographic basins and transboundary aquifers. There are about 80 international rivers and lakes and 38 transboundary aquifers. Most countries share many basins and most of the basins are located in the territories of several countries.

Water interdependency is significant since a high percentage of total water flow of downstream countries comes from outside their borders. The TWRM situation in Africa raises major issues while at the same time providing development opportunities to be seized.

### ○ Main issues

- Spatio-temporal variability of rainfall;
- Persistent decline in water flows;
- Insufficient development of resources;
- Poor knowledge of resources, especially

underground, in both quantitative and qualitative terms;

- Increased pollution as a result of anthropic activities;
- Inadequate national capacities to manage shared water resources;
- Overtapping of transboundary aquifers; and
- Harmonisation / standardisation of information and reporting.

### ○ Development Opportunities

- Major irrigation development opportunities;
- Availability of significant developable irrigation potential;
- Existence of major natural navigable waterways;
- Availability of significant reserves of mobilisable groundwater resources in the regions most exposed to the effects of climate change. and
- Real opportunities for regional economic integration.

## AWF Operational Strategy and Areas of Intervention

To achieve its objectives, the Facility provides support for the achievement of the following strategic objectives at the national and regional levels which have been structured so as to correspond to the components of the Africa Water Vision and its action framework:

- **Strengthening Governance:** the African countries and regional organisations have greater capacity to efficiently manage water resources in compliance with IWRM principles and transboundary cooperation agreements.
- **Investments to Meet Water Needs:** progress made towards meeting water needs through direct investments and the adoption of innovative technologies and approaches.
- **Strengthening the Financial Base:** African countries and regional organisations receive increased financial resources.
- **Improved Knowledge of the Water Sector:** capacity to take informed decisions at all levels as part of the planning and implementation of

In addition to these strategic targets, the Facility also carries out the following coordination and support organisational activities for AMCOW:

- **Strengthening of Partnerships:** operations based on partnerships which are strengthened through cooperation and collaboration, the pooling of resources for joint operations, sensitisation and efficient communication actions.
- **Promotion of Initiatives to Support AMCOW's Objectives:** strategic support role assumed in order to guarantee AMCOW's political leadership. The most recent support activities include: i) preparation of the African Report presented at the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul, ii) development of the Pan-African Mechanism for Water Sector Monitoring and Evaluation, and iii) preparation of the report on implementation of commitments in respect of water security and sanitation entitled 'Action Plan and Framework for the Presentation of Reports to the African Union'.

### Objective of AWF's TWRM Strategy

The overall objective of this component is to support the joint development of transboundary waters using, if required, an IWRM approach. This objective will be achieved by facilitating political will, preparing a legislative framework, promoting cooperation, mobilising resources and planning joint development programmes capable of attracting investments.

These measures will improve TWRM by building the capacities of the basin organisations in the transboundary management of water resources within a framework of cooperation, the objective being to improve the investment environment so as to achieve common benefits for the riparian countries.





### TWRM Cooperation

TWRM cooperation provides the best opportunity to analyse and understand the problem and formulate strategies to address the impact of climate variability and change

### Implementation of Regional Political Commitments

The Facility plays a major support role in the mobilisation of resources to achieve water security, meet socioeconomic needs, address the consequences of climate variability and change, pursuant to the commitments of the Heads of State and Governments of the African Union at Sharm El Sheik (July 2008). To that end, it supports the preparation of investments in infrastructure, in particular, dams and reservoirs, facilities for water harvesting, irrigation and hydro-electric power generation, as well as the strengthening of institutional capacities, information and knowledge.

### The AWF's TWRM Interventions

They prioritise value-adding activities with additional measurable long-term outcomes and complement the efforts of existing donors in the area. The different types of TWRM support are focused on the following activities:

#### Transboundary Water Resources Management:

A major challenge for achieving water security in Africa so as to strengthen regional cooperation and economic integration

#### ○ Sensitisation, Legislative Framework

- Sensitisation at national, regional and international levels recommending the facilitation of political will action and dialogue;
- Preparation and implementation of joint vision programmes;
- Preparation of collaborative plans and harmonisation of legislation;
- Preparation and adoption of TWRM regional framework agreements; and
- Preparation of guidelines for the ratification and implementation of international agreements on water resources management.

#### ○ Cooperation and partnerships

- Facilitation of political dialogue and consensus development, and mobilisation of political support;
- Promotion of cooperation and coordination in all the river basins;
- Capacity building in RBOs, the RECS and partner networks; and
- Development of public-private partnerships and preparation of a framework for private sector participation.

#### ○ Development of public-private partnerships and preparation of a framework for private sector participation

- Assessment of potential and opportunities at basin level;
- Preparation of integrated river basin master plans;
- Preparation of medium-and long-term strategic frameworks;
- Coordination of regional water use planning and programme development;
- Preparation of realistic resource development and mobilisation plans; and
- Assistance to RBOs for resource mobilisation.



## Main Transboundary Water Resources Management Projects

### Governance and Infrastructure Development Projects

<p><b>Number of Projects:</b></p> <p>Eleven projects being approved, approved or being implemented.</p> <p><b>Total Amount of Grants:</b></p> <p>11,772,000 Euros.</p> <p><b>Implementation Arrangements:</b></p> <p>All the projects are implemented by river basin organisations in partnership with the riparian countries.</p> <p><b>Duration of Project Implementation :</b></p> <p>8 to 30 months (an average of 18 months).</p>	<p><b>Objectives :</b></p> <p>Each project is unique and either concerns the preparation of a strategic action plan, the establishment of a Basin Authority, preparation of a plan for the sustainable management of the water resources of a basin, the preparation of a water charter, the strengthening of river and lake basin organisations or support to the network of basin organisations.</p> <p><b>Activities :</b></p> <p>There are different activities that vary according to the objectives. They comprise :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building river basin organisations' capacities, improvement of networking and coordination;</li> <li>• The creation of legal instruments ; preparation of an action plan and investment plans; and</li> <li>• Preparation of IWRM plans and resource mobilisation.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Project Breakdown:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of transboundary water resources with adequate financing to carry out the planned investments (3 projects) ;</li> <li>• Strengthening governance and institutional capacity building to ensure efficient planning and management of shared water resources, including the development of legal instruments (3 projects) ;</li> <li>• Mixed projects targeting governance, knowledge management and infrastructure development (5 projects).</li> </ul>
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### Water Resources' Information and Knowledge Management Projects

<p><b>Number of Projects:</b></p> <p>Five projects being approved, approved, or being implemented.</p> <p><b>Total Amount of Grants:</b></p> <p>11,772,000 Euros.</p> <p><b>Implementation Arrangements:</b></p> <p>All the projects are implemented by river basin organisations in partnership with the riparian countries.</p> <p><b>Duration of Project Implementation :</b></p> <p>12 à 30 mois (19 mois en moyenne).</p>	<p><b>Objectives :</b></p> <p>They mainly aim to improve information/knowledge on national and transboundary water resources.</p> <p><b>Activities :</b></p> <p>In general, they focus on :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The establishment and strengthening of hydrological and hydrogeological observation systems;</li> <li>• Building data production and management capacities</li> <li>• Building the capacities of sector institutions and partnerships;</li> <li>• Conduct of studies and research activities on different issues (environmental, socio-economic and gender ... )</li> </ul>	<p><b>Project Breakdown :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All projects aim to improve information/knowledge with a view to better planning and management of national and transboundary water resources</li> <li>• All the projects aim to build institutional capacities in the area of information management.</li> </ul>
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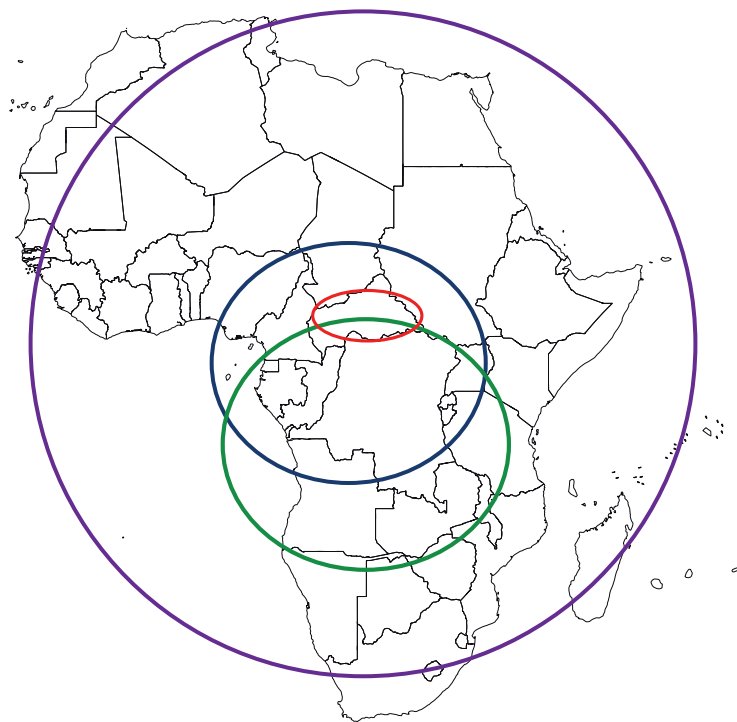
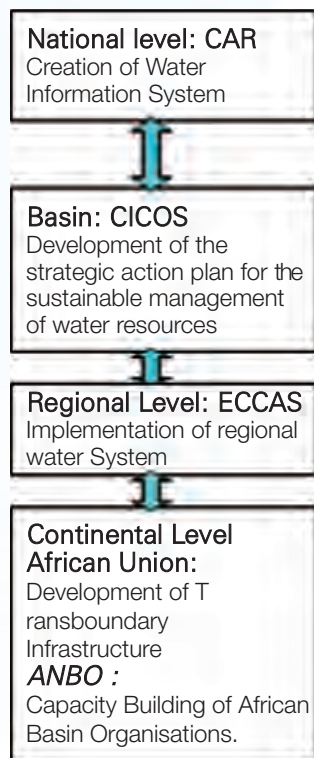


## AWF Specificities

- Effective participation of all stakeholders in AWF governance;
- Demand-based interventions
- Actions focused on attracting additional financing;
- Action focused on small and medium-size projects (50,000– 5 million Euros) ;
- Eligibility for several categories of actors: public, private, local communities, civil society and any other institution intervening in the water sector; and
- Rapid processing of project proposals and speedy project implementation.

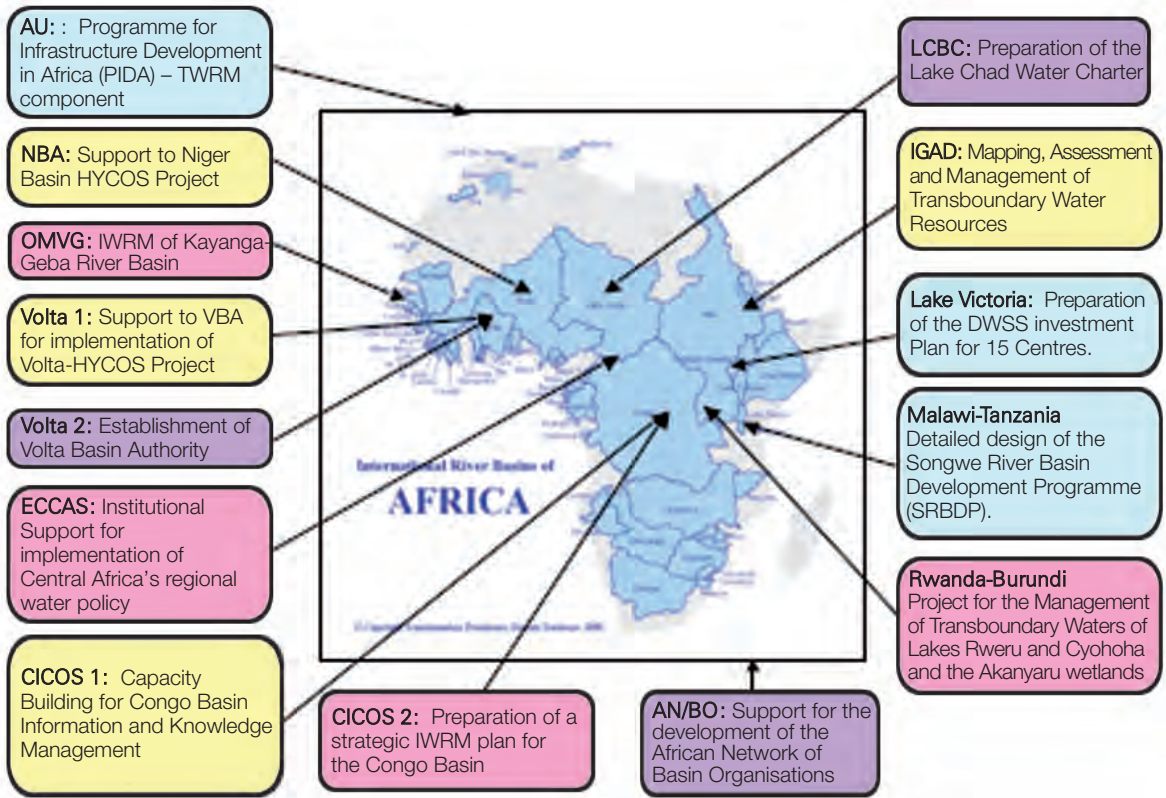
### Maximisation of project impact: examples of interaction between the national, regional, and basin levels

Though AWF projects are modest in size, complementarities are systematically sought among the projects at different levels of intervention in order to maximise their impact.

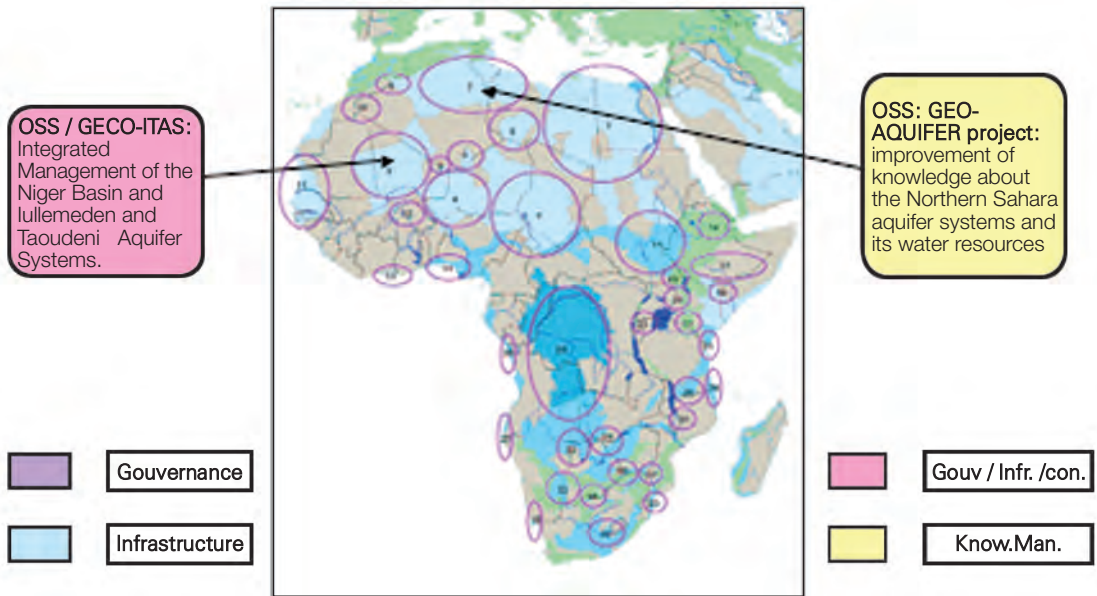




## River and Lake Basin Projects



## Transboundary Aquifer Projects



## Sources of Finance

Algeria



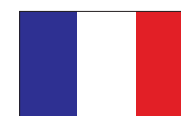
Spain



Austria



France



ADB



Norway



Canada



United Kingdom



EC



Senegal



Denmark



Sweden



**African Water Facility | Facilité Africaine de l'eau**

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