

Press Release

For immediate release

The African Water Facility boosts capacity to keep track of achievements in the African water sector

Lilongwe, Malawi, September 27, 2013 – The African Water Facility (AWF), jointly with the Government of Malawi, is hosting this week in Lilongwe an international workshop on monitoring and information management. The training is expected to equip participants with tools and knowledge to better keep track of achievements of the African water and sanitation sector.

This workshop is part of AWF commitment to help African countries reduce the important information gap on progress made towards the achievement of national development targets and of water and sanitation Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Honourable Brown J. Mpinganjira, Minister of Water Development and Irrigation will be kicking off the 2-day workshop on Monday September 30, to be held at the Sunbird Capital Hotel in Lilongwe. Over 45 participants from seven countries including Malawi are attending, as well as representatives of nine regional economic communities and transboundary basin organisations.

Specifically, through this workshop AWF hopes to help reinforce and strengthen the existing monitoring and information management mechanisms at local, national, and regional levels and improve their efficiency by building capacity to cope with the challenges of data collection, analysis, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

“We hope this training will help countries and regional organisations be better equipped to make informed decisions about investments in the water sector” said Akissa Bahri, Coordinator of the African Water Facility. “We also want to create a monitoring and evaluation community of practice where critical knowledge and information can flow and be exchanged.”

The Resident Representative of the African Development Bank (AfDB) in Malawi, Andrew Mwaba pointed out that “we are happy that this international workshop is being held right here in Lilongwe to allow many local institutions and experts to benefit. Malawi is implementing a good number of AfDB financed operations in developing water resources, not only for water supply and sanitation but in developing irrigation infrastructure, with financing from the African Development Fund, the African Water Facility and the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme”.

The regional organisations represented at the workshop are ANBO, CICOS, CEDARE, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC, OSS and the VBA. The Canadian NGO, [Engineers Without Borders](#), will be also be attending.

About the African Water Facility (AWF)

The AWF is an initiative of the African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW) hosted 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. 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 organizations operating in Africa. Its three strategic priority activities are (1) **preparing investment projects** to mobilize investment funds for projects supported by AWF; (2) **enhancing water governance** to create an environment conducive for effective and sustainable investments; (3) **promoting water knowledge** for the preparation of viable projects and informed governance leading to effective and sustainable investments. Since 2006, AWF has funded 81 national and regional projects in 51 countries, including in Africa's most vulnerable states. It has mobilized more than €714 million as a result of its project preparation activities,

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which constitute 70 percent of its portfolio. On average, **each €1 contributed by the AWF has attracted €20** in additional follow-up investments.

The AWF is entirely funded by Algeria, Australia, Austria, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Burkina Faso, Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, France, Norway, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the African Development Bank. The AWF is governed by a Governing Council representing its 15 donors, UN-Water Africa, the AU via NEPAD, AMCOW and the AfDB.

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