



GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND



Continental Water Investment Programme (AIP)

African Union Multi-Country GCF Readiness Project for Accelerating Climate Resilient Water Investments in Africa (AU AIP Multi-Country GCF Readiness Project)

Terms of Reference: Consultancy for the Development of a Water Investment Programme (WIP) and its Financing Strategy

1. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

On 6 September 2023, African Heads of State and Government committed to support the implementation of the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP), as part of the Nairobi [Declaration on Climate Change](#).

Africa is highly vulnerable to climate change, which is expected to have a significant impact on water, with an increase in droughts, floods, water scarcity and waterborne diseases. Despite this marked vulnerability, many African countries have limited capacity to access climate finance for strategic water investments.

Access to climate finance for water security in Africa is critical to achieving the objectives of the African Union (AU) Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032), which recognizes the need to strengthen climate-resilient water systems under Axis 2: Adoption of pathways towards climate-resilient and transformative development.

The Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) supports the implementation of this strategy. The AIP was adopted at the 34th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU on 7 February 2021, as part of the Priority Action Plan 2 of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). The AU Strategy on Climate Change and Resilient Development (2022-2032) recognizes the AIP as a flagship initiative for the transformation of water systems.

The implementation of water investments in Africa falls significantly short of the targets set to meet the continent's growing social and economic needs. It is estimated that at least an additional USD 30 billion per year by 2030 needs to be invested to achieve Sustainable

Development Goal (SDG) 6 on water and sanitation. Currently, only 10 to 19 billion USD are invested each year.

The AIP aims to close the water investment gap, mobilizing at least an additional USD 30 billion per year by 2030 and creating five million jobs to contribute to the Africa Water Vision 2025 and the water-related SDG targets by 2030.

The AIP is based on five pillars aimed at reducing the water investment gap in Africa:

- 1. AU-AIP High-Level International Panel on Water Investments in Africa** – This high-level international panel on water investments in Africa was established in 2022, bringing together current and former Heads of State as well as world leaders. In 2023, the Panel supported the AU in the development and launch of [Africa's Rising Investment Tide report](#) and the [Action Plan for Water Investment in Africa](#), which propose concrete courses of action to help countries mobilize at least an additional USD 30 billion per year by 2030 for the implementation of the AIP.
- 2. AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard** – The [AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard](#) aims to improve mutual accountability, transparency and efficiency of water financing and investments. This tool helps countries track progress, establish baselines, identify bottlenecks, and take action to meet Africa's water investment needs. It was adopted by AUDA-NEPAD in February 2022 and was developed and tested in 10 countries in 2023, before its roll-out across AU Member States.
- 3. Water investment programmes at regional and national levels** – AIP supports AU Member States in the development of national water investment programmes, aimed at bridging the investment gap. Many African countries are extremely vulnerable to climate variability and suffer from weak institutional capacity, inadequate water infrastructure, and insufficient information systems to ensure effective water management. National water investment programmes aim to address these gaps, building on lessons learned from the AIP-PIDA Scorecard.
- 4. AIP International Blended Investment Facility** – The AIP will assess the need for a blended International Investment Facility, to assist countries in mobilizing Official Development Assistance (ODA) and grant financing, in order to de-risk priority water investments through various innovative financial instruments and sources. These include sovereign wealth funds, guarantees, trade finance, institutional investors, private equity funds, foundations, value-based impact investing, and climate finance.
- 5. Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in water investment** - The AIP will develop tools to assist governments to address systemic inequalities in decision-making, planning, and implementation of investments, by fostering a transformative approach in agencies, structures, and social relations.

2. BACKGROUND OF THE AFRICAN UNION'S MULTI-COUNTRY READINESS PROGRAMME (AU AIP MULTI-COUNTRY GCF READINESS PROJECT)

2.1. Scope of intervention

This mandate aims to operationalise the Water Investment Programme (WIP) in the Republic of Congo, using the AIP-PIDA Dashboard to catalyse sectoral reforms and mobilise investments. The WIP will align with national frameworks (NDCs, NAPs, water-climate strategies) and leverage available financing mechanisms (GCF Readiness/SAP, AfDB, BOAD, Adaptation Fund) to develop a portfolio of bankable and climate-resilient projects.

2.2. The Multi-Country Project

The Republic of Congo is one of fifteen (15) beneficiary countries in the first phase of the 'Support for GCF Readiness of the African Union Commission's Multi-Country Programme to Accelerate the Water Investment Programme (AU AIP Multicountry GCF Readiness Project)'. Funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to the amount of US\$6,164,053, the project is being implemented by the African Union Commission through the Global Water Partnership (GWP) in Southern Africa (GWPSA) and the GWP Coordination Unit in Africa (UC-GWP Africa).

2.3. Objectives and areas of intervention

The project aims to strengthen national capacities in water investment planning and climate project preparation through four strategic areas:

- **Institutional capacity building:** Strengthen direct access to climate finance, particularly from the GCF, for water-climate actions.
- **Strategic frameworks:** Develop climate-resilient water investment programmes.
- **Project development:** Develop concept notes to advance national initiatives.
- **Knowledge platform:** Establish a continental mechanism for sharing experiences and facilitating investments for water security in Africa.

2.4. Objective of the mission Scope, methodology and steps

The objective of the mission is to strengthen national capacities to plan, prioritise and finance resilient investments in the water sector, resulting in a Water Investment Programme (WIP) aligned with national frameworks and donor requirements (including GCF), and supported by the AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard.

Mission expectations

- i. Establish a functional governance mechanism (steering committee/working group) with clearly defined roles, timetable and validation rules.
- ii. Produce an evidence-based diagnostic analysis (technical, institutional, financial, climate), including a mapping of ongoing initiatives and potential co-financing.
- iii. Prioritise a pipeline of project ideas (≥ 6) using transparent criteria, with ESS/gender screening, initial costs and financial instrument options.
- iv. Develop a WIP including the prioritised investment plan, project financing strategy, institutional arrangements, roadmap and MRV/monitoring and evaluation mechanism.
- v. Prepare 1–2 concept notes ready for submission (including 1 potentially GCF/SAP), if requested by the sponsor.
- vi. Ensure traceability of comments and management of disagreements via a consensus protocol and effective multi-stakeholder validation.

Steps for implementing the mission

The mission consists of six sequential but iterative stages. The durations are indicative and will be specified in the schedule.

Step 1: Initial setup

For the consultant, this stage will consist of establishing an approach that will ensure high-level political support for the Water Investment Programme (WIP) development process. To this end, the consultant will discuss with the ministry responsible for water, the AND and the GWP the most appropriate and feasible governance structure to put in place. This could be through:

- The identification and formal designation of a water ambassador/champion.
- The establishment of a high-level working framework consisting of:
 - A strategic team for policy guidance.
 - A technical team for formulating the AIP.

The roles and responsibilities of these two teams will be clearly defined in specific terms of reference.

Step 2: Planning

Here, we will discuss establishing a roadmap and/or action plan that clearly defines:

- The tasks to be carried out, the expected results and deliverables of the WIP development process, and the deadlines.
- The responsibilities and resources available for implementation.

This plan will need to be aligned with ongoing initiatives in the country.

This stage will also cover:

- Map stakeholders according to their interests, influence and potential to contribute to the development of the PIE.
- Schedule the launch of the PIE development process.

Step 3: Assessment and preliminary formulation

The third stage is devoted to contextual analysis and progress made in the water sector, problems and objectives in terms of resilience to the effects of climate change, possibly using a SWOT approach.

This stage will also identify investment needs and priorities following the contextual analysis described above. The resulting project ideas may cover all topics, including IWRM, WASH, infrastructure for water resource mobilisation and conservation, water demand management, etc. The costs of each of the identified projects will be estimated.

The next step will be to identify potential sources of funding in order to put in place a sound financing strategy for the WIP. The analysis will include an estimate of existing sources of funding and an assessment of the funding gap for the implementation of investment projects. Other sources of financing will be explored to fill the financing gap. These include improving spending efficiency, mobilising domestic resources, and mobilising continental and international financing.

This stage will also include identifying the appropriate financial instruments for each investment project and defining the responsibilities of the various actors for the implementation of the WIP.

Step 4: Stakeholder commitment

For this stage, the consultant will need to ensure the effective engagement of stakeholders. The ongoing engagement of stakeholders will need to be ensured through various means such as workshops, targeted individual and group meetings, the use of questionnaires, and periodic updates by e-mail. Targeted consultations can help to involve stakeholders who are often excluded from national processes, such as vulnerable and/or marginalised groups and communities. Stakeholder engagement must be structured and sustained throughout the WIP development cycle.

Once more stakeholders have been made aware of and have recognised the benefits of the WIP, it will be possible to explore how additional technical and financial resources, expertise and knowledge can be leveraged to develop it.

Step 5: Formulation

Step 5 will consist of formulating the PIE itself. Following consultations with the various stakeholders and based on the guidelines and framework of the previously established governance structure, the consultant will ensure that the WIP, including the Water Investment Plan and the financing strategy, is specified as indicated in the 'Guide to Developing a Water Investment Plan' (the guide will be provided to the consultant). Once the draft document has been prepared, the consultant shall ensure that it is shared with all stakeholders and that their feedback is obtained. In the event of disagreement with certain aspects of the WIP, the consultant shall propose a consensus-based approach so that a common position can be reached.

Step 6: Validation

A validation workshop will be organised to ensure approval by all stakeholders, whose attendance the consultant must ensure.

The consultant will therefore be required to:

- Support the CTN and AND in preparing and organising the validation workshop, including drawing up the agenda and preparing presentation materials.
- Present the WIP to stakeholders in a clear and structured way.
- Facilitate inclusive discussions during the workshop in order to gather feedback from a wide range of stakeholders, including government institutions, the private sector, civil society and development partners.

- Document all stakeholder comments and incorporate relevant contributions into the final version of the WIP and recommendations.

2.5. Expected results / Deliverables

- 01 inception report, including a proposal for a national approach to developing the WIP, contextualised on the basis of the guidelines and a previously developed roadmap.
- 01 report on the situational analysis and progress made in the water sector, problems and objectives in terms of resilience to the effects of climate change, with annexed minutes of meetings with stakeholders.
- 01 list of identified investment project ideas.
- 01 Financial assessment report, including cost estimates and financial instruments for each project idea.
- 01 Water Investment Programme, including the investment plan, financing strategy and a roadmap with a timetable.
- 01 Report on the entire process, highlighting lessons learned and good practices.

2.6. Schedule, milestones, and payment terms

Expected duration: 20/04/2026 – 30/06/2026 (60 Expert/Day).

Deliverables	Deadlines	Payment
- 01 inception report, including a proposal for a national approach to developing the WIP, contextualised on the basis of the guidelines and a previously developed roadmap	Two weeks after the kick-off of the mission	20%
- 01 report on the situational analysis and progress made in the water sector, problems and objectives in terms of resilience to the effects of climate change, with annexed minutes of meetings with stakeholders - 01 list of identified investment project ideas	15/05/2026	30%
- 01 Financial assessment report, including cost estimates and financial instruments for each project idea - 01 Draft of the WIP document including all sections	10/06/2026	30%

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 01 Water Investment Programme, including the investment plan, financing strategy and a roadmap with a timetable - 01 Report on the entire process, highlighting lessons learned and good practices 	26/06/2026	20%
---	------------	-----

Note: The final payment of 20% should be made after submission and validation of all final deliverables.

2.7. Profile

- Master's degree in water/environment/economics/public policy or other related fields.
- Experience with climate mechanisms (GCF Readiness/SAP/FP, GEF, Adaptation Fund, IFI).
- Skills in financial structuring (PPP, blended finance instruments), M&E/MRV, Gender/ESS.
- At least 10 years of proven experience in stakeholder consultation processes in the water sector in the REPUBLIC OF CONGO in the context of project and/or programme development.
- Extensive experience working with the government, government agencies and the private sector (preferably in the water sector in the REPUBLIC OF CONGO and/or in international or private institutions related to water) and the NWP.
- Proven experience in developing policy and strategic financing documents.
- Good knowledge of financing mechanisms, instruments and related institutional arrangements for development aid, domestic financing and climate financing, including the GCF, the Adaptation Fund, the GEF, etc.
- Fluent in French, English desirable; strong capacity for multi-stakeholder facilitation and preparation of concept notes.
- Ability to work with minimal supervision and consult as much as possible with communities, regulatory bodies, the private sector and government.

2.8. Coordination

The National Consultant will work under the supervision of the National Technical Project Coordinator and in close collaboration with the GWP team, the NDA and the Ministry responsible for water.

2.9. Submission of application

Interested applicants should:

- **Submit a cover letter** dated and signed with the stated period of availability of the consultant and addressed as follows:

The Procurement Manager, GWPSA NPC
Ground Floor, Block A Hatfield Gardens
333 Grosvenor Street Hatfield, Pretoria, South Africa
- **Submit a detailed CV**, highlighting relevant experience including three (3) professional references to gwp procurement@gwp.org before deadline of **30 April 2026** at 23:59 (SA local time)
- Address their questions directly to bianra.msocrates@gwpcaf.org

Note on Withholding tax: *GWPSA NPC Ltd shall, in terms of section 58 of the Botswana Income Tax Act CAP 52:01 deduct a withholding tax at the default rate of 15% as per the applicable Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) for any other country. The tax so deducted shall be remitted to the Botswana Unified Revenue Service, and the company shall issue the payee/contractor with BURS' tax certificates, which may, depending on the tax laws of the country of residency of the contractor, be used to claim foreign tax credits.*

Female applicants are strongly encouraged to apply. Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.