

African Water Facility and African Development Bank at World Water Week: Water for all by 2030

Abidjan, Ivory Coast, 29 August 2016 – The African Water Facility and the African Development Bank (AfDB) are participating in World Water Week, in Stockholm (Sweden) from 29 August to 2 September. This year's edition holds under the theme *Water for Sustainable Growth*. The World Water Week is the leading annual global event for tackling global water issues and development related challenges.

“Close to 107 million people gained access to water through interventions of AfDB alongside those of other partners in the last decade in the rural areas of Africa. Yet, collectively, we did not achieve the earmarked water objectives in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). There is the consensus that more work needs to be done from the perspective of financial mobilization, collaboration, governance, and better integrating climate change and gender issues in water delivery. The Stockholm conference offers us an opportunity to enhance further collaboration towards innovatively tackling this challenge so as to ensure ambitious targets set by our Governments under the African Water Vision 2025 and the N’gor Declaration are achieved,” says Mohamed El Azizi, Director of the African Water Facility and the Water and Sanitation Department (OWAS) of the AfDB.

The AWF, an active participant of the Stockholm World Water Week, invests in contributing to the emergence of opportunities, ideas, innovation and solutions to water issues that can benefit the African continent.

World Water Week is an annual event hosted and organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) in Stockholm. As the conference celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2015, this year's theme was *Water for Development*.

More information soon on our website about AWF activities at the Stockholm Water Week 2016.

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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 98 national and regional projects in 52 countries, including in Africa's most vulnerable states. It has mobilized more than €1.4 billion as a result of its project preparation activities, which constitute 70 percent of its portfolio. On average, **each €1 contributed by the AWF has attracted €35 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, the Nordic Development Fund, Norway, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the African Development Bank. The AWF is governed by a Governing Council representing its 16 donors, UN-Water Africa, the AU via NEPAD, AMCOW and the AfDB.