

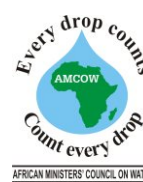
# The African Water Resources Management Priority Action Programme

2016 - 2025



**AFRICAN UNION**

DEPARTMENT OF RURAL ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURE (DREA)



## About the African Union (AU)

The African Union was established by the Heads of State and Government, with a view, inter alia, to accelerate the process of integration in the continent to enable it to play its rightful role in the global economy while addressing multifaceted social, economic and political problems compounded as they are by certain negative aspects of globalisation. The vision of the African Union is that of “An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in global arena.” The Agenda 2063 The Africa We Want provides a roadmap towards realising the AU vision. The African Union Commission is the key organ playing a central role in the day-to-day management of the African Union. Among others, it represents the Union and defends its interests; elaborates draft common positions of the Union; prepares strategic plans and studies for the consideration of the Executive Council; elaborates, promotes, coordinates and harmonizes the programmes and policies of the Union with those of the RECs; ensures the mainstreaming of gender in all programmes and activities of the Union. The Commission is headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

## About the African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW)

The African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW) was formed in 2002, primarily to promote cooperation, security, social and economic development and poverty eradication among member states through the effective management of the continent’s water resources and provision of water supply services. In 2008, at the 11<sup>th</sup> ordinary session of the African Union (AU) Assembly in Sharm el-Sheikh, Heads of States and Governments of the African Union agreed on commitments to accelerate the achievement of water and sanitation goals in Africa and mandated AMCOW to develop and follow up an implementation strategy for these commitments. The organs and structures of AMCOW will serve the Working Group on Water and Sanitation of the African Union’s Specialised Technical Committee on Agriculture; Rural Development; Water and Environment.

## About the Global Water Partnership (GWP)

The Global Water Partnership (GWP) vision is for a water secure world. Our mission is to advance governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development. GWP is an international network that was created in 1996 to foster the application of integrated water resources management: the coordinated development and management of water, land, and related resources in order to maximise economic and social welfare without compromising the sustainability of ecosystems and the environment. The Network is open to all organisations which recognise the principles of integrated water resources management endorsed by the Network. It includes states, government institutions (national, regional, and local), intergovernmental organisations, international and national non-governmental organisations, academic and research institutions, private sector companies, and service providers in the public sector. The Network has 13 Regional Water Partnerships, 84 Country Water Partnerships, and 3,000 Partners located in 172 countries.

# The African Water Resources Management Priority Action Programme

2016 - 2025

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# Foreword

Within the framework of ongoing activities to translate into reality the vision and aspirations of *Agenda 2063: the Africa we Want*, effective water resources management cannot be overemphasised. Environment and natural resources, particularly freshwater, are critical to the productivity of sectors such as agriculture, industry and fisheries and – therefore – the release of Africa’s development potential, as well as sustaining growth and development. Specifically:

- Access to clean water is essential for healthy human communities. Freshwater availability is a key determining factor in efforts to ensure food and energy security as well as for increasing industrial production. The quality of freshwater ecosystems has a direct impact on the wellbeing and productivity of the population and, therefore, on the sustainability of economic growth and development at a national level. The benefits of investing in improved water resources management and access to clean water and sanitation therefore remain clear and germane.
- Land constitutes the most important factor of production and survival for the peoples of Africa. About 70% of Africa’s labour force is involved in agriculture, which in turn contributes to over 25% of the GDP – a percentage that is substantially higher in some countries. It is noteworthy that water use in the agricultural sector stood at 275 km<sup>3</sup> in 2013, accounting for about 80% of the total water withdrawals in Africa.
- Forests, woodlands and wetlands are valued for the services they provide, particularly as important catchments for Africa’s freshwater resource systems, regulating climatic conditions, as well as sustaining ecosystems and biodiversity. They also provide fuelwood, which is the principal source of energy for the majority of the population on the Continent.

However:

- Africa’s population is growing at a rate that is much higher than the global average, while at the same time rapid urbanisation is observed across the continent.
- Africa’s environmental and natural resources are faced with severe degradation, in part due to fragmented sectoral approaches to their governance. Almost universally, the responsibility for various aspects of their development, utilisation and management is shared by numerous government ministries, private sector actors and local administrations that do not necessarily have coordination mechanisms in place. The outcome is often inefficient use and inadequate protection of these valuable natural assets.
- The agricultural sector and the rural economy, on which the majority of Africa’s populations depend for their livelihoods, are under threat from negative impacts of climate change and increasing climate variability. Projections which show a general increase in average temperatures for Africa are predicted to result in increased rainfall variability and incidences of extreme weather conditions. Changing rainfall patterns will negatively affect cropping systems and will increase the occurrence of such diseases as malaria. Growing uncertainty with regards to rainfall and shifting crop water requirements threaten Africa’s largely rain-fed agricultural sector, while risks and uncertainties to economic productivity and political stability are growing with the increasing evidence of water-borne diseases, droughts, floods and landslides.

The above, in turn, has direct implications for the fight against poverty, and the extent to which the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be achieved – not to mention aspirations for water, food and energy security. As many of the negative impacts are anticipated to operate through water, making fundamental changes in the way Africa’s water and related resources are utilised and managed is an important step towards climate change adaptability and mitigation, water-related disaster risk reduction and management and sustainable environment and natural resources management.

It is crucial then that, as all Member States of the African Union intensify efforts to achieve the Africa Water Vision by 2025, close linkages are established in the formulation and implementation of policies and activities in the water, environment, agriculture and energy sectors. Such an approach will enhance integration and coherence in the pursuit of a wide range of linked thematic priorities, leveraging resources for accelerated progress and providing a mechanism for coordination, mutual support and deepening the impact of interventions. This is key, not only to achieving sustainable use of water, land, forests, wetlands and fisheries, but also – in more general terms – to advancing the well-being of Africa’s people, environment and economy.

It is against this background that Member States, as well as implementing agencies and cooperating partners at the various levels, are invited to work together to deliver prioritised actions and key interventions of the African Water Resources Management Priority Action Programme. Of particular importance is the need to make the necessary investments to actualise both the Africa Water Vision 2025 of:

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

and the African Union’s Vision of:

*“an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in global arena.”*




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**Mrs Rhoda Peace Tumusiime**  
*Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission*




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**Mr Amadou Mansour Faye**  
*AMCOW President and Minister for Hydraulics and Sanitation, Republic of Senegal*



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# Executive Summary

AMCOW, in collaboration with the AUC –with support from the Government of Germany and the European Union, through GIZ; and the Global Water Partnership (GWP) – is coordinating activities to elaborate and facilitate implementation of, among others, the **African Water Resources Management Priority Action Programme 2016 – 2025 (WRM-PAP)**.

In partial implementation of the AU Assembly *Decision Assembly AU.516 (XXII)* on fast-tracking the achievement of water and sanitation goals in Africa and AMCOW EXCO Decision *EXCO/12/2015/DAKAR/6* on implementing the AMCOW Work Programme 2014 - 2016, the Action Programme has been formulated as an evidence-based targeted initiative that draws on the outcomes of the annual Africa Water and Sanitation Sector Report delivered to the Assembly of the African Union. It also takes into consideration the recommendations of the *2012 Status Report on the Application of Integrated Approaches to Water Resources Management in Africa*, as well as the existing strategic and resource development plans of the RECs, R/LBOs and Groundwater Commissions.

The WRM-PAP places focus on four broad goals, namely: i) ensuring water security in Africa; ii) enhancing resilience to climate change and water related disaster risks; iii) strengthening information systems for water resources monitoring and assessment; and iv)improving environmental integrity through wastewater and water quality management (WWQM). Among the key interventions to attain these goals are recommendations to:

1. Establish economic accounting for water as a discipline to enable systematic and standardised affiliation of hydrologic and water use information with systems for economic planning to, among others, improve the financing and investment outlook for water resources management in Africa;
2. Mobilise investment and support for Member States in metering of agricultural water extraction as a first step to making improvements in water use productivity and efficiency to guarantee climate resilient supplies;
3. Support Member States, R/LBOs and RECs to conduct water resources assessments – including assessing the availability of groundwater resources and the impact of climate change on freshwater availability – as well as supporting them to monitor and manage groundwater use;
4. Promote and facilitate multifunctional “green” basin development centred on natural and built infrastructure to provide a continuum of water storage solutions, thereby increasing Africa’s water storage capacity and enhancing disaster risk management capabilities;
5. Mobilise global support and facilitate efforts to actualise the Lake Chad Vision 2025 to restore or rehabilitate the lake and its wetlands to its natural, or close to its natural state;
6. Support Member States' efforts to establish and operate representative and reliable networks of hydro-meteorological, river gauging and water quality stations;
7. Facilitate activities to conduct studies to establish relevant SDG 6 monitoring baselines, as well as developing capacity to achieve the targets of the goal;

8. Support Member States to develop and adopt legal, policy and institutional frameworks for the collection and treatment of wastewater to a minimum water quality standard before discharge into transboundary water courses and aquifers; and
9. Seek, through the Governing Council of AMCOW and the favour of His Excellency President John Pombe Magufuli of the United Republic of Tanzania, the ability to champion and provide leadership in activities to mobilise resources to fund the implementation the WRM-PAP.

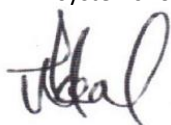
The milestones for translating these recommendations into action are listed in the table below.

**Table 1: Milestones for translating recommendations**

#	Activity	Target Completion Date
i)	Launch of the African Water Resources Management Priority Action Programme at the 10 <sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Governing Council of AMCOW	22 Jul 2016
ii)	Engagement of the Member States and potential funding and implementing partner institutions to initiate preparation of aptly-scaled programmes/projects and implementation plans	31 Oct 2016
iii)	Elaboration and costing of programmes/projects	30 Apr 2017
iv)	Endorsement of detailed programmes/project (at AMCOW-EXCO meeting)	31 May 2017
v)	Convening of a WRM-PAP/AMCOW Work Programme Funding Roundtable hosted by HE President John Pombe Magufuli	30 Nov 2017
vi)	Initiation, under the leadership of HE President John Pombe Magufuli, of work on the establishment of the African Water Management Investment Guarantee Fund to be led by AfDB and AUC for eventual endorsement by an AU Assembly decision affirming Member States' commitment	30 Nov 2017
vii)	Presentation of the WRM-PAP Funding and Implementation Strategy, by HE President John Pombe Magufuli, at the AU Summit of Heads of State and Government	30 Jan 2018
viii)	Side event, hosted by HE President John Pombe Magufuli, at the AU Summit of Heads of State and Government, for the <b>signing of Implementation Instruments</b> between Member States, AMCOW-Sec and relevant funding/implementing institutions/organisations	30 Jan 2018
ix)	Regular follow-up, technical assistance and monitoring of Implementation Instruments	Up to Dec 2025

It is desired that over the 10-year implementation period of the African Water Resources Management Priority Action Programme, Member States will embrace the paradigm shift in financing and implementing water resources management in Africa through:

- a) Developing National Water accounts based on the UN System of Environmental and Economic Accounting for Water (SEEA-Water);
- b) Operationalising the relevant institutional structures to enable Economic Accounting for Water as the basis for decision making in water resources management in Africa; and
- c) Ensuring that the concept of economic accounting for water is fully integrated into decision support systems for Economic Planning Financial Resources Allocation and Investment at all levels.



**Mr. Bai Mass Taal**  
AMCOW Executive Secretary



# Acknowledgements

The AUC and AMCOW wish to express gratitude to the support provided by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the European Union, through Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ); and Global Water Partnership (GWP) for the development of the African Water Resources Management (WRM) Priority Action Programme (PAP) 2016 – 2025. AMCOW further wishes to acknowledge the Government of Austria, United Kingdom and Denmark for support to the implementation of the Water Climate Development Programme (WACDEP), insights which informed the process of formulating the WRM- PAP 2016 – 2025

The WRM PAP was developed through a consultative process led by the AMCOW Technical Advisory Committee (AMCOW-TAC) and builds on the work and contributions from regional institutions and a number of member states. The WRM PAP builds on the work of inspired water champions who led in the articulation of the Africa Water Vision 2025; as well as those coordinating efforts to actualise the African Union Vision and the various commitments taken by our Heads of States.

The document sets out to prioritise key action areas to accelerate the achievement of the African Water Vision. It has therefore built, in the formulation process, on the unwavering guidance and direction provided through documents and technical inputs from a range of organisations. The following are some of the key regional institutions who have contributed to the development of this document:

- East African Community (EAC)
- Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
- Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)
- Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE)
- Sahara And Sahel Observatory (OSS)
- Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS)
- Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC)
- Orange Senqu River Basin Commission (ORASECOM)
- Limpopo River Commission (LIMCOM)
- The International Commission of the Congo-Ubangi-Sangha Basin (CICOS)
- Niger Basin Authority (NBA)
- Organisation for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS)
- Volta Basin Authority (VBA)
- Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)

Special thanks to the AMCOW AUC office in Addis Ababa and the GWP Africa Coordination Unit in Pretoria, who managed and coordinated the development of the WRM- PAP 2016 – 2025 for addressing water resources management and mainstreaming AMCOWs Strategic Framework on Water Security and Climate Resilient Development; and, improving data and information on Africa's water resources.

Finally, we wish to thank the many other people and institutes that provided comments, suggestions and invaluable contributions during the stakeholder workshops such as representatives of the AMCOW-TAC, national governments, sector agencies, river basin organizations, regional economic commissions, NGOs and international agencies. These stakeholders made invaluable contributions on the needs and priorities for ensuring the relevance of the African Water Resources Management (WRM) Priority Action Programme (PAP) 2016 – 2025.

# Abbreviations

<b>AfDB</b>	African Bank of Development
<b>AMCOW</b>	African Ministers' Council on Water
<b>AMCOW EXCO</b>	Executive Committee of AMCOW
<b>AMCOW-Sec</b>	Secretariat of the sub-committee on Water and Sanitation of the African Union
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>AUC</b>	African Union Commission
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisation
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>GA</b>	General Assembly
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GIZ</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
<b>GWP</b>	Global Water Partnership
<b>HoSG</b>	Heads of State and Government
<b>IDMP-WMO</b>	World Meteorological Organisation supported Integrated Drought Management Programme
<b>IFM</b>	Integrated Flood Management
<b>IWRM</b>	Integrated Water Resource Management
<b>MDG</b>	Millenium Development Goal
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>NEPAD</b>	New Partnership for Africa's Development
<b>PAP</b>	Priority Action Programme
<b>PIDA</b>	Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa
<b>REC</b>	Regional Economic community
<b>R/LBO</b>	River/Lake Basin Organisation
<b>RSAP IV</b>	Regional Strategic Action Plan IV
<b>SADC</b>	Southern Africa Development Community
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SEEA-Water</b>	System of Environmental & Economic Accounting for Water
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>WACDEP</b>	Water, Climate and Development Programme
<b>WRM-PAP</b>	The African Water Resources Management Priority Action Programme
<b>WWQM</b>	Wastewater and Water Quality Management

## I. Introduction

1. At its 22<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session in January 2014, the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government (HoSG) of the African Union (AU) took a decision (Assembly AU.516 (XXII)) endorsing, among others, a recommendation of the Executive Council of the AU directing the Commission of the African Union in collaboration with the Secretariat of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW-Sec) to conduct a study to determine levels of groundwater availability in Member States with a view to support irrigated agriculture.
2. Subsequent processes to implement AU Assembly Decision 516 (XXII) led to the endorsement by the General Assembly of AMCOW at its 9<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session in June 2014 as two of the major deliverables of Theme 2 (Transboundary Water Resources Management) of the AMCOW Work Programme for 2014 – 2016<sup>1</sup>, which plans to:
  - a) Prepare – for the consideration of the AMCOW-EXCO – a thematic Priority Action Programme (PAP) for addressing water resources management and mainstreaming AMCOW's Strategic Framework on Water Security and Climate Resilient Development; and
  - b) Improve data and information on Africa's water resources.
3. The Secretariat of AMCOW, in collaboration with the AUC – and with support from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the European Union, channelled through Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ); and with additional support from the Global Water Partnership (GWP) – spearheaded consultations with the RECs, R/LBOs, the Groundwater Commission and research and academic institutions to:
  - a) Synthesise into a prioritised and targeted action programme the planned short and medium term water resources development and management outcomes and outputs in existing planning and development documents of the AU Member States participating in the implementation of the Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP), as well as R/LBOs and RECs; and
  - b) Support the improvement of data and information on Africa's water resources in partial contribution to the activities to establish the African Water Sector M&E System.
4. It is on the basis of the outputs of these efforts that the Executive Committee of AMCOW (AMCOW-EXCO) at its 12<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session in May 2015 – took Decision EXCO/12/2015/DAKAR/6 endorsing and directing the implementation, among others, of the **African Water Resources Management Priority Action Programme (WRM-PAP)** that is herein elaborated.
5. The **African Water Resources Management Priority Action Programme (WRM-PAP)** takes into cognisance the AMCOW Policy and Strategy for Mainstreaming Gender in the Water Sector in Africa and the AMCOW Youth Water and Sanitation Strategy as critical elements to focus prioritisation.

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<sup>1</sup> *GA/09/2014/DAKAR/8: The General Assembly approves the AMCOW Work Programme 2014 – 2016 and calls upon all partners and stakeholders to partner with AMCOW in implementing it.*

## II. The African Water Resources Management Priority Action Programme

6. The **African Water Resources Management Priority Action Programme (WRM-PAP)** has been formulated as an evidence-based targeted initiative utilising the outcomes of the annual Africa Water and Sanitation Sector Report to the Assembly of the AU to inform the review and/or design of interventions that are responsive to both the real water sector needs and the commitments of Africa's political leadership.

## III. Objectives of the WRM-PAP

7. In partial implementation of, on the one hand, the fourth and eighth recommendations of the *2014 Africa Water and Sanitation Sector Report* to the AU Assembly and, on the other hand, the recommendations of the *2012 Status Report on the Application of Integrated Approaches to Water Resources Management in Africa*, the WRM-PAP aims to put in place innovative mechanisms to:
  - a) Manage water demand and quality, as well as improve efficiency in the production, supply and utilisation of water in all sectors;
  - b) Increase the productivity of water use in those sectors; and
  - c) Assure resilience of the economies of the AU Member States to the anticipated limitations of water availability due to climate uncertainties.



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## IV. Rationale

8. The *2014 Africa Water and Sanitation Sector Report* summarises, based on the information provided by the Member States of the AU, significant improvements in both their internalisation and involvement in the implementation of international and regional policies and strategies, as well as in the application at a national level of generally accepted principles of effective water resources development, management and utilisation. An urgent need, though, is highlighted for a continental initiative through which support mechanisms can be provided to Member States to consolidate those gains and assure vertical (continental-regional-national) coherency of water management policies and strategies with due consideration of the increasing human and natural demands and pressures on Africa's water and related resources, particularly in light of a rapidly growing population, increased urbanisation and sanitation deficiencies.

Projections of an African population of 1.6 billion by 2030 translate into a need to produce at least 50% more food, and, at least, a tenfold increase in water needs for energy production to support modernisation of economies and social progress. Rapid urbanisation and industrialisation will both increase the water demand and, on the basis of current trends in sanitation services provision, increase environmental degradation and the pollution of water bodies. Coupled with the anticipated impacts of climate change on water availability, the need to protect and better manage Africa's freshwater resources – to avert the growing risks and uncertainties to economic productivity and political stability – cannot be overemphasised.

Source: *2014 Africa Water and Sanitation Report*

9. In summary, the findings of the report – vis-à-vis progress made by Member States to achieve key targets of such continental policy documents as the *Africa Water Vision 2025*, the **2008 Sharm el Sheikh Declaration** (Assembly/AU/Delc.1(XI)) on accelerating the achievement of water and sanitation goals in Africa, the **2004 Sirte Declaration** (Ex/Assembly/AU/Decl.1(II)) on Integrated development of agriculture and water in Africa and the **2011 AU Executive Council Decision** (EX.CL.621 (XVIII)) on Organic Farming – include:
- a) Floods, droughts, and water pollution are the greatest threats to water resources in Africa.
  - b) In 2013, Africa's installed hydropower capacity was reported as 45,936 MW, out of a reported hydropower potential of 304,350 MW.
  - c) Water use in the agricultural sector stood at 275 km<sup>3</sup> in 2013, accounting for about 80% of the total water withdrawals in Africa. Coupled with a generally continuing trend of a diminishing contribution of the sector to GDP in Africa, significant challenges and limitations were noted in efforts to achieve the targets of the Africa Water Vision 2025, relating to increasing agricultural water productivity and increasing the size of the area under irrigation in Africa.
  - d) Member States that provided data to the report indicated having satisfied, in 2013, just 26.05% of the minimum economic, social and environmental water demands, which in turn gives an indication of the extent to which Africa's water infrastructure is underdeveloped. Similarly, as an indicator of the long-term sustainability of Africa's socio-economic growth and transformation, the figure raises major concerns for Africa's development aspirations, especially when it is considered that the underdevelopment of water infrastructure accounts for up to 2% of Africa's lost annual GDP growth.

- e) Rainwater harvesting to augment supply for domestic and agricultural uses and manage storm water has yet to be fully capitalised on by Member States. The Continent reported that the contribution of rainwater to the total municipal water consumption accounted for only 1.49% in 2013, compared to the target of 10% by the year 2015.
- f) More than 340 million Africans still lack access to potable water – let alone access to sufficient water to satisfy their basic daily needs – while more than 547 million Africans lack access to basic sanitation. The failings in this respect were shown to contribute significantly to: (i) the 5,000 people that die each day due easily preventable water and sanitation diseases; (ii) estimates of annual losses of 5% of the continent's GDP due to inadequate provision of basic sanitation services; and (iii) reductions in household incomes and savings, as well as school attendance – due ailments related to poor sanitation– adversely affect economic productivity and the pursuit of poverty eradication goals.
- g) Moreover, Africa's water and environmental resources, which are critical to unlocking Africa's development potential as well as sustaining growth and development, are faced with severe degradation in part due to inadequate sanitation. Although it has yet to be covered within the scope of data collection of the Africa Water and Sanitation Sector Report, information from Member States indicates that about 90% of wastewater is discharged directly into rivers and lakes without any treatment.
- h) The total domestic expenditure in the water and sanitation sector in Africa for 2013 was reported as US \$18.48 billion, falling short of the annual requirement of US \$50 billion determined by the AfDB and AMCOW as the minimum required to assure the actualisation of the Africa Water Vision 2025. That, in turn, threatens Africa's aspirations for social progress and productivity of its population.



## V. Scope

10. A key challenge for most of the Member States that provided information remains the lack of baseline data, which, in turn, made it difficult to estimate their progress towards the agreed targets. In order to provide the AU Assembly with the full picture of progress in the implementation of the Sharm el Sheikh Commitments, it is critical that targeted interventions are undertaken to support Member States in establishing baselines. A great opportunity is presented by ongoing global efforts to assure readiness to monitor and report on progress towards achieving the SDGs through setting the baseline in Africa. Following the principle of “*leaving no one behind*”, support should be provided for all Member States to overcome this challenge.
11. Furthermore, the *Africa Water and Sanitation Sector Report* draws attention to the limitations of the current information gathering tools of the African Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting System, particularly within the sub-sectors of water resources management, sanitation, water quality and wastewater management and climate change and climate variability. A need is identified to facilitate the establishment of a comprehensive inter-sectoral monitoring, evaluation and reporting system that objectifies the commitments of Africa’s political leadership to an all-inclusive, socio-economic and political transformation of Africa through targeted grassroots action that is responsive to the real needs of the people of Africa.
12. Whereas the African Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting System is designed to extract information from the data in the custody of the Member States in order to report on the status of progress towards the achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa, the functionality of the system as well as the utility and completeness of the information generated depend on the availability at national level of reliable hydrological, meteorological, piezometric, water quality and other resource monitoring data. Member States have highlighted a pressing and urgent need for support to overcome capacity challenges relating to meeting the minimum networks development and operational standard at national level for effective water resources monitoring and assessment. Support is required to rehabilitate and expand national monitoring systems for water resources to meet the internationally accepted minimum, if not optimum, standards for collecting complete and reliable data and information for assessments. In taking into consideration the impacts, both ongoing and projected, of climate variability on the hydrological cycle, it is imperative to update and recalibrate the rating curves of many surface water resource gauging stations in Africa.
13. The aforementioned text serves as the background and rationale for the prioritisation by the Water Community in Africa of the following four priority action areas under the WRM-PAP:
  - a) Ensuring water security in Africa;
  - b) Enhancing resilience to climate change and water-related disaster risks;
  - c) Strengthening information systems for water resources monitoring and assessment; and
  - d) Improving environmental integrity through wastewater and water quality management (WWQM).

## VI. Priority Action Areas and Interventions

### 14. Ensuring Water Security

- 14.1. Measures and strategies are required for assuring water security and reliability in Africa through both natural storage and construction of control structures, thereby increasing Africa's water storage capacity and enhancing water-related disaster risk management capabilities.
- 14.2. The agricultural sector and the rural economy, on which the majority of Africa's populations depend for their livelihoods, are under threat from the negative impacts of climate change and increasing climate variability. Projections which show a general increase of up to 1.4°C by 2020 in average temperatures for Africa are predicted to result in increased rainfall variability and incidences of extreme weather conditions. This presents a far greater challenge than scarcity in that both sides of the equation (too little water and too much water) need to be managed, and managed under greater uncertainty. The complexity of this challenge is further put into context by the fact that higher temperatures will result in changes in vegetation cover and, in turn, changes in runoff and groundwater recharge characteristics, with consequences on water resources availability due to quality effects.
- 14.3. While there may be uncertainties over the exact nature of the impacts, there is general consensus that climate variability and climate change will impact on the hydrological cycle, which will change water resources distribution and accessibility. Changing rainfall patterns and rising temperatures will negatively affect cropping systems and will increase the occurrence of diseases such as malaria. Growing uncertainty with regard to rainfall and shifting crop water requirements, threaten Africa's largely rain-fed agricultural sector, while risks and uncertainties to economic productivity and political stability are growing with the increasing evidence of droughts, floods and other water related disasters.
- 14.4. As many of the negative impacts are anticipated to operate through water, addressing Africa's water infrastructure deficit –in a manner that both increases storage capacity and assures water security and reliability – represents a great opportunity to leapfrog to more efficient and sustainable solutions towards climate change adaptability and mitigation, water-related disaster risk reduction and management and sustainable environment and natural resources management.
- 14.5. It is thus crucial for policy makers to recognise not only the role of water as a primary medium through which climate change will have an impact on development, but also that water resources management should, therefore, be the linchpin for adaptation and mitigation to climate change in Africa.
- 14.6. Against the background of the above, the prioritised interventions and actions to be carried out in this Action Area are:
- A) Establish economic accounting for water as a discipline to, among others, improve the financing and investment outlook for water resources management in Africa**
- 14.7. In the 2008 *Sharm el Sheikh Declaration on Accelerating the Achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa* (Assembly/AU/Delc.1(XI)), the Heads of State and Government of the AU committed to, among others:



- a) **Put in place** adaptation measures to improve the resilience of our countries to the increasing threat of climate change and variability to our water resources and our capacity to meet the water and sanitation targets;
- b) **Significantly increase** domestic financial resources allocated for implementing national and regional water and sanitation development activities and **Call upon** Ministers of water and finance to develop appropriate investment plans;
- c) **Develop** local financial instruments and markets for investments in the water and sanitation sectors;
- d) **Mobilize** increased donor and other financing for the water and sanitation initiatives including national projects and Rural Water and Sanitation Initiatives, the African Water Facility; Water for African Cities programme and the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility, as committed in the G8 Initiatives on water and sanitation;

14.8. and thus,

- a) **Call[ed] on** African Ministers in charge of water and finance in collaboration with the African Development Bank and development partners, to hold a meeting of Ministers of Water and Finance to develop appropriate financing policies;

14.9. By way of revitalising and injecting new approaches into ongoing efforts to deliver on those particular commitments, it is imperative to establish in all AU Member States Economic Accounting for Water – hereinafter referred to as Water Accounting – as a discipline to, among others, serve the purpose of making the economic case for:

- a) better prioritisation of water resources management in domestic economic planning and financial allocation; and,
- b) cross-sector financing/investment to assure viability of investments in water dependent productive sectors.

14.10. The concept and framework of Water Accounting, once institutionalised in Africa – and direct linkages made with the *African Water and Sanitation M&E System* – has potential for a paradigm shift in the water sector financing policies through:

- a) Reforming regulations to promote efficiencies in current reporting arrangements;
- b) Identifying and quantifying water flows and their relationship with both climatic variables and economically valued inputs – if not limiting factors – to domestic supply, agriculture, industry, mining, energy production and various service industries;
- c) Supporting strategic planning processes for use of land and related resources so that water resource utilisation and environmental conservation are optimised; and
- d) Providing instruments to support public and investor confidence in the amount of water being traded, extracted for consumptive use, recovered and managed for environmental and other public benefit outcomes.

## **B) Improve agricultural water management**

14.11. The AU's aspirations to increase nutrition levels while, at the same time, assuring food security for a rapidly growing population, mean that the demands and pressures on Africa's water resources to meet the required increases in agricultural production will increase exponentially. Innovative mechanisms to manage demand and improve efficiency in the production, supply

and utilisation of water in agriculture are therefore required not only to increase productivity, but also to assure resilience of the sector to anticipated limitations to water availability due to climate uncertainties. This is in line with the *Africa Water Vision 2025* target to increase the agricultural water productivity by 60% in the period 2000 to 2025, while at the same time increasing by 100% the area under irrigation.

- 14.12. Yet against such aspirations, monitoring of water use in the agriculture sector in Africa is largely based on estimates relying on secondary information sources. Mechanisms are required to empirically monitor agricultural water extraction in Africa as a first step to providing targeted, evidence-based – and therefore impactful – incentives to improve agricultural water use efficiency and productivity. Against a backdrop of estimates of 80% of water withdrawals in African agriculture, as well as the chemical and fertiliser pollution potential of the agricultural water returned to the environment, it goes without saying that improvements in agricultural water use and management is a critical factor in efforts to sustainably assure availability of freshwater resources for other sectors.
- 14.13. Focus shall also be placed on (i) promoting innovative mechanisms to manage demand and improve efficiency in the production, supply and utilisation of water in agriculture to increase productivity, but also assure resilience of the sector to flood and drought at national level, (ii) instituting mechanisms to facilitate the use of waste as a resource in agriculture at national level, (iii) turning the tide against the pollution of Africa’s water and environmental resources, and on the other hand, sustainably and ecologically increasing agricultural production at all levels.

**C) Increasing Africa’s water storage capacity and enhancing disaster risk management capabilities**

- 14.14. As highlighted by the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), Africa has the lowest water storage capacity and irrigated agriculture in the world. In contrast, by 2020, up to 250 million people in Africa are projected to be exposed to increased water stress; currently about half of the continent is either water stressed or facing water scarcity. Activities under this Action Area will, in addition to advancing planned water storage infrastructure under PIDA, promote and facilitate multifunctional “green” basin development centred on natural and built infrastructure to provide a continuum of water storage solutions. Given the relatively lower investment requirements and higher probability of sustainability, natural options spanning household rainwater harvesting, ponds and tanks through the utilisation of wetlands, lakes and natural or artificial groundwater recharge, among other methods, shall be promoted. Development of multi-purpose reservoirs optimising the total benefit stream (water, food, energy, trade, ecosystem, disaster management, etc.) shall be vigorously promoted.

**D) Apply nexus perspective solutions to assure water, food and energy security in Africa**

- 14.15. Water and energy resources are essential drivers of investments in land. This is highlighted by the fact that in Africa about 66% of large-scale foreign investments in land are directed to energy crops. Virtually all the foreign investments in land are subject to the availability of water. Large-scale foreign investments in land lead to changes in land use and, consequently, in hydrological fluxes through abstraction of water for irrigation and changes in the pattern of rainfall. The impacts go beyond the externalities on water resources and include severe changes in local livelihoods and surrounding ecosystems.

- 14.16. Adopting approaches informed by the nexus perspective is important to, on the one hand, ensure effectiveness and sustainability of government programmes, and on the other hand, provide the private sector with safeguards to mitigate risks while seizing opportunities. Water, energy and food security can only be achieved if the cross-sectoral interlinkages are taken into account. The nexus perspective is crucial to deal with trade-offs and identify synergetic solutions to pressing resource issues. Furthermore, investment and funding are needed to implement innovative solutions at large-scale.
- 14.17. Responding to this additional demand in a manner that does not jeopardise immediate and long-term food security goals is still a challenge in several countries in Africa. It is in this regard that regional approaches will be undertaken to address trade-offs amongst water, energy and food security, as well as the implications to private and public investments. Focus shall also be placed on capacity development activities relating to valuing ecosystem services, trade-offs and payment for ecosystem services at regional and sub-regional levels.

## **15. Enhancing resilience to climate change and water related disaster risks**

### **E) Ensuring water security and climate resilient development**

- 15.1. While it is important to develop Africa's water infrastructure – the underdevelopment of which is estimated to account for up to 2% of Africa's lost annual GDP growth – it is imperative to prioritise 'no or low regrets' investments and financing strategies in such interventions to assure that sorely needed capital is not locked into stranded infrastructure that cannot deliver water security and climate resilient development. Water infrastructure development must, therefore, focus on sustainable options and robustness, supported by strong institutions and reliable information in Africa.

### **F) Managing water-related disasters**

- 15.2. Over and above the infrastructure solutions for reducing vulnerability to drought and flood impacts, targeted interventions will be carried out to (i) increase preparedness for water related disasters and improve response capacity among all sections of society by, among other things, disseminating relevant information and undertaking programmes of awareness creation, education and training and (ii) reduce the vulnerability of communities, especially the poor and disadvantaged, to the hazards and threats posed by water related disasters.

## **16. Strengthening information systems for water resources monitoring and assessment**

- 16.1. The success of plans to establish water accounting as a framework for identifying, measuring, recording and reporting information about water in Africa depend to a larger extent on the availability of reliable, complete and legitimised primary source data. Similarly, and in line with ongoing efforts to establish robust systems for monitoring progress towards the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 6 [Ensure access to water and sanitation for all], the following specific objectives will be pursued under this Priority Action Area:

### **G) Improve national-level capacities for collecting complete and reliable hydro-meteorological and piezometrical data**

- 16.2. The African Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting System is designed to extract information from data in the custody of Member States'. In turn, the functionality of the system – as well as the utility and completeness of the information generated – depends on the availability at a national level of reliable hydrological, meteorological, piezometrical (groundwater), water quality and other resource monitoring

data. Information from the majority of Member States' departments and agencies responsible for the function of water resources monitoring and assessment points to inadequate gauging of both surface water basins and groundwater aquifers. This has highlighted a pressing and urgent need for support towards the efforts of Member States to establish and operate representative and reliable networks of hydro-meteorological, river gauging and water quality stations to monitor the state of the quantity and quality of the water resources in their territory.



- 16.3. Support is required to rehabilitate and expand national monitoring systems for water resources to meet the internationally accepted minimum, if not optimum, standards for collecting complete and reliable data and information to assess. Also related to this, and taking into consideration the impacts – both ongoing and projected – of climate variability and climate change on the hydrological cycle, it is imperative to update and recalibrate the rating curves of many surface water resources gauging stations in Africa.

**H) Ensure readiness of AU Member States to achieve SDG 6 and monitor progress towards its targets**

- 16.4. As indicated in the preceding sections, there are significant challenges relating to Member States' ability to evaluate their individual progress towards both actualising the *Africa Water Vision 2025* and implementing the Sharm el Sheikh Commitments. A particular gap in this regard is the lack of baseline data against which the contributions of ongoing interventions towards set targets can be assessed. It is thus imperative that that targeted interventions are undertaken to support Member States to establish baselines. A great opportunity is presented by ongoing global efforts to assure readiness to monitor and report on progress towards achieving the SDGs through setting the baseline in Africa. Following the principle of "*leaving no one behind*", support should be provided for all Member States to overcome this challenge.

**I) Enhance information and knowledge management systems**

- 16.5. There are ongoing efforts to strengthen the *African Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting System* to improve reporting within the sub-sectors of water resources management, sanitation, water quality and wastewater management and climate change and climate variability. The water sector reforms proposed above further highlight the need to improve the current information gathering tools in such a way as to facilitate the translation of the commitments of Africa's political leadership to an all-inclusive socio-economic and political transformation into targeted grassroots action that is responsive to the real needs of the people of Africa.

**17. Improving environmental integrity through wastewater and water quality management (WWQM)**

- 17.1. The degradation of Africa's environmental, and particularly freshwater, resources stems primarily from sanitation failures, especially inadequate services provision and unsafe practices, raw sewerage discharge, disposal of solid waste into rivers and storm drainage systems, leachate from refuse dumps and, to an extent, mining and industrial effluent pollution. Interventions to arrest and reverse this constraint to the release of Africa's development potential should:

**J) Facilitate the development and adoption of minimum effluent quality standards**

These standards apply to discharge into transboundary water courses and aquifers, as well as standardising regulations for wastewater treatment, environmental flows and water quality management in Africa;

**K) Promote sustainable wastewater management and reuse**

There is need to strengthen legal, policy and institutional frameworks for the collection and treatment of wastewater to a minimum water quality standard before it is reused or returned to nature. This can be done through promoting the implementation of an Integrated Urban Water Management approach to ensure closing the water loop and allocating water to different users based on the quality.

**L) Enhance use of wastewater and sludge, as appropriate and acceptable, in agricultural and other sectors**

- 17.2. Experiences on planned reuse and the technologies applied to assure safety of effluent for return to the environment in AU Member States, including South Africa, Tunisia and Namibia, should be documented and promulgated – if not replicated – at all levels. These efforts should be centred on (i) instituting tariff systems targeted towards better cost recovery in wastewater collection and treatment, while at the same time safeguarding affordability and (ii) facilitating safe use of wastewater in urban farming.

**M) Promote widespread adoption of rainwater harvesting practices and storm water management technologies**

- 17.3. Rainwater harvesting holds promise for the most sustainable solution to be included in both urban and rural water management systems, especially given its potential to augment municipal supplies and provide viable options for rural water access, reduce the burden on traditional water sources, alleviate nonpoint source pollutant loads, control water logging problems, prevent flooding, help in controlling climate change impacts and contribute to the storm water management.

## VII. Principles of Implementation

18. In an approach similar to established practice in such Regional Economic Communities as the Southern African Development Community, the implementation of the WRM-PAP shall be guided by the following principles.

**Table 2: WRM-PAP Implementation principle guide**

<b>Programmatic approach</b>	The WRM-PAP is designed to contribute to efforts to actualise the Africa Water Vision 2025, the African Union's Agenda 2063, the SDGs and the Sendai Framework on DRR.
<b>Comparative advantage</b>	Focus placed on areas where the AMCOW-Sec and AUC can drive action, the impacts of which will produce more results and add value to what the Member States, RECs, R/LBOs, CSOs and private sector are doing.
<b>Additionality</b>	Partner institutions and organisations (RECs, R/LBOs, CSOs) other than the AMCOW-Sec and AUC are chosen to implement PAP interventions.
<b>Prioritisation</b>	Based on the African Union's development priorities and aspirations of an African Renaissance (Agenda 2063: the Future we Want for Africa).
<b>Flexibility</b>	The WRM-PAP shall be reviewed periodically to respond best to the ever-changing environment, especially within the framework for the periodic review of AMCOW's Strategic Plan 2016 - 2025.
<b>Variable geometry</b>	A multi-pronged approach to implementation of key activities at Member States, RECs and RLBOs taking advantage of opportunities for immediate action.
<b>River basin approach</b>	RECs and RLBOs are critical institutions for the application of IWRM principles and/or the water, food and energy nexus perspectives.
<b>Best practices</b>	Implementation of the planned activities to be informed and guided by best practices and lessons learnt in Africa and beyond.
<b>Demonstration</b>	Activities to pilot and/or demonstrate concepts and approaches to underlie processes for the proposed water sector reforms, especially as it relates to establishing economic accounting for water in Africa.
<b>Participation</b>	Relevant stakeholders shall be informed, consulted and involved as appropriate throughout the implementation of the PAP.
<b>Subsidiarity</b>	Interventions will be undertaken at the most appropriate level.
<b>Sustainability</b>	Implementation of the WRM-PAP shall promote local ownership, awareness, capacity development and institutional development.

## VIII. Funding and Implementation Arrangements

19. The implementation arrangements will consider the subsidiarity principle and allow utilisation, as appropriate, of national as well as RECs' and/or RLBOs' systems. Necessary support shall be provided by the Secretariat of the sub-committee on Water and Sanitation of the AU's Specialised Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (AMCOW-Sec), as well as the African Union Commission (AUC). The AU's sovereign and non-sovereign partners, as well as the bilateral, funding and development partners supporting the water sector in Africa are encouraged to support the implementation of the WRM-PAP.
20. Existing procedures for implementing national water resources management programmes shall be applied for executing all relevant activities at Member States' level. Coordination of the processes for

implementing prioritised interventions of a transboundary nature shall rely on the established mechanisms of AUC-AMCOW, RECs and R/LBOs.

21. The individual Priority Action or Key Intervention Areas shall be elaborated, as necessary, into aptly scaled programmes and/or projects, the implementation of which shall be managed through any one or more of the following arrangements:
  - a) Streamlined interventions in national programmes for implementing water resources management activities by the responsible ministries and/or departments;
  - b) Bi- and multi-lateral programmes of development partners at Member States or regional level;
  - c) Private sector involvement through collaborative arrangements with initiatives such as the International Water Stewardship Programme; and
  - d) Social mobilisation for community-led action to assure both impact of interventions at a grassroots level and sustainability of outcomes.
  
22. The WRM-PAP is designed to play a key role in the efforts to achieve the SDGs, particularly SDG 6, in Africa. As such, and considering the on-going plans to establish a “**Blue Fund**” as a global financing instrument for activities geared towards achieving SDG 6, a great resources mobilisation opportunity is presented to support implementation of the African Water Resources Management Priority Action Programme. Similarly, there are funding and resources leveraging opportunities under the joint Africa-EU Strategy, particularly the components on nexus activities in Africa.



23. For the duration of the 10-year implementation period of the African Water Resources Management Priority Action Programme, the AMCOW-Sec, in collaboration with Member States and the AUC, shall annually convene a dedicated WRM-PAP Funding Round-table. The round-table shall bring together representatives of Member States, RECs, funding and bilateral implementing partners, the private

sector and the local leadership from the project areas to, review progress, the commitments for funding and the implementation responsibilities under the Action Programme.

## IX. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

24. One of the goals of developing the WRM-PAP was to provide a mechanism for improving the availability of data and information on Africa's water resources. This has been undertaken by making contributions to the process of developing – for the African Water and Sanitation Sector M&E System – a comprehensive set of indicators for tracking progress towards the achievement of the water resources management targets of the Africa Water Vision 2025, as well as the related commitments of the Sharm el Sheikh Declaration and the SDGs. In this respect, the outcomes of the implementation of the WRM-PAP shall be reported on within the framework of the Africa Water and Sanitation Sector Report to the AU Assembly.
25. Elaborate systems for gathering the required information to report on progress made in executing the prioritised activities shall form integral elements of the programmes and projects for implementing the WRM-PAP at the various levels.

## X. Roadmap

26. The table below lists the key steps and the proposed activities.

**Table 3: WRM Implementation key steps and proposed activities**

#	Activity	Target Completion Date
i)	Launch of the African Water Resources Management Priority Action Programme at the 10th Ordinary Session of the Governing Council of AMCOW	22 Jul 2016
ii)	Engaging the Member States and potential funding and implementing partner institutions to initiate preparation of aptly scaled programmes/projects and implementation plans	31 Oct 2016
iii)	Programmes/projects elaboration and costing	30 Apr 2017
iv)	Endorsement of detailed programmes/project (at AMCOW-EXCO meeting)	31 May 2017
v)	Convening of a WRM-PAP/AMCOW Work Programme Funding Roundtable hosted by H E President John Pombe Magufuli	30 Nov 2017
vi)	Initiation, under the leadership of H E President John Pombe Magufuli, of work on the establishment of the African Water Management Investment Guarantee Fund to be led by AfDB and AUC for eventual endorsement by an AU Assembly decision affirming Member States' commitment	30 Nov 2017
vii)	Presentation of the WRM-PAP Funding and Implementation Strategy, by H E President John Pombe Magufuli, at the AU Summit of Heads of State and Government	30 Jan 2018
viii)	Side event, hosted by H E President John Pombe Magufuli, at the AU Summit of Heads of State and Government, for the signing of Implementation Instruments between Member States/AMCOW-Sec and relevant funding/implementing institutions/organisations	30 Jan 2018
ix)	Regular follow-up, technical assistance and monitoring of Implementation Instruments	Up to Dec 2025



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## XII. Results Matrices of Priority Action Areas and Interventions

### A: Priority Action Area 1: Ensure Water Security

Priority Action Area 1	Ensure water security		
<b>Expected to contribute to these Outcome(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic accounting for water (Water Accounting) fully integrated into decision support systems for economic planning, financial resources allocation and investment at all levels</li> <li>Water security and reliability and, in turn, climate resilient development in Africa assured</li> <li>Profile of water as an essential ingredient of sustainable development raised</li> <li>Sustainable and ecological agricultural production and productivity increased at all levels</li> </ul>		
<b>Key Intervention Area 1.1</b>	<b>Establishing economic accounting for water (water accounting) as a framework underlying the development, utilisation and management of the resource in Africa</b>		
<b>Specific Objective(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enable systematic and standardised affiliation of hydrologic and water use information with economic information to, among others, improve the monitoring, financing and investment outlook for water resources management in Africa</li> <li>Guide water sector reforms at all levels, as well as catalyse policy reform across water dependent and water impacting sectors in Africa</li> </ul>		
<b>Baseline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obligations arising from the Sharm el Sheikh Declaration to develop financial instruments and markets for investments in the water and sanitation sectors, as well as developing appropriate financing policies and measures to improve both resilience to climate change and the capacity to meet sector targets</li> <li>Ongoing Water Accounting projects in Botswana, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda and Namibia</li> <li>Prioritisation in the 2016-2020 SADC Regional Strategic Action Plan (RSAP IV) of activities to strengthen capacity of Member States and River Basin Organisation to construct and apply economic accounting of water in the region</li> <li>Ongoing efforts [in Botswana, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa and Tanzania] to implement the Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa, that places emphasis on Natural Capital Accounting as one of the key frameworks for achieving sustainable development</li> <li>Estimates of natural capital constituting 36% of the total wealth of developing countries worldwide, which wealth is often not taken into consideration when taking economic development decisions</li> </ul>		
Activities	Outputs	Means of Verification	Assumptions and Risks
1 Promote and widely advocate for the use of the tools and methods for economic accounting for water developed by the Member States that have developed National Water Accounts, SADC, the Gaborone Declaration Secretariat and the UN Statistics Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A conceptual framework and resource tools established and in use for Water Accounting in Africa</li> <li>Water sector reforms relating to economic accounting for water</li> <li>Systems and structures for National Water Accounts established and operational in all AU Member States (institutionalised water accounting)</li> <li>Improved financing and investment outlook for water resources management in Africa</li> <li>Enhanced institutional functionality and financial sustainability through bridging the disconnection between existing funding sources and opportunities and supporting knowledge-based decision making</li> </ul>	Progress reported on related parameters in the African Water and Sanitation Sector M&E System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective mobilisation of commensurate financial, political and administrative commitment to undertake and sustain the requisite water sector reforms, particularly to establish and operationalise the necessary systems and structures</li> <li>Effective engagement amongst the ministries responsible for water affairs and the responsible ministries, departments and agencies of the economic sectors – including finance and economic planning – that are dependent or impact on water as a resource</li> </ul>
2 Support Member States to develop water accounting standards and guidance tools based on the UN System of Environmental and Economic Accounting for Water (SEEA-Water)			
3 Facilitate the development and operationalisation of the relevant institutional structures to enable Water Accounting as the basis for decision making in water resources management in Africa			
4 Gather and facilitate Africa-wide application of best practice from ongoing National Water Accounting Development projects in Africa			
5 Develop pilot projects to test concepts of economic accounting for water through demonstration water accounts in selected Member States			

Key Intervention Area 1.2		Improving agricultural water management		
<b>Specific Objective(s)</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance monitoring of agricultural water extraction in Africa</li> <li>Institute mechanisms to provide incentives to improve agricultural water use efficiency and productivity</li> </ul>		
<b>Baseline</b>		The findings of the 2012 Status Report on the Application of Integrated Approaches to Water Resources Management in Africa and the Africa Water and Sanitation Sector Report suggests that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>indicated estimates of water use in the agricultural sector estimated at 275 km<sup>3</sup> in 2013, accounting for about 80% of the total water withdrawals in Africa</li> <li>over 94% of agricultural water withdrawals in Africa are from non-renewable freshwater resources</li> <li>the contribution of the agricultural sector to GDP in Africa is on a diminishing trend, yet over 70% of the labour force is employed in the sector</li> <li>only 11% of a targeted 100% increase in irrigated area in Africa by 2025 was achieved in the period 2000 to 2013</li> </ul>		
Activities		Outputs	Means of Verification	Assumptions and Risks
1	Mobilise investment and support for Member States in metering of agricultural water extraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved knowledge of the impacts of climate change on water resources availability</li> <li>A basis for evidence-based reforms for agriculture water supply policies to guarantee climate resilient supplies</li> </ul> Improved knowledge on groundwater resources in Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increases in water storage capacity</li> <li>Improvements in water use productivity and efficiency</li> <li>Improvements in water conservation</li> <li>Opportunities created for energy access (from small-scale water infrastructure and organic waste and wastewater reuse) in areas isolated from reticulated grids</li> </ul>	Progress reported on related parameters in the African Water and Sanitation Sector M&E System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to enlist Member States' and partner support to provide and install agricultural water extraction meters throughout Africa, as well as the equipment required to monitor groundwater abstraction and quality</li> <li>Access to adequate technical and financial resources to conduct basin assessments and groundwater studies</li> <li>General adoption of water use efficiency principles relating to retention, recharge and reuse; as well as sustainable infrastructure operation and maintenance</li> <li>Success in efforts to improve community awareness and involvement in general water demand management and use efficiency</li> </ul>
2	Support R/LBOs, RECs and Member States to conduct water resources assessments incl. assessing the impact of climate change on freshwater availability			
3	Assist Member States to assess the availability of groundwater resources, as well as to monitor and manage groundwater use			
4	Facilitate the development and implementation of projects at all levels to rehabilitate, upgrade and modernise existing (irrigation, drainage, harvesting and storage) infrastructure			
5	Initiate and mobilise support for programmes/projects to develop community based and private small scale multipurpose water infrastructure			
6	Support the application of appropriate farm/domestic-level wastewater treatment technologies			
7	Promote water reuse in agriculture as well as deficit-irrigation strategies			
Key Intervention Area 1.3		Increasing Africa's water storage capacity and enhancing disaster risk management capabilities		
<b>Specific Objective(s)</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assure the development of multi-purpose water infrastructure to regulate predicted impacts of increased rainfall variability and incidences of extreme weather conditions</li> <li>Increase preparedness for disasters and improve response capacity among all sections of society</li> <li>Reduce the vulnerability of communities, especially the poor and disadvantaged, to the hazards and threats posed by water related disasters</li> </ul>		
<b>Baseline</b>		The findings of the <b>2012 Status Report on the Application of Integrated Approaches to Water Resources Management in Africa and the 2014 Africa Water and Sanitation Sector Report</b> demonstrate that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by 2020, up to 250 million people in Africa are projected to be exposed to increased water stress, while currently about half of the continent is either water stressed or facing water scarcity</li> <li>Africa has the lowest water storage capacity and irrigated agriculture in the world</li> <li>Africa's installed hydropower capacity is 45,936 MW, out of a reported hydropower potential of 304,350 MW</li> <li>As a whole, only 26.05% of the minimum economic, social and environmental water demands in Africa are satisfied</li> <li>The underdevelopment of water infrastructure accounts for up to 2% of Africa's lost annual GDP growth</li> <li>Floods, droughts and water pollution are the greatest threats to water resources management in Africa</li> </ul>		
Activities		Outputs	Means of Verification	Assumptions and Risks
1	Provide leadership in efforts to advance the implementation of planned water storage infrastructure under PIDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved outlook for investment, projects financing and public spending in transboundary multi-purpose water infrastructure development, especially the PIDA water storage infrastructure</li> <li>Principles and practices for optimising water harvesting integrated into and applied in broader</li> </ul>	Progress reported on related parameters in the African Water and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires a high-level of political and financial commitment within AMCOW and vibrancy, innovation and effective engagement on the part of the resources mobilisation function at the Secretariat</li> <li>An effective awareness and sensitisation campaign to highlight the relatively lower investment</li> </ul>
2	Promote and facilitate multifunctional "green" basin development centred on natural and built infrastructure to provide a continuum of water storage solutions – spanning household rainwater harvesting, ponds and tanks. Through utilisation of wetlands, lakes, natural or artificial groundwater recharge, among others			

3	Promote the development of multi-purpose reservoirs optimising the total benefit stream (water, food, energy, trade, ecosystem, disaster management, etc.)	<p>strategies and programmes for improving the output and efficiency of both productive and non-productive economic sectors (industry, agriculture, mining, energy, tourism, navigation, ecosystem management, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Opportunities provided for assuring climate resilient development</li> <li>▪ Infrastructure solutions provided for reducing vulnerability to the impacts of droughts and floods</li> <li>▪ Lake Chad and other wetlands maintained at sustainable levels to ensure the economic security of the freshwater ecosystem resources, sustained biodiversity and aquatic resources of the basin, the use of which should be equitable to serve the needs of the population of the basin, thereby reducing the poverty level</li> <li>▪ Vulnerability of communities, especially the poor and disadvantaged, to the hazards and threats posed by water related disasters reduced</li> </ul>	Sanitation Sector M&E System	<p>requirements and higher probability of sustainability of natural storage (infrastructure) options, thereby overcoming the tendency to associate increased water storage capacity with complicated control structures/concrete monuments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Allaying environmental concerns and resistance to proposed inter-basin water transfer solutions to rehabilitate Lake Chad and its wetlands</li> <li>▪ Effectiveness in mobilising convergence among institutions and development partners on issues such as economic efficiency of water use, cross-sector financing, comparative advantage and value-chains based on compromise</li> </ul>			
4	Mobilise global support and facilitate efforts to actualise the Lake Chad Vision 2025 to restore or rehabilitate the lake and its wetlands to its natural or close to its natural state						
5	Promote the 3R (recharge, retention & reuse) concept on water buffering to better manage natural recharge						
6	Support the adoption and application of the principles and practices of conjunctive water management and water harvesting						
7	Create awareness and facilitate education and training to increase preparedness for disasters, and improve response capacity among all sections of society incl. support to the implementation of the Pan-African initiative on climate loss and damage reduction						
8	Facilitate activities to formulate and/or strengthen vertical and horizontal linkages among early warning systems for water-related disasters at a country and regional level						
9	Promote such risk mitigation instruments as the African Risk Capacity's African Natural Disaster Insurance Pool for the Water Sector in Africa						
<b>Key Intervention Area 1.4</b>					<b>Applying nexus perspectives solutions to assure water, food and energy security in Africa</b>		
<b>Expected to contribute to these Outcome(s)</b>					Promote better interaction and synergies between the water, food and energy sectors in order to unlock and optimise development of the potential for economic growth and transformation in Africa		
<b>Baseline</b>		<p>Recognise the importance of ecosystem services in the Nexus approach and develop benefit sharing frameworks to define the trade-offs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Outcomes of the SADC Dialogue on Water, Food and Energy Nexus in November 2013 and the SADC Ministerial Workshop on Energy and Water Crisis June 2016</li> <li>▪ Funding from the European Union, through GIZ, to develop Nexus frameworks in three basins in Africa</li> <li>▪ Ongoing implementation of the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme</li> <li>▪ Outcomes of the Nairobi Regional NEXUS Dialogues High Level Panel in November 2012, highlighting the need to broaden stakeholder appreciation of the approach</li> </ul>					
<b>Activities</b>		<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Means of Verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and Risks</b>			
1	Facilitate the integration of water management issues into Land Governance, as well as related economic planning and natural resources management policy implementation initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nexus frameworks developed to support implementation at national, regional and RBOs</li> <li>▪ Linkages for planning and implementation strengthened in the AU Specialised Technical Committee for Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment</li> <li>▪ Synergies built at national and regional level</li> <li>▪ Improved water and land governance in Africa</li> <li>▪ Coherencies and complementarities of land planning and water management established in Africa</li> </ul>	Progress reported on related parameters in the African Water and Sanitation Sector M&E System	Willingness of institutions/organisations in the three sectors to institute functional collaborative operational arrangements			
2	Promote cross-sectoral prioritisation of development options in Africa on the basis of the water, food and energy security nexus perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Water, food and energy security nexus investment projects and finance strategies developed and promoted</li> <li>▪ Flexible and robust infrastructure, under different plausible futures, to take advantage of complementary opportunities across food, water and energy resources are in place in all AU member states</li> </ul>					

## B: Priority Action Area 2: Enhance Resilience to Climate Change and Water-Related Disaster Risks

<b>Priority Action Area 2</b>		<b>Enhance resilience to climate change and water-related disaster risks</b>		
<b>Objective(s)</b>		Reduce vulnerability of people and ecosystems to the impacts of climate change, climate variability and water-related disaster risks		
<b>Expected to contribute to these outcome(s)</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Water security, climate resilience and disaster risks management/reduction integrated in development planning and decision-making processes</li> <li>▪ Capacities of partnerships, institutions and stakeholders enhanced to integrate water security, climate resilience and disaster risks management/ reduction in development planning and decision-making processes</li> <li>▪ “No regrets” investment and financing strategies for water security, climate resilient development and disaster risks management/reduction formulated and being implemented by Member States</li> <li>▪ Robust portfolio and pipeline of bankable projects for water security, climate resilience and development defined and under implementation</li> </ul>		
<b>Baseline</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Many AU Member States experience cycles of drought, flooding and other extreme climatic events, which derail African development, causing damage, suffering and disruption to populations, particularly the most vulnerable and poor</li> <li>▪ Expectations deriving from specific commitments on climate change adaptation and investment plans in the 2008 Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration</li> <li>▪ An AMCOW Strategic Framework for Water Security and Climate Resilient Development, currently being piloted in 8 Member States and 5 transboundary basins</li> <li>▪ Ongoing implementation of the World Meteorological Organisation supported Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP-WMO) and the Integrated Flood Management (IFM) Project in Eastern Africa and West Africa</li> <li>▪ However, most approaches of dealing with water related disasters in Africa are still dominated by emergency response as opposed to disaster risk management and resilience building</li> </ul>		
<b>Key Intervention 2.1 Specific Objective</b>		<b>Ensuring water security and climate resilient development</b>		
<b>Activities</b>		<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Means of Verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and Risks</b>
Integrate water security and climate resilience into development planning processes (facilitate the upscaling of Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP) to vulnerable hotspots in Africa, mapping the vulnerability of various Member States		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WACDEP program focusing on integrating water security and climate resilience in development processes expanded to all AU Member States</li> <li>▪ Investment plans and finance strategies that enhance water security and climate resilient development prepared at regional and basin levels and in all AU Member States A number of projects prepared for financing and institutional capacity developed to develop fundable projects</li> <li>▪ Funding secured to implement projects that enhance water security and climate resilience</li> </ul>	Progress reported on related parameters in the <i>African Water and Sanitation Sector M&amp;E System</i>	Uptake and application of climate resilience and water security concepts in development planning processes
<b>Key Intervention 2.2 Specific Objective</b>		<b>Managing water-related disasters</b>		
<b>Activities</b>		<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Means of Verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and Risks</b>
1	Promote implementation of programmes that enhance drought and flood management capabilities, including extending implementation of the Integrated Drought Management Programme and the Associated Programme for Flood Management, supported by the World Meteorological Organisation to all AU Member States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strengthened disaster-risk governance helping to better manage water-related disasters</li> <li>▪ Reduced community vulnerability and enhanced resilience to climate change and disaster risks reduction (including reduced damages, economic loss and death) in all AU Member States</li> <li>▪ Investment plans and finance strategies that enhance water related disasters management and reduction prepared at all levels</li> </ul>	Progress reported on related parameters in the <i>African Water and Sanitation Sector M&amp;E System</i>	Active participation of all AU Member States, especially those with abundant water resources
2	Strengthen functionality of early warning systems at all levels, as well as improving their utility to evidence-based policy formulation and implementation to reduce damage and losses from water related disasters	Improved data and information on climate resilient development and disaster risk reduction (exposure, sensitivity, vulnerability and adaptive capacity), including governance, economic and policy indicators are available		Achieving a level of effectiveness of the systems to allow for timely management of slow onset disasters

## C: Priority Action Area 3: Strengthening Information Systems for Water Resources Assessment and Monitoring, including Water Quality Parameters

Priority Action Area 3		Strengthening information systems for water resources assessment and monitoring including water quality parameters		
<b>Expected to contribute to these outcome(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A legitimised and evidence based system for Water Resources classification and water allocation in Africa established</li> <li>▪ Capacity developed in all AU Members States to monitor and implement SDG 6</li> </ul>			
<b>Baseline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Need to strengthen the African Water and Sanitation Sector M&amp;E System through improving the reliability, completeness and accuracy of the primary source data upon which sector decisions can be based.</li> <li>▪ Challenges highlighted by Member States in National Water Sector Systems for data gathering, processing and storage, as well as information management and dissemination.</li> <li>▪ In many African countries regions and transboundary basins, water policies and management decisions are based on sparse and unreliable information. In this challenging context, water information systems are fundamental for improving water governance and implementing the SDG 6 successfully.</li> </ul>			
<b>Key Intervention 3.1 Specific Objective</b>	<b>Improve national level capacities for collecting complete and reliable hydro-meteorological and piezometric data</b>			
<b>Objective(s)</b>	Support the establishment and management of a reliable water resources knowledge base for improved water management; transboundary cooperation; and sustainable development in Africa			
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Means of Verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and Risks</b>	
1 Support Member States' efforts to establish and operate representative and reliable networks of hydro-meteorological, river gauging and water quality stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Optimal and functional Hydro-meteorological networks (including groundwater monitoring) available in all AU Members States</li> <li>▪ Improved monitoring of the state of the quantity and quality of the water resources in Africa</li> </ul>	Quality of information and extent of completion of data used by Member States in reporting under the African Water and Sanitation Sector M&E System	Ability to raise the commensurate resources to sustain development, operation and management of the equipment	
2 Develop a framework for monitoring groundwater levels at basin level and transboundary aquifers				
<b>Key Intervention 3.2 Specific Objective</b>		<b>Ensuring Readiness of AU Member States to achieve SDG 6 and monitor progress towards its targets</b>		
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Means of Verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and Risks</b>	
1 Facilitate activities to conduct studies to establish relevant SDG 6 monitoring baselines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Required SDG 6 monitoring baselines established in all AU Members States</li> <li>▪ Capacity developed in AU Member States to achieve SDG 6, as well as monitoring progress towards the targets</li> </ul>	Completeness of assessments of Member States' progress in implementing the Sharm el-Sheikh commitments as reported in the African Water and Sanitation Sector M&E System	Availability of adequate technical and financial resources to establish baselines in all AU Member States for both the SDGs and the existing gaps in reporting on the Africa Water Vision targets	
2 Ensure vertical and horizontal linkages between national, regional, continental and global water resource information and knowledge management systems	Functional and linked M&E Systems at all levels			

## D: Priority Action Area 4: Improve Environmental Integrity through Wastewater and Water Quality Management (WWQM)

Priority Action Area 4		Improve Environmental Integrity through wastewater and water quality management (WWQM)		
<b>Objective(s)</b>		Ensure availability of appropriate quantity and quality of water resources in order to maintain and improve the functioning of ecosystems		
<b>Expected to contribute to these Outcome(s)</b>		Degradation of Africa's environmental, and particularly freshwater, resources arrested, if not reversed, allowing unrestrained release of Africa's development potential		
<b>Baseline</b>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The findings of the 2014 Africa Water and Sanitation Sector Report highlighting that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>more than 547 million people in Africa lack access to basic sanitation!</li> <li>up to 5% of the continent's GDP is estimated to be lost due to inadequate provision of basic sanitation services.</li> <li>just 26.05% of the minimum economic, social and environmental water demands are met in Africa;</li> <li>the contribution of rainwater to the total municipal water consumption accounted for only 1.49% in 2013, compared to the set target of 25% by the year 2025</li> </ul> </li> <li>An Africa Water Vision Target to assure implementation in all basins in Africa of measures to allocate sufficient water for environmental sustainability; as well as conservation and restoration of watershed ecosystems</li> <li>As well as SDG 6 facts and figures indicating that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 1.8 billion people globally use a source of drinking water that is faecally contaminated</li> <li>More than 80 per cent of wastewater resulting from human activities is discharged into rivers or sea without any pollution removal</li> </ul> </li> </ol>		
Activities		Outputs	Means of Verification	Assumptions and Risks
1	Supporting Member States to develop and adopt legal, policy and institutional frameworks for the collection and treatment of wastewater to a minimum water quality standard before discharge into transboundary water courses and aquifers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum wastewater and water quality standards and regulations agreed and adopted by AU Member States for wastewater treatment; environmental flows; and water quality management in Africa;</li> <li>Rainwater harvesting technologies and practices widely applied in Africa to reduce the burden on traditional water sources, as well as contributing to flood management interventions;</li> <li>Legal, policy and institutional frameworks for wastewater and water quality management strengthened and being applied</li> <li>Improvements in ecosystem protection and restoration, as well as catchment (watershed) management</li> <li>Improvements in water efficiency based on allocating water to different uses based on quality</li> </ul>	Progress reported on related parameters in the African Water and Sanitation Sector M&E System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Processes for creating an enabling environment for attaining and sustaining the objectives of the interventions are concluded and operationalised within a short timeframe;</li> <li>Willingness of institutions/organisations to take up and institute functional collaborative operational arrangements to drive an integrated approach</li> </ul>



## XIII. Annexes

### Annex I: Relevant Recommendations of the 2014 Africa Water and Sanitation Sector Report to the Assembly

- 3). It is submitted for the consideration of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, to designate the Republic of Burkina Faso to champion continent-wide action to close the loop on sanitation, and at the same time contribute to efforts to assure food security in Africa. Focus shall be placed on (i) instituting mechanisms to facilitate the use of waste as a resource in agriculture; (ii) upscaling existing productive sanitation programmes; and, (iii) raising the profile of the utility of productive sanitation to, on the one hand, turning the tide against the pollution of Africa's water and environmental resources, and on the other hand, sustainably and ecologically increasing agricultural production.
- 4). The AUC, in collaboration with AMCOW and the relevant African institutions and partners, should develop and support the implementation of a Water Resources Management Priority Action Plan to facilitate effective water resources management as a means of alleviating poverty and ensuring sustainable development. The focus of the action plan should be placed on (i) formulating innovative mechanisms to manage demand and improve efficiency in the production, supply and utilisation of water, particularly in agriculture, not only to increase productivity but also assure resilience of the sector to anticipated limitations to water availability due to climate uncertainties; (ii) consolidating the gains reported by Member States in the application, at national level, of the principles of effective water management; and (iii) assuring vertical (continental-regional-national) coherency of water management policies and strategies.
- 7). Member States are encouraged to continue efforts in implementing the Sharm el Sheikh Declarations, and affirm the AMCOW Ministers Dakar Declarations regarding support for regular monitoring and reporting of commitments made at highest political levels so as to aid development of effective policies and plans. Governments, AMCOW, AUC, donors and partners should continue sourcing for funds to aid both implementation and monitoring of continental and global political commitments.
- 8). Considering Africa's infrastructure deficit, especially as observed by the data on water infrastructure, we recommend the prioritization of the implementation of water infrastructure projects in the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), in order to unlock the productive sectors of national economies and advance the sustainable use of water resources to support agriculture food security and growth, and on wastewater and pollution management.
- 9). It is noted that many member-countries are still off-track in meeting the MDG targets on access to water and sanitation as well as in significant utilisation of water resources for hydropower and agricultural water productivity. There is therefore an urgent need for all governments and partners to build on the progress made to meet the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to address the unfinished business of ensuring water security and improved sanitation in the post-2015 development agenda. Member countries are therefore urged to support the inclusion of a distinct water security and sanitation goal in the post-2015 global development agenda supported by a set of targets covering the following sub areas: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; Water Resources Management, Water Governance; Wastewater and Water Quality Management and Water and Disaster Risk Management.

*Source: 2014 Africa Water and Sanitation Sector Report*

## Annex II: Key Messages and Recommendations of the 2012 Status Report on the Application of Integrated Approaches to Water Resources Management in Africa

**1. Seventy-six percent of reporting African countries are implementing national water laws and 44 percent are implementing national plans based on the application of integrated approaches as stated in Agenda 21 and described in the Africa Water Vision 2025.**

With due recognition of the unique challenges in each sub-region, targeted action is required to support the promulgation of the relevant political commitments at a continental level in those countries still facing challenges in this regard. A key element of these action programmes could be country-to-country experiential learning.

**2. Countries with improved enabling environment for water resources management are more likely to have improved governance and institutions as well as to progress faster with infrastructure development and financing.**

More proof is required that the integrated approach is working and influencing development. Evidence should be collected to demonstrate the benefits and impacts of improved water resources management and good examples used to obtain commitment to action. One approach is to strengthen the regular reporting process and to improve the quality and consistency of indicators used at national to regional levels.

**3. Some countries reported good progress in financing for water resources infrastructure. Generally, though, financing of water resources management is poorly addressed and not well appreciated.**

It is necessary to document and disseminate, for possible adaptation and adoption, the various innovative approaches to financing of water resources management that have worked in different countries in Africa. Good experiences should be documented and shared to show the economic benefits accrued from better water resources management and more efficient use. Also, an improved monitoring framework can lead to better data collection and to visibility of the issues. Scaling up infrastructure development and building sectoral cooperation can emerge from a programme of support to development of basin plans at national and transboundary levels.

**4. Countries reported a diverse range of positive impacts from water resources management and some countries indicated significant impacts on national social and economic objectives.**

One of the most important issues to be addressed is the documentation of economic and social development contributions from water resources. This is essential to prioritize water allocation decisions and to justify government budgets, as well as to gain political commitment.

**5. Progress with development and implementation of transboundary agreements is one of the most advanced elements of water resources management involving 77 percent of reporting African countries.**

Programmes are necessary to address the capacity requirements of governance structures for transboundary water. In particular, this relates to the ability of national organisations to contribute at a transboundary level. To move beyond conflict resolution to more complex issues of water resources management, it is desirable that all basin countries achieve comparable levels of progress with IWRM.

**6. Progress with instituting water resources management instruments has lagged behind the implementation of other elements of IWRM. Progress has been observed primarily in those countries with improved enabling environment and institutions.**

In most sub-regions, particular countries stand out with good experiences to share. Regional cooperation programmes designed to share experiences and lessons learned can assist country development and adoption of appropriate water management instruments and tools.

**7. Floods, droughts, and water pollution are the greatest threats to water resources in Africa. The responses also indicate a great deal of effort invested in measures to overcome these challenges as well as other climate-related issues at national and subnational levels.**

Peer-to-peer learning should be developed to build upon the very good examples of climate change adaptation actions in most sub-regions, including water-related disaster preparedness and

risk management programmes. These actions are specific to climatic or geographic circumstances and so peer to peer learning needs to be customized accordingly.

**8. Concerns over institutional capacity constraints feature prominently in the survey results along with little evidence of responsive capacity development programmes in place.**

There is a need for well-designed capacity development programmes to support institutional development and reform, especially for the management of transboundary water systems, as well as local river basin organisations and national apex bodies. These capacity building programmes should also address inter-sectoral coordination that appears to be very weak in most countries and that has proven to be a challenge to achieve.

**9. The high-level of country response and the clear value of information for measuring progress and planning future action emphasize the need for a more rigorous, evidence-based, system for reporting progress on water resources development and management in Africa.**

As part of AMCOW's reporting responsibilities, the outcomes of the survey should be utilised as a first step towards **development** of a permanent reporting mechanism on the status of water resources management to serve as a basis for informed decision making within AMCOW. To build greater conformity between national data sets, it is imperative that the system is relevant at national, sub-regional, and continental levels.

A summary of the [recommended] priority action areas is given below:

At enabling environment level:

- Address barriers to legal and policy reform and target stalled countries
- Enhance political will for water reforms
- Promote integration of water management across sectors
- Establish the survey as a monitoring instrument for Africa

At governance and institutional frameworks level:

- Support and promote the establishment of effective governance and institutional frameworks through capacity development and peer-to-peer sharing of experience
- Enhance mechanisms for stakeholder engagement at the level of river basin organisations

At management instruments level:

- Develop and implement water allocation systems at country and basin levels
- Promote forecasting and early warning systems and IWRM to contribute to climate change adaptation
- Develop a good practice guide, for African conditions, on sharing water knowledge with stakeholders

For developing water infrastructure:

- Where the river basin management approach has been adopted, promote a multi-stakeholder approach to the preparation of basin plans
- Enhance fund-raising at all levels – AMCOW, sub-regional entities, countries – for water infrastructure
- Develop and implement, or enhance, human and institutional capacity programmes at a country level for more effective use of funds and for management of infrastructure to allow scaling up

For financing water management and development:

- Increase national government financing of water resources
- Build a knowledge base from African countries of water financing based on the implementation of IWRM polluter-pays and user-pays principles
- Explore means to improve the collection, storage and analysis of financial data for water investment and water resources management
- Promote private sector financing in water development

For monitoring integrated approaches to water resources management:

- Building on the current survey, establish permanent monitoring mechanism to assess the implementation and impact of integrated approaches to water resources development, management, financing and use
- Establish a suite of indicators that make the reporting more objective

Source: 2012 Status Report on the Application of Integrated Approaches to Water Resources Management in Africa

## Annex III: AU Decisions and Declarations

### Annex IIIa: Sharm el-Sheikh Commitments for Accelerating the Achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa, Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XI)

**WE**, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the 11<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Sharm El-Sheikh, Arab Republic of Egypt, from 30 June to 1 July 2008,

**Recognizing** the importance of water and sanitation for social, economic and environmental development of our countries and Continent;

**Reaffirming** our commitment to the principles and objectives, stipulated in the Constitutive Act of the African Union aimed at promoting cooperation and integration between our countries in all fields with a view to raising the living standards of our peoples and the wellbeing of future generations;

**Recognizing** that water is and must remain a key to sustainable development in Africa, and that water supply and sanitation are prerequisites for Africa's human capital development;

**Concerned** that there is an underutilization and uneven sharing of water resources in Africa, and that remains a growing challenge in the achievement of food and energy securities;

**Reaffirming** our commitment to the African Water Vision 2025, the Sirte Declaration on Agriculture and Water in Africa; the Declaration on Climate Change in Africa; and the Millennium Development Goal on water supply and sanitation;

**Mindful** that our Summit is taking place mid-way to the 2015 water, sanitation and other MDGs targets and aware that not much progress has been made in Africa compared to the rest of the world to achieve the MDGs target, and that based on current trends, Africa needs to accelerate its efforts;

**Welcoming** the Declaration by the international community of 2008 as the year of action on the MDGs, and the Declaration by the United Nations of 2008 as the "International Year of Sanitation" which, for Africa, provides an opportunity for accelerating its regional action plans and implementation strategies by adopting concrete decisions at our Heads of State and Government Summit;

**Aware** of the need to make progress on the challenges of water and sanitation infrastructure financing, water conservation and equitable distribution, closing the sanitation gap, breaking the silence on sanitation and hygiene, adapting to climate change, integrated management of national and transboundary surface and ground water, investing in information, knowledge and monitoring and institutional development as well capacity building;

**Aware** also of the urgent need to develop our water and sanitation infrastructure and institutions in order to provide sufficient and sustainable quantity and quality for all types of services and provide acceptable level of protection from risks of water related disasters and impact of climate change as key for the transformation and socio-economic development, and for public health in Africa;

**Recognizing** the progress that the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) and other institutions and organizations and their development partners have made in the area of water resource management and in the provision of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation to the urban and rural populations of our countries albeit the inadequacies;

**Welcoming** the Ministerial Declaration and outcomes of the first Africa Water Week convened by AMCOW and hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB) in Tunis, Tunisia from 26 to 28 March 2008; and further welcoming the eThekweni Declaration on Sanitation and its accompanying actions adopted in South Africa in February 2008, and the Africa-EU Statement on Sanitation of March 2008;

**Acknowledging** the work done by AMCOW in mobilizing action towards sustainable and integrated water resource management and in providing policy guidance for coordination of water resources management and for water supply and sanitation initiatives as well as the funding mechanisms put in place for these initiatives;

### **WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO:**

- (a) **Increase** our efforts to implement our past declarations related to water and sanitation.
- (b) **Raise** the profile of sanitation by addressing the gaps in the context of the 2008 eThekweni Ministerial Declaration on sanitation in Africa adopted by AMCOW.
- (c) **Address** issues pertaining to agricultural water use for food security as provided for in the Ministerial Declaration and outcomes of the first African Water Week.

And particularly;

- (d) **Develop and/or update** national water management policies, regulatory frameworks, and programmes, and prepare national strategies and action plans for achieving the MDG targets for water and sanitation over the next seven (7) years;
- (e) **Create** conducive environment to enhance the effective engagement of local authorities and the private sector;
- (f) **Ensure** the equitable and sustainable use, as well as promote integrated management and development, of national and shared water resources in Africa;
- (g) **Build** institutional and human resources capacity at all levels including the decentralized local government level for programme implementation, enhance information and knowledge management as well as strengthen monitoring and evaluation;
- (h) **Put in place** adaptation measures to improve the resilience of our countries to the increasing threat of climate change and variability to our water resources and our capacity to meet the water and sanitation targets;
- (i) **Significantly increase** domestic financial resources allocated for implementing national and regional water and sanitation development activities and Call upon Ministers of water and finance to develop appropriate investment plans;
- (j) **Develop** local financial instruments and markets for investments in the water and sanitation sectors;
- (k) **Mobilize** increased donor and other financing for the water and sanitation initiatives including national projects and Rural Water and Sanitation Initiatives, the African Water Facility; Water for African Cities programme and the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility, as committed in the G8 Initiatives on water and sanitation;
- (l) **Promote** effective engagement of African civil society and public participation in water and sanitation activities and programmes;
- (m) **Promote** programming that addresses the role and interests of youth and women, given that the burden of poor water and sanitation falls disproportionately on women and children;
- (n) **Strengthen** AMCOW as a key regional mechanism, and other regional stakeholders, as relevant, for promoting cooperation on water and sanitation;
- (o) **Strengthen** AMCOW's initiative on sustainable management of water resources, to implement its roadmap for the African Groundwater Commission;

- (p) **Strengthen** partnership at all levels in our countries and between Regional Economic Communities as well as with the international development agencies and promote public-private partnerships with the view to fast tracking actions towards meeting the MDG on water and sanitation in our continent;
- (q) **Request** AMCOW to annually report on progress made in the implementation of our commitment on water and sanitation with support from regional partners, and to submit these reports for our consideration;
- (r) **Call on** African Ministers in charge of water and finance in collaboration with the African Development Bank and development partners, to hold a meeting of Ministers of Water and Finance to develop appropriate financing policies;
- (s) **Request** the Regional Economic Communities and the Rivers and Lake Basin Organizations to initiate regional dialogues on climate change and its impacts on the water sector with the aim of designing appropriate adaptation measures;
- (t) **Call upon** the G8 to reaffirm at its next Summit in Japan its commitment to fully implement the G8 initiatives on water in Africa, notably the 2003 Evian Plan on Water, to step up their engagement in the sanitation sector and to enter into a strengthened partnership with the AU Member States, through AMCOW, for achieving the Water and Sanitation MDGs.

*Done in Sharm El-Sheikh on 1 July, 2008*

## Annex IIIb: Sirte Declaration on the Challenges of Implementing Integrated and Sustainable Development on Agriculture and Water in Africa, Ex/Assembly/AU/Decl. 1 (II)

*Sirte on 27 February 2004*

**WE**, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Extraordinary Session of our Assembly in Sirte, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 27 to 28 February 2004, in response, with appreciation, to the proposal to convene an Extraordinary Session of the Assembly on Africa's economic development, which was initially made by the Leader of the Great Al Fatah Revolution, Brother Muammar Ghaddafi, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Maputo, Mozambique in July 2003;

**Reaffirming** our commitment to the principles and objectives, stipulated in the Constitutive Act of the African Union and its programme NEPAD, aimed at promoting cooperation and integration between our countries in all fields with a view to raising the living standards of our peoples and the well being of our future generations;

**Aware** that the ingenuity and potentials of our countries and peoples can overcome all obstacles to development in the Continent, eradicate poverty, ignorance and disease and establish a rejuvenated Africa;

**Noting** the progress made in the establishment of the African Union and its programme NEPAD and the on-going process of Africa's economic integration and the need for building viable mechanisms of cooperation and partnership in the struggle to extricate the Continent from the scourge of under-development and continued marginalization in a globalized world economy;

**Welcoming** the outcome of the Ministerial meetings in both the agricultural and water sectors, including the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) and the African Water Vision for 2025;

**Cognizant** of the urgent need to respond to Africa's critical problems of hunger, poverty and disease by employing innovative complementary and comprehensive approaches aimed at optimizing the productivity of Africa's acknowledged massive resources and huge possibilities for sustainable development, taking into account the variations in resource potential and endowment in different regions and Member States of the Africa Union;

**Further reaffirming** that sustained, just and balanced development is based on partnership, utilizing resources and sharing of its benefits in accordance with the principles of international law;

**Recognizing** that to attain self-sufficiency in food production and eradicate hunger, it is necessary to promote strategic food crops;

Further recognizing the importance of livestock and fishery resources in ensuring food security, as well as the need to collectively protect, preserve and develop these resources;

**Further aware** of the need to effectively utilize the results of scientific research, for agricultural planning to tackle problems of desertification, soil and water conservation and environment protection for sustainable agricultural and animal resources development;

**Further convinced** of the fact that water is the main factor in all human endeavour and of the need to assure the preservation and distribution of water resources;

**Concerned** by the unsatisfactory present situation of integrated water and agriculture programmes in Africa as reported by the FAO Director General and anxious to reverse this unacceptable situation;

**Determined** to prioritize implementation of integrated water and agriculture programmes to enhance sustainable development in Africa;

**Acknowledging** the initiatives of bilateral and multilateral cooperating partners;

**Further acknowledging** the work done by the African Ministers of Water and of Agriculture and their active engagement in providing policy guidance and coordination of water resources management and Agriculture development in Africa, and endorse their recommendations.

### **WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO:**

1. **Identify and support** the development and production of strategic agricultural commodities and other key economic and industrial activities, in order to fully exploit the continent's special potentialities and comparative advantages of Member States in agricultural production and other economic activities, while reducing the expenditure and dependence on imports;
2. **Promote** the development of livestock production including the improvement of natural pastures, distribution of veterinary products, and genetic resources with a view to improving food security;
3. **Promote** the development of fishery resources, develop fishing methods and equipment, improve facilities for their preservation, storage, distribution and processing, and encourage regional cooperation in the field of fishing, including the protection of fishery resources in our exclusive economic zones;
4. **Promote** the development of agricultural implements, livestock and fishery equipment as well as the techniques for the manufacturing of the necessary equipment to meet the continent's needs for agricultural production;
5. **Promote** the strengthening of Centres of Excellence and/or networks and their establishment where they do not exist for crops, animals, forestry, fisheries, range management, water management, desertification, drought, floods and environmental management and the strengthening of related tertiary and research institutions at continental and regional levels for the purpose of carrying out research in biotechnology (including Genetically Modified Organisms), conservation of agricultural biodiversity, biosafety, food storage, water harvesting and application, etc;
6. **Strengthen** banks for genetic resources for agriculture and livestock at regional level and promote their establishment where they do not exist, as well as provide for registration of intellectual property rights;
7. **Enhance** Early Warning Systems at regional level and their establishment where they do not exist as well as their coordination at continental level in order to avert the negative impact of drought, desertification, floods, natural disasters and pests;
8. **Establish** an information network in the field of agricultural production for food security and the trading of commodities between markets and countries.
9. **Support** the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW) in its role of preparing plans and policies related to water resource management on the continent and request the Chairperson of the AU Commission to adapt the mandates, structures and activities of AMCOW, the African Ministers Conference of Environment and the African Ministers Conference of Agriculture in order to integrate them into the activities of the Commission of the African Union and its Specialised Technical Committees;
10. **Encourage** bilateral agreements on shared water resources and Enjoin the Regional Economic Communities to develop appropriate regional protocols to guide integrated water resources management;

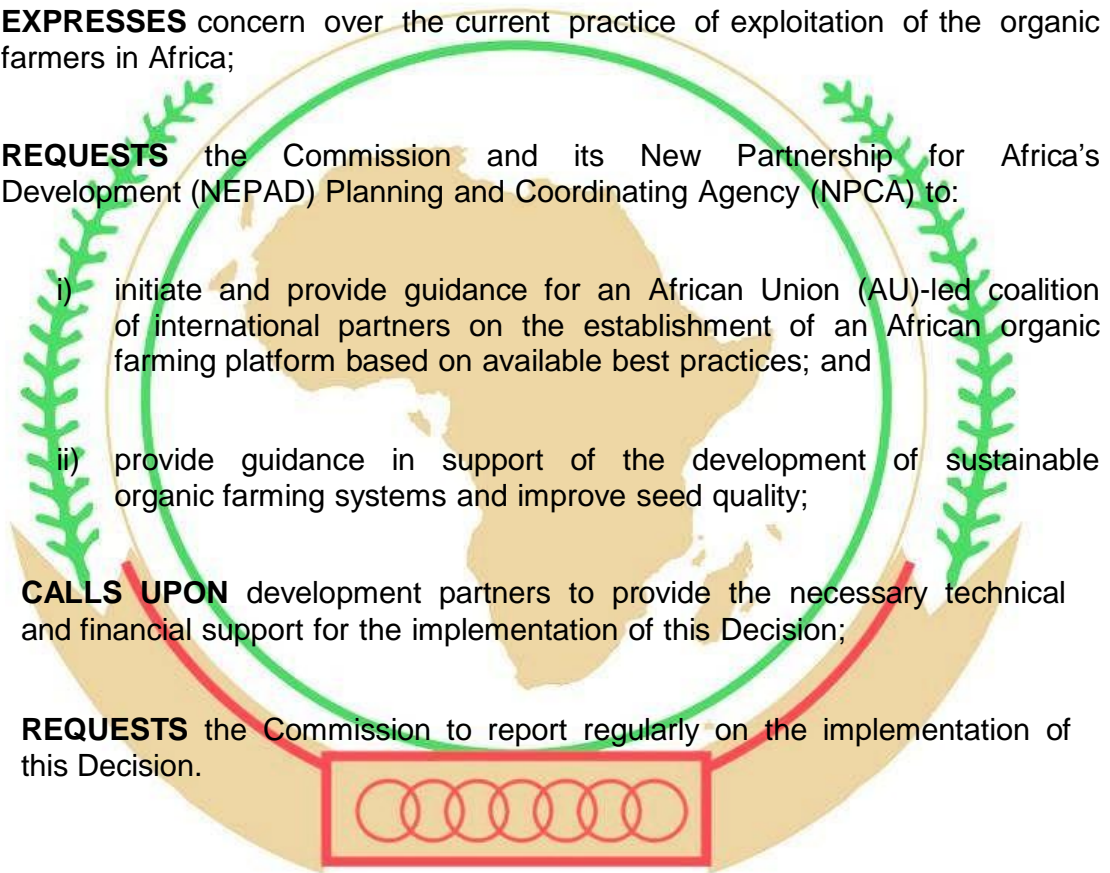


11. **Strengthen** existing river and lake water basins organizations where they exist and establish new ones wherever appropriate to inter alia:
  - Develop and promote water resources through support to infrastructure projects, including the construction of dams and canals, sinking of wells and providing irrigation equipment;
  - Exploit water falls to provide electric power and link it to the Continent's general network.
  - Carry out studies on untapped water in areas where it is available in large quantities to benefit the continent in accordance with the principles of international law, including the protocols concluded among all the riparian States.
12. **Adopt** the African Water Facility and acknowledge the African Water Vision 2025 for a comprehensive integrated development of the water sector;
13. **Immediately** establish the African Common Market for agricultural products, according to the Lusaka Summit decision;
14. **Promote** intra-African trade in agricultural and fishery products in order to correct discrepancies in food balances at both national and regional levels, and explore the use of new methods to settle payments for trade;
15. **Develop** clear strategies in the field of export-oriented industries, promote regional cooperation and integration based on comparative advantages in establishing industries in particular, those required by agricultural development programme;
16. **Further develop** the infrastructure, particularly in energy, transport, roads, communication and New Information and Communication Technology fields in order to increase productivity and promote local and foreign investments in these fields;
17. **Ensure** coordination of African positions at WTO and other international trade negotiations fora in order to secure better terms of trade and to increase the share of the Continent in the world trade;
18. **Develop** a common and coherent policy framework for public-private cooperation that will attract increased private capital into the agriculture and water sectors;
19. **Develop** the human resource potential in the continent through education, training, skills development and exchange of expertise;
20. **Ensure** gender balance in access to training, education, land, natural resources, loans and development programmes;
21. **Expedite** action on the establishment of the African Investment Bank to ensure the financing of, inter alia, development projects in the field of agriculture and water;
22. **Mandate** the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union to undertake a feasibility study for the expeditious establishment of an African Agricultural Development Fund;
23. **Expedite** the implementation of NEPAD programmes in the field of agriculture and water and the implementation of the Declaration adopted in Maputo on the allocation of 10% of our national budgets to boost agricultural production;
24. **Request** the Chairperson of the AU Commission to develop detailed plans of action, implement this Declaration, propose the necessary procedures and submit plans of action and detailed programmes to the Assembly at its ordinary session in 2005;
25. **Entrust** the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) to:
  - (a) Follow-up the implementation of this Declaration and evaluate the progress made in the attainment of its objectives;
  - (b) Submit a report at every annual session of the Assembly, taking into account the achievements and identifying the obstacles and proposing the means to overcome them.

## Annex IIIc: Executive Council Decision on Organic Farming, EX.CL / Dec.621(XVIII)

### The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture held in Lilongwe, Malawi on 28 and 29 October 2010 on Organic Farming, and **ENDORSES** the Resolution contained therein;
2. **EXPRESSES** concern over the current practice of exploitation of the organic farmers in Africa;
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission and its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) to:
  - i) initiate and provide guidance for an African Union (AU)-led coalition of international partners on the establishment of an African organic farming platform based on available best practices; and
  - ii) provide guidance in support of the development of sustainable organic farming systems and improve seed quality;
4. **CALLS UPON** development partners to provide the necessary technical and financial support for the implementation of this Decision;
5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to report regularly on the implementation of this Decision.





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