

**African Ministers' Council
on Water (AMCOW)
Work Programme
2005 – 2007**

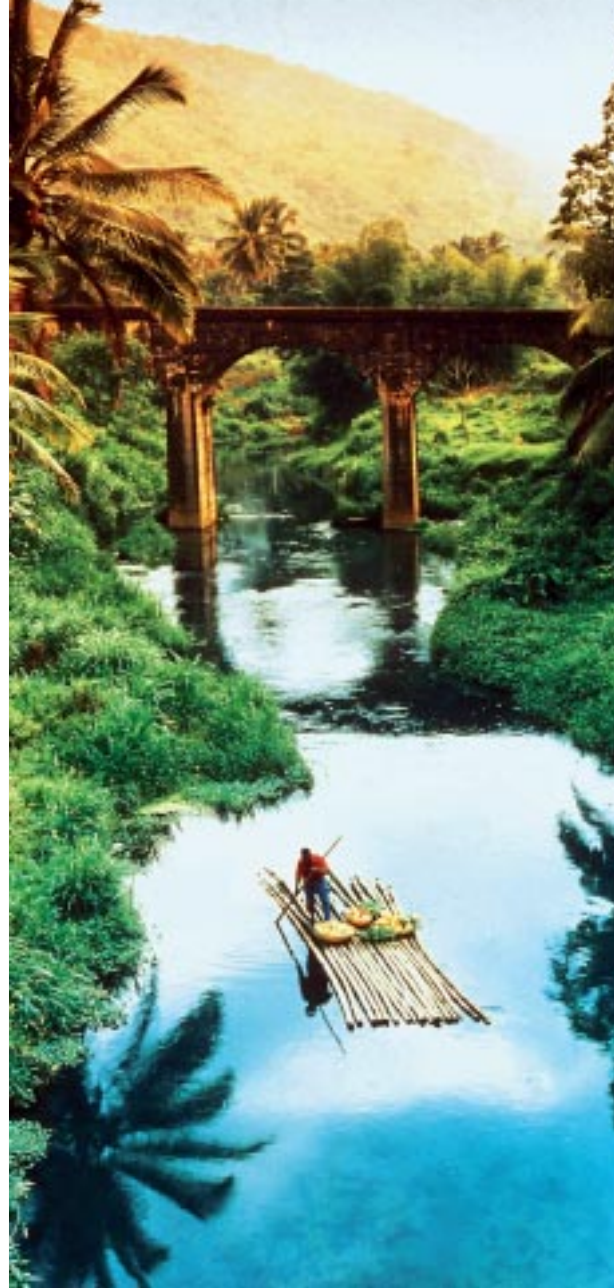




This work programme aims to provide strategic direction for various clusters of initiatives that have been approved and/or endorsed by AMCOW. In a number of cases these initiatives have already developed their own workplans and management strategies, with the AMCOW work programme providing an overall framework as well as setting the priorities for action. For example, the sub-regional portfolio of projects serves as a basis for inter-governmental dialogue at the sub-regional level to refine their own strategies and prioritize initiatives. The EU Water Initiative has established a number of working groups to focus on developing work plans with respect to the specific issues in the EUWI. Phase II of the Water for African Cities programme, coordinated by UN-HABITAT, has a mechanism in place for communication among the concerned municipalities and countries. The G-8 Water Initiative provides space for various donors to carry forward specific, targeted initiatives, such as the German G-8 project. The AMCOW Work Programme will also act as an over-arching framework that provides a means for keeping an overview of a multiplicity of approaches that all contribute to advancing the work of AMCOW and contribute to meeting the MDG targets on water and sanitation in Africa.

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“The achievement of the target will represent a unique historic and humanitarian milestone. We must all respond in concrete terms to the call for action inherent in the 2005 Water Resources Alliance Initiative. At the UN System-wide level, agencies should demonstrate greater commitment to this overall effort in their programmes and priorities. We, in UNEP, are accorded a higher degree of attention to supporting developing countries in the area of integrated water resources management, including in the areas of assessment, management, water policy and legislation, regional policy dialogue, capacity-building, and inter-agency collaboration.

In the Jeju Initiative of the recent eighth special session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum over 100 governments underscored the need for progress with respect to IWRM. The 2005 target must now serve as a basis for a new compact between donor countries and developing countries. Development Cooperation partners should consider the possibility of increasing their assistance, especially with respect to capacity building, to developing countries, so as to enhance their prospects of achieving 2005 target. The EU water initiative for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific regions is another useful vehicle. We hope that our cumulative efforts will provide a firm basis for reporting greater progress on the occasion of the Millennium Summit+5 in 2005”.

Dr. Klaus Topfer, Executive Director UNEP at the launch of the 2005 Water Resources Alliance Initiative, CSD 12, April 2004

Foreword

“It gives me great pleasure and honour to welcome you all to Uganda for the 5th general Assembly of the African Minister’s Council on Water. The formation of AMCOW is a welcome positive political development for Africa. The political commitment of the African nations to confront its water challenges is clear as demonstrated by the launching of NEPAD and AMCOW. The objectives of AMCOW are in line with the objectives of the African Union and the NEPAD and, therefore, I expect that the prime objective of this partnership is to contribute to the eradication of poverty and place African countries individually and collectively at the path of sustainable growth and development.

Water poses a number of challenges for Africa in its efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goal of halving, by 2015, the number of people without access to Water and Sanitation. Currently, the region suffers the most from inadequate access to water supply and sanitation and has the least capacity for responding to the problem. Water plays a pivotal role in society; it is critical for economic development; for human health and social welfare, especially for the poor; and for environmental sustainability. AMCOW should seize this opportunity, [while it still lasts], when our development partners have openly and clearly expressed their interest in helping Africa improve its safe water and sanitation coverage. The resources available from our development partners for this cause must be optimally utilized to kick-start our own efforts to better manage our water resources.

AMCOW should promote hydropower development and promote transboundary cooperation on shared water courses to address the immediate development needs of our continent. AMCOW should be the continental arm for moving forward on global concerns and initiatives to address the anticipated global water crises. Strong political advocacy; and creating of appropriate legal and institutional frameworks for cooperation, management and beneficial use of transboundary water resources, including the examination and development of appropriate mechanism for interbasin transfers of water should from a major part of your work”.

Let me assure you of my political commitment and support to AMCOW”.

“Many of the problems facing the water sector are due to poor implementation of the principles of integrated water resources management. While countries agreed at the WSSD to prepare integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005, with support to developing countries, the implementation of that goal requires coordinated action on several fronts. Efforts are needed to improve the quality of databases and information systems, including water accounting systems. Fragmented institutional structures with overlapping mandates and inadequate legislative and policy frameworks are important impediments to integrated water resources management. An equally important challenge is to foster dialogue among riparian states for efficient management and utilization of international waters. Action plans to minimize the impacts of water-related disasters deserve priority in national planning processes”.

UN Secretary General's Report on Integrated Water Resources Management

Extracts from the Speech of H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, Uganda delivered at the 5th Session of the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW) Uganda, November, 2004.

"Never before have so many nations devoted so much time in pursuit of a solution so vital to human and environment security as integrated water resources management. Perhaps nowhere is the link between environmental sustainability and economic development so closely linked as in the case of integrated water resources management and ecosystems protection".

H.E. Mr. Monyane Moleleki, Minister of Natural Resources, Lesotho

Introduction

Water is one of the most critical natural resource issues in Africa.

- More than 300 million people in Africa lack reasonable access to safe water. Even more lack adequate sanitation.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, only about 51 per cent of the population has access to safe water, and 45 per cent to sanitation.
- 14 countries in Africa are currently subject to water stress or scarcity, with those in Northern Africa facing the worst prospects. 11 more countries will join them in the next 25 years.
- Rising demand for increasingly scarce water resources is leading to growing concerns about future access to water, particularly where water resources are shared between countries.

Recognizing the magnitude of the problem, African Ministers of Water first met in Abuja, Nigeria, in April, 2002, to forge a way forward. At this time we founded the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW). Over the last two years, Ministers of Water and their partners have collectively brought landmark achievements to the region. The road from our founding in Abuja, through Bonn, Johannesburg and Addis Ababa to Entebbe has been one of progressively reaching new heights in fostering meaningful regional dialogue on water policy. We believe a great step forward has been accomplished in tackling the formidable problems of water and sanitation facing our continent.

Throughout this journey we have been passing milestones that mark unprecedented progress towards a harmonized effort against our water crisis. Beginning with the Abuja Declaration in May 2002, which signalled our determination to walk the road together, we then agreed on a number of Ministerial Commitments in Addis Ababa that set out a clear common agenda for action. This then led to presentation of a united front at CSD-12 that served to solidify international recognition of AMCOW's importance in addressing the water policy challenges in Africa.

Based on those and other achievements we have now agreed in Entebbe (Uganda, November, 2004) on a strategic work programme for the coming three years, aimed at strengthening governance, institutional arrangements and regional inter-governmental dialogue. Furthermore, to ensure that our development cooperation partners can consider making contributions, the Ministers and Heads of delegations, attending the 5th Session of AMCOW, decided to establish a trust fund, and requested UNEP to host it, in view of its vast experience in managing trust funds (regional and global). The regional Trust Funds hosted by UNEP include one for the African Ministers Conference on the Environment (AMCEN).

The trust fund will provide a convenient mechanism for African countries, in a position to do so, and other partners to make contributions towards implementation of the AMCOW work programme and other ministerial commitments. We would therefore invite you to consider making a contribution through this mechanism.

I look forward to working with our development cooperation partners over the coming months in an enhanced collaboration to address Africa's water and sanitation crisis.

Mrs. Maria Mutagamba
Chair of the African Ministers Council on Water
Minister of State for Water Resources, Uganda

H.E. Ato Dawit Yohannes, Speaker of the House of People's Representatives, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

"It is our conviction that, given clear policies and strategies and real commitments to implementation and with the support of our own partners the challenges of the Millennium Development Goal outcomes could be met, and I am confident that water would help eradicate poverty and help achieve sustainable development in Africa".

"Regional cooperation on water issues has to be an integral part of national water policies and related technical programmes and projects. Africa needs to commit itself to the exchange of hydrological data and expertise in order to ensure improved hydrological forecasts and timely warnings on disasters and for agricultural practices. There could also be regional cooperation at the level of transboundary exchange of experience to exploit water...An exchange of experience across these regions on how to exploit and manage ground water resources could be beneficial to the countries concerned".

Professor G.O.P. Obasi, Secretary General, World Meteorological Organization

The Road From Abuja to Entebbe, via Johannesburg and Addis Ababa: Achieving the targets on Africa's water policy challenges

At a meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, in April 2002, the African Ministers responsible for water adopted the "Abuja Ministerial Declaration on Water - a key to Sustainable Development in Africa". This declaration marked the launching of the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW), a major step forward in forging region-wide collective action for sustainable development.

Under the auspices of AMCOW, the Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference aimed to address the implication of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) on regional water initiatives, as well as the continent's role in the implementation of the Summit's outcomes. Most importantly, the conference provided a platform for African countries, the international community and UN Agencies to reaffirm their commitment to solve Africa's water crises.

The Pan-African Conference focused attention on the *implementation requirements*, in Africa, of the many regional and international targets in the water sector. It was considered a success in securing commitments to the implementation of targets, and in building international solidarity in the form of meaningful partnerships. In this regard, the G-8 Africa Action Plan, as well as the EU Water Initiative for Africa, will provide a firm basis for concrete actions.

The Conference was based on the fundamental principles and values of the Johannesburg Declaration on sustainable development, and focus attention on the water related commitments and targets, which are:

- To halve, by 2015, the proportion of people unable to reach or afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation;
- To develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005, with support for developing countries.

The Ministerial commitments made in Addis Ababa in December 2003 provided the foundation for preparing a comprehensive work programme aimed at turning those commitments into action. At Entebbe, Uganda, in November 2004, the 5th Ordinary Session of AMCOW adopted the work programme and is now pursuing strategies to ensure resources needed to implement it are in place.

"The International Year of Freshwater was an unequalled opportunity not only for reaching all regions, countries and communities with clear messages that our international mission has allowed us to distill, but of listening carefully to what the world, at all levels, has to say on the vital subject of water".

Koichiro Matsuura, UNESCO Director-General, at the closing ceremony of the International Year of Freshwater



The Pan - African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water: Addis Ministerial Commitments

- ***Portfolio of Water Initiatives:*** The conference endorsed a portfolio of key water initiatives in the five sub-regions of Africa. This is the first consolidated outline of priority initiatives that shows the way for meeting the objectives of the New Partnership for African Development.
- ***Launching of Initiatives:*** The conference forged new partnerships on water in Africa in the context of which a number of significant initiatives were launched (see below).
- ***Millennium Development Goals and WSSD targets:*** The Ministers reached consensus on the central importance of achieving new targets on water and sanitation. Special attention will be given to the countries considered most likely to miss the targets, and to incorporating the targets as priorities in national development plans and budgets.
- ***Engagement with Civil Society:*** Ministers undertook to ensure that civil society in general, and gender concerns, in particular, are taken into account, through consultation in policy formulation in all sectors of water, sanitation and human settlements.
- ***National Task Forces on Water and Sanitation:*** It was agreed to establish National Task Forces on Water and Sanitation in 2004 to prepare national plans for achieving the safe drinking water and sanitation targets.

- *Ministers committed themselves to* conduct negotiations with the development cooperation partners, Bretton Woods Institutions and UN Agencies on the portfolio of projects.
- *They agreed to* ensure that the Extraordinary Summit of the African Union endorses the commitments and recommendations of the conference outcomes.
- *It was also agreed to* use the commitments and recommendations of the conference for developing a common African position and approach before and after CSD-12, which will focus on water, sanitation and human settlements (see below).
- *Sustaining the Momentum and Monitoring Progress:* The Ministers underscored the need for sustained implementation efforts. Expanding the new partnerships forged during the conference will be given top priority. Progress will be monitored by AMCOW and reported to stakeholders over the coming year.



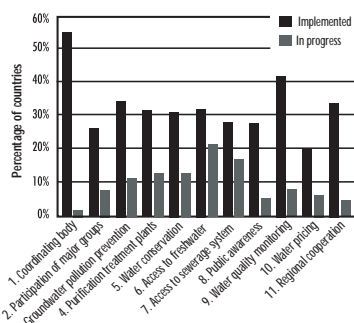
Rising food insecurity

Per capita food consumption and associated calorific and nutritional intake has remained disappointingly low in sub-Saharan Africa over the past forty-five years. The number of undernourished Africans rose steeply during the 1990s. While the total number of undernourished people worldwide has fallen, the proportion of the undernourished sub-Saharan African population has remained virtually unchanged. Food security actions, therefore, take on a special urgency in this region.

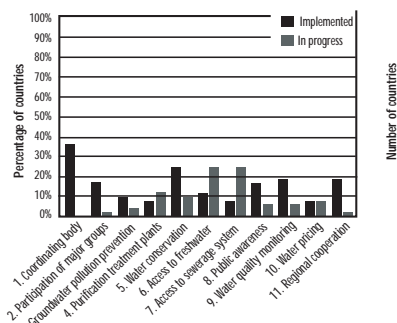
"I am convinced that if the international community and the countries concerned made better agricultural water management a political and financial priority, we would experience fewer disasters like the current food crisis in southern Africa. We could then concentrate our efforts on improving the development and management of water for agriculture to meet the growing demand for food, alleviate poverty and sustain economic growth".

Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

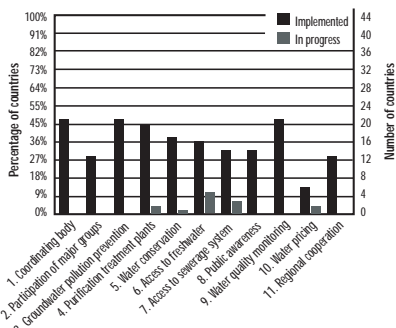
World (190 countries, of which 129 [68%] reported)



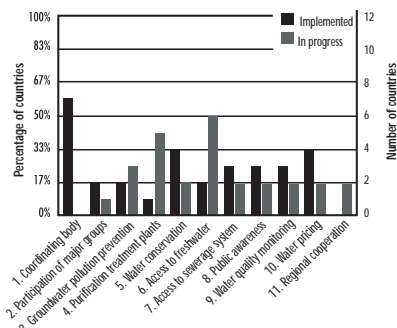
Africa (53 countries, of which 26 [50%] reported)



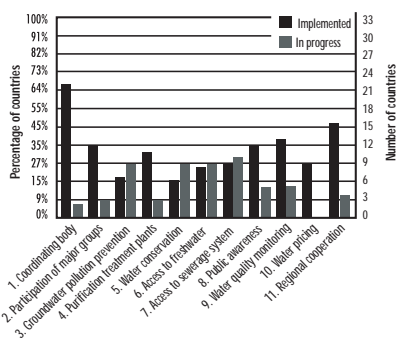
Asia and the Pacific (44 countries, of which 26 [60%] reported)



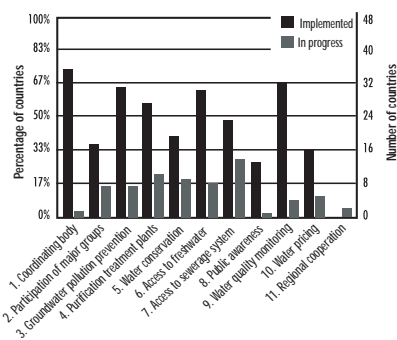
Western Asia (12 countries, of which 9 [75%] reported)



Latin America and the Caribbean (33 countries, of which 25 [75%] reported)



Europe and North America (48 countries, of which 43 [90%] reported)



Meeting the Challenges Through Regional Co-operation

Addressing the multiple water management challenges in africa

The compounding of the water management challenges in Africa continues unabated. The water crisis needs to be urgently reversed and halted. Water governance needs to be brought to the centre stage of the continent's sustainable development agenda. The challenges to be addressed are numerous as discussed in the following paragraphs.

1. Tripling access to water and quadrupling improved sanitation

With only 64 per cent of the population with access to improved water supply, Africa has the lowest proportional coverage of any region of the world. The situation is much worse in rural areas, where coverage is 50 per cent, compared with 86 per cent in urban areas. Sanitation coverage in Africa is also poor. Currently only 60 per cent of the African population has sanitation coverage, with 80 per cent and 48 per cent in urban and rural areas, respectively. Ten countries currently have less than 50 per cent coverage for national water supply and sanitation. The African population is expected to increase by 65 per cent over the next 25 years, with the greatest increases in urban areas. Meeting the 2015 targets will require tripling the rate at which additional people gained access to water between 1990 and 2000 and quadrupling the rate at which they gained improved sanitation.

2. Closing the sanitation gap of the urban poor

The gap between the proportion of urban dwellers with "improved" provision and provision that is "safe and sufficient" is evident in many African nations. The proportion of people with sanitation that is safe and convenient is much lower than the proportion with improved sanitation. In most of the largest cities in Africa, less than 10 per cent of the inhabitants



"As our people can't afford any more time for discussions and official statements, let us allow our people to hear from all of us here while making new commitments that our real actions would speak louder than promises. We need to quickly transform our written statements into the phase of implementation of programmes and strategies as planned and agreed".

H.E. S. Jarso, Minister of Water Resources, Ethiopia:

have sewer connections. Tens of millions of households, especially in informal settlements, only have access to overused and poorly maintained communal or public toilets. In many African cities, only 10 to 30 per cent of all urban households' solid wastes are collected.

3. Reducing high rates of water-related disease and death

For African children under five, the health burden that arises from diarrhoeal disease linked to inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene is up to 240 times higher than in high-income nations. Malaria takes its heaviest toll in Africa south of the Sahara, where about 85.7 per cent of the annual global rate of over 1.1 million deaths occurs, mainly among children under five. It is the leading cause of death in young children, constitutes 10 per cent of the overall disease burden and slows economic growth in African countries by 1.3 per cent a year.

4. Preventing water pollution from cities

In the 1990s, 58 per cent of sixty-seven cities in 29 nations, including most of the continent's largest cities, were using rivers 25 or more kilometres away, and just over half of those depended on inter-basin transfers. As is common throughout the developing world, very few cities in Africa have rivers flowing through them that are not heavily polluted, and much the same applies to nearby lakes, estuaries and seas.

5. Reversing rising food insecurity

Per capita food consumption and associated caloric and nutritional intake have remained disappointingly low in sub-Saharan Africa over the past 45 years. The number of undernourished Africans rose steeply during the 1990s. While the total number of undernourished people worldwide has fallen, the proportion of the sub-Saharan Africa population has remained virtually unchanged. Food security actions therefore take on a special urgency in this region.

National progress in implementing Agenda 21

	Decision-making		Programmes and projects					Education	Information	Financing	Cooperation
	1.Coordinating body on freshwater	2.Participation of major groups in decision-making	3.Groundwater pollution prevention	4.Water purification treatment plants	5.Water conservation	6.Access to freshwater	7.Access to sewage systems	8.Public awareness raising on water conservation	9.Water quality monitoring	10.Water pricing	11.Regional cooperation
AFRICA											
1 Algeria											
2 Angola											
3 Benin											
4 Botswana											
5 Burkina Faso											
6 Burundi											
8 Cape Verde											
9 Central African Republic											
10 Chad											
11 Comoros											
12 Congo											
14 Dem.Rep.of Congo											
15 Djibouti											
16 Egypt											
17 Equatorial Guinea											
18 Eritrea											
19 Ethiopia											
20 Gabon											
21 Gambia											
22 Ghana											
23 Guinea											
24 Guinea-bissau											
25 Kenya											
26 Lesotho											
27 Liberia											
28 Libyan Arab Jamahiriya											
30 Madagascar											
31 Malawi											
32 Mauritania											
33 Mauritius											
34 Morocco											
35 Mozambique											
36 Namibia											
37 Niger											
38 Nigeria											
39 Rwanda											
40 Sao Tome And Principe											
41 Senegal											
42 Seychelles											
43 Sierra Leone											
44 Somalia											
45 South Africa											
46 Sudan											
47 Swaziland											
48 Togo											
49 Tunisia											
50 Uganda											
51 United Rep. of Tanzania											
52 Zambia											
53 Zimbabwe											
Implemented	■										
Total in progress	■										
Implemented	■										
% in progress	■										

Bold—Reporting country submitted 2002 Country Profile
Regular—Reporting country yet to submit 2002 Country Profile
Italics—Non-reporting country

■ Implemented
 ■ In progress



"The Millennium Summit and the World Summit on Sustainable Development have set clear, time-bound targets for access to safe water and basic sanitation. These goals, however, will not in and of themselves change the lives of people. Concrete actions are needed at country, city and neighbourhood levels to translate these goals into reality. We have the technology and talent. It is achievable. We must act, and act now".

Dr. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, Executive Director, UN-HABITAT

6. Expanding irrigation for agriculture

Africa's dependence on cereal imports is expected to continue to grow with a widening net trade deficit. When grouped among developing regions generally, 60 per cent of food production is from non-irrigated agriculture. A sizeable part of irrigation potential is already used in North Africa (where water is the limiting factor) but a large part remains unused in sub-Saharan Africa. Such low proportions of irrigated land point to underdeveloped infrastructure. From 1998 to 2030, arable land in developing countries is projected to increase by 13 per cent. The expansion of irrigation is projected to be strongest in North Africa and the Near East. By 2030, North Africa will have reached critical thresholds of water availability for agriculture. The proportion of renewable water resources allocated to irrigation in sub-Saharan Africa is likely to remain far below the critical threshold. In this region, where no additional land resources are available to exploit, wetlands represent an attractive opportunity for agricultural development and crop production.

7. Tackling the growing impact of water-related disasters

Over the past ten years, Africa has experienced nearly one-third of all water-related (flood and drought) events that occurred worldwide, with nearly 135 million people affected, 80 per cent by drought. In the same time period, deaths have exceeded 10,000, with some 98 per cent due to flooding. Economic losses, almost always uninsured, have impacted significantly upon national economies, development strategies and households. Economic losses for a poor African household do not have to be high to be a very significant disruption.

8. Sharing water among sectors and countries

Within catchments where water is already under stress, agriculture is the dominant sector. Inter-sectoral sharing is thus dominated by agricultural water use. Africa south of the Sahara and the Nile Valley are dominated by shared international river basins. Much of Saharan Africa is dominated by shared international groundwater systems. Many African countries share upwards of two and even as many as nine international rivers.

Preventing water pollution from cities

In the 1990's, 58% of 67 urban cities in 29 nations, including most of the continent's largest cities, were using rivers 25 or more kilometres away and just over one-half of that relied on rivers dependant on inter-basin transfers. As is common throughout the developing world, very few cities in Africa have rivers flowing through them that are not heavily polluted and much the same applies to nearby lakes, estuaries and seas.

Promoting the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development: key issues and strategic consideration

For our continent, the equitable and sustainable management of water is and must remain a priority policy challenge for the coming years.

The international community, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg 2003), responded by setting new global targets to reduce by one-half the proportion of people without access to safe water and sanitation by 2015 and to provide safe water and sanitation for all by 2025. The new targets present a huge challenge to political leaders and water management policy makers in Africa.

To meet the water target in Africa, an additional 405 million people must gain access to some form of improved water supply by the year 2015, with an average of over 36 million every year, 690,000 every week and 138,000 every weekday, starting in January 2004. To meet the sanitation target in Africa, an additional 247 million people must get some form of improved sanitation by the year 2015, with an average of over 22 million every year, 425,000 every week and 85,000 every weekday, starting in January 2004.

While certainly a huge challenge, the task of meeting those targets in Africa is not impossible, if started in a strategic and practical way. Even if both water and sanitation targets are achieved by 2015, however, that still only meets the needs of half of those in Africa who need safe water and sanitation. The needs of the other half must still be met. But if African countries maintain the same level of delivery as in 2014 for a further five years, then the target of safe water and sanitation for all by 2025 could be achieved in Africa by 2020. Actually meeting a major international target in Africa five years ahead of schedule would represent



"It is already clear that certain countries have not yet even begun to think about a national plan. Often, it is those countries who have limited water resources who have the most trouble putting these plans together... It is possible, recalling that in the 1980s some 250,000 additional people were given access to drinking water each day. But it wasn't done in a planned way, and as a result the efforts haven't paid off as well as they could have".

H.E. Borge Brende, Chair, Commission on Sustainable Development

a unique historic achievement and humanitarian milestone.

The water and sanitation targets are two of the most important among many water management policy challenges facing Africa today. But in Africa there are many other economic, social and environmental challenges in other key policy areas as well. However, underlying most other policy areas and targets is the blunt reality that water is essential for all life and for sustaining development.

AMCOW convened the Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water in Addis Ababa in December 2003 for the purpose of reviewing the major water management challenges and priorities in Africa. That Conference accorded particular attention to the following:

- (a) Water for Sustainable Development, focusing in particular on key issues such as water and health; water and poverty reduction; water and economic development; and water and environmental sustainability;
- (b) African Water Crisis and Challenges, focusing on major challenges such as tripling access to water and quadrupling improved sanitation; closing the sanitation gap of the urban poor; reducing high rates of water-related disease and death; preventing water pollution from cities; addressing rising food insecurity; expanding irrigation for agriculture; doubling hydropower generation and services; remedying the rising costs of water-related disasters; and sharing water among sectors and countries;
- (c) African Water Policy Priorities, focusing on key water policy challenges and priorities from the community to the continental level in Africa, such as: ensuring the knowledge base; meeting basic needs; securing the food supply; protecting ecosystems; managing risks; valuing and allocating water; governing water wisely, and sharing water resources.

AMCOW has catalysed consultations on how best to achieve the new targets for safe water and sanitation in Africa and the strategic approaches needed for achieving those targets by 2015. The consultation has centred on how to forge strategic partnerships for better water governance and new partnerships for effective implementation of integrated water resources management plans.

AMCOW recognizes that under-financing in the water sector should not paralyze action and that additional efforts must be made to secure specific sources for additional funding. AMCOW also realizes, however, that no amount of financial resources can solve Africa's water challenges without firm commitments by its political leaders and decision makers. Efficient utilization of financial resources can only be achieved when a basic system of effective governance, including transparency, accountability and subsidiarity, is in place to guide public functions.

All of the Millennium Development Goals and targets are based and focused on the single compelling fact that water is essential for all life and sustainable development. For example, as well as the drinking water target, the Millennium Declaration also set specific targets on poverty, hunger, universal primary education, gender equality, child mortality, maternal mortality and major diseases. Most of those targets cannot be achieved without better water management policies.

1. AMCOW will facilitate continuous review and intergovernmental policy dialogue on key water policy challenges, which include:

- (a) A lack of adequate and accurate information for effective decision-making;
- (b) A lack of safe water and improved sanitation for the poor majority of people;
- (c) A lack of adequate and unpolluted water for efficient food production;
- (d) A lack of proper laws, enforcement and projects to protect watersheds and ecosystems;
- (e) A lack of preventative measures and contingency planning on floods and droughts;
- (f) A lack of true and fair valuations, leading to the misuse and misallocation of water;
- (g) A lack of stakeholder participation, leading to poor policies, decisions and implementation;
- (h) A lack of cooperation, leading to water mismanagement, unfair use and conflicts.

"We need to turn commitments into action. In this process, it is critical that these commitments and support are coordinated and focused and that linkages and synergies are established to a common African agenda and set of implementable actions, in order to secure maximum effectiveness in achieving our water and sanitation goals and objectives".

Professor Wiseman Nkuhlu, Chairperson of the NEPAD Steering Committee



2. AMCOW recognizes that these key water policy challenges are largely the consequence of water policy failures:
 - (a) Water that has been poorly monitored has usually been poorly managed as well;
 - (b) Clean water has too often been subsidized for too few while being a luxury for the poor;
 - (c) Water has too often been too scarce or been too inefficiently used to produce enough food;
 - (d) Development which destroyed water ecosystems should not have been called development;
 - (e) Too many lives have been lost because of too little, too much or too polluted water;
 - (f) Water has been unevenly distributed by nature and then unfairly allocated by man;
 - (g) Water has been a mismanaged public good because decision-making has been too exclusive;
 - (h) Shared water has often not been shared fairly or wisely among communities and countries.
3. AMCOW, through its Regional Cooperation Programme, will foster ministerial dialogue on how to promote action on the following policy priorities:
 - (a) Ensuring the knowledge-base: reflecting that good water policies and management depend upon the quality of knowledge available to decision-makers;
 - (b) Meeting basic needs: recognizing that access to safe and sufficient water and sanitation are basic human needs and are essential to health and well-being and to empowering people, especially women, through a participatory process of water management;
 - (c) Securing the food supply: enhancing food security, particularly of the poor and vulnerable, through the more efficient mobilization and use of water and the more equitable allocation of water for food production;
 - (d) Protecting ecosystems: ensuring the integrity of ecosystems through sustainable water resources management;

- (e) Managing risks: providing security from floods, droughts, pollution and other water-related hazards;
- (f) Valuing and allocating water: managing water in a way that reflects its economic, social, environmental and cultural values in all uses, with a move towards pricing water services to reflect the cost of their provision. This approach should take into account the need for equity and the basic needs of the poor and vulnerable;
- (g) Governing water wisely: ensuring good governance so that the management of water resources involves the public and takes into account the interests of all stakeholders;
- (h) Sharing water resources: promoting peaceful cooperation and developing synergies among different uses of water at all levels, whenever possible within and - in the case of boundary and transboundary water resources - between concerned states through sustainable river basin management or other appropriate approaches;
- (i) Water and cities: acknowledging that urban areas are increasingly the focus of human settlements and economic activities and that they represent distinctive challenges to water managers;
- (j) Water and industry: focusing on industry needs and the responsibility to respect water quality and take account of the needs of competing sectors;
- (k) Water and energy: recognizing that water is vital for all forms of energy production and that there is a need to ensure that energy requirements are met in a sustainable manner.



Introduction to the Work Programme

This programme of work for the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) for the years 2005–2007 has been developed in order to ensure that sustainable arrangements are put in place to enable AMCOW's partners – African Governments, development cooperation partners, and non-State partners – to organize their work under a common framework aimed at achieving agreed goals and targets.

An AMCOW trust fund was launched at the fifth ordinary session of AMCOW in Entebbe, Uganda, in November 2004. Successful implementation of the trust fund will guarantee the efficient operation of AMCOW activities. For the operational activities envisaged in the work programme, it is anticipated that AMCOW member Governments will make a combined contribution of \$1 million. It should also be noted that the Government of Nigeria has already established the AMCOW Secretariat through provision of budgetary resources for its initial operation. Member Governments will, as much as possible, cover their own costs for participation in regular AMCOW functions.



Work Programme Objectives and Results

1. Main objective

The main objective of the work programme is to assist African States, sub-regional organizations and river basin organizations to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Summit targets with respect to water.

The purpose of AMCOW is to act as a regional mechanism for cooperation on the critical water policy challenges in Africa. It will, therefore, provide a forum for regional and international cooperation for the achievement of the water-related components of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Johannesburg Summit targets through acting as a catalyst and monitor. It will encourage regional policy dialogue and cooperation aimed at achieving the targets set by the Johannesburg Summit and will also encourage strategic partnerships.

2. Intermediate objectives

As intermediate objectives under the programme of work, AMCOW is to:

- (a) Catalyse action by States, river basin organizations and sub-regional organizations in meeting the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Summit targets with respect to water;
- (b) Monitor progress in meeting the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Summit targets with respect to water;
- (c) Develop and present coordinated priorities to regional, multilateral and bilateral donors, including the United Nations system, to ensure that the delivery of support is consistent with African priorities;
- (d) Suggest actions to address identified issues.





The work programme is organized into five clusters of priorities, as follows: (a) Support to the Governing Body (AMCOW) and its institutional organs; (b) Strengthening collaboration with continental bodies, i.e., the African Union and the NEPAD secretariat; (c) implementing AMCOW ministerial commitments and decisions; (d) contributions to international events and processes; (e) implementation review and monitoring progress.

3. Results

An accelerated achievement of strong institutional arrangements for regional policy dialogue and cooperation on the water challenges confronting Africa. The resource will be used to foster international cooperation for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Summit targets with respect to freshwater. Through the implementation of this work programme, AMCOW will catalyse an increase in actions by national governments, sub-regional organisation and river basin organisations to achieve the MDG and WSSD targets with respect to freshwater.

4. Assumptions and risks

It is assumed that:

- (a) Effective institutional arrangements will be made to enhance regional policy dialogue and cooperation on water;
- (b) Required donor support will be obtained;
- (c) National Governments, sub-regional organizations and river basin organizations will act with dispatch to design and implement activities designed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Summit targets with respect to freshwater.

Programme Clusters

A. Support to the functioning of the Governing Body of AMCOW and its institutional organs

Ministers responsible for water policy will be brought together from time to time to undertake implementation and water policy reviews. Where possible, this will initially be organized at least once annually. Between sessions, the AMCOW Executive Committee will meet to discuss key water policy issues and to assess progress made and needed in the implementation of the AMCOW work programme. Each Council meeting will be preceded by a meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee. At regular AMCOW sessions, civil society forums will be organized to ensure that the inputs and perspectives of major groups are duly taken into account.

The tasks of the Technical Advisory Committee of AMCOW include the consideration and clearance of proposals for action, including the draft work programme, prior to submission to the Council, as well as monitoring progress on the implementation of ministerial commitments and decisions. The committee will work with the secretariat to develop work plans and budgets for key areas of work of the Council. The AMCOW secretariat will serve as the regional institution responsible for coordinating the implementation of the decisions of the Council. It will also facilitate communication between and among the members of the Council. Equally important, it will serve as a communication point for matters related to AMCOW. The participation of civil society groups, non-governmental organizations and the business community at meetings of the Council will be encouraged. As much as possible, they will be involved in the planning and implementation of the activities of AMCOW.





B. Strengthening collaborations with continental bodies

At its extraordinary summit on agriculture and water, held in Sirte, Libya, in February 2004, the African Union welcomed the outcomes of the Pan African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water. The Union also recommended, among other things, that AMCOW be accorded the status of technical ministerial committees as provided for under the Constitutive Act of the African Union. It also endorsed the goals and objectives of AMCOW. This development provided a firm basis for systematic consultations and interactions with the relevant organs of the Africa Union. In particular, AMCOW will seek guidance and direction from the African Union as appropriate. The ongoing collaboration with the NEPAD secretariat will be further strengthened through collaborative arrangements and regular consultations.

C. Implementing AMCOW ministerial decisions

Firm commitments by Africa's political leaders and decision makers are needed to make and implement a regional programme of cooperation on the continent's water policy challenges, priorities and targets. This conclusion was the main output and legacy of the Pan African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water, at which a number of ministerial commitments were adopted:

- (a) Portfolio of water initiatives: AMCOW endorsed a portfolio of key water initiatives in the five sub-regions of Africa. These will serve as a basis for prioritizing actions and for consultations with development cooperation partners and donors on ways in which they can assist;
- (b) African Water Facility: AMCOW resolved to support the facility on the realization that huge levels of financial resources, many times the amounts currently expended, will be required to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and targets of the African Water Vision;

- (c) Rural Water Supply and Sanitation initiative: AMCOW welcomed and resolved to promote the implementation of the rural water supply and sanitation initiative (RWSSI). The RWSSI target is the attainment of 80 per cent access to rural water supply and sanitation by the year 2015. Essentially, the initiative is intended to help mobilize as well as facilitate the flow of available and potential resources to accelerate investments on RWSS in Africa. The African Development Bank will play the lead and catalytic role in galvanizing broad support and building partnerships to implement the initiative with the support of donors. AMCOW will lend political support to the RWSSI;
- (d) Water for African Cities (Phase II): AMCOW endorsed the launch of Phase 2 of the Water and Sanitation for African Cities programme (in December 2003) with initial substantial funding from Canada. AMCOW appealed for expanded support from other development partners. AMCOW will continue its advocacy for support of this programme, which is implemented by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme;
- (e) African Water Journal: The African Water Journal was launched in December 2003 in order to consolidate and disseminate knowledge, enhance capacity of professionals and practitioners, and facilitate the documentation and sharing of African experiences. Ministers will solicit financial support for sustaining and expanding this publication;
- (f) Engagement with civil society: Ministers undertook to ensure that civil society, in general, and gender concerns, in particular, are taken into account, through a recognized process of consultation with AMCOW with respect to policy formulation in all sectors of water, sanitation and human settlements. Civil society organizations have reiterated their commitment to the principles of partnership as well as to open scrutiny, transparency and accountability. They are prepared to participate in Africa's water resources management;





- (g) Negotiations with development cooperation partners: AMCOW ministers will conduct negotiations with development cooperation partners, the Bretton Woods Institutions and United Nations agencies on the portfolio of projects;
- (h) Establishment of national task forces: AMCOW decided to establish national task forces to develop concrete plans for the achievement of the water-related targets embodied in the Millennium Development Goals and the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit. The three main priority areas are: preparing and implementing integrated water resources management plans by 2005; preparing and implementing national plans to meet the target of reducing by half the proportion of people without access to safe water; and preparing and implementing national plans for reducing by half the proportion of people without access to safe water; and preparing and implementing national plans for reducing by half the proportion of people without access to improved sanitation;
- (i) Sustaining and monitoring progress: Expanding the new partnerships forged during the conference is given top priority. Progress will be monitored by AMCOW and reported to stakeholders over the coming year.

D. Contributions to international events and processes

AMCOW played an active role in the implementation review that took place under the auspices of the 12th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, April 2004). The 13th Session of the CSD to be held in New York, in April 2005, will be devoted to water policy review. AMCOW will undertake a comprehensive review of water policy challenges with a view to reporting the outcome to the thirteenth session of the Committee on Sustainable Development. The five-year review of the Millennium declaration will take place in September 2005 at the level of heads of State and Government. AMCOW will oversee the necessary regional preparations for the event so as to make a contribution to the report of the African Union to that summit. The fourth World Water Forum will take place in Mexico in 2006, and AMCOW will organize the region for the necessary preparations and participation.

E. Implementation review and monitoring progress

AMCOW will be engaged in the implementation review and monitoring of progress made in the context of the following:

- (a) Africa Water Vision;
- (b) Africa Water Development Report;
- (c) Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;
- (d) Pan African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water ministerial commitments;
- (e) Follow up to the African Union Extraordinary Summit.





TIME SCHEDULE AND BUDGET

#	Activity description	Start/end	Agency	Method of implementation	Funding
1.	Institutional support to the secretariat				
a.	Operation of the secretariat (staff, operational and related costs)	2005, 2006, 2007	AMCOW Executive Committee/TAC	Running and management of secretariat	600,000 (200,000 p.a. X 3 yrs.)
2.	Meetings of organs of the Council				
a.	Annual AMCOW regular sessions	2005, 2006, 2007	AMCOW secretariat/TAC	Convening of the regular session & meetings of Executive Committee & TAC for items a., b., and c.	1,500,000 (500,000 p.a. X 3 yrs.)
b.	Executive Committee meetings				
c.	Technical Advisory Committee				
d.	Finalization of review of legal arrangements (Constitution & rules of procedure)	May-June 2005	AMCOW TAC	Expert group consultations	20,000 (tickets & DSA)
3.	Planning and coordination at sub-regional level				
a.	Policy implementation reviews	2005, 2006, 2007	AMCOW Executive Committee/TAC	Convening of the AMCOW sub-regional executive committees	480,000 (160,000 p.a. X 3 yrs.)
b.	Support to the work of sub-regional TACs	2005, 2006, 2007	AMCOW TAC	Meetings to be convened by sub-regional representative on AMCOW TAC	75,000 (5,000 per region p.a.)
c.	Partnership forums on sub-regional portfolios	2005, 2006, 2007	AMCOW sub-regional Executive Committees	Meetings to be convened by sub-regional executive committees	75,000 (5,000 per region p.a.)
4.	Implementation of ministerial commitments				
a.	Support to task forces	2005, 2006, 2007	AMCOW TAC	Support to the establishment and work of the national task forces	250,000 (5,000 per country)
b.	National water policy reports	2005, 2006	AMCOW TAC	Review of the status of achievement of the 2005 IWRM target	
c.	Preparation of common position on financing priorities, including for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> African Water Facility Rural Water Supply and Sanitation initiative Water for African Cities Programme Innovative financing mechanisms (EU initiative) AMCOW Trust Fund 	2005, 2006, 2007	African Development Bank, UN-Habitat, European Union, AMCOW	Project on support to the ministerial commitments to the initiatives launched at the Pan African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water, Addis Ababa 2003	150,000 (50,000 p.a. X 3 yrs.)
5.	Participation in activities of the African Union and NEPAD secretariat				
a.	Follow up to the African Union Extraordinary Summit (February, 2004)	2005, 2006, 2007	AMCOW Executive Committee/TAC & secretariat		

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#	Activity description	Start/ end	Agency	Method of implementation	Funding
b.	Coordination of freshwater component of the action plan of the NEPAD Environment Initiative	2005, 2006, 2007	As above		
6.	Contributions to international processes				
a.	Preparation of regional reports to CSD-13 (review and policy)	2005, 2006, 2007	AMCOW Executive Committee/ TAC & secretariat	Programme to monitor AMCOW ministerial commitments for items a., b., and c.	150,000 (50,000 p.a. X 3 yrs.)
b.	Preparatory work for the 5-year review of the Millennium Declaration	2005, 2006, 2007	As above	Review of the status of the establishment of national MDC task forces in line with the outcomes of the Pan African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water (2015 targets)	
c.	Preparations for the World Water Forum	2005, 2006, 2007	As above	As above Monitoring Africans contributions and follow-up to the World Water Forum series	
7.	Dialogue with partners				
a.	Preparation of common position on Partnerships including priorities to present to Partners - European Union water initiative for Africa, G-8 action plan on water for Africa, German initiative on the G-8 action plan (transboundary waters)	2005, 2006, 2007	AMCOW Executive Committee & TAC	Project on support to strategic partnerships	150,000 (50,000 p.a. X 3 yrs.)
8.	Preparation of reports and publicity materials				
a.	Publication of reports	2005, 2006, 2007	AMCOW Executive secretariat & TAC	All official reports for components 5 and 6 will be published and distributed to major stakeholders	90,000 (30,000 p.a. X 3 yrs.)
b.	Publicity materials	2005, 2006, 2007	AMCOW Executive secretariat & TAC	<input type="checkbox"/> AMCOW website <input type="checkbox"/> Brochure <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter	
9.	Communications				
a.	Development of communication protocols	2005	AMCOW Executive secretariat & TAC		
b.	Maintenance of regular communication between secretariat, Executive Committee and TAC, and with other stakeholders	2005, 2006, 2007	AMCOW Executive secretariat & TAC		





#	Activity description	Start/end	Agency	Method of implementation	Funding
b.	Coordination of freshwater component of the action plan of the NERAD Environment Initiative	2005, 2006, 2007	As above		
6.	Contributions to international processes				
a.	Preparation of regional reports to CSD-13 (review and policy)	2005, 2006, 2007	AMCOW Executive Committee/TAC & secretariat	Programme to monitor AMCOW ministerial commitments for items a., b., and c.	150,000 (50,000 p.a. X 3 yrs.)
b.	Preparatory work for the 5-year review of the Millennium Declaration	2005, 2006, 2007	As above	Review of the status of the establishment of national MDG task forces in line with the outcomes of the Pan African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water (2015 targets)	
c.	Preparations for the World Water Forum	2005, 2006, 2007	As above	As above: Monitoring Africa's contributions and follow-up to the World Water Forum series	
7.	Dialogue with partners				
a.	Preparation of common position on Partnerships including priorities to present to Partners - European Union water initiative for Africa, C-8 action plan on water for Africa, German initiative on the G-8 action plan (transboundary waters)	2005, 2006, 2007	AMCOW Executive Committee & TAC	Project on support to strategic partnerships	150,000 (50,000 p.a. X 3 yrs.)
8.	Preparation of reports and publicity materials				
a.	Publication of reports	2005, 2006, 2007	AMCOW Executive secretariat & TAC	All official reports for components 5 and 6 will be published and distributed to major stakeholders	90,000 (30,000 p.a. X 3 yrs.)
b.	Publicity materials	2005, 2006, 2007	AMCOW Executive secretariat & TAC	<input type="checkbox"/> AMCOW website <input type="checkbox"/> Brochure <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter	
9.	Communications				
a.	Development of communication protocols	2005	AMCOW Executive secretariat & TAC		
b.	Maintenance of regular communication between secretariat, Executive Committee and TAC, and with other stakeholders	2005, 2006, 2007	AMCOW Executive secretariat & TAC		

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