



GLOBAL WATER
PARTNERSHIP
SOUTHERN AFRICA

GWPSA ANNUAL REPORT

2025







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Commonly Used Acronyms

ACP	Intra African, Caribbean and Pacific
AIP	Continental Africa Water Investment Programme
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
BUPUSa	Buzi, Pungwe, and Save
CCARDESA	Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa
EFlows	Environmental Flows
EU	European Union
FFEWS	Flood Forecasting and Early Warning System
GCCA+	Global Climate Change Alliance Plus
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GWL	Global Water Leadership in a Changing Climate programme
GWP	Global Water Partnership
GWPO	Global Water Partnership Organization
GWPSA	Global Water Partnership Southern Africa
GWPSA-Africa	Global Water Partnership Southern Africa and Africa Coordination
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
LIMCOM	Limpopo Watercourse Commission
NAP	National Action Plan
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
RBO	River Basin Organization
SACREEE	SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SLM	sustainable Land Management
SWI	Shared Watercourse Institution
TDA	Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis
UN	United Nations
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WEF	Water, Energy, and Food

01

ABOUT GWPSA
AND AFRICA
COORDINATION
UNIT

Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA) offers practical support for sustainably managing water resources to 16 countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The network manages activities and convenes stakeholders in this region and at pan-African level to address issues that have an impact on water security.

GWPSA hosts the coordination unit for all five Global Water Partnership (GWP) regions in Africa – Southern, Eastern, Western, Central, as well as North Africa and the Mediterranean. The Global Water Partnership Southern Africa and Africa Coordination (GWPSA-Africa) Secretariat coordinates pan-African GWP programmes in supporting Africa's continental priorities.

GWPSA is one of 13 regional networks that make up GWP, an international network created in 1996 to foster the implementation of IWRM: the coordinated development and management of water, land, and related resources that maximise economic and social welfare without compromising the sustainability of ecosystems and the environment. Global Water Partnership has 86 country water partnerships, 13 regional water partnerships and more than 3,000 partner organisations in 183 countries.

GWPSA serves as the Secretariat for the Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) at its Pretoria office, providing

technical support to the African Union Commission (AUC) and AUDA NEPAD in the programme's implementation. The AIP was formally adopted by the Assembly of African Union Heads of State during the 34th Ordinary Session on 7th February 2021 as part of the second phase of the AU Development Agency's Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa Priority Action Plan (PIDA-PAP 2).

Despite the critical role of water in economic growth and social development, investments in Africa's water sector remain significantly below required levels. To bridge this gap, an additional US\$30 billion per year is needed by 2030 to meet the continent's growing water security and sanitation demands. The AIP aims to mobilise these investments while creating at least 5 million jobs, contributing to climate resilience and sustainable development. Through strategic partnerships and coordinated action, the programme seeks to unlock transformative investments that will enhance water security and economic resilience across the continent.

In August 2025, GWP launched the Global Strategy 2026–2030, which introduces a Transformation Agenda anchored on three strategic goals: Finance and Investments; Governance; and Knowledge, Capacity, Data and Digital Transformation. This Strategic Plan will continue to guide our work.

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02

LEADERSHIP MESSAGES

2.1 Message from our Chair: His Excellency President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete

As we present the 2025 Annual Report of the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA), we do so at a time when water security has firmly moved to the centre of Africa's political and economic agenda.

Over the past year, the continent has witnessed a decisive shift: water is no longer treated as a secondary development concern, but as a strategic driver of climate resilience, economic transformation, regional integration, and social stability. This shift is reflected in the progress made under the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP), for which GWPSA serves as Secretariat.

The inaugural AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit 2025, convened in Cape Town under South Africa's G20 Presidency, marked a historic milestone. Leaders, ministers, development finance institutions, and private investors came together around a shared commitment, to close Africa's annual water investment gap of at least US\$30 billion by 2030. This ambition is not abstract. It speaks directly to the future stability and prosperity of Southern Africa. Water security underpins food security, energy security, public health, gender equality, and economic resilience. Without accelerated investment and strengthened governance, our development gains will remain vulnerable.

The Summit mobilized preliminary annual investment pipelines valued at US\$10–12 billion and launched the Global Outlook Council on Water Investments, which is a permanent high-level platform to champion water financing globally.

These achievements demonstrate that Africa is not waiting for solutions; it is designing and leading them. Through the AIP, we are creating structured pathways to prepare bankable projects, strengthen accountability through the AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard, and align water investments with climate and development priorities. The introduction of the Africa Water Investment Programme Index (AIPi) in 2025 further strengthens transparency and mutual accountability among Member States.

At regional level, progress in transboundary cooperation continues to reinforce SADC's founding principles. Projects in the Limpopo, Cuvelai-Kunene, and Incomati-Maputo basins are strengthening river basin institutions, advancing joint planning processes, and addressing shared risks such as land degradation, floods, droughts, and ecosystem decline. These initiatives demonstrate that cooperation over shared watercourses remains one of the region's most powerful instruments for peace and economic integration.

This year's achievements also build upon a deeper foundation. In 2025, GWPSA marked 25 years since its formal launch in 2000. Eleven Member States stood together to commit to integrated approaches to water resources management. That foundational commitment to multilateral cooperation remains one of GWPSA's greatest strengths.

Today, as Chair, I am encouraged by how GWPSA's original mandate has evolved to meet contemporary realities. Integrated Water Resources Management remains

the bedrock of our work, but the regional agenda has expanded significantly. Climate change has intensified hydrological extremes. Floods and droughts are becoming more frequent and more severe. Competition for water between sectors is increasing. At the same time, the financing gap for water infrastructure and ecosystem protection remains substantial.

Against this backdrop, GWPSA has positioned itself not only as a technical partner, but as a strategic platform for political dialogue and investment mobilization. Its role as the Africa Coordination Unit of the Global Water Partnership and as Secretariat of the African Union's Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) reflects growing continental confidence in the institution's leadership.

The establishment of the GWP Headquarters Transition Office in South Africa in 2025 further underscores the confidence placed in our region to help shape global water leadership. Southern Africa is not only implementing strategies but also contributing to defining the future of water governance worldwide.

Yet we must remain clear-eyed. Climate variability is intensifying. Urbanisation is accelerating. Demand for water across agriculture, energy, mining, and industry continues to grow. Without sustained political commitment, regulatory reform, and innovative financing, the progress achieved will not be sufficient.

Our priorities going forward include:

- Scaling up climate-resilient water investments and accelerating project preparation.
- Strengthening governance and institutional accountability.
- Deepening transboundary cooperation as a pillar of regional peace.
- Expanding private sector engagement and blended finance solutions.
- Ensuring that gender equality and youth participation are embedded in water governance.

Water is the bloodstream of our economies and ecosystems. It connects upstream and downstream communities, rural and urban populations, and present and future generations.

On behalf of the GWPSA Board, I extend appreciation to SADC Member States, the African Union Commission, development partners, river basin organizations, and the entire GWPSA network for their continued partnership and leadership. The journey that began 25 years ago has entered a new phase: one defined by ambition, scale, and global influence.

Together, we will continue to ensure that water remains at the heart of Africa's transformation.

H.E. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete

Chair, GWPSA-Africa

Alternate Co-Chair, International High-Level Panel on Water Investments for Africa

Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania



2.2 Message from our Interim Executive Secretary: Andrew Takawira

The year 2025 has been one of delivery, institutional consolidation, and scaled impact for the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA).

Building on the reflection and renewed strategic clarity that accompanied our 25th anniversary, 2025 focused on translating ambition into measurable results across Southern Africa and the continent.

Our work in 2025 has been anchored in the 2020-2025 Global Water Partnership Strategy.

Under the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP), significant technical progress was achieved in strengthening country readiness and investment preparation. The AU-AIP GCF Readiness Support Initiative advanced climate finance preparedness in 15 AU Member States. Capacity needs assessments were completed, country-specific training programmes rolled out, and 12 high-quality Concept Notes drafted with GWPSA technical support. Eleven countries progressed in developing Climate-Resilient Water Investment Programmes (CRWIPs), guided by newly launched AU Guidelines.

The introduction of the Africa Water Investment Programme Index (AIPI) under the AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard marks a major technical milestone. For the first time, a composite continental baseline now assesses countries' readiness to plan, finance, implement and sustain water investments across governance, financing, institutional capacity, and delivery pillars.

At regional level, GWPSA continued to support SADC processes, including validation of the RSAP Resource Mobilisation Plan and facilitation of multi-stakeholder dialogue linking water security to regional economic corridors and the WEFE Nexus. These platforms strengthen alignment between policy frameworks and investment pipelines.

Transboundary programme implementation advanced significantly in 2025. In the Limpopo Basin, the approval of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and the operationalisation of the revamped LIMIS system strengthened data-driven basin management. In the Cuvelai-Kunene basins, foundational work on the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis, Early Warning Systems, Gender Action Planning, and Sustainable Land Management demonstration sites laid critical groundwork for long-term resilience.

The formal endorsement and launch of the Incomati-Maputo project by Eswatini, Mozambique and South Africa represents another milestone in strengthening basin-level governance and ecosystem restoration. Across these initiatives, our technical approach integrates hydrological modelling, safeguards compliance, gender mainstreaming, climate risk analysis, and institutional capacity development.

Institutionally, 2025 required disciplined financial and operational management. Programme expenditure increased as multi-year projects accelerated into implementation phases. Strengthened fiduciary oversight, risk management

systems, and monitoring frameworks ensured delivery remained aligned with donor requirements and strategic objectives.

Our 25-year history provides important perspective. Established in 2000 following the creation of the Southern Africa Technical Advisory Committee in 1998, GWPSA was designed to support the operationalization of Integrated Water Resources Management within the framework of the Southern African Development Community. That core mandate continues to guide our work. What has changed is the scale, complexity, and financing dimension of the challenges we address.

Today, GWPSA supports 16 SADC Member States and coordinates pan-African programming, with a network of nearly 300 partner institutions. Our comparative advantage lies in bridging technical analysis, institutional reform, and investment facilitation, linking basin-level realities to continental financing platforms.

GWPSA will continue working with its partners in advancing project preparation toward bankability and financial closure, strengthening digital water information systems and knowledge platforms, enhancing country ownership of climate finance processes, deepening capacity support to River Basin Organizations, and expanding engagement with private and blended finance actors.

The progress reflected in this report is the result of coordinated effort across governments, regional institutions, development partners, and our dedicated Secretariat team.

As we move beyond our 25th anniversary milestone, our focus is firmly forward-looking: scaling impact, strengthening systems, and ensuring that water investments translate into tangible resilience for communities and ecosystems across Southern Africa and the continent.

Andrew Takawira

Interim Executive Secretary, GWPSA-Africa



03

RELEVANT ACTIVITIES
UNDERTAKEN BY
GWPSA-AFRICA
IN 2025



3.1 Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP)

The Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) implemented by the African Union with technical support from the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA), which is the AIP Secretariat, seeks to narrow the water investment gap and contribute towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 targets on water and sanitation by addressing systemic challenges in the preparation and delivery of water investments.

The AIP seeks to double current water and sanitation investments by 2030 to narrow Africa's water investment.

On 7 February 2021, during the 34th ordinary session of the African Union Summit, the Assembly of the African Union Heads of State and Government adopted the AIP transboundary projects as part of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa – Priority Action Plan 2 under the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme.

This section provides highlights for the Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) in 2025.

Inaugural Africa Water Investment Summit: US\$10–12 billion in Preliminary Annual Investment Pipelines



Cape Town, South Africa, became the stage for a historic moment in global water diplomacy between 13-15 August 2025, as more than 1,700 delegates gathered for the inaugural AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit. Among them were 38 African Water Ministers, with delegations from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Barbados, the Netherlands, Italy, and the United Kingdom. They were joined by financiers, civil society, academics, and diplomats, all united by a single goal: to close Africa's vast water investment gap.

Presiding over the event under South Africa's G20 Presidency, H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, captured the significance of the gathering:

"This Summit is a landmark moment not only for Africa, but for the global movement for access to safe water for all. If we rise together, water can become not just a means of survival but a driver of economic transformation, innovation and peace."

The Summit carried weight at the highest political levels. In attendance or represented were heads of state and leaders including King Mswati III of Eswatini, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of Somalia, and President Duma Boko of Botswana. They were joined by global partners: President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the UAE (represented by H.E. Sheikh Shakhboot Bin Nahyan Al Nahyan), Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados (represented by Senior Minister William Duguid), President Paul Kagame of Rwanda (represented by Dr. Jimmy Gasore), and President Brahim Ghali of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (represented by H.E. Mohamed Yeslem Beissat).

The Cape Town Declaration on Africa Water Investments in the context of G20 adopted at the Summit reaffirms Africa's urgent need for investment, noting a US\$30 billion annual financing gap. Delegates welcomed preliminary investment pipelines valued at US\$10-12 billion per year, presented by development banks, investors, bilateral partners, and governments. Importantly, this figure excludes further pledges expected to be consolidated through the online portal established during the Summit – a clear signal that Africa's financing momentum is building.

H.E. Moses Vilakati, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment of the African Union Commission stated:

"This summit, convened under South Africa's historic G20 Presidency, has been more than a gathering, it has been a call to action, a platform for transformation, and a proof to Africa's leadership in climate-resilient water security and safe sanitation. The Summit Declaration commits us to scaling up investments, improving governance, and increasing accountability in the water sector."



H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa, presiding over the G20 Water Investment Summit



H.E. Moses Vilakati, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment of the African Union Commission.

Global Outlook Council Launched

One of the most celebrated outcomes of the AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit was the launch of the Global Outlook Council on Water Investments, established as a G20 Presidential Legacy Initiative of South Africa. This body will serve as the premier high-level platform to champion water globally, align financing with climate and development priorities, and track commitments leading into the 2026 UN Water Conference.

H.E. Ramaphosa emphasized its global mission:

"The Global Outlook Council and the Global Water Investment Platform will serve as the world's premier high-level political and investment platform on water. It will track progress, unlock finance, report annually and align efforts across the G20, UN, multilateral development banks, and the private sector."

Hon. William F. Duguid, Minister of Planning and Development – Prime Minister's Office and Senior Minister in the Prime Minister's Office with responsibility for coordinating Infrastructural Projects and development commissions, spoke on behalf of Prime Minister, strongly endorsing

the Council:

"This is why initiatives like the Global Outlook Council on Water Investments are so crucial. The Council provides a vital platform for action - action that will ensure that water remains a global priority. The task ahead is clear: we must build partnerships, mobilize investments, and sustain political momentum to secure water for all."

Hon. Abdulaziz Alshaibani, Saudi Arabia's Deputy Minister for Water, reminded delegates of the Kingdom's global leadership:

"It is beyond any doubt that the gap in achieving SDG 6 globally has widened, with a large proportion attributed to lack of financing, a challenge this Summit is addressing."

He urged G20 leaders to take the agenda further:

"With this Summit highlighting the interlinkages between water, economy, investment, and financing, the G20 Presidency of South Africa can contemplate in its declaration a call for a future G20 Water Working Group... aligning with the G20 mandate to promote global economic growth."



Host Minister Hon. Pemmy Majodina, South Africa's Minister of Water and Sanitation, thanked investors for their commitments and urged for even greater investment to transform Africa's water sector.

Leaders Recognized in the Presidential Water Changemaker Awards

The AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit also honoured global leaders for demonstrating high level political commitment and leadership for climate resilient water security through the Presidential Global Water Changemakers Awards. H.E. Adv. Duma Boko, President

of the Republic of Botswana and H.M. Mswati III, King of Eswatini, in their capacity as Chair and Invited Patron of the Global Changemakers Award, respectively, presented the Awards during the G20 AU – AIP Africa Water Investment Summit.



H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, G20 Chair, was recognized for launching the G20 Presidential Legacy Initiative – Global Outlook Council on Water Investments and hosting the AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit.



H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Alshaibani, Deputy Minister for Water for Saudi Arabia, receiving on behalf of H.R.H. Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, who was recognized for initiating the first-ever G20 Water Dialogues in 2020. Saudi Arabia also launched the Global Water Organization (GWO) as a transformative initiative to drive global cooperation on water security, sustainable development, peace, and innovation.



H.E. Sheikh Shakhboot bin Nahyan Al Nahyan Minister of State for the United Arab Emirates receiving the award on behalf of H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates. The UAE was recognized for co-hosting the 2026 UN Water Conference with the Republic of Senegal, sustaining high-level global water diplomacy that prioritizes investment and solidarity, elevating water in the global climate agenda through COP28 and promoting inclusive, blended finance models.



H.E. Dr. Cheikh Tidiane Dièye Minister Water and Sanitation, Senegal, receiving the award on behalf of HE. Bassirou Diomaye Faye, President of the Republic of Senegal. Senegal was acknowledged for its leadership in launching the Africa Water Investment Panel in 2022, co-hosting the upcoming UN 2026 Water Conference with the UAE, and sustaining high-level global water diplomacy that prioritizes investment and solidarity.



Hon. Mohlomi Moleko, Minister of Natural Resources and Energy, Lesotho, receiving the award on behalf of H.M. King Letsie III, King of the Kingdom of Lesotho. Lesotho was acknowledged for its advocacy in regional cooperation, championing the Lesotho Highlands Water Project as a model of transboundary cooperation for peace, resilience, and sustainable development.



Lesotho later held a National Celebration in recognition of His Majesty King Letsie III's Presidential Water Changemakers Award. The Award was formally presented to him during the celebration.



H.E. James G. Bwana, High Commissioner of the United Republic of Tanzania to South Africa, receiving the award on behalf of H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania. Tanzania was recognized for pledging US\$6 billion in domestic water investments by 2030 through the Tanzania Water Investment Programme, advancing national and continental leadership in the water and climate space through strategic reforms, financing partnerships, and inclusive governance.



H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of Tanzania, formally received the Presidential Global Water Changemakers Award 2025 on 26 October 2025 at a ceremony held at the State House, Tuguu, Zanzibar, Tanzania

Sustained Action for Water Investments

As the Summit closed, H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa left delegates with a call to action:

“Water investment must no longer be an afterthought at climate and finance discussions. It must be at the centre. It must be financed, tracked, and championed. Let us build a world where every drop counts and every community thrives... It is now in our hands.”

Former Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete, now Alternate Co-Chair of the Global Outlook Council, reinforced the need for this momentum:

“The Continental Africa Water Investment Programme began as a vision to close the investment gap. Today, with the Global Outlook Council, we are

taking that vision globally. Let us turn commitments into action, and action into results for the millions still waiting for safe water and sanitation. This is the legacy we must build together.”

The AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit was a political and financial watershed. It mobilised billions in preliminary investment, launched a permanent high-level Council on Water Investments, honoured visionary leadership, and secured the continuity of stewardship for the journey ahead.

The story of Cape Town 2025 is one of momentum: Africa’s water future is no longer a distant aspiration. It is being funded, tracked, and championed globally.



Jakaya Kikwete, Alternate Co-chair of the Global Outlook Council, former President of Tanzania

Africa's Pioneering AIP Model Inspires US\$20 billion Water Investment Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) continues to inspire large-scale water-investment efforts across the world. Following calls from world leaders, including H.E. Ban Ki-moon, 8th UN Secretary-General, and H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa, to replicate Africa's proven model in other regions, momentum is now building towards the US\$20 billion Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Water Investment Programme, set for launch in 2026.

This follows the launch of the the Global Outlook Council on Water Investments and its Global Water Investment Platform as a G20 Legacy Initiative advocating for water investments at the highest levels of global diplomacy. H.E Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa and the G20, inaugurated the Global Outlook Council on Water Investments and its Global Water Investment Platform during the inaugural AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit which took place in Cape Town in August, 2025.

H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa and Chair of the G20 during the Summit said:

"We urgently need to scale up initiatives like AIP in the vulnerable regions such as Asia and Latin America."

In July 2023, H.E. Ban Ki-moon commended the AIP's innovative approach and called on global leaders and international organisations to scale up the model globally.

Building on the achievements of the AIP, the LAC Water Investment Programme aims to mobilise USD 20 billion by 2030 through the Global Water Investment Platform, led by the G20 Presidential Legacy Global Outlook Council on Water Investments, a global initiative launched by President Ramaphosa in August 2025 to extend Africa's water-investment success to the rest of the world.

Mr Alex Simalabwi, CEO of GWPO and Executive Secretary of GWP said:

"The Global Water Investment Platform (GIP) is a new global mechanism to accelerate the mobilisation and implementation of water investments worldwide. The GIP expands the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) into a global initiative across Asia, Latin America & Caribbean, Europe while accelerating AIP implementation as its African Pillar in collaboration with the African Union."



Mr Alex Simalabwi, CEO of GWPO and Executive Secretary of GWP

Africa's Water Investment Scorecard Shows Progress, But Underscores Urgent Need to Scale Finance and Delivery

Africa's leaders have placed water and sanitation at the heart of the continent's development agenda, with a commitment to mobilize at least US\$30 billion annually for climate-resilient water security and WASH services by 2030. The AIP-Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) Water Investment Scorecard, endorsed to strengthen accountability and engagement with investors, has become a primary instrument to track progress and guide action.

The African Union Heads of State and Government have approved a dedicated framework for tracking progress in mobilizing PIDA water investments, providing the political mandate for this work. This decision recognizes the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD's efforts to accelerate the implementation of PIDA transboundary water projects by

enhancing mutual accountability among partners. It formally approves the framework for tracking progress in the mobilization of PIDA water investments. It further directs AUDA NEPAD to continue establishing partnerships for PIDA implementation and to report back biannually on gaps and progress in mobilizing water investments for PIDA PAP 2, using the AIP PIDA Water Investment Scorecard as a reference.

The 2025 edition introduces the Africa Water Investment Programme Index (AIPI), a composite index assessing countries' readiness to plan, finance, execute, and sustain water investments across four equally weighted pillars. For this first continental baseline, 30 AU Member States submitted data through a coordinated campaign led by AUDA NEPAD, the African Union Commission (AUC) and the AIP Secretariat.



Continental Training Enhances AU Member States' Capacity on Water Investment Tracking and Reporting

Over 80 participants representing African Union Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) were trained in tracking and reporting water investments using the AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard, a key tool under the African Union's Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP). The AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard was adopted by the African Union Development Agency-(AUDA-NEPAD) as part of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) in February 2022 through African Union Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.818(XXXV). Among others, the tool aims to enhance mutual accountability

for results in the mobilization of water investments, mobilize political and leadership commitment, support countries to track progress, identify bottlenecks, and take action to meet the investment needs for the achievement of SDG 6 on water and sanitation.

The training took place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 13–15 May 2025 and was also attended by the African Union Commission (AUC), AUDA-NEPAD, the African Ministers Council for Water (AMCOW), the AIP Secretariat, as well as experts from the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA), the World Bank, and UN agencies.



Participants at the training on how to use the AIP PIDA Water Investment Scorecard to track and report water investments, which took place in Nairobi, Kenya.

Luanda Summit Boosts Early Financing Push for Africa's Water Projects

As a build-up from the AU-AIP Water Investment Summit held in Cape Town under the umbrella of the G20 Presidency, AUDA-NEPAD and the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA) co-convoked a high-level Roundtable on Early-Stage Financing for PIDA-AIP Water Projects at the 2025 III Luanda Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure Development, which took place from 28 to 31 October 2025, in Luanda, Angola. The Summit is the African Union's leading forum where Heads of State, investors, and innovators converge to drive transformative infrastructure projects.

The high-level roundtable on Early-Stage Financing brought together project sponsors, governments, development finance institutions, private investors, and project preparation facilities to accelerate early-stage water investments across Africa. The session focused on resolving common bottlenecks that prevent water and sanitation projects from advancing to bankability. The roundtable supported the project sponsors in identifying critical next steps towards unlocking financing.





3.2 AIP Water, Climate Development, and Gender Investments

The impacts of climate change manifest through alterations in the water cycle, exposing ecosystems and the livelihoods of people to increased variability in water availability and increased exposure to water-related hazards. These impacts are expected to intensify over time, posing a significant threat. The impacts of climate change in the water sector also hinder economic and social development, emphasizing the need for countries to integrate water security and climate resilience strategies into their development plans.

To support countries to build their climate resilience and improve their adaptive capacity, GWPSA, through the Climate Resilience Programme and is working with countries to implement adaptation-related commitments in the Paris Agreement. Focus areas include support for the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans processes, South-South Cooperation,

project preparation, implementing adaptation demonstration projects, climate financing, and mainstreaming social inclusion in climate change strategies.

These initiatives are undertaken under the AIP Water, Climate Development, and Gender Investments (WAGDEP G) Programme, which received initial support from the Austria Development Agency (ADA).

The Climate Resilience Programme is committed to engaging multilateral climate financing programmes, like the Green Climate Fund, and seeking bilateral funding. The programme's focus is on advocating for the financial backing of water-related projects and facilitating support for countries in the preparation and submission of project proposals.

This section details some of the initiatives GWPSA undertook in 2025 to support efforts to build climate resilience.

AU-AIP GCF Readiness Initiative Accelerates Climate-Resilient Water Investments Across 15 African Countries

The African Union Commission, in partnership with the Global Water Partnership Africa, is fast-tracking climate finance readiness across the continent through the AU-AIP GCF Readiness Support Initiative, now being implemented in 15 AU Member States. Over recent months, the initiative has recorded tangible milestones that demonstrate growing institutional capacity, stronger investment preparation, and Africa's readiness to absorb and deploy climate finance at scale.

Early 2025 was an important stage for overall project implementation of the AU-AIP GCF Readiness Support Initiative, covering as it did the establishment of the key foundations needed to advance on the higher-level project outcomes. These foundations relate to the consolidation of political commitment and ownership in the participating countries, the recruitment of the necessary expertise to drive the targeted processes, and the assessment of capacity needs and gaps among key project stakeholders.

Significant progress was achieved in this regard across the four project objectives in most of the countries which has enabled important steps to be taken in the building of capacity, development of strategic frameworks, and drafting of concept notes. Setting the stage for this progress was the GWPSA organized continental training in Addis Abeba in February 2025 on climate finance and GCF programming, and Concept Note preparation which targeted focal points from the Ministries of Water in all the 15 project countries. Organized in conjunction with the launch of the AU Guidelines for the development and implementation of climate-resilient

water investment plans, the training was instrumental in increasing project buy-in from country stakeholders and setting out the steps that countries will be following during project implementation.

The continental training was followed up at the national level through the assessment of capacity needs which in turn have informed the development of tailored training plans targeted at the NDAs and FPs, potential DAEs, and other relevant national stakeholders in the participating countries (Objective 1). These training plans are being enacted between July and October 2025.

The launch of the AU Guidelines in Addis in February 2025 also provided the blueprint for countries on the assessment of readiness needs and the development of Climate Resilient Water Investment Programmes (CRWIPs). Eleven of the 15 participating countries are developing CRWIPs under the project following the steps and process outlined in the AU Guidelines. This includes the establishment of the highest-level political ownership of the process, the formation of a national technical working group or committee to drive and oversee proceedings, and the endorsement of a roadmap outlining the milestones and timelines.

In addition, Zambia, which already has a CRWIP, made progress on the establishment of a blended finance platform to support CRWIP implementation.

Support to the countries for sufficient development of concept notes (CNs) of sufficient quality for submission to the GCF was successfully undertaken in several

of the participating countries. Countries were supported to develop longlists of project ideas, out of which one or two were prioritised for development into submissions to the GCF.

The CNs were also summarized for presentation to potential funders at the AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit in August 2025 hosted by the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the African Union Commission and other partners.

Good progress was also made in the design of an online knowledge management platform which will be instrumental in facilitating knowledge exchange between the countries and disseminating key results and lessons learned to a wider audience. The platform design consists of seven key features which have been shaped through a wide-ranging consultation process involving key stakeholders from the participating countries and the GWP network

Progress Made under Capacity Building Efforts Under the AU-AIP GCF Readiness Initiative

In 2025, significant progress was made in strengthening the capacities of National Designated Authorities (NDAs), Focal Points (FPs), Direct Access Entities (DAEs), and other relevant stakeholders to enable them to effectively fulfil their roles and responsibilities.

Capacity needs assessments for targeted NDA and focal point staff were completed and used to develop country-specific capacity building strategies addressing identified gaps. These strategies informed

the formulation of tailored training plans and materials, which have already been implemented in some countries. In addition, a continental-level training on climate finance, GCF programming, and Concept Note preparation was successfully delivered, targeting focal points from Ministries of Water across all 15 project countries. Capacity building efforts were further strengthened in Somalia through the preparation of a Sustainability Plan to enhance the long-term functioning of the NDA mechanism.



In a landmark event preceding the AIP High-Level Summit, GCF focal points from multiple countries convened for a training and to align on accreditation, investment preparation, and partnership mobilization. This marked one of the clearest signs yet of continental convergence around structured climate finance access

Progress was also achieved in the assessment and nomination of potential DAEs in Somalia, Malawi, Burundi, Congo, Guinea, and Ghana. Candidate institutions were identified, assessed, and shortlisted, with tailored capacity building programmes developed based on the outcomes of institutional assessments. Accreditation action plans have been prepared for several potential DAEs, including in Ghana, Guinea, and Malawi.

Furthermore, capacity needs assessments for other relevant stakeholders were conducted in most participating countries, resulting in structured training programmes and materials that have supported, and in some cases already informed, the delivery of national training workshops. Overall, the completion of assessments and the implementation of targeted trainings in several countries have laid a strong and practical foundation for continued capacity strengthening across the project.



Five nominated Direct Access Entities (DAEs) in Malawi were trained in pathways to the Green Climate Fund accreditation, accreditation requirements, the accreditation portal and documentation, post-accreditation operationalisation and fiduciary standards

Progress Made in Developing Strategic Frameworks Under the AU-AIP GCF Readiness Initiative

Processes were initiated for developing strategic frameworks that will contribute to addressing policy gaps, improve sectoral expertise, and enhance enabling environments for GCF Programming in low-emission investment in many participating countries. The key strategic frameworks that were initiated included development of climate-resilient water investment programmes; readiness needs assessments; entity work programmes aligned to country programmes; and development of private sector engagement strategies.

Following development and adoption of a common framework (AU Guidelines for

the development and implementation of climate resilient water investment programmes) for developing climate-resilient water investment programmes (CRWIPs), AU Member States were trained on the application of these guidelines. This effort provided the requisite technical capacity and resources required by Member States to initiate and drive their national level processes to develop CRWIPs. The training provided in February 2025 by GWPSA, and the AUC enabled many participating countries to constitute inter-sectoral technical teams that developed country roadmaps for the formulation of CRWIPs.



Over 70 representatives from 15 African Union Member States gathered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 13 to 14 February 2025 for training on AU Guidelines for the development of National Climate Resilient Water Investment Programmes

Progress Made under Pipeline Development Under the AU-AIP GCF Readiness Initiative

Good progress was made on supporting countries to identify tangible project ideas that can form the basis for the development of quality GCF Concept Notes (CNs) that can be submitted for financing. This support involved the deployment of a team of technical experts who supported the countries through the training of water sector focal points and the provision of technical input to ensure that the drafted CNs were 'investment-ready' and could lead to the preparation of high-quality GCF projects.

Furthermore, the participating countries were supported to package the CNs into project Fiches (summaries) for use in the matching-making sessions at the Africa Water Investment Summit in August 2025. The Summit was designed to provide an opportunity to match the projects with potential partners including Accredited Entities who would further refine and finalise the CNs for submission to GCF.



One of the matchmaking sessions at the AU-Africa Water Investment Summit in August 2025

Progress Made under Knowledge Sharing and Learning Under the AU-AIP GCF Readiness Initiative

Considerable progress was achieved in the design and development of the online knowledge management platform. This followed extensive consultations with a wide range of partners and stakeholders to inform the platform's design, functionality, and content architecture. In addition to NDAs and external partners, consultations during the reporting period included National Technical Coordinators from participating countries, GWP Africa Regional Coordinators and Communications Officers, and the Project Management Unit team. These engagements ensured that the platform responds directly to country needs while aligning with continental priorities and institutional objectives.

As a result of these consultations, a comprehensive and user-centred website was developed. The platform provides background and context on the project and clearly articulates its relevance for AU Member States. It offers country-specific pages outlining readiness priorities across the 15 participating countries, alongside a centralized library of knowledge products to support climate finance mobilization and climate-resilient water security investments. The platform also includes resources and tools to strengthen the capacity of NDAs and key water sector stakeholders in developing high-quality GCF proposals and Concept Notes.

Beyond hosting training materials, the platform provides access to expert support and technical guidance, facilitates peer learning and experience sharing, and enables countries to showcase best practices and lessons learned. A dedicated Project Pipeline page supports the development of Climate-Resilient Water Investment Programmes and highlights investment-ready pipelines. Upon launch in 2026, the platform will also provide stakeholders with access to up-to-date datasets, analytical tools, gender analytics insights, and resources to inform decision-making, investment planning, and monitoring of climate finance readiness efforts. It further integrates information on the AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard, enabling countries to track progress in water investments.

In parallel, the GWPSA-Africa communications team hosted a virtual information session for journalists on the African Union–GCF Readiness Support Initiative on Friday, 7 February 2025. The session strengthened media understanding of the initiative and resulted in the publication of 17 articles across participating countries, significantly enhancing regional visibility and outreach.



3.3 AIP Transboundary PIDA Water Investments

With over 60 shared river basins in Africa, cooperation in the management and development of transboundary water resources is a key building block towards regional and economic integration. However, the pace of investment in transboundary water projects in Africa remains below target, hampering progress towards the continent's economic growth aspirations and 2030 SDG targets.

The AIP Transboundary PIDA Water Investments Support Programme will accelerate the preparation and implementation of climate resilient and gender transformative PIDA Water and other priority transboundary

water investments for job creation, industrialisation, and SDG implementation.

PIDA is the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, a multi sector programme dedicated to facilitating continental integration in Africa through improved regional infrastructure.

PIDA is a joint initiative of the African Union Commission, the Africa Union Development Agency - New Partnership for Africa's Development, and the African Development Bank.

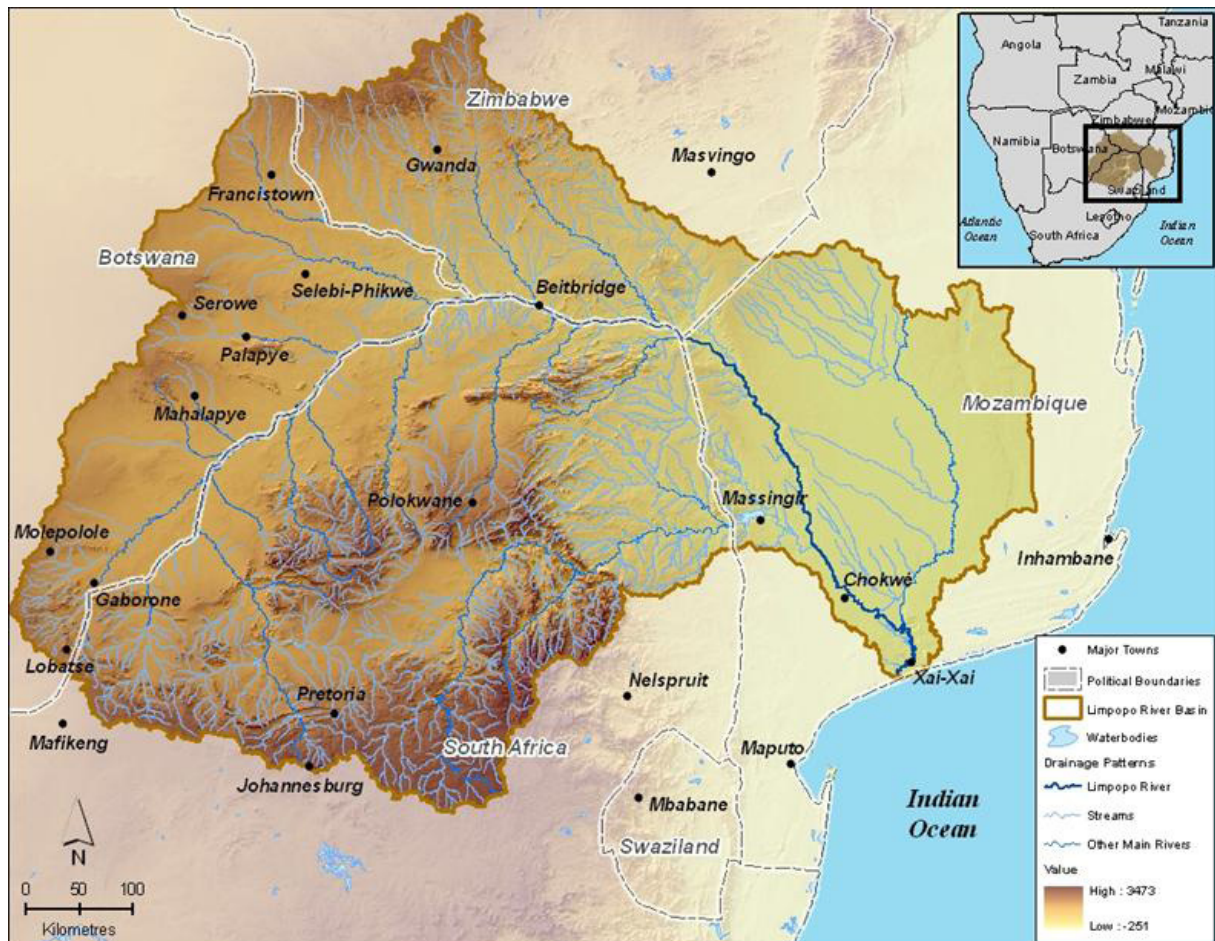
GWPSA and its partners undertook several transboundary initiatives in 2025, as highlighted in this section.

Limpopo Watercourse Commission (LIMCOM) UNDP-GEF Limpopo Project (Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe)

The “Integrated Transboundary River Basin Management for the Sustainable Development of the Limpopo River Basin” project seeks to achieve integrated, cross-sectoral, ecosystem-based management of the Limpopo River to uplift the living standards of the basin’s population and conserve the basin’s resources and

ecosystem services. The project contributes to Objective 3 of the GEF International Waters (IW) Focal Area Strategy, which is to “enhance water security in shared freshwater ecosystems”.

Here are some of the project highlights in 2025:



Approval of TDA Report and Formulation of Action Plans

A major milestone was the approval of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) report in June by all four Member States, which identified and prioritized key water-related environmental challenges facing the basin. These challenges include land degradation, sedimentation and deteriorating water quality.

To address these, Member States are now formulating National Action Plans (NAPs) and validated a basin-wide Strategic Action Programme (SAP) during December 2025, which is expected to be endorsed in early 2026. While the SAP tackles basin-wide challenges, NAPs focus on country-specific priorities that have transboundary impact.



Engaging Communities in Sustainable Land Management

Communities across the basin advanced Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices to combat land degradation and sedimentation, with early signs that payment for ecosystem services model can be developed.

The practices included composting organic manure and construction of infiltration pits and half-moons at the four SLM pilot sites to increase soil retention at the Mogobane Dam (Botswana), Massingir Dam (Mozambique), Mapochs (South Africa), and Guyu-Chelesa (Zimbabwe).



Operationalizing the Revamped LIMIS

The newly upgraded Limpopo Management Information System (LIMIS) went live this year, enhancing data-sharing, collaboration and evidence-based decision-making. This interactive, web-based tool is modular by design and integrates spatial data, hydrological time series, earth

observation and other datasets through APIs to monitor long-term impacts of development and management initiatives across the basin, whilst harnessing partnership through related tools developed in the region.

Conclusion of the Limpopo Joint Basin Survey

The final phase of the Limpopo Joint Basin Survey (JBS) was completed in March/April, marking a significant step in understanding basin dynamics. Conducted since August 2024, the survey strengthens cooperation in transboundary water management and the development of a harmonized environmental flow implementation plan. Importantly, this has led to formal establishment of the LIMCOM

Environmental Monitoring Task Team, who were thereafter deployed at direction of the commission to investigate basin level water pollution effects during latter 2025.

A comprehensive report will be released in 2026, forming the basis for an updated Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plan, paving the way for a transboundary river health monitoring team.



Promoting Cross-Country Learning

Throughout 2025, LIMCOM facilitated several capacity building workshops to foster knowledge exchange among Member States. Key focus areas included

- Sedimentation monitoring in the Olifants sub-basin and lower Limpopo;
- Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem monitoring in the Tuli-Karoo Transboundary Aquifer; and
- Environmental flows harmonisation process to align national processes and ensure the technical and legal buy-in to the process.



UNDP-GEF Cuvelai-Kunene (Angola and Namibia)

The “Enhanced Water Security and Community Resilience in the Adjacent Cuvelai and Kunene Transboundary River Basins (CUVKUN)” project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as the GEF Implementing Agency. The Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA) is the Executing Agency, while the Cuvelai Commission (CUVECOM) and Kunene Permanent Joint Technical Committee (PJTC) are the focal custodians of the project implementation.

The CUVKUN project aims to improve water resources management in the transboundary Kunene and Cuvelai river basins shared by Angola and Namibia, addressing extremes of flood and drought. For the Kunene River, the focus is on sustainable hydropower and irrigation development through e-flows assessment, water resources modelling, a detailed Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA),

and a long-term Integrated WRM Plan. The Cuvelai River will focus on groundwater potential, flood risk mapping, early warning systems, and water harvesting. Both basins will have five-year investment programmes and pilot demonstration projects.

The project also strengthens joint management capacities at the basin level, supporting CUVECOM, the Kunene PJTC, and the creation of a joint basin Secretariat. It addresses information gaps, develops management tools, and raises awareness for sustainable basin management. With increasing water scarcity and climate change impacts, the project seeks to enhance monitoring and early warning systems.

2025 was a critical foundational year focused on initiating major technical studies, setting up the decision-making framework, and commencing the groundwork for community-level interventions. Some highlights include:





Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis Process for the Kunene and Cuvelai Basins

The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and National Action Plan (NAP) development process was launched at technical level by Angola and Namibia on 27 March 2025 in Windhoek, reaffirming the importance of cross-border collaboration, incorporation of community knowledge, and attention to emerging pressures such as climate change. The launch also clarified that the SAP and NAP will complement existing water resources management plans by addressing priority challenges not currently being adequately resolved and introduced the TDA roadmap to guide subsequent analytical workstreams. Participation monitoring indicated 45 in-person participants (27 men and 18 women),

alongside 22–33 online participants across the event and highlighted the need to strengthen gender balance in Member State nominations, particularly given low female representation in the Angola delegation. To operationalize the analytical revision of the TDA, a Lead Expert was successfully onboarded in October 2025. To align the revised TDA with the wider CUVKUN evidence base and workstreams, a hybrid integration workshop was convened on 3–4 December 2025 in Windhoek with participation from both Member States, consolidating progress across studies, strengthening coherence across workstreams, and identifying thematic report areas to be produced under the revised TDA process.



Cuvelai Basin Early Warning and Information System Foundation Established

Substantial progress has been made towards the establishment of an operational real-time transboundary Early Warning System (EWS) through structured collaboration, institutional arrangements, and early technical groundwork aligned to the target of procuring an EWS consultant. The project confirmed strategic complementarities with the Co-HYDIM-SA initiative, and coordination engagements with the partner and Member States resulted in a clear preference for a collaborative, Cuvelai Basin-specific EWS approach to avoid duplication and maximize impact. Work plans were aligned and a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was initiated to formalize the partnership, supported by the establishment of a joint coordination committee that convenes regularly to guide implementation.

To strengthen technical governance and country ownership, the CUVEWIS Technical Working Group was constituted with technical officials from both Member States to support EWS-related outputs and interface with the broader EWS needs assessment work. A joint CUVEWIS

workshop (29–30 September 2025) convened 47 participants (21 women, 26 men) from Angola and Namibia government stakeholders, technical experts, consultants, and partners to review progress, align technical strategies, and define a clear pathway for development of a stakeholder-driven decision-support tool for flood and drought risk management. Technical discussions advanced work on hydrological modelling (WEAP), seasonal forecasting inputs and data visualization concepts including a “traffic-light” alert approach, with machine learning options being explored to improve flood forecasting accuracy. Key implementation risks were also consolidated, notably data-sharing constraints between countries, sustainability and hosting arrangements, and the need to maintain strong stakeholder engagement. Progress was also made on the analytical groundwork required to inform system design and development. The CUVEWIS needs assessment advanced, providing the basis for system design through identification of user requirements, data flows, governance arrangements, and priority functionalities.

Gender Strategy for Kunene and Cuvelai Basins Finalized

Mainstreaming of gender equality and women's empowerment into CUVECOM and the emerging Kunene Commission frameworks progressed by establishing the analytical baseline, defining priority actions, and strengthening institutional mechanisms needed to operationalise a Gender Strategy. A Gender Strategy Development Plan was prepared and reviewed, and early implementation prioritised Angola through a targeted Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) gap analysis. To ensure the analysis grounded in field realities, the project developed data collection tools for national, district and community engagements and complemented literature review with direct consultations conducted alongside Social and Environmental Safeguards fieldwork and during the TDA launch process. These inputs strengthened the evidence base for gender-responsive governance, including understanding barriers to participation and service impacts at community level.

The year also delivered the core "operational bridge" between analysis and strategy implementation through

development of the Gender Action Plan (GAP), which translated emerging findings into priority actions for gender-responsive governance within CUVECOM and the Kunene Commission arrangements. The GAP entered technical review and was prepared for consultation with country GESI focal points. In addition, and gender sensitive indicators were integrated into the project Monitoring and Evaluation framework to ensure that gender outcomes can be systematically tracked and reported. Building on these instruments, a draft GESI Strategy for CUVECOM and PJTC/Kunene was prepared and positioned for a Member State consultative process. To institutionalise oversight and sustain implementation beyond document production, Terms of Reference were developed for a GESI Task Force/Working Group to provide strategic technical support; these ToRs were refined through stakeholder and Project Steering Committee inputs and prepared for approval and subsequent appointment of members in early 2026.

Community-based Sustainable Land Management Demonstrations Piloted

The project made great progress and focused on getting the Sustainable Land Management pilot portfolio "implementation-ready" by completing core safeguard due diligence, advancing site design through intensive community consultations, and putting in place the procurement and verification steps required before demonstration activities can begin at scale. Social and Environmental Safeguards (SES) fieldwork was undertaken across the pilot sites from 3–15 March 2025 to validate and refine the project's safeguard instruments (including the ESIA/ESMP, IPP, GAP, GRM, LAP and SEP), providing site-specific risk

and mitigation information needed to finalise designs and secure approvals. The attendance had a total of 395, of whom there were 248 Males and 193 Females. In parallel, the Terms of Reference for implementers were developed and implementing options were assessed, with a deliberate approach to ensure alignment with basin priorities and accountability at community level recognising, for example, that basin committees in Namibia would play an oversight/monitoring role rather than implement, while in Angola institutional partners such as the Institute for Agriculture Development (IDA) were considered for community-based



agricultural actions, alongside the option of the CUVECOM Secretariat as a sub-grantee for demonstration delivery.

Additional progress was made toward finalizing site selection and project design for the community-based Sustainable Land Management (SLM) demonstrations. Namibia has eight (8) sites selected whereas Angola has six (6) sites. The project team conducted ongoing eligibility screening sessions for the Angola and Namibia pilot sites to inform the design process. These sessions, together with fieldwork debriefings, supported structured suitability assessments for interventions using agreed screening tools and criteria linked to project requirements.

Safeguards and community rights processes were progressed alongside technical design. Feedback on the draft Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) report was consolidated and shared hared with the consultant for incorporation. The work-in-progress FPIC report and the ESIA report for Namibia were subsequently submitted to UNDP for review and approval. All SES-related reports continued through iterative improvement cycles

based on expert feedback before final approval. In line with this sequencing, development of site-specific plans was scheduled for the next phase following completion of safeguard processes and stakeholder validation.

Site selection and intervention design were further strengthened through field missions in both countries to design and validate community-led interventions (including floodwater harvesting measures) using participatory mapping and joint technical assessments. Communities in multiple villages in Namibia and Angola produced practical, locally grounded flood pathway and infrastructure maps using hands-on methods, ensuring that proposed interventions reflect real flood dynamics, community priorities, and feasible locations for demonstration structures. These missions were complemented by planning workshops and consultations with local government departments (extension, forestry, environment), improving coordination and increasing the likelihood that SLM demonstrations will be supported and maintained within existing local development systems.

Cultural heritage and environmental compliance processes also advanced and directly shaped readiness for implementation. Cultural heritage assessment work progressed through, field assessment, and reporting, with the Namibia heritage assessment submitted to the National Heritage Council for formal review/approval and the Angola heritage assessment continuing through iterative refinement. On environmental safeguards, the Namibia ESIA was submitted for UNDP review and entered a revision cycle to

address received comments. In Angola, initial ESIA quality issues created delays, but the process was stabilised through a revised ESIA with the ESMP integrated as part of the ESIA package; the revised report progressed through internal clearance ahead of UNDP submission. An Output Verification mission by UNDP and the PMU provided an additional layer of assurance and practical feedback on site readiness and progress, contributing to the initial basis for progress assessment and adaptive management.

Hydrological and Scenario Analysis in the Kunene River Basin Launched

Hydrological and scenario analysis in the Kunene River Basin was launched during the reporting period, establishing the foundation for subsequent basin planning and technical assessment work. Following consultations with Angola and Namibia, the assignment scope was refined to prioritise hydrological analysis as the first step, ensuring that future work is grounded in an agreed basin baseline and development scenarios. During the year, the technical

scope and procurement approach were revised to improve strategic focus, affordability, and implementation readiness. These milestones established a clear and Member State-supported pathway for field assessments, baseline data collection, and hydrological modelling to commence in early 2026, providing the evidence base for later environmental flow and decision-support work.

Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services in the Angolan Highlands Advanced

Progress was made in advancing the economic valuation of ecosystem services in the Angolan Highlands, with implementation moving from preparatory arrangements to field-based evidence gathering. During the reporting period, the work focused on establishing the baseline for valuation through community consultations and primary data collection on ecosystem goods and services, livelihood dependence, and natural resource use. Fieldwork undertaken in late 2025 covered selected communities in the Cuvelai and Kunene basins and generated evidence on how local populations use and benefit from ecosystem services, including water-related resources. The

assessment also identified key pressures affecting these ecosystems, notably from agriculture, livestock, forestry, and mining. Importantly, the process captured community perspectives on risks, priorities, and opportunities for conservation and sustainable management, strengthening the relevance of the forthcoming valuation for policy and planning. The assessment generated evidence-based analysis and recommendations to support sustainable management and conservation of the Angolan Highlands as a critical regional water tower, drawing on primary data collection and stakeholder engagement undertaken in selected communities.

Joint Secretariat Job Evaluation and Grading Advanced

Progress was made in strengthening the institutional foundations for the future Joint Secretariat through support to job evaluation, grading, and remuneration benchmarking. Following guidance from the PSC and Commissioners, the project supported a process aimed at professionalising the proposed Secretariat structure and establishing a more coherent basis for staffing, grading, and long-term institutional sustainability. During the reporting period, the work advanced key building blocks for a harmonised human resources framework, including the proposed organisational structure, job

classification approach, and salary and benefits benchmarking. This process is expected to provide the evidence base for consistent staffing arrangements, clearer functional responsibilities, and development of a costed sustainability plan for the future Joint Secretariat. In parallel, the project also supported Member State technical consultations to review and refine the draft legal framework for the future Kunene Commission, helping to strengthen the broader governance and administrative foundation within which the Joint Secretariat is expected to operate.



UNDP-GEF Project Strengthening Integrated Transboundary Management of the Incomati and Maputo River Basins (Eswatini, Mozambique and South Africa)

The project is expected to support critical interventions addressing ecosystem degradation, altered flow regimes, pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate-related floods and droughts across the Incomati and Maputo basins.

Governments of Eswatini, Mozambique & South Africa Officially Endorse & Kick-start the Implementation of a Joint Transboundary Water Project

The Green Environmental Facility's (GEF) investment of over US\$7.1 million in the project, leveraging more than US\$64 million in confirmed co-financing, will enable vital interventions that address the urgent and complex challenges facing the Incomati and Maputo River Basins, including degraded ecosystems, altered flow regimes, pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate-induced extreme events such as floods and droughts. These challenges impact not only ecosystems but also the lives, livelihoods, and development ambitions of more than 3.4 million people who rely directly on the basins' resources.

The three governments endorsed the project through the signing of the project document in Maputo, Mozambique, on Wednesday, 16 July 2025.

UNDP is the implementing agency, while GWP Southern Africa is the project executing partner. Both agencies are supporting the Incomati and Maputo Watercourse Commission (INMACOM), an organization formed by the three AU Member States to promote cooperation and ensure coordinated development, management and sustainable use of the water resource.



The Governments of Eswatini, Mozambique and South Africa have officially endorsed and kick-started the implementation of a joint transboundary water project titled "UNDP-GEF Project: Strengthening Integrated Transboundary Management of the Incomati and Maputo River Basins".

Governments of Eswatini, Mozambique & South Africa Hold Inception Workshop for Joint Transboundary Water Project

Stakeholders from Eswatini, Mozambique, and South Africa gathered to kick-start the project on “Strengthening Integrated Transboundary Management of the Incomati and Maputo River Basins.”

The INMACOM project is valued at USD 7,105,936 and is expected to run over the course of 72 months. The Project inception meeting, that took place between 17 and 18 September, aimed to enhance stakeholders’ understanding of the project’s objectives, outline expected results and planned activities, clarify roles and responsibilities, and foster alignment among project teams and partners.

The project seeks to address key challenges in the Incomati and Maputo river basins across the three countries by:

1. Strengthening the Incomati and Maputo Watercourse Commission (INMACOM), a transboundary river basin organization;
2. Restoring over 12,800 hectares of degraded land;
3. Promoting sustainable management of an additional 35,900 hectares;
4. Enhancing regional cooperation between river basin, conservation, and coastal management authorities; and
5. Ensuring communities – particularly women and youths – are not only participants, but key actors in water governance, data collection, ecosystem restoration, and green jobs.

Member states, through their task team leads, reaffirmed their commitment to the project and its outcomes.

Scheduled to run until December 2030, the project is a critical step towards a more resilient and cooperative future for the people and ecosystems of the Incomati and Maputo basins.



SADC Transboundary Water Management Programme (funded by GIZ)

The programme is under implementation, supporting regional knowledge exchange through the SADC RBO Workshop and the Multistakeholder Water Dialogue.

SADC and Partners Host the SADC Resource Mobilization and Transboundary Water Investment Workshop

The Southern African Development Community (SADC), in collaboration with the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation of the Republic of Zambia, and with the support from the German government through the SADC GIZ Transboundary Water Management (TWM) project and the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA), convened the SADC Resource Mobilization and Transboundary Water Investment Workshop in Lusaka, Zambia from 24 to 25 July 2025.

The event will be held under the theme: “Scaling Up Transboundary Water Investments & Resource Mobilisation to Unlock Economic Growth, Industrial Transformation and Climate Resilience in the SADC.”

The primary objective of the workshop was to validate the Draft Resource Mobilization Plan for the SADC Regional Strategic Action

Plan (RSAP) on Integrated Water Resources Management. The validation exercise aims to ensure that the plan aligns with strategic goals and priorities, is feasible, and is both effective and implementable.

In addition, the workshop will focus on enhancing cooperation, capacity building, and financing mechanisms for shared water resources. It also aims to strengthen resource mobilization capacities, provide participants with practical tools and strategies for securing funding for transboundary water projects, and improve the financial landscape for water investments through public, private, and international funding sources.

Currently, the SADC region is implementing the fifth phase of the Regional Strategic Action Plan on Integrated Water Resources Management and Development (RSAP V: 2021–2025), which was adopted by SADC Ministers of Water in December 2021.



11th SADC Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogue Reinforces Role of Water in Regional Economic Corridor Development

The Dialogue was organized by the Southern African Development Community (SADC), in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Kingdom of Lesotho and with the support of the German Government through the SADC GIZ Transboundary Water Management (TWM) project and the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA).

The event was held under the theme: “Water Security, Innovation, and Nexus Action: Watering and Enabling Regional Economic Development Corridors for Transformation in SADC.”

Over the course of the two days, policymakers, practitioners, and partners explored how water security, innovation, and Nexus action can unlock climate-resilient and inclusive regional economic corridor development in Southern Africa.



Honourable Mhlomi Moleko, Minister of Natural Resources of the Kingdom of Lesotho, officially opened the Dialogue.



The 11th SADC Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogue was held in Maseru, Lesotho, from 29 to 30 September 2025, where delegates discussed the role of water in regional economic corridor development, positioning and aligning the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus for impactful contribution to the regional economic development corridor agenda.

SADC Hosts the Transboundary Water & Landscapes Sustainable Finance Bootcamp in South Africa

The SADC Transboundary Water & Landscapes Sustainable Finance Bootcamp was held in November 2025 in South Africa, under the theme “Sustainable financing for joint impact in River Basin Organizations and Transfrontier Conservation Areas of southern Africa, with a focus on the Great Limpopo”.

The Bootcamp initiative was convened by the SADC Secretariat in collaboration with Sustainable Finance Coalition, the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA), and Conservation International. The bootcamp was financially supported by the German Government, under the SADC-German Transboundary Water Management (TWM) project (GIZ Botswana and SADC) and Global Affairs Canada | Affaires Mondiales Canada through Conservation International. The Limpopo Watercourse Commission (LIMCOM) and the Great Limpopo Transfrontier

Conservation Area (GLTFCA) served as focal points and co-convened the event.

The first of its kind in the SADC region, the Bootcamp brought together representatives from SADC Member States, River Basin Organizations (RBOs), Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs), other water sector partners, wildlife, landscape and nature conservation institutions together with development partners, civil society, and financial experts to deepen their understanding of sustainable finance principles and their practical application to nature conservation in transboundary contexts. Furthermore, the intention of this bootcamp was to initiate the dialogue concerning which efficiencies can be made in overlapping geographic mandates at regional level in terms of river basin ecosystem management objectives and that of transfrontier conservation landscapes.



IUCN-GEF Source-to-Sea Management of the Ruvuma River Basin (Malawi, Tanzania and Mozambique)

The Ruvuma River Basin project, spanning Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania, seeks to address weak institutional frameworks, uncoordinated resource management, climate vulnerability and diminishing livelihood options across a globally significant ecosystem. The project has been endorsed by the GEF and has completed the full IUCN internal approval process, with preparations underway to finalize contracting arrangements between GWPSA and Wetlands International Eastern Africa as Co-Executing Agencies ahead of project launch.

Ministers responsible for water from Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique signed the Joint Management Ruvuma/Rovuma River Basin MoU in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 31 July 2024.

The river serves as a vital water source for communities, agriculture, and industries across the three member states, but despite its benefits, the basin faces several challenges that include a lack of comprehensive management plans, hampering the sustainable use and conservation of its resources. The basin is also increasingly vulnerable to the adversities of climate change, manifesting in unpredictable rainfall patterns and extreme weather events. Compounding these challenges is the scarcity of reliable data and the limited involvement of local stakeholders in decision-making processes.





3.4 AIP SDG Water Investments

The AIP SDG Water Investments Support Programme assists countries to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 of clean water and sanitation for all, while contributing to the achievement of water-related SDG targets in health, energy, food, and ecosystems and boosting job

creation interventions. The AIP SDG Water Investments Support Programme works towards the goals of the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP).

This section provides programme highlights for 2025:

UNDP-GEF project “Supporting Sustainable Inclusive Blue Economy Transformation in African Small Island Developing States (SIDS)”

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face unique challenges, but they also hold valuable opportunities when it comes to protecting their natural environments and meeting their socio-economic development needs. Against this backdrop, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) project –“Supporting Sustainable Inclusive Blue

Economy Transformation in African SIDS” (the African SIDS Project), has been launched to support six African island nations in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans: Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe, Comoros, Mauritius, and Seychelles. The project seeks to help these countries move towards sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient blue economy development.

African Small Island Developing States Launch Joint Blue Economy Transformation Project

Six African Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have officially launched a US\$9 million project to advance sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient blue economies. The initiative was unveiled at a three-day inception workshop held in Mauritius from 4–6 August 2025.

The project, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA) as Executing Agency, will support Cabo Verde, Guinea-

Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe, Comoros, Mauritius, and Seychelles. The African Union Commission (AUC) serves as the project’s custodian.

Over 42 months, the UNDP-GEF project “Supporting Sustainable Inclusive Blue Economy Transformation in African Small Island Developing States”, will strengthen governance frameworks, implement on-the-ground demonstrations to address unsustainable coastal practices, and promote integrated land management and knowledge sharing across the SIDS.



African SIDS Blue Economy Project at the Africa Blue Economy Week in Addis Ababa

The African SIDS Blue Economy Project, a joint initiative supported by the Global Environment Facility, implemented by UNDP and executed by the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa, under the leadership of the African Union Commission as the focal custodian of the project, was showcased at the Africa Blue Economy Week taking place at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Africa Blue Economy Week took place from 23–25 September 2025.

The US\$9 million initiative, which will be implemented over a period of three-and-a-half years, is designed to transform livelihoods and ecosystems across six island nations, namely Cabo Verde, Comoros,

Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Seychelles.

Ms. Immaculee Uwimana, GWPSA Senior Policy Advisor for the SIDS Project, explained the significance of the initiative: “What we are seeing is that African SIDS, despite their size, are pioneering scalable Blue Economy solutions. These are not only improving livelihoods at the community level but also shaping continental approaches to ocean governance. It’s proof that innovation and resilience can come from even the smallest of states.”

The project is helping the six island states to achieve integrated and cross-sectoral management of their Blue Economies.



Collaborative Ocean Solutions

The UNDP-GEF Project “Supporting Sustainable Inclusive Blue Economy Transformation in African Small Island Developing States (African SIDS)”, through the African Union Commission and GWPSA, participated in an IW: Learn Twinning Exchange organized as part of the Global Environment Facility International Waters

(GEF IW): LEARN 5 initiatives to promote collaboration and knowledge sharing between International Waters projects across regions. The exchange activities took place in Colombia and Belize from 27 October to 4 November 2025.

Under this framework, the African SIDS

Blue Economy Project (implemented by GWPSA) and the PROCARIBE+ Project (implemented by UNOPS) have been formally twinned to strengthen mutual learning and build capacity for sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy development in both the African and Caribbean SIDS regions.

The Africa SIDS Project is financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and led by UNDP as the GEF Implementing Agency, in partnership with GWPSA as the Executing Agency, while the African Union Commission is the focal custodian of the project implementation. It is being implemented in Cabo Verde, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Seychelles.

As part of the activities under the exchange, the African SIDS Project participated in the 78th Annual Meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 27–31 October 2025, which brought together scientists, fishers, policymakers, and

international organisations to advance collaborative ocean solutions. The PROCARIBE+ Project co-hosted the 78th Annual Meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, together with IOCaribe and other key partners from the Caribbean Region.

On 30 October 2025, the project attended a parallel session for the first Regional Partnership Forum, “Our Sea - Our Source - Our Future,” which was convened by the Secretariat of the Wider Caribbean Ocean Coordination Mechanism and its contributing partners. The Forum provided an opportunity to explore and facilitate regional and global stakeholder engagement in line with the concept of integrated and interactive ocean governance. It facilitated discussions on how the ocean stakeholders and practitioners’ community can jointly and collaboratively advance the regional ocean agenda, while reducing the existing fragmentation of efforts.





3.5 Cross-Cutting Issues

Cross-cutting issues are integral to Global Water Partnership Southern Africa's programme delivery, with 2025 efforts focused on strengthening youth

engagement, innovation, and knowledge exchange to support inclusive and sustainable water resources management across the region.

Youth Initiatives

Youth Participation at the AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit

The AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit, which took place in Cape Town in August 2025, involved Youth Water Investment Track, which hosted a three-day hackathon challenge. The hackathon aimed to inspire and engage aspiring young people to find sustainable solutions and develop investment opportunities that span water infrastructure, sanitation, irrigation, hydropower, and institutional capacity.

The main objective of the Youth Water Investment Track was to equip the young participants with key competencies to work together in a semi-facilitated innovation journey to turn a water challenge into a solution that they had to pitch and present during the Summit for feedback and acceleration.

Through collaboration and creative problem-solving, 28 young participants were encouraged to develop water-related business ideas that have a positive social and environmental impact. The youth were divided into five teams for the hackathon. The sessions included periods of intensive groupwork, peer exchange,

mentor guidance, opportunities for team-building activities, and social activities to help the young innovators interact with one another. The hackathon was designed to be interactive. The five groups worked in teams to develop solutions to address issues regarding water infrastructure, sanitation, irrigation, hydropower, and institutional capacity, with coaches available to guide them through the exercises and check in throughout the innovation journey.

The Youth Water Investment Track showcased Africa's next generation of innovators, culminating in the recognition of two youth-led solutions addressing water and sanitation challenges. The top two solutions were from Team BukaAmanzi from the University of Cape Town, whose solution, BukaAmanzi, is a digital transparency tool designed to bridge the gap between government water infrastructure data and community awareness; and Stellenbosch University, whose AquaLink innovation is a real-time water quality data platform using biosensors and Internet of Things technology.



Youths receive certificates for their participation in the Youth Water Investment Track at the Summit

Launch of INMACOM's Transboundary Digital Innovation Initiative

The official launch of the INMACOM Transboundary Digital Innovation Initiative, a year-long collaborative hackathon running from 2025–2026, took place in Mozambique in November, 2025.

The initiative, developed in partnership with HydroLogic, Blue Deal, and GWPSA, will bring together mixed-country teams comprising technical experts, young professionals, and water practitioners to co-design digital tools that enhance

cooperation on floods, droughts, water quality, and real-time data interoperability. The initiative was launched during the 8th International River and Environment Cooperation (REMCO) Conference, held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 3 to 7 November 2025.

The participating youths will be from the three Member States that share the Incomati and Maputo River Basins: Eswatini, Mozambique and South Africa.

Young professionals' voices in Groundwater Management amplified at the 7th SADC Groundwater Conference

The SADC - GIZ Transboundary Water Management Young Professionals (YP) Groundwater Session was hosted on the sidelines of the 7th SADC Groundwater Conference, in Johannesburg, South Africa. GWPSA supported organization of the session.

The session was aimed at:

1. Strengthening YPs' participation, leadership visibility, and knowledge exchange during the SADC Groundwater Conference.
2. Promoting meaningful inclusion of YPs in regional groundwater policy, research, management, and innovation dialogues.
3. Showcasing YP-led research, solutions, and dialogue with experts in groundwater management through strengthening the SADC partnership model for sustainable groundwater management and development.

This session was a key part of the initiative "Scaling the impact of thematic stakeholder exchanges on Transboundary

Water Management", supported by the German Government and executed by the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA) on behalf of the SADC Secretariat. The project is under the SADC-GIZ Transboundary Water Management (TWM) Programme (GIZ Botswana and SADC).

Youth engagement is a cornerstone for advancing transboundary water management and achieving the objectives of the SADC Regional Strategic Action Plan (RSAP V) on Integrated Water Resources Development and Management Phase V (2021-2025). Within this broader framework, youth engagement has been identified as a critical pillar for achieving impact under RSAP V Output 1.3, which emphasizes stronger participation of non-state actors, including young professionals and entrepreneurs, in water resources development and management.

04

COMMUNICATION AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

Communications and knowledge management remained central to GWPSA's efforts to enhance the visibility, influence, and impact of its programmes and partnerships throughout 2025. Through strategic storytelling, knowledge sharing, and stakeholder engagement, the organisation continued to document and communicate results from key initiatives, including the AU-GCF Multi-Country Readiness Initiative, CUVKUN, Limpopo, SADC Transboundary Water Management Programme, African SIDS, and other regional and continental interventions.

A diverse range of communication and knowledge products was developed to capture lessons, share experiences, promote project outcomes, and support advocacy and resource mobilisation efforts. These products included publications, videos, brochures, articles, digital content, and other knowledge resources targeting a wide range of stakeholders across Africa and beyond. Selected products produced during 2025 are highlighted below.

PROJECT NAME	PRODUCT NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	LINK
Continental Africa Water Investment Programme	AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit Cape Town Report	Following the successful convening of the AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit in August 2025, a Summit Report was developed. The report captures outcomes of the Summit which brought together more than 1,700 delegates from around the world, including Heads of States and Government, Ministers from 38 countries, investors, Multi-Lateral Development Banks, the private sector, youth, and civil society.	AU-AIP_Africa_Water_Investment_Summit_2025.pdf
	The Cape Town Declaration on Africa Water Investments in The Context Of G20	The AU-AIP Africa Water Investment Summit in August 2025 produced a Declaration in English, French and Portuguese.	English-Declaration.pdf French-Declaration.pdf Portuguese-Declaration.pdf
	Africa Water Investment Pipeline	A strategic portfolio of over 80 transformative water and climate-resilient infrastructure projects from across the African continent was showcased during the 2025 AU- AIP Africa Water Investment Summit in Cape Town, serving as a launchpad for investment, partnerships, and progress. Project fishes were developed, summarizing the projects and pitches for investors.	Investment pipeline - Africa Water Investment Program

PROJECT NAME	PRODUCT NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	LINK
	Africa Water Investment Outlook 2025	AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard, endorsed by AU Heads of State and Government to strengthen accountability and engagement with investors, has become a primary instrument to track progress and guide action. The 2025 edition introduces the Africa Water Investment Programme Index (AIPi), a composite index assessing countries' readiness to plan, finance, execute and sustain water investments across four equally weighted pillars. For this first continental baseline, 30 AU Member States submitted data through a coordinated campaign led by AUDA NEPAD, the African Union Commission (AUC) and the AIP Secretariat. The report will be launched in 2026.	
AIP CLIMATE RESILIENCE PROGRAMME			
AU-AIP Multi-Country GCF Readiness Initiative	AU-AIP Continental Knowledge Management Platform	The Africa Union's Continental Knowledge Platform, developed under its AU-AIP Multi-Country Green Climate Fund Readiness Support Initiative, is designed to address gaps in climate finance knowledge sharing and resource mobilization. The platform enables African Union Member States to access and exchange best practices, case studies, and technical insights on mobilizing climate finance for water security and climate resilience. It also serves as a hub for collaboration, learning, and technical support, helping stakeholders develop bankable water investment projects and connect with financiers, donors, and investors. The platform will be launched in 2026.	Knowledge Platform - Africa Water Investment Program
	Guideline for the Development of National Climate-Resilient Water Investment Programmes (WIP)	The Guideline was written to support government agencies in preparing documentation and developing processes to mobilise investment into the water sector. It recognises that governments will typically have some of these documents and processes already in place. The Guideline is designed to help strengthen what currently exists, and to provide a structured approach to closing any gaps that it helps to identify.	AIP-HLP-Guideline-for-the-Development-of-Water-Investment-Programmes.pdf

PROJECT NAME	PRODUCT NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	LINK
	Capacity Building Resources • Capacity Needs Assessment Reports • Capacity Development Plan	A number of countries that are implementing the AU-AIP Multi-Country GCF Readiness Initiative produced comprehensive Capacity Needs Assessment (CNA) reports and Capacity Development Plans (CDP) aimed at enhancing their ability to mobilise and manage climate finance effectively. The assessments identified critical gaps in technical expertise, institutional coordination, data systems, and policy frameworks, particularly within the National Designated Authority (NDA), which serves as the countries' focal point for GCF engagement.	Reports accessible on this link: Training - Africa Water Investment Program
	Training materials on climate finance	The AU-AIP Multi-county GCF Readiness Initiative is engaging participating countries in a comprehensive continental and national training programme aimed at strengthening the capacities of National Designated Authorities (NDAs) and key water sector stakeholders. The training aims to equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed to support the development of high-quality Green Climate Fund (GCF) proposals and concept notes, addressing a capacity gap that all participating countries have identified to varying degrees. Several modules were developed.	Training materials are accessible on this link: Training - Africa Water Investment Program
	Country specific videos on the implementation of the AU-AIP Multi-county GCF Readiness Initiative	Videos on the unique focus of the 15 countries implementing the AU-AIP Multi-county GCF Readiness Initiative have been produced. In the videos, country representatives outline the gaps and areas that the initiative seeks to address in their countries.	Videos can be accessed through each country's page via this link: Country - Africa Water Investment Program
	Video of the multi-country project	Video introduction to the African Union-led support to 20 African countries in accessing climate resilient water investments.	AIP - AU Support for Climate Resilient Water Investments
AIP TRANSBOUNDARY INVESTMENTS			
Enhanced Water Security and Community Resilience in the Adjacent Cuvelai and Kunene Transboundary River Basins (CUVKUN) Project	Project Brochure	A project brochure was produced in English and Portuguese, providing a summary of the details of the project.	

PROJECT NAME	PRODUCT NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	LINK
	Project Website & Webpage	A project website, through which all project information and milestones are disseminated, was developed. Further, a project webpage was created on the GWPSA website.	cuvkun.org
Integrated Transboundary River Basin Management for the Sustainable Development of the Limpopo River Basin Project	Information Management tool	The LIMIS, an interactive, web-based data and information management tool designed to collect, organize, and transform relevant data into actionable knowledge products to provide knowledge-based support to LIMCOM Member States, was developed.	LIMIS
UNDP-GEF Project “Supporting Sustainable Inclusive Blue Economy”	Project brochure	A project brochure was produced in English, French and Portuguese, providing a summary of the details of the project.	
	Short video	The UNDP-GEF Project “Supporting Sustainable Inclusive Blue Economy Transformation in African Small Island Developing States (African SIDS)”, through the African Union Commission and GWPSA, participated in an IW: Learn Twinning Exchange organised as part of the Global Environment Facility International Waters (GEF IW): LEARN 5 initiatives to promote collaboration and knowledge sharing between International Waters projects across regions. The exchange activities took place in Colombia and Belize from 27 October to 4 November 2025.	African SIDS Twinning Exchange Video
	Project webpage	A project webpage was created on the GWPSA website.	UNDP-GEF Project “Supporting Sustainable Inclusive Blue Economy Transformation in African Small Island Developing States (SIDS) – Southern Africa”

05

FINANCIAL REPORT

Presented below is a summary of financial results of the GWPSA Secretariat based in Pretoria, South Africa for the year ended 31st December 2025.

5.1 Funding

Total funds available for GWPSA programmes for 2025 amounted to €6.37 million (a 15% decrease from €7.52 million reported in 2024), consisting of funds raised globally through GWPO, regionally (GWPSA Secretariat) and at country level (Tanzania).

Globally Raised Funds

Funds allocated to the region from GWPO during 2025 amounted to €0.52 million, down from €1.08 million that was allocated in 2024 (representing a 52% decrease).

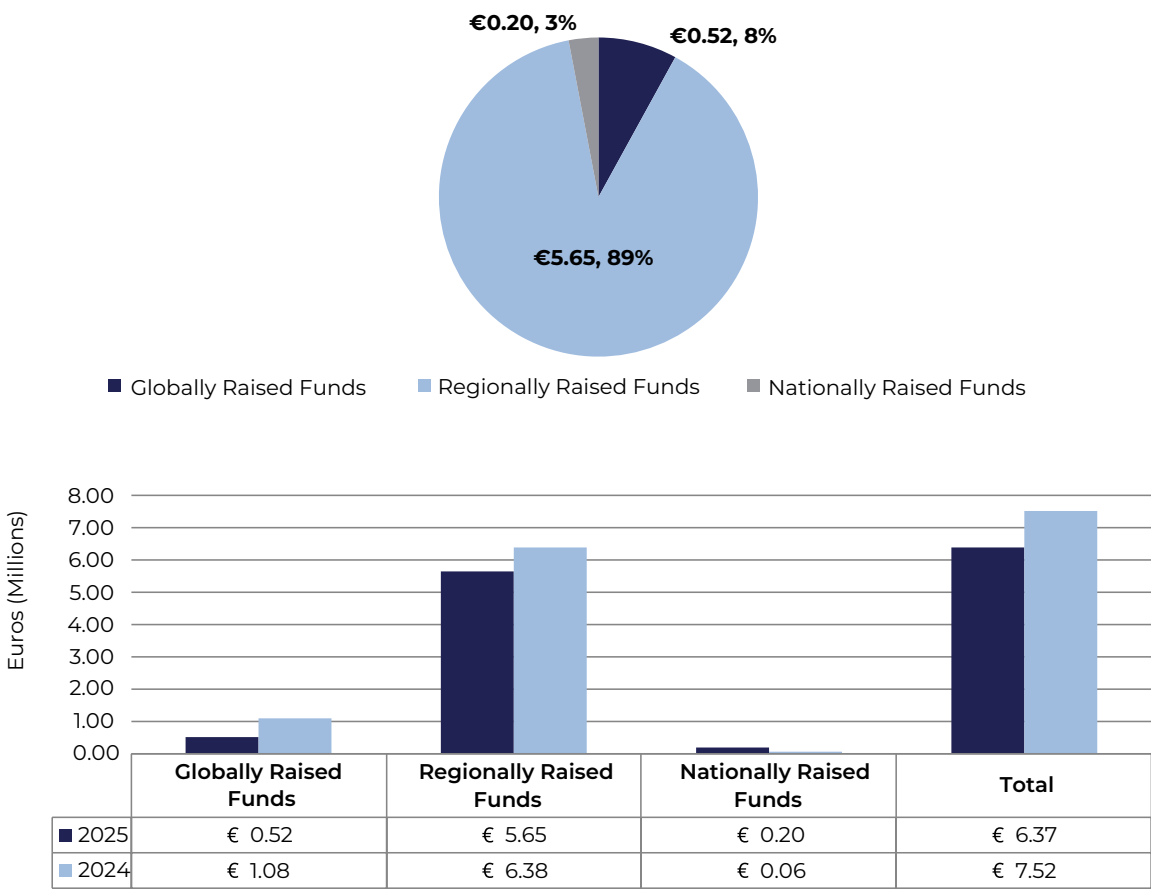
Regionally Raised Funds

Total regionally available funds for expenditure for the year amounted to €5.65 million, down by 11% from €6.38 million that was regionally raised in 2024. The Funds consisted of locally mobilized funds from donors, including the GEF/UNDP, GCF, GIZ, UNCCD and UNEP.

Nationally Raised Funds

Funds raised Nationally for 2025 amounted to €0.20 million (up by 223% from €0.06 million raised in 2024) which was mobilized by the Global Water Partnership Tanzania. Funds for Tanzania were mobilized through SADC GMI and Oxford Policy Management.

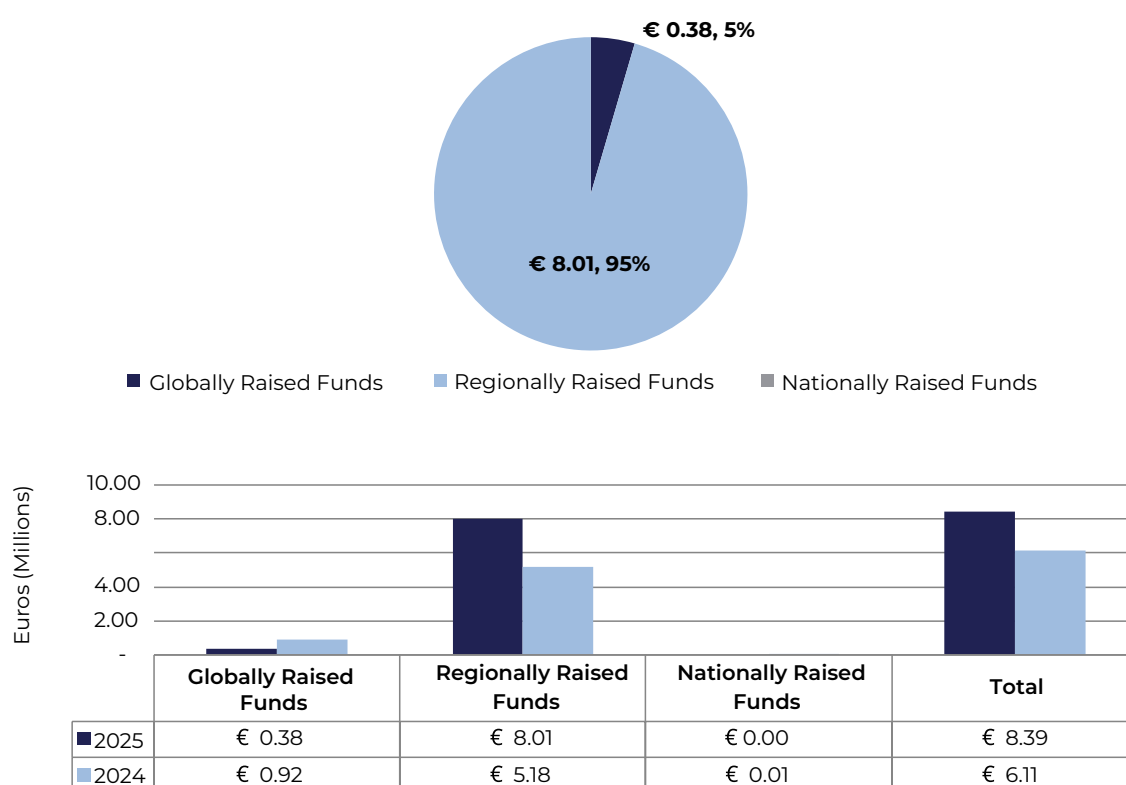
Funding source by category (2025)



5.2 Expenditure

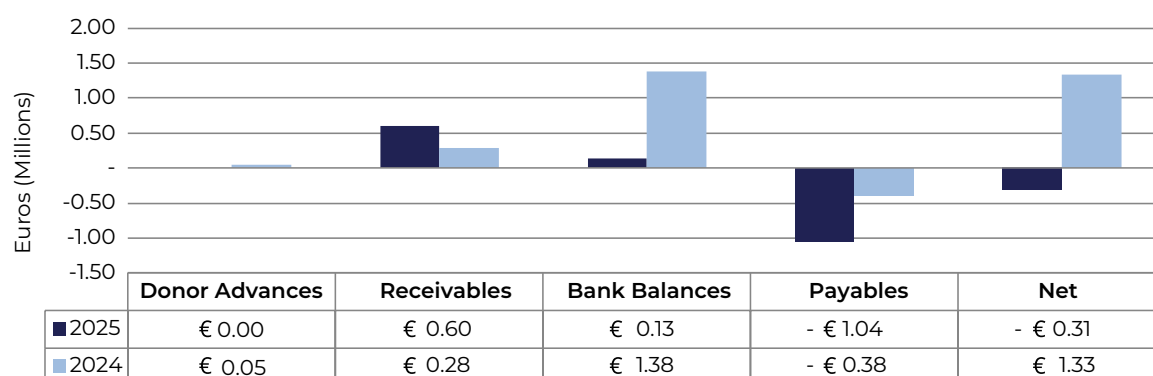
A total of €8,39 million was spent on GWPSA Programmes during the year ended 31st December 2025 up by 37% from €6.11 million spent in 2024. Out of this total expenditure, €0.38 million (4.5%) was from Globally Raised Funds and €8.01 million (95.5%) from Regionally Raised Funds.

Expenditure by funding category (2025)



5.3 Balance Sheet

The Net Balance sheet for GWPSA has declined from €1.33 million in 2024 to €0.33 million in 2025. The decline is attributed to a 91% decrease in Bank balances from €1.38 million in 2024 to €0.128 million in 2025. This is owing to the delay in the receipt of the second tranche from UNOPS/GCF.



06

COUNTRY WATER PARTNERSHIPS

6.1 GWPSA Country Water Partnership Leadership

Country	Leadership*
Angola	Chair: Mr José João da Silva Neto (Acting)
Botswana	Chair: Prof. Piet Kebuang Kenabatho
Comoros	Coordinator: Ms Chadhouliati Abdou Chakour (Acting)
DRC	Chair: Prof. Yvonne Ibekeke Saila
Eswatini	Chair: Mr Bheki Ginindza Coordinator: Ms Sindi Mthimkhulu
Lesotho	Chair: Mr Seriti Phate Coordinator: Mr Ntiea Letsapo
Madagascar	Coordinator: Mr Simon Robison Randriatsiferana (Acting)
Malawi	Chair: Dr Judith Kamoto Coordinator: Engineer Dr Theresa Mkandawire
Mauritius	Coordinator: Dr Manta Nowbuth (Acting)
Mozambique	Coordinator: Mr Messias Macie (Acting)
Namibia	Chair: Mr Johannes Sirunda Coordinator: Ms Ndina Nashipili
South Africa	Chair: Ms Lindiwe Lusenga (Acting)
Tanzania	Chair: Mr Ngwisa Mpembe Coordinator: Ms Diana Kimbute
Zambia	Chair: Engineer Kelvin Chitumbo Coordinator: Ms Margaret Samulela
Zimbabwe	Chair: Engineer Shepherd Shereni (Acting) Coordinator: Ms Constance Mhuuriro

* as of 30 January 2026

6.2 GWPSA Partners by Organization Type

Organisation type	Number*
Advocacy Group/Lobby Group	1
Education Institution: University/Training/Other	16
Enterprise: Comp/Corp/Consultancy/ Private/Other	24
Government Ministry or Department	41
National RBO	1
Network	5
Regional Economic Community	1
NGO: Assoc/Co-op/Charity/Religious/Other	83
Other	11
Other International Organization	1
Professional Association	5
Public Agency or Commission	36
Public Utility	1
Research Institution	18
TOTAL	244

6.3 GWPSA Partners by Country

Country	Number*
Angola	3
Botswana	8
Democratic Republic of Congo	10
Eswatini	23
Lesotho	28
Malawi	25
Mauritius	5
Mozambique	34
Namibia	20
South Africa	21
Tanzania	19
Zambia	57
Zimbabwe	42
TOTAL	295

* as of 30 January 2026

07

GWPSA BOARD



His Excellency President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, Global Water Partnership Southern Africa Africa Coordination Unit Chair



Mr Harsen Nyambe, Director of the AUC's Directorate of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy



Engineer Munashe Mvura, Global Water Partnership Southern Africa Africa Coordination Unit Vice-Chair



Engineer Kelvin Chitumbo, Director of the National Water Supply and Sanitation Council in Zambia



Her Excellency Chileshe Kapwepwe, Secretary General of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa



Prof. Piet Kebuang Kenabatho, Associate Professor at the University of Botswana



Ms Nchedi Sophia Maphokga-Moripe, Chief Director, Global Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships in South Africa's Department of Water and Sanitation



Mr Andrew Takawira, GWPSA Interim Executive Secretary, Ex officio member



Dr Patrice Kabeya, Senior Programme Officer for Water at the SADC Secretariat



Sara Oppenheimer, GWP Network Officer for Southern Africa, Caribbean, Central America and South America



Mrs Emelda Mapule Dlamini-Magagula, Senior Water Engineer – Infrastructure at the Department of Water Affairs in Eswatini



Ms Dina Ravaka Ramaromandray, ex officio member, youth representative on the GWPSA Steering Committee. Legal Counsel, Ministry of Water, Energy, and Hydrocarbons in Madagascar

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