

AU-AIP AFRICA WATER INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2025

13 - 15 August 2025
Cape Town, South Africa



AU AIP WATER INVESTMENT SUMMIT: PROJECT SHOWCASE

PROGRAMME/ PROJECT OVERVIEW	
Project name	Glassblock Bopoma Dam & Pipeline Project
Location (Country, Region, Coordinates)	Filabusi.
Involved countries (if regional)	Zimbabwe.
Sub-Sector (Water Supply, Sanitation, Irrigation, Flood Management)	Water Supply, Sanitation, Irrigation, Flood Management, Solar Energy
Project description (Goals and expected outcomes)	Alleviate Bulawayo water shortages and promote economic development within Dam's radius.
Technological details/ innovation	The Dam, a 2.8km long crest, 40m high earth fill embankment will pump water 32-33km to Ncema waterworks.
Governance improvements / innovation	The project is being implemented as a government-endorsed Public-Private Partnership (PPP).
IMPLEMENTATION & KEY PLAYERS	
Lead institution	Glassblock Dam Company
Implementing agent(s)	JRG Consortium
Sponsors / Investors / Contractors / Advisors	JR Goddard Consortium - Prospective Equity Investor Standard Bank - Prospective Debt Funder AfDB (African Development Bank) - Prospective Debt Funder Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA) Bulawayo City Council (BCC) – Anchor Offtaker
PROJECT TIMELINE & DEVELOPMENT STAGE	
Year of preparation, estimated start & end dates	The Bopoma Dam project was prepared between 2019 and 2025, with an estimated construction period from 2025 to 2027. Operations are expected to start in 2028 and continue for over 60 years.
Current development stage	Land clearing is complete, BCC has approved the Draft Water Purchase Agreement subject to negotiations, a 25-year water permit has been issued, and the ESIA is on track for September 2025 completion.
PROJECT RATIONALE & STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE	
Alignment with national/regional plans, SDGs, Agenda 2063	SDG 6 (Clean Water): SDG 1 (No Poverty): SDG 13 (Climate Action): SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy)
Contribution to NDC's and alignment with NAPs / Adaptation and Mitigation measures	The project enhances climate change adaptation by securing Bulawayo's water supply and mitigating impacts through improved water accessibility in arid regions.
Paradigm shift potential (scalability, replicability, policy or behaviour change)	This project demonstrates PPP potential in Zimbabwe for critical infrastructure, offering a replicable, cost-effective model for sustainable water management and policy influence.
FINANCIAL & INVESTMENT DETAILS	
Total project cost, currency	US 99,204,920
Funding already raised (amount & sources)	Expressions of interest for just over US 90million have been generated for different stages of the project.
Proposed revenue model	Under the water purchase agreement, the city will pay for water delivered at US0.90c per cubic meter which will be reduced to US0.70c in the long run.
Financial metrics (IRR, Payback Period,	The project boasts an IRR of 12%, a 12-year payback period post-

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DSCR, NPV) available? Y/N, date	commissioning, a DSCR of 1.43 over the loan term, an NPV (at 10%) of USD 33,229,310, and a 92% ROI over the concession period.
Economic performance (Benefit-Cost Ratio) Y/N, date	To be conducted
INVESTMENT ASK & WAY FORWARD	
Remaining investment required: project component & type (Loan/Equity/Grant/Guarantee/insurance)	Although pledges of investment have been received, investment opportunities for the full required investment amount remain open.
Opportunity for bundling with other projects (Y/N, date)	The project aims to drive rural industrialization through irrigation projects in nearby areas, implying potential bundling with agricultural development initiatives.
Next steps	Next steps include finalizing agreements with RBZ and Bulawayo City Council, converting investor interest into monetary commitments, and commencing construction.
TARGET GROUPS & SOCIAL IMPACT	
Direct beneficiary population per project component	The Bopoma Dam project is vital for Bulawayo's 650,000+ residents, addressing water insecurity, boosting economic well-being, aiding local irrigation, and creating over 500 jobs. Furthermore, the city will benefit due to increased industrialization as water constraints will be alleviated for manufacturers leading to increased output.
Social & gender impact assessment (Y/N, date)	Public consultations indicate the project set to address water scarcity's disproportionate impact on women and girls.
Job creation estimate / local economic benefit assessment (Y/N, date)	Estimated over 500 jobs for locals during construction; will drive rural industrialization and agricultural development.
SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS	
Environmental compliance & climate assessment (Y/N, date)	The project's location was adjusted to avoid sacred sites after environmental review, aiming to mitigate climate change impacts on water resources.
Environmental impact assessment (Y/N, date)	A full scope ESIA exercise is to be undertaken soon, however, initial environmental related assessments indicate benefits to climate resilience and ecosystem support.
ESG performance (Y/N, date)	To be conducted.
Safeguards & community engagement (Y/N, date)	Consultations across 29 wards, involving key stakeholders and traditional leaders, demonstrate strong community engagement and cultural safeguards.
RISK MANAGEMENT	
Main risks & mitigation measures (Political, Legal, etc)	Bopoma Dam faces financial, timeline, and tariff risks, mitigated by investor talks, government commitment, water agreements, and addressing environmental/cultural concerns.
Constraints or bottlenecks to finance	The main constraint is converting expressions of interest into firm monetary commitments.
CONTACT INFORMATION	
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