

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	Groot Letaba River Development Project (GLeWAP): Nwamitwa Dam
Location (Country, Region, Coordinates)	Republic of South Africa; Limpopo Province; 23° 45' 15" S and 30° 09' 58" E
Involved countries (if regional)	N/A
Sub-Sector (Water Supply, Sanitation, Irrigation, Flood Management..)	Water Supply & Irrigation
Project description (Goals and expected outcomes)	The construction of a dam on the Groot Letaba River at Nwamitwa to meet the projected growing primary water requirements of the area, prevent further degradation of the riverine ecosystem, improve the assurance of water supplies to the irrigation sector and make water available for the establishment of resource-poor farmers in the irrigated agriculture sector.
Technological details/ innovation	Dam Classification: Category 3, Dam type: Earthfill embankment Crest Length: 3 500 m Height: 34 m; Embankment crest width:10 m; Base width (max): 126 m; Non-overspill crest: 486.0 masl; Full supply level: 479.5 masl; Gross storage capacity:187 million m ³ Spillway type: Straight ogee spillway
Governance improvements / innovation	Water security and water allocation reform through the allocation of water to resource-poor farmers
IMPLEMENTATION & KEY PLAYERS	
Lead institution	Department of Water & Sanitation
Implementing agent(s)	Department of Water & Sanitation, Lepelle Northern Water
Sponsors / Investors / Contractors / Advisors	Department of Water & Sanitation
PROJECT TIMELINE & DEVELOPMENT STAGE	
Year of preparation, estimated start & end dates	Year of preparation: 2013 Estimated Start Date: 2027 (currently under review) Estimated End Date: 2032 (currently under review)
Current development stage	Pre-construction
PROJECT RATIONALE & STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE	
Alignment with national/regional plans, SDGs, Agenda 2063	Strategic Infrastructure Project (SIP 19) of the National Infrastructure Plan; Aligns with SDGs 1, 2, 6, 8, 9 & 10; Supports Goals 1, 4, 5 & 7 of Agenda 2063
Contribution to NDC's and alignment with NAPs / Adaptation and Mitigation measures	N/A
Paradigm shift potential (scalability, replicability, policy or behaviour change)	N/A
FINANCIAL & INVESTMENT DETAILS	
Total project cost, currency	US\$ 416 million
Funding already raised (amount & sources)	US\$ 35 million (SA Government Appropriations for Department of Water & Sanitation)

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Proposed revenue model	Bulk raw water sales to municipal off-takers and irrigators with tariffs based on Department of Water & Sanitation's Raw Water Pricing Strategy	
Financial metrics (IRR, Payback Period, DSCR, NPV) available? Y/N, date	N	
Economic performance (Benefit-Cost Ratio) Y/N, date	N	
INVESTMENT ASK & WAY FORWARD		
Remaining investment required: project component & type (Loan/Equity/Grant/Guarantee/insurance)	Project Component: Dam Investment required: Grant	
Opportunity for bundling with other projects (Y/N, date)	Y (Groot Letaba River Development Project (GLEWAP): Regional Bulk Water Distribution Infrastructure)	
Next steps	Conduct commercial viability assessment, Secure project funding Undertake pre-construction activities	
TARGET GROUPS & SOCIAL IMPACT		
Direct beneficiary population per project component	Greater Tzaneen, Greater Letaba and Greater Giyani Local Municipalities Population (No.): 241,248 Employment (%): 55%	
Social & gender impact assessment (Y/N, date)	Y (March 2010)	
Job creation estimate / local economic benefit assessment (Y/N, date)	Y (March 2010)	
SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS		
Environmental compliance & climate assessment (Y/N, date)	Y (August 2010)	
Environmental impact assessment (Y/N, date)	Y (August 2010)	
ESG performance (Y/N, date)	Y (August 2010)	
Safeguards & community engagement (Y/N, date)	Y (August 2010)	
RISK MANAGEMENT		
Main risks & mitigation measures (Political, Legal, etc)	Risk Description	Mitigation Measures
	Land acquisition claims	Extensive engagements with affected landowners
	Insufficient funding	Source additional funding
Constraints or bottlenecks to finance	SA Government fiscal constraints	
CONTACT INFORMATION		
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