AU AIP WATER INVESTMENT SUMMIT: PROJECT SHOWCASE

PROGRAMME/ PROJECT OVERVIEW	
Project name	Malawi Integrated Water Resilience and Circular Economy Project (MIWR-CE): Scaling Up Climate Resilient Water Security, Sanitation and Waste to Resource Solutions through Integrated Adaptation
Location (Country, Region, Coordinates)	Malawi (all 28 districts)
Sub-Sector (Water Supply, Sanitation, Irrigation, Flood Management..)	Water Security, Sanitation, Waste to Resource (so Water Supply, Sanitation, Flood Management, and Circular Economy)
Project description (Goals and expected outcomes)	Enhance climate resilience through integrated water security, sanitation, and circular economy solutions. Output 1: Development of a Flood Management Master Plan and Implementation of Integrated Ecosystem-Based Solutions; Output 2: Expansion and Integration of Flood Forecasting and Hydrometeorological Modeling; Output 3: Institutional Capacity Building for Climate-Resilient Infrastructure and Systems Development; Output 4: Community-Based Training and Awareness for Flood and Ecosystem Management; Expected overall outcomes: Improved water security, sanitation, and resilience; reduced vulnerability to floods and droughts; enhanced institutional capacity; job creation; gender empowerment.
Technological details/ innovation	Sand dams, managed aquifer recharge, ecosystem-based stormwater systems (wetlands/buffer zones), climate-resilient embankments, digital early-warning systems, GIS-based asset management, mobile monitoring tools.
Governance improvements / innovation	Standardized climate-screening protocols for WASH projects; inter-ministerial coordination; community-led flood monitoring networks; GEDSI-responsive planning aligned with Malawi's National Gender Policy.
IMPLEMENTATION & KEY PLAYERS	
Lead institution	Government of Malawi
Implementing agent(s)	National Water Resources Authority (NWRA), District Councils, Local NGOs
Sponsors / Investors / Contractors / Advisors	Sponsors: Ministry of Water and Sanitation (MoWS) Investors: pending: development partners, public sector, Advisors: Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining - Environmental Affairs Department
PROJECT TIMELINE & DEVELOPMENT STAGE	
Year of preparation, estimated start & end dates	Preparation began Jan 2025, Feasibility Study December 2026 or early 2027; FFP submission expected 2028, years expected duration: 6
Current development stage	Concept Note – Under Development: seeking $2.5 M US in preparatory funding for full proposal development

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PROJECT RATIONALE & STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE	
Alignment with national/regional plans, SDGs, Agenda 2063	Aligns with Malawi's National Climate Change Management Policy, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Malawi 2063 Vision, and SDGs: - A Malawi GCF Country Programme priority. - Directly supports Malawi's National Climate Change Policy and NDCs by targeting climate-resilient WASH infrastructure, water efficiency, and flood management. - Complements national programmes like MWASIP, CREWS, and M-CLIMES by integrating watershed management with climate risk and early warning data. - Advances Malawi 2063 Vision and AU Agenda 2063 goals through inclusive, sustainable, and climate-resilient development. - Contributes directly to SDGs 5 (gender), 6 (water), 13 (climate), and 11 (sustainable communities), with co-benefits for health, terrestrial environment and poverty reduction.
Contribution to NDC's and alignment with NAPs / Adaptation and Mitigation measures	This adaptation project focusing on building resilience in water, sanitation, and waste management, addresses climate impacts (floods, droughts) and aims to reduce vulnerability: thus supporting Malawi's NDC priorities by enhancing climate-resilient WASH systems, promoting water harvesting and demand management, and improving waste management to reduce emissions—aligning with adaptation goals outlined in the NDC and the evolving National Adaptation Plan (NAP).
Paradigm shift potential (scalability, replicability, policy or behaviour change)	High - Integrates Nature-based Solutions (NbS) (40% interventions) with grey infrastructure, promotes circular economy in waste-to-resource management, and enhances institutional and community capacity. It is scalable within Malawi and potentially replicable in similar contexts esp. across SADC.
FINANCIAL & INVESTMENT DETAILS	
Total project cost, currency	$50M US (as per A.9 and C.1): GCF funding request is USD 45 million (90% of total).
Funding already raised (amount & sources)	Pending – Discussions underway to Government of Malawi to provide co-financing; Preparatory funding required.
Proposed revenue model	N/A
Financial metrics (IRR, Payback Period, DSCR, NPV) available? Y/N, date	N, pending Financial, Legal and Institutional Structuring (FLIS)
Economic performance (Benefit-Cost Ratio) Y/N, date	N/A (to be completed with Concept Note Final Submission July 2026). High ROI expected via avoided flood damage ($335M in 2015) and improved agricultural productivity
INVESTMENT ASK & WAY FORWARD	
Remaining investment required: project component & type	$2.5M US for remaining feasibility studies and preparation of FFP (mainly Grant). Discussions underway with government on

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(Loan/Equity/Grant/Guarantee/insurance)	level of co-financing available.
Opportunity for bundling with other projects (Y/N, date)	TBD
Next steps	Secure preparatory funding ($2.5 M US) to complete the full funding proposal. Complete feasibility studies (ESIA, pipeline, FLIS, etc.) by 2026 or early 2027, identify implementation agent, FFP submission to GCF by 2028.
TARGET GROUPS & SOCIAL IMPACT	
Direct beneficiary population per project component	Outcome 1: 2 million people expected to benefit from improved water infrastructure; Outcome 2: 1,000,000 people expected to benefit from climate-smart sanitation; Outcome 3: 20,000 ha of catchments restored; Outcome 4: 15+ councils trained; Outcome 5: 50+ staff trained; 30+ systems using risk data; Outcome 6: 80,000+ jobs; of which 50% women beneficiaries. Total: 3M persons+
Social & gender impact assessment (Y/N, date)	N, planned: pending ESIA. This project is gender-responsive infrastructure, women-led enterprises, GBV prevention in shelters, disaggregated monitoring.
Job creation estimate / local economic benefit assessment (Y/N, date)	N, planned: pending ESIA: refer to initial Outcome estimates indicated above. 80,000+ jobs in ecosystem restoration, sanitation services, climate-resilient infrastructure.
SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS	
Environmental compliance & climate assessment (Y/N, date)	N, planned: pending ESIA, due Dec 2026. Expected: ESS Category B (moderate risk).
Environmental impact assessment (Y/N, date)	N, planned: pending ESIA, at FFP drafting stage
ESG performance (Y/N, date)	N, planned: pending ESIA.
Safeguards & community engagement (Y/N, date)	N, planned: pending ESIA. Local Governance and Community consultations under way; GEDSI action plan would be integrated.
RISK MANAGEMENT	
Main risks & mitigation measures (Political, Legal, etc)	- Co-financing delays: Advanced negotiations with development partners; diversified funding strategy. - Institutional capacity gaps: Embedded training for 50+ technical staff; digital asset management tools. - Climate variability: Redundant water sources (aquifers/surface); real-time early-warning systems. - Stakeholder alignment: Ensure detailed stakeholder mapping.
Constraints or bottlenecks to finance	Need for $2.5M US for feasibility.
CONTACT INFORMATION	
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