

AU-AIP AFRICA WATER INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2025

13 - 15 August 2025
Cape Town, South Africa



AU AIP WATER INVESTMENT SUMMIT: PROJECT SHOWCASE TEMPLATE

PROGRAMME/ PROJECT OVERVIEW	
Project name	Optimizing Climate-smart Ag Practices through expansion of climate resilient irrigation integrated with small dam infrastructure and the recovery of floodwater and water resources in the Kayes region
Location	Republic of Mali – Kayes Region
Involved countries (if regional)	N/A
Sub-Sector	Drought Management to support sustainable Water Supply Access and Agriculture for climate resilient livelihoods
Project description (Goals and expected outcomes)	Climate resilient livelihoods and flood proofing of agricultural areas in the Bani Basin: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Result 1: Enhance ecosystem supported climate-resilient water infrastructure Result 2: Climate-Smart Agriculture Enhancement Result 3: Institutional and Community Capacity Building
Technological details/ innovation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-purpose Flood Control and Water Storage Infrastructure Strengthening Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) with modern irrigation. Application of Nature Based Solutions (NbS) for flood control, water storage and sustaining eco-systems. Enhance institutional and community capacity through updated climate informed policies and equip local authorities and water management organizations with technical training and financial planning tools to sustainably manage.
Governance improvements / innovation	Paradigm shift integrates nature-based solutions with modern infrastructure to create climate-adaptive water systems that support both drought resilience and flood mitigation. Improve organizations with technical training and financial planning tools to sustainably oversee climate-adaptive water systems and monitor water levels and aridity.
IMPLEMENTATION & KEY PLAYERS	
Lead institution	Government of Mali
Implementing agent(s)	TBD
Sponsors / Investors / Contractors / Advisors	Sponsors: Government of Mali, Advisors: The National Directorate of Hydraulics (DNH), Ministry of Energy and Water (MEA) and Ministry Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
PROJECT TIMELINE and DEVELOPMENT STAGE	
Year of preparation, estimated start & end dates	Preparation began Jan 2025, Feasibility Study to be completed December 2026 or early 2027
Current development stage	Concept Note – Under Development
PROJECT RATIONALE AND STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE	
Alignment with national/regional plans, SDGs, Agenda 2063	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mali's Vision 2040 and Strategic Framework for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development provide pathways for climate integration Mali's National Water Policy Alignment with National Program for IWRM (2019-30) Strategic Framework for Growth and Poverty Reduction (CSCR)
Contribution to NDC's and alignment with NAPs / Adaptation and Mitigation measures	Mali's updated NDC links climate change challenges like droughts to agricultural sustainability and food security. It outlines emission reduction efforts across sectors, emphasizing climate-resilient farming and sustainable land use. The strategy supports practices that improve soil health, boost carbon sequestration, and reinforce resilience in the face of climate extremes.
Paradigm shift potential (scalability, replicability, policy or behaviour change)	High - transformative shift in water governance, agricultural resilience, and institutional capacity for Mali. Traditional practices have struggled to cope with increasing climate variability, intensifying droughts, and ecosystem degradation. The shift toward multi-purpose water infrastructure, nature based solutions, and sustainable agricultural systems will alter how communities within the region manage climate risks, ensuring socio-economic stability. Implementation of sustainable financial models to support operations and maintenance of dams and eco-systems.

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FINANCIAL & INVESTMENT DETAILS	
Total project cost, currency	\$28.0M USD
Funding already raised (amount & sources)	Pending – Discussions underway to Government of Mali to provide co-financing
Proposed revenue model	Bulk water sales; direct government borrowing offers lowest water cost. To be refined via FLIS.
Financial metrics (IRR, Payback Period, DSCR, NPV) available? Y/N, date	N, pending Financial, Legal and Institutional Structuring (FLIS) Funding Proposal stage
Economic performance (Benefit-Cost Ratio) Y/N, date	N/A (to be completed with Concept Note Final Submission July 2026)
INVESTMENT ASK & WAY FORWARD	
Remaining investment required:	\$2.5M USD for remaining feasibility studies (mainly Grant). Discussions underway with government on level of co-financing available
Opportunity for bundling with other projects (Y/N, date)	Not yet determined
Next steps	Complete feasibility studies (ESIA, pipeline, FLIS, etc.) by 2026 or early 2027, identify implementation agent, financial close by 2028
TARGET GROUPS & SOCIAL IMPACT	
<u>Direct beneficiary</u> population per project component.	Rural agriculture small holder farms and small communities in the Bani Basin estimated to be approx. 450,000 people (Khassonkés, Sarakolés, Peulhs, Bambaras and Moors.)
Social & gender impact assessment (Y/N, date)	N, pending ESIA
Job creation estimate / local economic benefit assessment (Y/N, date)	N, pending ESIA
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS	
Environmental compliance & Climate assessment (Y/N, date)	N, pending ESIA (planned by Dec 2026)
Environmental impact assessment (Y/N, date)	N, planned by Dec 2026
ESG performance (Y/N, date)	N, pending ESIA
Safeguards & community engagement (Y/N, date)	N, pending ESIA
RISK MANAGEMENT	
Main risks & mitigation measures (Political, Legal, etc)	Stakeholders alignment, affordability Size of project, market sounding, off takers determination, cost effectiveness, decision making, harmonization of policy, programmes and legal frameworks
Constraints or bottlenecks to finance	Need for 2.5M USD for feasibility; slow mobilization of donor funding
CONTACT INFORMATION AND CONSENT	
Institution name(s)	Agency for Environment and Sustainable Development (AEDD) (NDA)