

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	Raising of the Hawanee Dam to supply Mbabane with potable water
Location (Country, Region, Coordinates)	Eswatini
Involved countries (if regional)	Mbabane
Sub-Sector (Water Supply, Sanitation, Irrigation, Flood Management..)	IWRM – Water Supply
Project description (Goals and expected outcomes)	<p>The proposed Mbabane water supply project leverages existing infrastructure to reduce costs significantly compared to constructing a new dam. It utilizes a gravity-fed system to efficiently supply water, greatly reducing power expenses. Raising the dam by 4 meters will expand water storage capacity from 2.75 Mm³ to 6.32 Mm³, enhancing drought resilience. Minimal social disruption is anticipated, although relocation of 750 meters of the Main Road and construction of a new elevated footbridge will be necessary. Technical feasibility was completed in 2022 and the ESIA was approved in 2024.</p> <p>In the African Water Facility (AWF) funded studies, including the Nondvo dam, two short-term interventions were identified, one of which is this project, prioritized by the Government of Eswatini. The capital city of Mbabane urgently requires improved water supply due to water stress caused by dry spells and droughts. The city experienced water rationing during the severe drought period of 2016.</p> <p>Project Costs (Million USD, 2024):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction: \$8.5M Contingencies: \$0.8M Engineering costs: \$0.4M Implementation Construction Cost: \$9.8M MR1 relocation (subject to confirmation): \$0.5M (requires further study) Environmental: \$2.3M Total Implementation Cost: \$12.5M
IMPLEMENTATION & KEY PLAYERS	
Lead institution	Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy
Implementing agent(s)	Eswatini Water Services Corporation (EWSC)
PROJECT TIMELINE & DEVELOPMENT STAGE	
Year of preparation, estimated start & end dates	Studies finalized in december 2021
Current development stage	Upstream phase done
FINANCIAL & INVESTMENT DETAILS	

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Total project cost, currency	USD 12,500,000
TARGET GROUPS & SOCIAL IMPACT	
Direct beneficiary population per project component	300,000
Social & gender impact assessment (Y/N, date)	Yes
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS	
Environmental impact assessment (Y/N, date)	Yes
ESG performance (Y/N, date)	N/A
Safeguards & community engagement (Y/N, date)	Yes, Resettlement Action Plan (RAP)
CONTACT INFORMATION AND CONSENT	
AIP Secretariat	info@aipwater.org