

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	Strategic Actions for Climate Resilient Water Resources Management in the Orange-Senqu River Basin
Location (Country, Region, Coordinates)	Orange-Senqu River Basin
Involved countries (if regional)	Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa
Sub-Sector (Water Supply, Sanitation, Irrigation, Flood Mgt.	Water resources management, climate resilience and adaptation, digital infrastructure to support water security
Project description (Goals and expected outcomes)	The ORASECOM Council approved nine strategic actions – water resources management projects contributing to the sustainability of water resources & ecosystems, that would otherwise be disrupted by infrastructure development. Expected outcomes are: (1) Equitable, efficient, and sustainable use of the Orange-Senqu River Basin's water resources through improved planning, updated hydrology and environmental flow regimes, and integrated resource modelling. (2) Water security and resilience through harmonisation of infrastructure planning, dealing with demand-side efficiencies & strengthening drought/flood preparedness across and (3) Long-term institutional sustainability through technical capacity & cooperative governance.
Technological details/ innovation	Strategic Actions proposed under ORASECOM's Climate Resilient Investment Plan represent a significant shift from business-as-usual transboundary water management to a forward-looking, climate-resilient, and digitally enabled approach. Interventions include real-time monitoring systems, basin-wide data platforms, advanced hydraulic and economic modelling tools, and environmental flow optimisation to support evidence-based planning and adaptive management. Investments in water demand management will leverage innovative technologies to improve efficiency in water use. This will provide the foundation for smarter, more adaptive responses to climate variability, while ensuring that major infrastructure projects are evidence based, consider transboundary impacts & uphold ecological sustainability.
Governance improvements / innovation	The Strategic Actions will strengthen governance & institutional coordination across the Orange-Senqu River Basin. Instead of fragmented national initiatives, the plan promotes harmonised planning and shared guidelines for equitable water allocation, infrastructure synchronization, disaster risk management whilst ensuring long-term sustainability, improved accountability, and regional cooperation. Capacity building will institutionalise evidence based operational planning & joint decision-making.
IMPLEMENTATION & KEY PLAYERS	
Lead institution	Secretariat of the Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM)
Implementing agent(s)	Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM) and the four countries: Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa
Sponsors / Investors / Contractors / Advisors	Africa Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme – Global Environment Facility, Governments of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa.

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PROJECT TIMELINE & DEVELOPMENT STAGE	
Year of preparation, estimated start & end dates	Strategic Actions were approved by the ORASECOM Council in July 2024.
Current development stage	Detailed concept notes have been developed for the nine strategic actions.
PROJECT RATIONALE & STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE	
Alignment with national/regional plans, SDGs, Agenda 2063	Strategic Actions support the implementation of the Orange-Senqu IWRM Plan, which is grounded in the national water policies, climate adaptation strategies & infrastructure plans of the four partner countries and regional strategies coordinated by SADC.
Contribution to NDC's and alignment with NAPs / Adaptation and Mitigation measures	Strategic Actions directly contribute to the adaptation priorities outlined in the NDCs and NAPs of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa which all emphasize water security, ecosystem resilience, early warning, & climate-resilient infrastructure.
Paradigm shift potential (scalability, replicability, policy or behaviour change)	The approach marks a shift from reactive, fragmented, & sector-specific responses to an integrated, and climate-resilient approach building a scalable and replicable framework for transboundary water governance. The technologies & models introduced e.g. real-time data platforms, decision-support systems, and environmental flow regimes can be scaled and adapted. Municipalities, water users, and policymakers will use practical tools & incentives that foster efficiency, stewardship & cooperation.
FINANCIAL & INVESTMENT DETAILS	
Total project cost, currency	USD 23 000 000
Proposed revenue model	Grant funding
INVESTMENT ASK & WAY FORWARD	
Remaining investment required: component & type	USD 23 000 000
Opportunity for bundling with other projects (Y/N, date)	Yes
Next steps	Resource mobilization
TARGET GROUPS & SOCIAL IMPACT	
Social & gender impact assessment (Y/N, date)	No
SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS	
CONTACT INFORMATION	
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