



Continental Water Investment Programme (AIP)

**African Union Multi-Country GCF Readiness Project for
Accelerating Climate Resilient Water Investments in
Africa (AU AIP Multi-country GCF Readiness Project)**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF AN
INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT FOR THE SUPPORT
MISSION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FINANCING
STRATEGY FOR THE WATER SECTOR INVESTMENT
PROGRAMME IN BURUNDI**

1. Background of the Continental Africa Water Investment Program (AIP)

The Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa (GWPEA), whose Secretariat is hosted by the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) in Entebbe, is implementing the African Union's Action Plan on Climate Change (AU-AP) through the Multi-Country Readiness Program in Burundi. This initiative is part of a broader continental effort to strengthen climate resilience in the water sector. GWPEA's role includes providing technical support, mobilizing resources, and coordinating stakeholder engagement to ensure that Burundi's National Investment Program aligns with AU strategic priorities and meets the requirements of climate finance mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

On 6 September 2023, African Heads of State and Government committed to support the implementation **of the Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP)**, as part of the Nairobi [Declaration on Climate Change](#).

Africa is highly vulnerable to climate change, which is expected to have a significant impact on water, with an increase in droughts, floods, water scarcity and waterborne diseases. Despite this marked vulnerability, many African countries have limited capacity to access climate finance for strategic water investments.

Access to climate finance for water security in Africa is critical to achieving the objectives of the African Union (AU) Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032), which recognizes the need to strengthen climate-resilient water systems under Axis 2: Adoption of pathways towards climate-resilient and transformative development.

The Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP) supports the implementation of this strategy. The AIP was adopted at the 34th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU on 7 February 2021, as part of the Priority Action Plan 2 of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). The AU Strategy on Climate Change and Resilient Development (2022-2032) recognizes the AIP as a flagship initiative for the transformation of water systems.

The implementation of water investments in Africa falls significantly short of the targets set to meet the continent's growing social and economic needs. It is estimated that at least an additional USD 30 billion per year by 2030 needs to be invested to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 on water and sanitation. Currently, only 10 to 19 billion USD is invested each year.

The AIP aims to close the water investment gap, mobilizing at least an additional USD 30 billion per year by 2030 and creating five million jobs to contribute to the Africa Water Vision 2025 and the water-related SDG targets by 2030.

The AIP is based on **five pillars** aimed at **reducing the water investment gap in Africa**:

- a) **AU-AIP High-Level International Panel on Water Investments in Africa** – This high-level international panel on water investments in Africa was established in 2022, bringing together current and former Heads of State as well as world leaders. In 2023, the Panel supported the AU in the development and launch of [Africa's Rising Investment Tide report](#) and the [Action Plan for Water Investment in Africa](#), which propose concrete courses of action to help countries mobilize at least an additional USD 30 billion per year by 2030 for the implementation of the AIP.

- b) **AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard** – The [AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard](#) aims to improve mutual accountability, transparency and efficiency of water financing and investments. This tool helps countries track progress, establish baselines, identify bottlenecks, and take action to meet Africa's water investment needs. It was adopted by AUDA-NEPAD in February 2022 and was developed and tested in 10 countries in 2023, before its roll-out across AU Member States.
- c) **Water investment programmes at regional and national levels** – AIP supports AU Member States in the development of national water investment programmes, aimed at bridging the investment gap. Many African countries are extremely vulnerable to climate variability and suffer from weak institutional capacity, inadequate water infrastructure, and insufficient information systems to ensure effective water management. National water investment programmes aim to address these gaps, building on lessons learned from the AIP-PIDA Dashboard.
- d) **International Blended Investment Facility AIP** – The IAP will assess the need for a blended International Investment Facility, to assist countries in mobilizing Official Development Assistance (ODA) and grant financing, to de-risk priority water investments through various innovative financial instruments and sources. These include sovereign wealth funds, guarantees, trade finance, institutional investors, private equity funds, foundations, value-based impact investing, and climate finance.
- e) **Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in water investment** – The **Transformative Climate Development for Water and Gender Programme (AIP WACDEP-G)** aims to develop tools for governments to address systemic inequalities in decision-making, planning and implementation of investments. It promotes a transformative approach to social institutions, structures and relations. The AIP WACDEP-G was piloted in five African countries between 2020 and 2024, with plans to expand to other countries on the continent.

2. Rationale for the engagement

The Republic of Burundi is one of the fifteen (15) beneficiary countries of the first phase of the Project "Support to the Readiness to the GCF of the African Union Commission Multi-Country Programme to Accelerate the Water Investment Programme (AU AIP Multi-country GCF Readiness Project)". The project is financed by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for a total amount of Six Million One Hundred and Sixty-Four Thousand Fifty-Three (6,164,053) US Dollars. It is implemented by the African Union Commission through the Global Water Partnership (GWP) in Southern Africa (GWPSA) and the GWP Africa Coordination Unit (UC-GWP Africa).

In recent decades, the country has been confronted with overexploitation and degradation of natural resources, including water resources, which are linked to population growth and climatic constraints. Only the North-East region has suffered recurrent droughts in recent years. Anthropogenic and natural risks have increased with the intensification of the effects of climate change (repeated droughts in the northern region, flooding in the Imbo plain, bushfires during the dry season in the southern region of the country, and disruption of rainfall patterns that disrupt growing seasons), and with increased levels of pollution of the waters of Lake Tanganyika near the locations of urban centres with a high level of drought. impact on aquatic life in rivers and aquifers.

Today, even though Burundi has abundant water resources (more than 30,000 springs, lakes, rivers), it suffers from poor access to drinking water, especially in rural areas where 57% of households are unserved. This situation is causing water shortage, water stress and the water crisis in some regions of the country, especially in the North region and in the Imbo plain,

especially during the dry season. It disproportionately affects vulnerable and marginalized people and exacerbates inequalities between people and affects natural environments.

In response, access to climate finance, including from the GCF, is crucial to support adaptation efforts and build the country's resilience. To this end, the Republic of Burundi has initiated, as part of the implementation of the AU AIP Multi-country GCF Readiness project for the year 2025, the development of the Water Sector Investment Program (WIP) and two (02) project concept notes to be submitted to the Executive Secretariat of the Green Climate Fund in order to mobilize the necessary financial resources to meet the water needs of communities for all uses and better management of water-related climate risks.

A WIP financing strategy to significantly improve the country's capacity to mobilize adequate financing and implement structuring projects to ensure water security and climate resilience of communities, production systems and ecosystems.

It is in this context that GWP SA plans to recruit an international consultant to support the development of a financing strategy for the WIP.

These terms of reference provide an overview of the context, the objectives and expected results, the methodology and the modalities for carrying out the mission.

3. Mission objectives

The main objective of the mission is to contribute to the mobilization of financial resources for water security and climate resilience of communities, production systems and ecosystems through support for the development of the WIP financing strategy in Burundi.

Specifically, it will involve:

- Evaluate the proposed budget for each investment project of the WIP and adjust it as needed.
- Analyze the existing sources of funding for each investment project and assess the funding gap for the implementation of the WIP.
- Identify the appropriate sources of funding or financial instruments to fill the financial gaps for the implementation of the WIP (including projects with potential partners to be involved);
- To provide an overview of private sector actors in Burundi with a view to mobilizing them in financing the implementation of the WIP.
- Define the actions necessary for the mobilization of financing and the respective responsibilities of the partners for each investment project.
- Develop and have the stakeholders validate the draft version of the financing strategy for Burundi's Water Sector Investment Program.

4. Expected results of the mission

The expected results at the end of the mission are:

- Support the assessment of the proposed budget is carried out for each WIP investment project and an adjustment is made as necessary.
- Existing sources of funding are analysed for each investment project, and the funding gap is assessed for the implementation of the WIP.

- Appropriate sources of funding or financial instruments are identified to fill the financial gaps for the implementation of the WIP (including projects with potential partners to be involved);
- An overview of private sector actors in Burundi is carried out with a view to mobilizing them in financing the implementation of the WIP.
- Actions are defined for the mobilization of financing and the respective responsibilities of the partners for each investment project.
- The provisional version of the financing strategy for Burundi's Water Sector Investment Program is validated by stakeholders.

5. Mandate of the consultant

The mandate of the international consultant consists of:

- Develop and validate the start-up report, including, among other things, the in-depth methodological note, including the detailed execution timeline as well as the structuring of the drafting of each of the expected deliverables of the mission, etc.
- Familiarize him/herself about the WIP development process as well as the ideas for proposed investment projects.
- Undertake financial evaluations of CFP project ideas and adjust them as needed.
- Analyze the existing sources of financing for each investment project and assess the financing gap for their implementation.
- Identify the appropriate sources of funding or financial instruments to fill the financial gaps for the implementation of the WIP (including projects with potential partners to be involved).
- To provide an overview of private sector actors in Burundi with a view to mobilizing them in financing the implementation of the WIP.
- Define the actions necessary for the mobilization of financing and the respective responsibilities of the partners for each investment project.
- Develop the draft financing strategy for the Burundi's WIP.
- Support the preparation and facilitation of the workshop for the amendment and validation of the draft version of the financing strategy of the Burundi's WIP.
- Develop the presentation materials of the WIP's financing strategy.
- Develop the mission report by capitalizing on the entire process.

6. Expected deliverables

The expected deliverables of the mission are:

- **Deliverable 1:** Inception report, including, among other things, the in-depth methodological note, including the detailed execution timeline as well as the structuring of the drafting of each of the deliverables expected from the mission, etc.
- **Deliverable 2:** Draft and final versions of the WIP's funding strategy.
- **Deliverable 3:** Minutes of stakeholder consultation meetings and workshops

All deliverables will be provided in French in their draft and in French and English in their final version.

P. S: The consultant must take into account this effort of translating the deliverables in his offer.

7. Profile of the international consultant

As part of this mission, an International Consultant is sought with the following profile:

- Hold an advanced university degree (Master's or PhD) in green economy, climate finance, environmental management, water resources, climate change, or any other related field.
- Have at least ten (10) years of experience in mobilizing financial resources for national strategic documents such as strategies, policies and guidelines, etc.
- Have a good knowledge of financing mechanisms, instruments and associated institutional arrangements related to development assistance, domestic finance and climate finance, including the GCF, the Adaptation Fund, the GEF, etc.
- Have strong skills in working with international organizations, bilateral development organizations, CSOs or the private sector
- Have good analytical and report writing skills.
- Have a perfect command of French. Fluency in spoken and written English is a great asset.

8. Terms of Agreement

8.1. Type of contract

This contract should be of interest to an individual Consultant.

The terms of the contract will be described in detail when the contract is signed.

8.2. Mission Duration

The proposed duration for the present mission is a maximum of 25 man-days spread over a calendar period of 03 months from the start of the service order (ideally by April 27), until the delivery of the final deliverables of the mission (no later than July 3, 2026).

8.3. Collaboration & Supervision: The International Consultant will have to work in close collaboration with the national expert in charge of the development mission of the National Water Investment Program (NWIP). He/She will work under the direct authority of the National Technical Coordinator, in consultation with the representative of the Ministry in charge of water in Burundi.

9. Submission of bids

Interested consultants with the required qualifications and experience are invited to submit their proposal including a complete technical and financial offer, in accordance with these Terms of Reference.

Tenders drafted in French must include, among others, the following documents:

1. **A motivation letter** dated and signed, mentioning the availability and suitability of the consultant, addressed to:

***The Regional Coordinator
Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa (GWPEA)
Visiting address: Plot 12 Mpigi Road, Entebbe
Postal address: PO Box 192 Entebbe, Uganda***

2. **A detailed CV**, highlighting relevant experience including three (3) professional references.
3. **A technical offer** detailing the proposed methodology outlining the steps, methods, and tools to be used to achieve all outcomes
4. **A work plan** for the mission
5. **A financial offer** indicating the amount proposed to conduct the mission. (in numbers and figures, in USD)

Note on withholding tax:

The professional fees quoted shall be subject to a 15% Withholding Tax (WHT) for non-resident consultants in accordance with the Uganda Income Tax Act. Nile Basin Initiative /Global Water Partnership will deduct this tax at source and remit it to the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA).

Applications shall be sent before/on **22 April 2026** to: **gwpvacancy@nilebasin.org**