African Water Facility

Niger River Basin show case

Financing transboundary cooperation and basin development

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Outline

1. Niger Basin Project & secured funding
2. Approach and enabling factors
3. Lessons learnt and way Forward
NIGER RIVER BASIN PROJECT

Studies for multipurpose infrastructure – agricultural, climate change adaptation and development programme

Start year: 2014, AWF funding EUR 717,576 (50%) out of EUR 1,452,986

Objective

• Preparation of multipurpose infrastructure studies for integrated dvt targeting small dams, irrigation, fishing and water reservoirs.

Results

• 9 priority investment projects developed for each country in the basin
• EUR 210 million secured in blended downstream financing for 9 national projects. Implementation ongoing targeting;
• Recovery of 140,000 ha of degraded land target, 4 million farmers
• Construction of 209 water infrastructure systems for agro-pastoral & fish-farming activities
• Implementation of 450 sub-projects for agric. chain dvt and capacity building of 184 youth SMEs
Niger River basin - PIDACC Program, mobilized ($210 million) for Investment in 2017

Loan financing 22%; Grant financing 78%
Approach

- Supported **regional and national water coordination and planning mechanisms**
- **Climate Resilient Basin-wide Planning** - multi-sectoral planning, implementation and management of water resources projects based on the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem-Climate nexus approach and IWRM
- **Engagement of the potential donors at early stage of the studies** - A round table of donors was organized to present the projects and collect funding commitments

Enabling factors

- **Strong Niger River Basin Authority** entrusted and empowered by the members states
- **Countries trust and commitment at Ministerial level** to coordinated planning and investment looking at optimized shared benefits from the common water resources
- **Each country prioritizing the projects** and earmarking funds for investment
- **Packaging the projects as multi-purpose** to address the different needs and uses for water
- **Showing equity** in term of project per country and **quantification of benefits** for each country
- **Mainstreaming climate change** adaptation and mitigation and safe guards
- **Good water resources data sharing protocols** - informing optimized analytical work for water resources allocations
- **Co-financing by the countries**
Components of the “studies” were in **perfect alignment with the Niger Basin Authority and countries** to have bankable project documents necessary to mobilize financing for the Projects.

Effective **governance/institutional arrangements (reforms)** anchored at high level.

**Climate resilient basin level planning with multi-purpose infrastructure** (water, food, energy, ecosystem, climate and peace nexus).

**Managing and quantification of country equity** - National projects prioritized and informed by regional plans.

**Investment program with a climate focused bankable projects to attract climate and blended financing**.

**Coordinated and built trust in the states** - plan and undertake equitable projects, leverage finance and shared benefits.

**Potential financial identification and early engagement** to attract innovative finance (blended finance incl. environment and climate finance).
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Thank you