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ANNEX 19

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Sub-Saharan Africa for 2022-2026 Part 2

Action Document for “Blue Africa”

MULTIANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Blue Africa OPSYS number: ACT-61340 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe).
2. Team Europe Initiative	Yes, supporting the Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Transboundary Water Management in Africa ¹ .
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The Action shall be carried out in Sub-Saharan Africa.
4. Programming document	Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) for Sub-Saharan Africa 2021-2027 (Regional MIP).
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	The Action contributes to the Priority Area 3: Green Transition of the Regional MIP by strengthening the African Architecture (AUC, AMCOW, ANBO, RLBOs and RECs) ² that governs, anchors, and is accountable for delivery of a wide Pan-African water security agenda, enabling the continental institutional framework (with its regional building blocks) of governance, monitoring, knowledge management and investments; <u>Specific Objective 5:</u> Improve the sustainable use and management of oceans, coastal zones, river basins and lakes. <u>Result 5.1:</u> Ocean and water governance is enhanced in terms of regional cooperation and coordination on policies, monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), research and data sharing for better decision making and sustainable management and inclusive use of ocean and fresh water resources.

¹ As of October 2022, the TEI on Transboundary Water Management in Africa involves the following EU Member States and financial institutions: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Slovenia, Sweden and the European Investment Bank. The commitment of the EU's contribution to the Team Europe Initiative foreseen under this action plan will be complemented by other contributions from Team Europe partners, subject to confirmation.

² AUC (African Union Commission), AMCOW (African Ministers' Council on Water), ANBO (African Network of Basin Organisations), RLBOs (River and Lake Basin Organisations) and RECs (Regional Economic Communities)

	<p><u>Result 5.2:</u> Integrated water resources management, sustainable blue economy including integrated coastal zone management are promoted and developed through green and innovative integrated regional/transboundary approaches as well as through investments.</p> <p><u>Result 5.3:</u> Conservation and restoration of ocean, coastal, transboundary wetlands and inland water ecosystems are reinforced through regional networks and initiatives promoting nature-based solutions.</p>			
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION				
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	<p><u>Sub-Saharan Africa Regional MIP:</u></p> <p>Priority area 3 – Green transition</p> <p><u>Sectors:</u> 140 Water supply and sanitation</p>			
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	<p>Main SDG (1 only):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 6 (Water and Sanitation) <p>Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 2 (End Hunger) • SDG 5 (Gender equality); • SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) • SDG 12 (Sustainable Production and Consumption) • SDG 13 (Climate Action) • SDG 14 (Life below water) • SDG 15 (Life on Land) • SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals) 			
8 a) DAC code(s)	<p>140 - Water supply and sanitation - 80%</p> <p>All others - 20%</p> <p>230 - Energy;</p> <p>311 - Agriculture;</p> <p>312 - Forestry;</p> <p>410 - General Environment Protection;</p> <p>41030 - Biodiversity management;</p> <p>430 - Other multi-sectors (inclusive of: 43040 Rural development, 43060 Disaster risk reduction; 43073 food safety and quality; 43082 research/scientific institutions);</p> <p>740 - Disaster Prevention and Preparedness</p>			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	European Commission - Development Share of Budget - 42001			
9. Targets	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Migration</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Education</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance</p>			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity energy transport health education and research	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @ (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	BUDGET INFORMATION			
12. Amounts concerned	Budget lines (article, item):			

	BGUE-B2022-14.020120 West Africa : EUR 3 850 000 BGUE-B2022-14.020121 East and Central Africa : EUR 3 850 000 BGUE-B2022-14.020122 Southern Africa and Indian Ocean: EUR 3 300 000 Total estimated amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 11 000 000.
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION	
13. Type of financing	Direct management through: - Grants Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.1

1.2 Summary of the Action

Africa's future long-term water agenda is associated with Agenda 2063 'The Africa We Want'³ and especially Aspiration #1 'A Prosperous Africa, based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development', within which Water Security⁴ is a Priority Area. The 2021 African Heads of State responded to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Green Recovery Action Plan of the African Union (AU), which defines their action on water under two long-standing political instruments; namely the Africa Water Vision 2025⁵ and the 2008 Sharm-el-Sheikh commitments⁶.

This Action will support the implementation of the Vision and commitments by AU entities - specifically the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) with its water basin body, ANBO, and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD).

The Specific Objectives of this action are:

1. To strengthen regional and national institutional frameworks for water governance.
2. To improve mobilisation of finance and stimulate investments in Africa's water agenda, including climate adaptation and mitigation.
3. To further develop afore-mentioned African Institutions' benchmarking and monitoring of water security.

The EU will be an active and visible contributor to water governance and management with African partners, in alignment with priorities to ensure water security, reducing climate change related impacts and leaving no one behind. The Action will emphasize common Africa-EU values and bring political attention to the water-related investments planned in the MIPs⁷ while ensuring the globalisation of the 1992 UNECE Water Convention⁸. As

³ <https://au.int/en/agenda2063/overview>

⁴ The capacity of a population to safeguard sustainable access to adequate quantities of acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being, and socio-economic development, for ensuring protection against water-borne pollution and water-related disasters, and for preserving ecosystems in a climate of peace and political stability – UN Water 2013

⁵ <https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Generic-Documents/african%20water%20vision%202025%20to%20be%20sent%20to%20wwf5.pdf>

⁶ <https://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/266>

⁷ In addition to the Sub-Sahara Africa (SSA) Regional MIP (2021-2027) - Priority 3 on Green Transition, other relevant implementation plans are: SSA MIP – Priority 4 on Digital and Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) and the NDICI-Global Europe "Global Challenges" programme.

Throughout the programming, water is considered as essential for human and economic development. This is especially the case for 10 countries that propose a set of actions reflecting the depth and complexity of the water crisis: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Guinea, Lesotho, Namibia, Sao Tome e Principe, Senegal, and Zambia.

⁸ <https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/about-the-convention/introduction>

part of the TEI on Transboundary Water Management, the action supports sustainable development with peaceful and effective regional integration, being coherent and aligned to the objectives and targets of the Great Green Wall flagship initiative. Finally, the Action will contribute to accelerating progress towards the achievement of SDG 6 (especially on Integrated Water Resources Management) and the EU role in the International Decade (2018–2028) for Action ‘Water for Sustainable Development’.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

Fresh water and oceans are essential for life, providing food and health for populations by driving or influencing biodiversity, climate, societal resilience and economy. Africa appears to have abundant water resources such as the Congo, Nile and Zambezi rivers and Lake Victoria, but it is in fact the second driest continent in the world⁹, with water resources unevenly distributed and not easily accessible by much of the population. Sub-Saharan Africa is currently experiencing the slowest rate of progress in meeting SDG6 in the world. Population growth, inefficient use and unsustainable management of these natural resources as well as climate change are putting increasing pressure on these already scarce and unevenly accessible resources, causing biodiversity decline, more frequent natural hazards, social unrest, conflict and displacement/migration of people. Lack of access to clean, safe and affordable water is especially a challenge in rural areas. By 2025, nearly 50% of Africa’s population will face water stress or scarcity¹⁰. Climate change, which makes water availability less predictable, accelerates food and health crises, deepens poverty and reduces the incomes of entire populations. According to the Global Adaptation Index, 20 African countries are among the 25 most vulnerable to climate change¹¹. UNICEF’s Climate Risk Index for Children (2022) shows that 22 of the 25 countries where children are most affected by climate change are in Africa.¹²

At the same time, urban areas are growing rapidly across the continent, while access to piped water in many Sub-Saharan African cities has decreased.

In terms of management, more than 80 of Africa’s river and lake basins are shared by two or more countries, with many countries depending on water originating from outside their national boundaries. Along Africa’s coastlines, transboundary problems in marine natural resource management also exist, manifesting themselves in common coastal resources such as marine parks or mobile resources such as fisheries which cannot be controlled or managed by inland water frameworks.

The transboundary nature of fresh water and ocean resources and their ecosystems calls for interventions at regional level through trans-boundary approaches to shared management of river basins, lakes, rivers, territorial sea waters and coastal areas. Shared management would address common challenges such as adaptation to climate change and address tensions arising over shared resources (especially limited resources). Employing regional approaches to governance actions, along with interventions such as research which addresses transboundary resources, will eventually demonstrate the added value of establishing partnerships at regional level.

The Action on Blue Africa is fully aligned with the EU political priorities and is closely associated with the TEI on Transboundary Water Management, as it covers the continental component of the TEI. It will reinforce the

⁹ WWF, The Facts on Water in Africa (<https://wwfeu.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/waterinafricaeng.pdf>)

¹⁰ WWF, The Facts on Water in Africa (<https://wwfeu.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/waterinafricaeng.pdf>)

¹¹ <https://gain.nd.edu/our-work/country-index/rankings/>

¹² https://www.unicef.org/media/105536/file/UNICEF_climate%20crisis_child_rights_crisis-summary-FR.pdf

EU's visibility as an active contributor to water governance and management with its African partners, in line with the African Union Green Recovery Plan¹³ and in line with the EU commitment to support the Great Green Wall initiative¹⁴. It is fully aligned with the 2018 EU Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions on Water Diplomacy¹⁵ and the 2021 Council Conclusions on Water in the EU's External Action¹⁶ which highlight the importance to support regional water cooperation and the fulfilment of the Human Right for safe drinking water and sanitation. Both conclusions have been supporting EU efforts in expanding accession of new countries to the 1992 UNECE Water Convention. Additionally, the governance component of the action is founded in the resolutions adopted in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (COP21), in the 2021 Glasgow pact (COP26) and underlined in the IPCC 2022 report. The UNFCCC's Global Climate Action Pathway for Water 2030¹⁷ propose solutions related to a sustainable consumption of groundwater and aquifers and preserve their ecosystem; improve and expand the possibilities of water storage and conservation; and regulate the administration of quality water resources.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis:

Africa's Water Architecture under-capacitated and under-used

While some significant successes have been made within the African water domain, the overall narrative of Africa's water governance is one of 'off-track' progress, especially for its key role in economic transformation to energy and food security, notably in the light of climate change. This off-track situation cannot be attributed to the inadequacy of Africa's Water Architecture alone. High-level political will and ownership, dedicated institutions, mandates with clear roles and responsibilities, adapting and learning, have all been in place through much of the MDG phase, and into SDG post-2015 transition. Consequently, African countries have an institutional platform to engage with other global agencies, financial institutions, and external actors. Rather, it is the limited ability of the African Institutions to drive coordinated action and dialogues which is the main inadequacy¹⁸. Historically, high level Institutions and their offices are often not fully involved in programme and project design and coordination, with a high proportion of them - often well-financed - being approved and managed at lower-level institutional entry points. This results in a loose association of IFIs and IOs with Africa's high-level institutions - without engaging and enabling them, especially their political ownership and accountability structures. Consequently, while much of the support Africa's water architecture and sectors has achieved results at national and local scales, it has not been governed, anchored nor accountable at a continental level.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:

Strengthening within the existing architecture

This overall diagnosis of Africa's Institutional Water Architecture is an important starting point. A few particular areas within this architecture warrant dedicated attention to work better – both within mandated institutions and

¹³ <https://au.int/en/documents/20210715/african-union-green-recovery-action-plan-2021-2027>

¹⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/es/statement_21_5742

¹⁵ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2018/11/19/water-diplomacy-council-adopts-conclusions/>

¹⁶ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-14108-2021-INIT/en/pdf>

¹⁷ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Water_ActionTable_.pdf

¹⁸ "Contrary to the vision articulated in its Constitutive Act, the AU's legislative, judicial, and technical organs remain weak, especially relative to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, which comprises the leaders of its 55 member states." The African Union at 20: Much Accomplished, More Challenges Ahead, (P Nantulya, The African Centre for Strategic Studies, Feb 2022)

among the links between them, including the AU Commission, AMCOW, ANBO, RLBOs, RECs, AUDA-NEPAD, the African Development Bank and UNECA.

Simultaneous and collective strengthening

It is advised that a simultaneous ‘system strengthening’ is more effective than an ad hoc strengthening of individual institutions. The simultaneous approach can strengthen Africa’s regional institutions to a level not previously achieved. There is also a confluence of circumstances (see below) that could result in functions, products and services from the regional architecture in ways that have been envisaged for 20 years, but have not yet been realized.

Rare constellation of circumstances

The current circumstances that present themselves in 2022 represent a once-in 20-year opportunity. Namely, the constellation of the following events:

- Incoming Presidency of AU having announced water as a flagship (unseen)
- Water on the agenda of African Heads of State Summit (not since 2008)
- End of current cycle of Africa Water Vision 2025 (not since 2000)
- Beginning of European Commission’s Global Europe Programming cycle
- Positive dynamic on transboundary water cooperation, notably with the foreseen accession of 8 countries¹⁹ to the UN Water Convention (and an expressed interest by several others).

Particular areas within the African Architecture that warrant attention

Diagnosis and discussions of the architecture of individual institutions have revealed the following areas as warranting the greatest attention, notwithstanding that they should not be viewed in isolation within a wider strengthening of support.

AUC – the AUC is required to fulfil multiple internal Secretariat Services and yet it is staffed by a single senior officer on Environment and Water. Internal demands will rise as water becomes a flagship of the Chairmanship (Water within the STC (ARDWE) also brings a critical political commitment). Critical institutional interconnections should be improved to address this challenge including the strategic two-way relations between the AUC and AMCOW, and the AUC and the RECs. A main challenge for the AUC is that it has a financing model dependent upon member states contributions. These are insufficient across the AU and create dependency on development partners’ finance.

AMCOW – AMCOW is a multi-tiered organisation, whose recent strategy recognises the importance of linkages between its own internal bodies with the Secretariat connecting with its Presidency, its regional constituencies, and its member states focal points. Human Resources performing mandated functions are largely lacking; consequently, internal bodies remain often disconnected. This has limited AMCOW to servicing a smaller core of member states (around 15– often those paying annual subscriptions), rather than acting on behalf of the full constituency.

ANBO - the African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO) stands as its technical arm in charge of strengthening the coordination and collaboration capacity of African River and Lake Basin Organizations (RLBOs). ANBO’s secretariat is hosted by the Senegal River Basin Development Organization (OMVS) and has limited resources to operation. The action will support its ability to conduct enhanced dialogues between members, coordination of water management policies, strategies and practices

¹⁹ Côte d’Ivoire, Cameroon, The Gambia, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia.

RECs – The Regional Economic Communities appears more developed institutionally, and investment by the European Union would be most effective through Programme Portfolios in support of Regional Integration. For that reason, for the RECs – and their anchoring of River Basin, Lake and Aquifer Organisations (see Annex 3) – have a relatively well developed institutional strength, manpower and legal frameworks compared to the other AU Institutions. They will require less institutional framework and governance building than the other main AU Institutions. That said, interconnections between the AUC and AMCOW with the RECs are strong and important, and should be part of this Action. The AU reform and ongoing works aim at reinforcing coordination and division of labour.

2022-2027: Opportunities for the right capacities for crisis response Water is a priority to the (Senegalese) Presidency flagship in 2022, due to the fact that nearly two decades of efforts' results are off-track, bringing an urgency for improving delivery systems that accelerate progress and provide impact. The current African Water Architecture is broadly sound in form but, as previously mentioned, less so in capacity, function or relevance to contribute strongly. The Presidency flagship 2022 is therefore an opportune time for development partners to consider supporting the Presidency in line with the Dakar Declaration²⁰ from the 9th World Water Forum, via strengthening the wider African Water Architecture, which needs to be capable of tackling the finance gap and to absorb substantial investment in order to deliver effective adaptation for citizens.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is **to strengthen an African Water Architecture on water, which governs and anchors a continental water security agenda within broad developmental contexts and regional integration**

The Specific(s) Objective(s) (Outcomes) of this action are:

1. Strengthen the continental water governance institutional frameworks (with its regional and national building blocks), notably on transboundary water cooperation;
2. Stimulate investments into Africa's water agenda along the African architecture and agenda 2063 and improve mobilisation of finance for water priorities and transboundary investments, including climate adaptation, natural resources management and nature-based solutions;
3. Develop further African benchmarking and monitoring of water security.

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (Outcomes) are:

Contributing to Specific Objective 1:

- 1.1 Capacity at AUC and AMCOW levels to ensure stronger coordination and synergetic action on policy development and water action between these institutions are improved, including improved capacities on climate change adaptation as an essential element for understanding water security.
- 1.2 Cross-sectoral coordination among the Divisions at AUC level, as to allow a clear and inter-divisional water strategy at African level.
- 1.3 Development of cohesive water governance systems covering country, basin, regional, continental scales, including contributions of the Team Europe Initiative on transboundary water management in Africa.
- 1.4 Strengthened cooperation between the high-level AU Institutions with the RECs, and with the water cooperation agreements and arrangements, notably through ANBO.

²⁰ <https://www.worldwaterforum.org/en/practical-information/dakar-declaration>

- 1.5 Contribution to National Development Strategies, National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions, incorporating the SDG mandate to ‘leaving no-one behind’.
- 1.6 Support and advocacy for the development of more robust transboundary water agreements and arrangements (including the development of nature-based solutions for integrated water resources management in some basins not covered yet), well-coordinated with the regional policy framework and, whenever relevant, in line with the provisions of the UNECE water Convention.

Contributing to Specific Objective 2:

- 2.1 Resource mobilisation strategy developed and implemented to attract sustainable and climate-resilient Water Investments in Africa and in line notably with the Africa Investment Facility and the Continental Africa Water Investment programme (AIP).
- 2.2 Co-design and participation of the Action Partners to the coordination mechanism for the TEI on TWM
- 2.3 Develop capacities African institutions to facilitate and mediate a peaceful cooperation along the water basins through mechanisms based on evidence, on integrating climate change projections, and conflict sensitive approaches.
- 2.4 Support the post-2025 African Water Vision, Sharm-el-Sheik commitments and African Adaptation Initiative within Africa’s Agenda 2063.

Contributing to Specific Objective 3:

- 3.1 Development and Dissemination of a State of Progress report on Water based on the benchmarking and monitoring of the Action.
- 3.2 Strengthened benchmarking, monitoring and reporting in the WASSMO system, notably on transboundary water management and cooperation.
- 3.3 Coordinated and coherent monitoring frameworks of other existing schemes within the WASSMO (Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring and Reporting System) framework.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities relating to Specific Objective 1:

- Consultations with AUC / AMCOW and development of coordinated mechanisms (for output 1.1).
- Set up of inter-divisional water consultations at AUC (for output 1.2).
- Development of clear governance mechanisms/frameworks at institutional level (for outputs 1.4, 1.5, 1.6).
- Development of clear governance mechanisms/frameworks at regional level (for outputs 1.3, 1.5, 1.6).
- Development and contribution of a secretariat on the TEI on Transboundary Water Management in Africa (for output 1.3).
- Guidance to African Union member states on national-level programming, including National Development Strategies, National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions, to the benefit of strategic prioritisation and joint-programming under the next round of Country MIPs, including within national systems of economic planning and development (for output 1.5).

Activities relating to Specific Objective 2:

- Set up of a resource mobilisation platform to leverage investments in relation to the AU Green Recovery Action Plan and into other existing Programming (including PIDA and the African Investment Facility) adopting screening criteria to prioritise those investments based on integrated water resources management and nature-based solutions adapted to climate change context and scenarios (for output 2.1).

- Development of a Coordination Mechanism on major regional investments within the TEI on TWM in concert with European partners and African Partners. (for output 2.2).
- Integrated Programming of other African Programmes within water security (both existing eg AMCOWs Groundwater Initiative, and as may emerge eg Water Quality) (for output 2.1 and 2.3).
- Development of a follow up strategy to the Africa Water Vision 2025, African Adaptation Initiative and Sharm-el-Sheikh political commitments, within the Agenda 2063 founded on an African investment agenda (including mechanisms, improved standards, mobilisation of climate adaptation and mitigation finance), informed by a process of retrospective, participatory lesson-learning of past performance (for outputs 2.3 and 2.4).

Activities relating to Specific Objective 3:

- Delivery of regular reports on state of progress on water to Heads of State, including a report before 2025 (for output 3.1).
- Support to the WASSMO system (including stronger integration of systems – eg IWRM, Investment Scorecard into existing WASSMO scheme, and stronger country-regional-continental hierarchy) and to the use of information to support decision making with thematic reports and exchanges. (for output 3.2).
- Advocacy, and contribution to the reframing of post- Africa Water Vision water agenda and contribution to the 2023 UN Mid-Term Review (for outputs 3.1 and 3.3).
- Development of exchange of knowledge and evidence building, notably on transboundary water management, through AUDA-NEPAD Water Centres of Excellence, AMCOW's knowledge hub, ANBO activities and other means which provide exchanges of knowledge and expertise, including a stronger focus on groundwater. (for outputs 3.1 and 3.3).
- Support the development of ANBO capacities to Facilitate Structural Policy Development Processes on Water, Promote IWRM, Share knowledge and information. (for outputs 3.1 and 3.3).

The commitment of the EU's contribution to the Team Europe Initiative to which this action refers, will be complemented by other contributions from Team Europe members. It is subject to the formal confirmation of each respective member's meaningful contribution as early as possible. In the event that the TEIs and/or these contributions do not materialise, the EU action may continue outside a TEI framework.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

By design, the Action addresses crosscutting themes such as environmental sustainability and climate action. Among other activities on climate change adaptation, the action will address vulnerability of scarce water resources to climate change, promoting water conservation in water stress areas and promoting energy efficiency (e.g. water pumps). It will also address biodiversity conservation by integrating and promoting nature-based solutions, ecosystem processes, and restoration of natural areas through landscape approaches at national and regional level aimed at secure water resources availability and their integrated management.

Concrete activities will be supported by mobilising financial resources to leverage investments which will be screened and selected according to their potential to contribute to biodiversity and the fight against desertification by adopting improved integrated water resources management and nature-based solution adapted to climate change context and scenarios.

Climate change adaptation will be promoted and treated as a key element of water security.

Climate change adaptation and biodiversity action are very closely related, as adaptation requires the protection and enhancement of catchment areas under an Integrated Water Resources Management Approach.

Outcomes of the SEA screening

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that no further action was required.

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category C (no need for further assessment).

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening

The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment).

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1.

This implies that gender equality is a significant objective.

Human Rights

The action will support the fulfilment of the Human Right to safe drinking water and sanitation, and its related ambition in terms of gender equality. It will support a human right based approach for water governance as per the Council conclusion and foster inclusion of conflict sensitive approaches whenever possible and relevant.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that no specific action targeting disability is foreseen.

Democracy

The Action will seek strong involvement of all relevant authorities at regional, national and local level to foster ownership and sustainability. Civil society, too, will be involved whenever possible.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

The action will promote water security and conflict sensitive approaches in the development of agreements and arrangements between countries and re-enforce the capacities of African institutions to mediate a peaceful cooperation on water use and management. Whenever possible, the principles of the UNECE Water Convention will be promoted to promote a peaceful development and regional integration.

Disaster Risk Reduction

This action will not directly target disaster risk reduction, however by promoting integrated water resources management and water governance through territorial and landscape approaches at national and regional level, it will contribute to reduce risks related to natural extreme events, such as drought and floods, and to increase preparedness by improving data availability and institutional capacity.

Other considerations if relevant

N/A

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures

Governance (people and organisation)	Political interferences r in the frame of geopolitical interests, with notable sensitivity on transboundary water management	Low	Medium	Policy dialogue, both at country level and at regional level. Promote maintaining legal safeguards and alliances.
Policy and legal	Limited interest in water cooperation and management due to other pressing priorities.	Medium	Medium	Focus the implementation measures on transboundary watercourses to facilitate political buy-in, emphasize synergies and share learned lessons
Operations	Lack of resources for practical implementation of proposed measures in the sector may affect stakeholders' participation	Low	Medium	Engage water utilities and private sector actors with an interest in sound water management. Provide resources or operating space to facilitate their engagement. Use basin management planning to identify low-cost solutions for socio-economic benefits.

Lessons Learnt:

The Action will build on the lessons learnt from initiatives on environmental and climate sectors at continental, multi-country and regional levels. Specifically, programmes such as GMES and Africa, Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Applications (ClimSA), the Global Climate Change Alliance Plus initiative (GCCA+) have proven the relevance of data, information and capacity building for environmental monitoring, innovation in green transition strategies, policy information and support to decision making.

Ecosystems are at the heart of the EU's international partnerships. The economic, social, health and ecological benefits of healthy freshwater ecosystems are shown to directly impact on the livelihoods of most vulnerable people. Namely, as reported in a number of EU initiatives in SSA, a wide variety of ecosystem services depends on the promotion of biodiversity (NaturAfrica), the fight against land erosion and desertification (Great Green Wall), and the resilience of various terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems. Thus, the Action will address the expansion of data, information, practices and knowledge in these domains in order to provide evidences for coordinated and coherent management of water resorouces in Africa, in particular at transboundary level.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that the Action will help create better conditions within the African Water governance Architecture which will contribute to an improved Intervention Delivery Space for deployment of water governance, financing, monitoring mechanisms and instruments. It will notably give particular attention to Transboundary water cooperation in the continent. It will accelerate continental and regional water governance impact in line with progress anticipated under Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the AU Agenda 2063.

Indeed, Africa's future long-term water agenda is aligned with the AU Agenda 2063 'The Africa We Want', having Water Security as a Priority Area. The AU Green Recovery Action Plan embeds action on water under the two longest-standing political instruments, namely the Africa Water Vision 2025 and the 2008 Sharm-el-Sheikh commitments. The action will support the acceleration of implementation of this vision by working with entities which are mandated with its implementation.

Therefore, the primary objective is to enable the collective of existing African Regional institutions to **act cohesively to better govern collectively water within Africa's developmental contexts**, to perform key regional level functions together in close coordination and complementarity, and to anchor major African regional and national programmes. In doing so, this will create a progressively strengthened delivery space through regional and national frames for the critical 4 remaining years (2022-2025) of the current Africa Water Vision and beyond.

Amid much work on financing sources, a key area (as identified within AMCOW's strategy) will be to capacitate member states and RECs in two critical areas: firstly in financing through a 'standard' finance model that better facilitates the financing ecosystem within water, including returns on investment and costs; and secondly elaborating **investment pathways**. These will create an enabling environment for member states and RECs that has synergies, for example, on how public and private finance work in tandem, the value of private sector participation, and pathways to public-private partnerships. Particular advances can be made by engaging with the water-using sectors (e.g., agriculture, energy, industries) on investment pathways and returns on water across their value chains, including how these value chains may extend to distinctively economic 'regions' of users such as the Regional Power Pools. The Action also will explore the means and capability to link the water agenda with climate finance (especially under adaptation).

The Action will enable African institutions to fulfil the obligation to Heads of State of annual reporting. A stronger and more continuous progress in stock taking - including through the nationally led, regular monitoring under the WASSMO system so as to regularly inform Heads of State on impact of key indicators under the Africa Water Architecture. The WASSMO system would benefit from strengthening, better monitoring and reporting capacity (based on AMCOW's frequent IWRM reports), emerging finance scorecards and from investment to create a new Blue Economy Monitoring and Reporting Frame. A new major collaborative effort to monitor and report on the 'State of Africa's Water Resources' – in totality, both used and unused - as also requested by Heads of State in 2008 - will give impetus and higher purpose to hydrological and groundwater monitoring and resource assessment. Early strengthening is crucial for trend analysis to feed 'big-picture' diagnosis into the new 2025 Common Position. Up to and beyond 2025, gap identification would help influence and contribute to advocacy by AMCOW and investment actions by AUDA-NEPAD and AfDB.

In addition, the Action will help leveraging the visibility of the EU as an active contributor to water governance and management with its African partners, in alignment with their priorities set by the African Union Green Recovery Action Plan that calls for water security on the continent while leaving no one behind. It will promote common Africa-EU values and leverage political attention. The action will also cover the continental component of the TEI on Transboundary Water Management and support sustainable development and a peaceful and effective regional integration, notably contributing to the Great Green Wall initiative's objectives and targets. Furthermore, the adoption in 2018 of the EU council Conclusions on water Diplomacy called for a continued and re-enforced support to "regional institutions and organisations, national and local authorities, communities and civil society to this end". This position was re-emphasized with the EU Council Conclusions on Water in the EU's External Action in 2021.

Besides the direct support to the African Union Commission, the Action is expected to be delivered by an implementing partner, with solid and extensive experience and expertise in regional and/or country actions in the water sector in Africa.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.

The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results / indicators / Source of Data / Assumptions - no activities)

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines ²¹ (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To strengthen African architecture on water, which governs and anchors a continental water security agenda within broad developmental contexts'	1. Progress towards achieving SDGs 6 and where appropriate, SDGs and targets: SDG 2, 5, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 17	1. to be determined (tbd)	1. tbd	1. tbd	<i>Not applicable</i>
Specific Objective 1	To strengthen the continental water governance institutional frameworks (with its regional and national building blocks), notably on transboundary water cooperation;	1.1 Number of staff working in the Water Unit in DARBE, disaggregated by sex 1.2 Status of implementation of a continental level system for coordinating water programs in Africa	1.1 tbd 1.2 tbd	1.1 tbd 1.2 tbd	1.1 AUC staff budget 1.2 Annual Action Progress Reports	
Specific Objective 2	To stimulate investments into Africa's water agenda along the African architecture and agenda 2063 and improve mobilisation of finance for water priorities and transboundary investments, including climate adaptation, natural resources management and nature-based solutions	2.1 Number of proposals for bankable investment projects handed on to financing institutions and/or private investors. 2.2 Number of investment projects approved for financing by the financing institution and/or private investors 2.3 Value of investment projects approved for financing by the financing institution and/or private investors 2.4 Status of delivery and adoption of the post-2025 African Water Vision	2.1 tbd 2.2 tbd 2.3 tbd 2.4 tbd	2.1 tbd 2.2 tbd 2.3 tbd 2.4 tbd	2.1 Annual Action Progress Reports 2.2 Annual Action Progress Reports, Mid-Term Evaluation 2.3 Annual Action Progress Reports, Mid-Term Evaluation 2.4 Annual Action Progress Reports	

²¹ to be established in the 1st year of implementation of the Action Document while preparing the contracts under the Action Document,

Specific Objective 3	To develop further African benchmarking and monitoring of water security	3.1 Status of operationalization of coordination mechanism of the different monitoring tools	3.1 tbd	3.1 tbd	3.1 Annual Action Progress Reports	
Outputs relating to Specific Objective 1	<p>1.1 Capacity at AUC and AMCOW levels to ensure stronger coordination and synergetic action on policy development and water action between these institutions are improved, including improved capacities on climate change adaptation as an essential element for understanding water security.</p> <p>1.2 Cross-sectoral coordination among the Divisions at AUC level, as to allow a clear and inter-divisional water strategy at African level.</p> <p>1.3 Development of cohesive water governance systems covering country, basin, regional, continental scales, including contributions of the Team Europe Initiative on transboundary water management in Africa.</p> <p>1.4 Strengthened cooperation between the high-level AU Institutions with the RECs, and with the water cooperation agreements and arrangements, notably through ANBO.</p> <p>1.5 Contribution to National Development Strategies, National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions, incorporating the SDG mandate to 'leaving no-one behind'</p> <p>1.6 Support and advocacy for the development of more robust transboundary water agreements and</p>	<p>1.1.1 Number of common programmes, involving both AUC and AMCOW developed with support of the EU-funded intervention.</p> <p>1.2.1 Number of AUC interdivisional water group meetings/year organized with support of the EU-funded intervention .</p> <p>Number of mechanisms established to facilitate coordination of water issues between different divisions of the AUC</p> <p>1.3.1 Number of water governance mechanisms developed with support of the EU-funded intervention.</p> <p>Number of water cooperation arrangements facilitated by the TEI action</p> <p>1.4.1 Number of consultations with RECs and RBLOs organized with support of the EU-funded intervention.</p> <p>1.5.1 Number of contributions to NDSs and NDCs</p> <p>1.5.2 Number of capacity development events</p>	<p>1.1.1 tbd</p> <p>1.2.1 tbd</p> <p>1.3.1 tbd</p> <p>1.4.1 tbd</p> <p>1.5.1 tbd</p> <p>1.5.2 tbd</p> <p>1.6.1 tbd</p>	<p>1.1.1 tbd</p> <p>1.2.1 4</p> <p>1.3.1 tbd</p> <p>1.4.1 tbd</p> <p>1.5.1 tbd</p> <p>1.5.2 tbd</p> <p>1.6.1 tbd</p>	<p>1.1.1 Annual Action Progress Reports</p> <p>1.2.1 Annual Action Progress Reports</p> <p>1.3.1 Annual Action Progress Reports</p> <p>1.4.1 Annual Action Progress Reports</p> <p>1.5.1 Annual Action Progress Reports</p> <p>1.5.2 Annual Action Progress Reports</p> <p>1.6.1 Annual Action Progress Reports</p>	

	<p>arrangements (including the development of nature-based solutions for integrated water resources management in some basins not covered yet), well-coordinated with the regional policy framework and, whenever relevant, in line with the provisions of the UNECE Water Convention.</p>	<p>organized by AUC to member states/RECs for integrating water in national development plans, NDCs and NAPs; for developing water investment programs or for accessing climate finance</p> <p>1.6.1 Number of continental level policy dialogues relating to transboundary water cooperation</p>				
Outputs relating to Specific Objective 2	<p>2</p> <p>2.1 Resource mobilisation strategy developed and implemented to attract Water Investments in Africa and in line notably with the Africa Investment Facility and the Continental Africa Water Investment programme (AIP)</p> <p>2.2 Co-design and participation of the Action Partners to the coordination mechanism for the TEI on TWM</p> <p>2.3 Develop capacities African institutions to facilitate and mediate a peaceful cooperation along the water basins through mechanisms based on evidence and conflict sensitive approaches</p> <p>2.4 Support the post-2025 African Water Vision, Sharm-el-Sheik commitments and African Adaptation Initiative within Africa's Agenda 2063.</p>	<p>2.1.1 Number of resource mobilization strategies developed with support of the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>2.2.1 Number of participations to TEI coordination events</p> <p>2.3.1 Number of consultations on transboundary cooperation</p> <p>2.4.1 Number of policy/strategy documents prepared/revised to reflect Africa's water priorities post 2025</p> <p>2.4.2 Extent to which EU-funded intervention contributed to revision/development of</p>	<p>2.1.1 tbd</p> <p>2.2.1 tbd</p> <p>2.3.1 tbd</p> <p>2.4.1 tbd</p> <p>2.4.2 tbd</p>	<p>2.1.1 tbd</p> <p>2.2.1 tbd</p> <p>2.3.1 tbd</p> <p>2.4.1 tbd</p> <p>2.4.2 tbd</p>	<p>2.1.1 Annual Action Progress Reports</p> <p>2.2.1 Annual Action Progress Reports</p> <p>2.3.1 Annual Action Progress Reports</p> <p>2.4.1 Annual Action Progress Reports</p> <p>2.4.2 Annual Action Progress Reports</p>	

		Sharm-el-Sheik commitments				
Outputs relating to Specific Objective 3	3				3.1.1 Annual Action Progress Reports	
	3.1 The State of Progress report on Water is done and disseminated	3.1.1 Number of publications of the State of Progress report drafted/published, with support of the EU-funded intervention	3.1.1 tbd	3.1.1 tbd	3.2.1 Annual Action Progress Reports	
	3.2 Monitoring, reporting and benchmarking under the WASSMO system is strengthened	3.2.1 Number of consultations for WASSMO project organized with support of the EU-funded intervention	3.2.1 tbd	3.2.1 tbd	3.3.1 Annual Action Progress Reports	
	3.3 A coordinate and coherent monitoring frameworks, compatible with other existing schemes is developed		3.3.1 tbd	3.3.1 tbd	3.4.1 Annual Action Progress Reports	
	Coordinated and coherent monitoring frameworks, compatible with other existing schemes	3.3.1 Number of participations to TEI coordination events or other cross-fertilisation platforms	3.4.1 tbd	3.4.1 tbd	3.5.1 Annual Action Progress Reports	
			3.5.1 tbd	3.5.1 tbd		

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the territory.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 72 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation of the Budget Support Component

N/A

4.4 Implementation Modalities (applicable for Project modality)

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures²².

4.4.1 Direct Management (Grants)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The grant will contribute to achieving part of all the specific objectives of the Action.

In particular, the grant will cover policy and governance aspects of the Action, directly contributing to Outputs:

- 1.1: Capacity at AUC and AMCOW levels to ensure stronger coordination and synergetic action on policy development and water action between these institutions are improved, including improved capacities on climate change adaptation as an essential element for understanding water security,
- 1.2: Cross-sectoral coordination among the Divisions at AUC level, as to allow a clear and inter-divisional water strategy at African level,
- 1.3: Development of cohesive water governance systems covering country, basin, regional, continental scales, including contributions of the Team Europe Initiative on transboundary water management in Africa,
- 1.4: Strengthened cooperation between the high-level AU Institutions with the RECs, and with the water cooperation agreements and arrangements, notably through ANBO,
- 1.6: Support and advocacy for the development of more robust transboundary water agreements and arrangements (including the development of nature-based solutions for integrated water resources management in some basins not covered yet), well-coordinated with the regional policy framework and, whenever relevant, in line with the provisions of the UNECE Water Convention,
- 2.1: Resource mobilisation strategy developed and implemented to attract Water Investments in Africa and in line notably with the Africa Investment Facility and the Continental Africa Water Investment programme,

²² www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

- 2.2: Co-design and participation of the Action Partners to the coordination mechanism for the TEI on TWM,
- 2.3: Develop capacities African institutions to facilitate and mediate a peaceful cooperation along the water basins through mechanisms based on evidence and conflict sensitive approaches,
- 2.4: Support the post-2025 African Water Vision, Sharm-el-Sheik commitments and African Adaptation Initiative within Africa's Agenda 2063,
- 3.1: The State of Progress report on Water is done and disseminated.

The grant will contribute to strengthen the African Architecture on Water, improve the capacities to mobilize investment in this sector as well as monitoring/reporting capacities.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the Africa Union Commission.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because the African Union Commission is a body with de facto monopoly to coordinate the Panafican Architecture on Water and corresponds to a case defined by Article 195(c) of the Financial regulation. Indeed, the African Union Commission has the mandate to specifically assess and monitor the implementation of the Water Commitments and the Africa Water Vision 2025 and to update AU Heads of States on how the continent is doing in this sphere.

4.4.2 Indirect Management with a pillar assessed entity

A part of this Action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

- Have thematic / regional expertise in the water area, including in science-policy interface and knowledge management;
- Have an African anchorage;
- Have experience in managing EU funds.

The implementation by this entity entails to achieving part of the 3 specific objectives of this action. In particular the entity may carry out activities related to: science advocacy, technical support and science – policy interface, directly contributing to Outputs :

- 1.1: Capacity at AUC and AMCOW levels to ensure stronger coordination and synergetic action on policy development and water action between these institutions are improved, including improved capacities on climate change adaptation as an essential element for understanding water security,
- 1.3: Development of cohesive water governance systems covering country, basin, regional, continental scales, including contributions of the Team Europe Initiative on transboundary water management in Africa,
- 1.4: Strengthened cooperation between the high-level AU Institutions with the RECs, and with the water cooperation agreements and arrangements, notably through ANBO,
- 1.5: Contribution to National Development Strategies, National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions, incorporating the SDG mandate to 'leaving no-one behind',
- 2.1: Resource mobilisation strategy developed and implemented to attract Water Investments in Africa and in line notably with the Africa Investment Facility and the Continental Africa Water Investment programme,
- 2.2: Co-design and participation of the Action Partners to the coordination mechanism for the TEI on TWM,

- 2.3: Develop capacities African institutions to facilitate and mediate a peaceful cooperation along the water basins through mechanisms based on evidence and conflict sensitive approaches,
- 2.4: Support the post-2025 African Water Vision, Sharm-el-Sheik commitments and African Adaptation Initiative within Africa's Agenda 2063,
- 3.1: The State of Progress report on Water is done and disseminated,
- 3.2: Monitoring, reporting and benchmarking under the WASSMO system is strengthened,
- 3.3: A coordinate and coherent monitoring frameworks, compatible with other existing schemes is developed Coordinated and coherent monitoring frameworks, compatible with other existing schemes.

4.4.3 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

Should the African Union Commission be fully pillar assessed by the time of contracting, it is foreseen to change the management mode from direct management as stated in section 4.4.1 to indirect management with a pillar assessed entity.

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with the African Union Commission. This implementation entails covering policy and governance aspects of the Action, directly contributing to Outputs:

- 1.1: Capacity at AUC and AMCOW levels to ensure stronger coordination and synergetic action on policy development and water action between these institutions are improved, including improved capacities on climate change adaptation as an essential element for understanding water security,
- 1.2: Cross-sectoral coordination among the Divisions at AUC level, as to allow a clear and inter-divisional water strategy at African level,
- 1.3: Development of cohesive water governance systems covering country, basin, regional, continental scales, including contributions of the Team Europe Initiative on transboundary water management in Africa,
- 1.4: Strengthened cooperation between the high-level AU Institutions with the RECs, and with the water cooperation agreements and arrangements, notably through ANBO,
- 1.6: Support and advocacy for the development of more robust transboundary water agreements and arrangements (including the development of nature-based solutions for integrated water resources management in some basins not covered yet), well-coordinated with the regional policy framework and, whenever relevant, in line with the provisions of the UNECE Water Convention,
- 2.1: Resource mobilisation strategy developed and implemented to attract Water Investments in Africa and in line notably with the Africa Investment Facility and the Continental Africa Water Investment programme,
- 2.2: Co-design and participation of the Action Partners to the coordination mechanism for the TEI on TWM,
- 2.3: Develop capacities African institutions to facilitate and mediate a peaceful cooperation along the water basins through mechanisms based on evidence and conflict sensitive approaches,
- 2.4: Support the post-2025 African Water Vision, Sharm-el-Sheik commitments and African Adaptation Initiative within Africa's Agenda 2063,
- 3.1: The State of Progress report on Water is done and disseminated.

The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria:

- Have thematic / regional expertise in the water area, including in policy and governance
- Have an African anchorage
- Have experience in managing EU funds

4.5 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.6 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.4	
Specific Objective 1: To strengthen the continental water governance institutional frameworks (with its regional and national building blocks), notably on transboundary water cooperation, composed of:	4 200 000
Grants (direct anagement)- cf section 4.4.1	1 700 000
Indirect management with pillar-assessed organisation – cf section 4.4.2	2 500 000
Specific Objective 2: To stimulate investments into Africa's water agenda along the African architecture and agenda 2063 and improve mobilisation of finance for water priorities and transboundary investments, including climate adaptation, natural resources management and nature-based solutions, composed of:	3 900 000
Grants (direct anagement) - cf section 4.4.1	1 400 000
Indirect management with pillar-assessed organisation – cf section 4.4.2	2 500 000
Specific Objective 3: To develop further African benchmarking and monitoring of water security composed of:	2 900 000
Grants (direct anagement) - cf section 4.4.1	400 000
Indirect management with pillar-assessed organisation – cf section 4.4.2	2 500 000
Grants – total envelope under section 4.4.1	3 500 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	May be covered by another Decision
Totals	11 000 000

4.7 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The detailed Programme governance will include provisionally the following bodies: (i) Programme Steering Committee (PSC) and (ii) Thematic Coordination Committees (TCC).

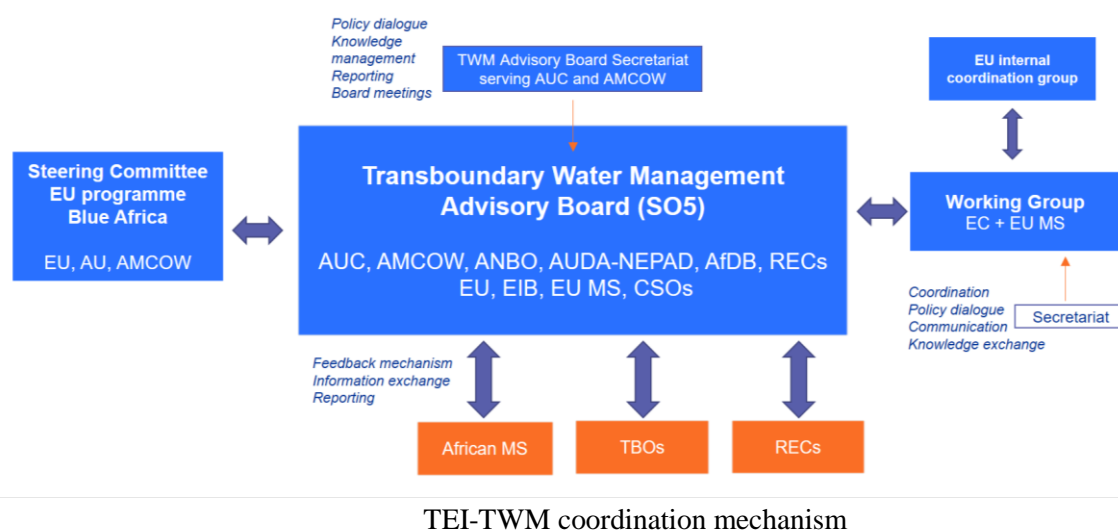
(i) Programme Steering committee for the EU programme Blue Africa (PSC)

The Programme **Steering committee for the Blue Africa** will involve the continental bodies overseeing the Blue Africa EU programme. Based on the recommendations made by the Advisory Board (see below), this Steering Committee will provide strategic orientations and review progresses of projects approved by the EU at continental level. The AU and AMCOW will define and validate the strategic orientations, make amendments and approve the reports with the EU. The EU Delegation to the African Union will steer discussions on behalf of the EU with AU counterparts.

(ii) Advisory Board (AB)

The African Transboundary Water management agenda, including the TEI, will be guided/developed by an **Advisory Board** consisting of AUC, AMCOW, ANBO, AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, and RECs (rotating participation of RECs). The Advisory Board will identify the best way to involve the EU and EU MS, EIB, and CSOs. The Advisory Board will provide on a yearly basis high-level strategic guidance and define milestones to achieve in the area of transboundary water management, beyond the purview of the TEI-TWM.

The Advisory Board will combine high level guidance at continental level coupled with feedback and reporting systems applying at regional and basin level involving AU MS, TBOs, RECs. A secretariat hosted by AMCOW and serving both AUC and AMCOW will ensure steering, reporting, knowledge management, and organise board meetings. The Advisory Board will meet at senior management level at least once a year.



Additional aspects of Programme governance will be defined at a later stage: level of representation; formal channels of communication; and additional criteria for selection of ad-hoc observers (e.g. youth, women, UN, private sector, other initiatives, etc.).

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the Action.

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this Action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partners shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the Action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the Action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

With regard to the nature of the Action, data collection, performance monitoring and reporting will be carried out for each thematic sector individually. Specific modalities for each of them (indicators, targets and assumptions) will be defined in the respective contracts/agreements and during the inception phases, in a way that will provide inputs for the performance monitoring of the Action globally.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the Action, evaluations will be carried out as appropriate for this Action or its components. The evaluation modalities will be adapted to the particular situation of each sub-regional component and will be defined in individual contracts.

In case a mid-term evaluation is envisaged: it will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to share lessons learnt with other components of the Action and to assess the needs to launch a second phase of the Action.

In case a final or ex-post evaluation is envisaged: It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision). In case an evaluation is not foreseen, the Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

Where an evaluation is planned and is to be contracted by the Commission, the Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least two months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

It will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU Member States.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention (also generally called project/programme) is the operational entity associated to a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Interventions are the most effective (hence optimal) entities for the operational follow-up by the Commission of its external development operations. As such, Interventions constitute the base unit for managing operational implementations, assessing performance, monitoring, evaluation, internal and external communication, reporting and aggregation.

Primary Interventions are those contracts or groups of contracts bearing reportable results and respecting the following business rule: 'a given contract can only contribute to one primary intervention and not more than one'. An individual contract that does not produce direct reportable results and cannot be logically grouped with other result reportable contracts is considered a 'support entities'. The addition of all primary interventions and support entities is equivalent to the full development portfolio of the Institution.

The present Action identifies as

Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	Direct Management (Grant)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	Indirect Management with pillar assessed entity