



# Project Information Document (PID)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 07-Apr-2023 | Report No: PIDA35326

**BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Project Data**

Country Eastern and Southern Africa	Project ID P180171	Project Name Regional Climate Resilience Program for Eastern and Southern Africa	Parent Project ID (if any)
Region EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA	Estimated Appraisal Date 20-Mar-2023	Estimated Board Date 24-May-2023	Practice Area (Lead) Water
Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Republic of Mozambique, Republic of Madagascar, Union of Comoros, Republic of South Sudan, Southern Africa Development Community, Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office	Implementing Agency Souther African Development Community, Ministry of Land-Use and Urban Planning, in charge of Land issues and Land Transport, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Ministère Eau, Assainissement et Hygiène (MEAH), Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO), Ministry of Public Works, Housing, and Water Resources	

**Proposed Development Objective(s)**

To improve the management of water-related climate impacts in Eastern and Southern Africa.

**Components**

1. Risk Management and Climate Financing
2. Infrastructure Investments and Sustainable Asset Management for Climate Resilience
3. Adaptive Climate Services for Resilient Communities
4. Project Management
5. CERC

**PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)****SUMMARY**



<b>Total Project Cost</b>	382.40
<b>Total Financing</b>	382.40
<b>of which IBRD/IDA</b>	382.40
<b>Financing Gap</b>	0.00

## DETAILS

### World Bank Group Financing

International Development Association (IDA)	382.40
IDA Credit	28.00
IDA Grant	354.40

### Environmental and Social Risk Classification

High

### Decision

The review did authorize the team to appraise and negotiate

Other Decision (as needed)

## B. Introduction and Context

### Country Context

- This document describes a Regional Climate Resilience Program for Eastern and Southern Africa (AFE RCRP) to improve regional preparedness for the increasing frequency, intensity, and impact of water-related climate shocks on people, livelihoods, infrastructure, and ecosystems.** The AFE RCRP is structured as a regional Series of Projects (SOPs) that allows tackling common challenges amongst countries in the region, while benefiting from a programmatic framework that will allow scalability (countries can join at different times) and economies of scale. The overall SOP focuses on catalytic medium-to large-scale investments to reduce people's exposure to climate shocks, with a focus on high return storage and protective water infrastructure and safety nets. The first project of the RCRP SOP – described in this document – includes four countries (Comoros, Madagascar, Mozambique, and South Sudan) and two regional organizations (the Southern Africa Development Community, SADC, and the Nile Basin Initiative, NBI). SOP-1 aims to serve as a first step to build a regional platform through which countries can tackle climate adaptation through a common and coordinated approach, including on fund raising and consolidating multilateral and bilateral supports - which is critical to develop projects at scale that will have a measurable impact to advancing climate adaptation.



2. **Eastern and Southern African (AFE) economies were on their way toward recovery from the turbulence of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the Russia's invasion of Ukraine has created a daunting new set of woes for the region.** These include soaring commodity prices and food shortages in a region that is already in the grip of worsening food insecurity, debt distress, and devastating climate shocks, including the worst drought in Horn of Africa in the last four decades. As a result, economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is set to decline from 4.1 percent in 2021 to 3.3 percent in 2022. The pandemic has induced a lasting impact on long-term growth, particularly affecting the poorest people and increasing extreme poverty. The slow recovery of the per capita income growth rate, at 0.9 percent in 2023 and 1.3 percent in 2024, still falls short of putting the continent back on the pre-pandemic path of poverty reduction. These effects further increase the relevance and timeliness of regional efforts to strengthen preparedness and build resilience to water related climate shocks (cyclones, floods, and droughts).
3. **The complex development challenges affecting the region include varying degrees of conflict and fragility, food crises and macro-economic challenges, which are exacerbated by climate change-induced shocks, impacting mostly vulnerable populations.** For example, as a result of decades of fragility, insecurity, and disasters in South Sudan, more than 8.9 million people of the estimated 12.4 million total population needed humanitarian assistance and social protection in 2022. In Madagascar, approximately 81 percent of the population currently live under the international poverty line of US\$1.90 (2011 purchasing power parity) per day. In the period 2020-2021, poverty averaged 64 percent in Mozambique, while in Comoros, approximately 45 percent of the population live below the poverty line.
4. **Climate change poses a major threat to the achievement of the region's long-term development objectives, especially poverty reduction, the regional challenges it poses, and the need for shared regional solutions, constitute the main driver of this regional program.** Climate change is resulting in higher frequency of extreme weather events (i.e., too much/too little water) in the region, affecting millions of people, and further eroding the already fragile financial and fiscal sustainability of governments. In 2019, Cyclone Idai caused an estimated US\$2 billion damages in Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe, equivalent to 3-9 percent of GDP. In Comoros, the average annual losses from tropical cyclones and floods are estimated at one percent of 2014 GDP,<sup>1</sup> and drought is a growing risk. The 2016/17 Horn of Africa (HoA) drought had estimated losses of approximately US\$1.7 billion (37 percent GDP) in Somalia alone. Over the past 20 years, Madagascar has been hit by 35 cyclones, eight floods and five periods of severe drought (i.e., three times more than during the previous 20-year period). On average, cyclones cost the economy an estimated one percent of GDP per year. Total losses from cyclones in the year 2020 alone were equivalent to 4.8 percent of GDP.<sup>2</sup> Historic droughts in the South of Madagascar led to acute food insecurity for 1.3 million people at the end of 2021. In South Sudan, significant floods in 2019 and 2020 were further surpassed by record floods in 2021 and 2022, which affected over one million people and displaced more than 300,000, with rippling effects on food security, livelihoods, and social dynamics, especially for women and girls - and total direct economic damages of over US\$670 million (13 percent of GDP). More than 700,000 people were left in need of food assistance. Record flooding continued in 2022, afflicting between 1 and 2.4 million people and resulting in economic damages of more than 9 percent of its GDP.
5. **The transboundary consequences of climate shocks trigger compounded effects through migration, trade disruptions due to damaged infrastructure, and conflict over resource stress.** In Africa, 90 percent of water is shared across 63 transboundary basins. As most basins in AFE are transboundary in nature, the impacts of climate variability and climate change have rippling effects across country borders, resulting in regional ecological and economic

<sup>1</sup> Disaster Risk Profile of Comoros (GFDRR and ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program)

<sup>2</sup> World Bank's Global Rapid Damage Estimation (GRADE)



impact. Besides opportunities for coordinated management of floods and droughts, the regional contribution of the main transboundary hydro-systems (e.g., Nile, Zambezi, Limpopo) to drinking water, food, energy, and job security in the region, as well as biodiversity could be further developed, to respond to the exponential growth in water demand of a rapidly growing, increasingly urban population, and to reduce the existing food and energy shortages prevalent in the region. Importantly, the regional nature of climate change impacts materializes beyond shared waters. Trade corridors are equally important for resilience-building.

6. **The recent Climate Change and Development Reports (CCDRs) show that boosting resilience and adaptation constitutes an urgent and integral part of development and poverty reduction, especially in low-income countries.**<sup>3</sup> The threat from climate change to AFE's economic growth and poverty reduction comes from two main fronts: (i) the economic model and livelihoods are highly dependent on natural ecosystems (on which 70 percent of Africans depend for their livelihoods), and (ii) climatic shocks are draining fiscal resources and affecting particularly the poor that have limited options to respond.
7. **The lack of proper planning, infrastructure, and building standards have resulted in structures that are prone to damage by natural disasters and other shocks and stress factors – with the most vulnerable people often bearing the brunt.** The inadequate water resource management and services, rapid and often unplanned urbanization, unregulated development, poorly maintained drainage systems, inefficient solid waste management practices, environmental degradation, and large-scale encroachment of settlements onto low-lying wetlands, riverbeds, and coastal areas have exacerbated the vulnerability to natural catastrophes. They have also increased the exposure of people and assets to climate-induced risks.

#### Sectoral and Institutional Context

8. **Despite the manifest impacts of climate-related shocks in the AFE, the tendency is overwhelmingly to react to these disasters, rather than prepare for them, which poses additional challenges to the already fragile financial and fiscal sustainability of the region's governments.** As the first round of CCDRs confirm, the increasing frequency and intensity of natural hazards in AFE is generating a situation in which governments are confronted with increasing contingent liabilities. The impacts of these events are felt across all economic sectors. When cyclones or droughts hit the region, cities, which are hubs of economic activity, run out of water; power generation declines, cutting industrial productivity; and rural livelihoods, largely based on subsistence agriculture or wildlife conservation, collapse, causing widespread food insecurity. In South Sudan and other countries in the region, dikes are often constructed without proper consideration of A sustainable, long-term response to climate hazards requires moving away from ad-hoc disaster risk response to strategic disaster risk management. Investing in simple accessible didactic tools and methods to enhance whole-of-community understanding of flood and water resource dynamics, and systematically involving local communities in the design, operation and maintenance of flood infrastructure, can increase sustainability, community awareness, and buy-in.<sup>4</sup>
9. **Climate-related impacts are further exacerbated by chronic underfunding for adaptation in Africa which is urgently needed to close the infrastructure gap – and even when available, countries find it difficult to access climate financing.** In the AFE region, there is a severe gap in green-grey storage assets and resilience infrastructure to reduce exposure to shocks, including in cities, that require immediate attention. For instance, Mozambique – despite having

<sup>3</sup> "World Bank Group. 2022. *Climate and Development: An Agenda for Action - Emerging Insights from World Bank Group 2021-22 Country Climate and Development Reports*. Washington, DC: World Bank. © World Bank Group. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/38220> License: CC BY-NC-ND."

<sup>4</sup> Bernardo del Carpio et. al., 2021



one of the largest hydropower potentials in Sub-Saharan Africa<sup>5</sup> - has a very low storage capacity of renewable water, only 0.3 percent of the 213 km<sup>3</sup>/year of renewable water that crosses the country, which makes the country susceptible to water scarcity. Still, Africa is struggling to access climate finance. The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of 51 African countries cumulatively show a need for an estimated US\$579 billion in investment for adaptation through 2030. This compares to the US\$11.4 billion in tracked adaptation finance to Africa on average annually from 2019 to 2020. If this trend were to continue through 2030, cumulative adaptation finance through 2030 would be US\$125.4 billion—less than one quarter of the estimated needs stated in NDCs<sup>6</sup>, and only 3 percent of global climate financing. Countries in the region also lack capacity to effectively apply for and mobilize these funds.

10. **AFE countries struggle to deliver sustainable and transformative responses to climate-change impacts at scale, loosing potential synergies across sectors and across countries.** There is generally no sufficient strategic planning and implementation capacity to absorb financing for increasing resilience, even if available. The funds for rebuilding after a disaster are mainly channelled through emergency response agencies that do not always coordinate with the sector Ministries, who are not able to respond themselves in an agile manner. Fragmented country-level response strategies miss opportunities of leveraging economies of scale at the regional level on these global public goods.
11. **Weak institutions with lack of accountability and lack of clear responsibilities are often unable to allocate operation and maintenance (O&M) funds to manage already depleting protective and storage infrastructure, thus perpetuating poverty.** Frequently, across the AFE region, there is lack of predictable, flexible budgetary processes to ensure sustainable, cost-effective asset management. In Mozambique, because of a fiscal crisis, the annual budget allocation to Ara Sul in Mozambique decreased from 300 million meticaïs in 2019 to less than 100 million meticaïs since then. As a result, the maintenance budget for the dikes under their responsibility was cut to zero and after each heavy rainfall, some of these dikes get destroyed. African institutions at both the national and regional levels will be vital to the planning, implementation, and ongoing management and operations of large-scale investments in resilience. Strengthening these institutions is a key priority for the AU and there are opportunities to harmonize approaches to governance across the region.
12. **The poorest groups are the least well equipped to adapt – and climate shocks often lead to their displacement, including across borders.** The poorest households' lives and livelihoods are both more exposed and more vulnerable to extreme climate events. They often live in high-risk areas – both in urban and rural areas - and do not have hazard information, financial capacity and many times, only have limited access to social protection programs to reduce risks.<sup>7</sup>
13. **Women on the lower end of the socioeconomic scale are particularly vulnerable to floods, droughts and other climatic shocks, which have been associated with increased rates of child marriage, increased female school drop-out rates, higher rates of gender-based violence, and larger declines in incomes and in assets compared to men.** Case studies point to the differential impact on women who cut back on education and work to care for the household during floods, and yet are often not adequately represented on flood or disaster recovery committees

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<sup>5</sup> Estimated at around 12,500 MW.

<sup>6</sup> World Bank, 2022. Climate and Development: An Agenda for Action - Emerging Insights from World Bank Group 2021-22 Country Climate and Development Reports

<sup>7</sup> Bowen et al. 2022. Adaptive Social Protection in Southern Africa. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group.



that allocate compensation,<sup>8 9</sup> and may not have equal access to public work opportunities.<sup>10</sup> Community-level preparedness is fundamental for reducing climate disaster risks and community engagement can facilitate increased maintenance of flood infrastructure, and yet is often the last forgotten mile. Conflicts and displacement also exacerbate the impacts of extreme climate events, mostly affecting the poorest and most vulnerable.

14. **Evidence from regional experiences indicates that effective resilience-building solutions need to be both integrated and cross-sectoral.** Institutional efforts across the AFE region have aimed to reduce vulnerability through stronger and longer-term engagement with the transboundary river basin commissions or regional economic organizations. The Southern African Development Community (SADC), established in 1992, is promoting the sustainable management of shared water resources to boost livelihoods and climate resilience and acting as a coordinating body for several river basin organizations, in addition to coordinating efforts on regional early warning systems and disasters' response. In East Africa, the Nile Basin Initiative supports the 11 Nile riparian countries to reduce tensions over shared waters and identify opportunities for information sharing, capacity-building and joint investments.
15. **Countries in the AFE region have much to learn from each other and gain from cooperation, and much remains to be done to strengthen and operationalize the existing coordination.** At the level of regulatory and institutional frameworks for water management, the region possesses outdated or non-existent legal frameworks, displaying a huge gap in the effective governance of the resource. In some countries, even critical information to manage climate extremes is lacking, and coordination at the regional level is scarce. In South Sudan, hydro-meteorological information networks suffered extensive damage, with only five stations currently operational across a vast hydrological network, including the river Nile. There is currently no regional information systems to prepare for and coordinate disasters response. In the SADC region, which includes three out of the four countries joining the first operation under the SOP, many current meteorological and hydrological stations are not operational, while networks are already not sufficiently dense for initialization and calibration of the global weather models and for early warning on hydrological events. There is currently no coordinated response to cyclones increasingly affecting the region, and the need to fully integrate climate services with early warning systems at national and regional levels. Regional solutions addressing these challenges are urgently needed and SADC and NBI can play a critical role.
16. **The proposed Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP) proposes a platform for coordinated action on the regional climate change challenges, for testing and expanding the use of standardized and replicable approaches on emerging good practices across countries and sectors and to mobilize co-financing for this agenda.** In its initial operation, the Program places emphasis on setting out a robust basis for future large-scale transformative investments, critical to increase the resilience of the region in this changing climate.

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<sup>8</sup> Holmes and Jones. 2011. Public works programmes in developing countries: Reducing gendered disparities in economic opportunities? Overseas Development Institute, London.

<sup>9</sup> Botea, Coudouel, Heinemann, and Kuttner. 2021. Safety First: How to Leverage Social Safety Nets to Prevent Gender Based Violence. Washington, DC: World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/35641> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO.

<sup>10</sup> Beazley and Picanyol. 2019. Gender-sensitive public works in Mozambique. HEART (High-Quality Technical Assistance for Results).





### C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

17. The overall RCRP SOP's PDO is to strengthen the resilience to water-related climate impacts in Eastern and Southern African countries

Development Objective(s) (From PAD)

To improve the management of water-related climate impacts in Eastern and Southern Africa.

#### Key Results

18. The PDO addresses the need to improve the management of water-related climate impacts in RCRP SOP-1 countries, in particular increased rainfall variability, droughts, floods, and cyclones affecting the region.
19. Progress towards the PDO will be **measured** through the following PDO-level indicators:

PDO level Outcome Indicators	
1.	<i>Land area benefitting from increased flood protection (ha) (% of which in transboundary basins)*</i>
2.	<i>Improved regional information systems in use for decision making related to droughts, floods and/or cyclones (Number)**</i>
3.	<i>Mechanism for climate resilient maintenance of hydraulic assets developed and/or adopted, including plans for financing (Number) ***</i>
4.	<i>People with increased protection to climate shocks (Number) (% of which women, % of which refugees, % of which displaced)</i>
5.	<i>People covered with adaptive social protection or information campaigns addressing water related climate risks (Number, % of which women, % of which refugees, % of which displaced)**</i>
6.	<i>Regional knowledge sharing events organized to support regional integration on water-related climate impacts (Number).</i>

\*PDO indicator No. 1 applies to South Sudan and Mozambique only, given that works will only be financed there. It includes land restored to minimize floods. 100% of the investments financed in this operation will be in transboundary basins\*\*No.

2. 'Improved regional information systems' implies that protocols for data exchanges across countries and relevant regional organizations are in place.\*\*\*No. 3. These mechanisms involve institutionalized asset management, with clear decision-making system and financial management plans; as well as consideration of climate risks.

### D. Project Description

20. **The proposed project structure is strongly rooted in the need for solutions to build the AFE region's resilience through interventions across scales (from local, to national, to regional levels) and sectors.** The project is designed around four integrated and mutually reinforcing components, which reflect the distinct but interconnected layers of improving the management of water-related climate impacts. The structure responds to the urgent need to invest in large transformational and sustainable infrastructure investments (Component 2) that are critical for improving the management of climate change impacts on water resources. As infrastructure alone is not sufficient to offset climate risks, it will take time to come online, and the needs exceed the scope of this Project, Component 1 focuses on disaster risk management and early warning systems, and on climate financing to leverage additional investments. People and their increased resilience remain a core objective of the Project – with Component 3 focusing on ensuring that the most vulnerable population are better protected from climate risk through enhanced access to information and adaptive social protection programs, with a particular focus on gender inclusion. Component 4 corresponds to project management. South Sudan, Madagascar, and Comoros will also include a fifth component, the Contingent Emergency Response (CERC) mechanism. While components remain technically the same for all,





specific activities per country/regional organization are detailed in Annex 1. Table 2 below summarizes project's costs per country. Table A1.2 in Annex 1 further breaks costs down per financing source. **The proposed Components' structure includes a strong integration between regional and national dimensions, and provides a platform for policy and regulatory harmonization, joint knowledge generation, capacity development, standardization of climate-resilient infrastructure, cooperation, and coordination between countries.** This regional approach is critical to achieve increased preparedness to the regional impacts of climate change, with social and economic benefits that will go beyond each country's boundaries.

21. **Component 1. Risk Management and Climate Financing** (US\$26 million, including US\$5.5 million National IDA, US\$13.5 million Regional IDA, US\$6 million Crisis Response Window, CRW, and US\$1 million IDA Window for Host Communities and Refugees, WHR). The objective of this component is to build regional and national institutional capacity and strengthen cooperation on climate and disasters risk management and climate financing.
22. **Sub-Component 1.1. Climate and Disasters Risk Management.** This sub-component will support investments in hydromet and early warning systems in participating countries, and establishment/strengthening of coordination mechanisms at the regional level. Eligible activities under this sub-component include a mix of (i) supply, installation and rehabilitation of small infrastructure (e.g., hydromet stations, monitoring equipment, rainfall gauges); (ii) provision of IT services, software, and technical assistance/capacity building to relevant regional, national, and local agencies, to develop, consolidate, and produce hydro-meteorological forecasts, in coordination with other relevant government and regional entities; (iii) warning dissemination & communication to ensure forecasts information is timely available across the different levels of government and the public, including material in local languages, and disseminated through different media (iv) capacity building and regional knowledge and data sharing on disaster risk management, water resource management, flood and drought and cyclones forecasting, hydrological and meteorological data exchange, and other disasters risk management topics of mutual interest.
23. **Sub-Component 1.2. Climate Financing.** This sub-component promotes multisectoral climate governance and crowd-in climate financing from different sources. It will include regional-level Technical Assistance (TA) for strengthening clients' capacity to access mitigation and adaptation financing, or Global Public Goods (GPG) funds, for example for the protection of wetlands and rangeland conservation, and to steer and benefit from carbon market opportunities via the creation of regional and country-based platforms for climate advocacy and financing; supporting deliberate outreach, and roundtables.
24. **Component 2. Infrastructure Investments and Sustainable Asset Management for Climate Resilience** (US\$316.4 million, including US\$51 million National IDA, US\$103.4 million Regional IDA, US\$144 million CRW, and US\$18 million WHR). Improving management of water resources and water-related climate impacts in AFE requires closing the regional gap on critical water infrastructure for climate resilience, as well as a strong institutional framework (i.e., rules and organizations) for mainstreaming climate considerations in the planning, implementation, operation and maintenance of the new and existing infrastructure. Given the tight fiscal space in participating countries, it is also crucial to extend the lifespan and effectiveness of existing protective and storage infrastructure via improved asset management and maintenance. Both for climate resilience planning and O&M, it



is critical to promote a whole-of-government approach,<sup>11</sup> that moves beyond siloed sectors and looks at the whole financial flows and competing demands. This will be achieved through (i) institutional development and planning; (ii) infrastructure development and rehabilitation; and (iii) sustainable asset management. Taking a regional approach under this component is fundamental as the region has much to offer in terms of lessons learnt, shared challenges, and successful solutions – the regional perspective thus helps maximize economies of scale and make the best use of scarce resources for larger impact.

25. Sub-Component 2.1. Enhancing Institutional Capacity for Long-term Climate Risk Management. This subcomponent will finance technical assistance and capacity building to strengthen the legal, regulatory, institutional framework for climate-resilient water resources management, including regional and transboundary collaboration. This involves strengthening the institutional capacity of countries to effectively manage long-term, climate-related flood, cyclones, and drought risks at watershed and urban levels, including foundational Policies, Institutions, and Regulation (PIR) support, such as institutional strengthening, improving water resources planning, monitoring systems and watershed management, water resources/flood management/spatial planning (i.e., master plans and basin plans), gender resilience benchmarking and gender-responsive approaches, strengthened capacity and tools for community engagement in resilience planning and mitigation, updating technical standards for climate-resilient infrastructure, revision of water codes and accompanying legislations, and capacity building. It will also finance South-South exchanges and capacity building on successful regional experiences.
26. Sub-component 2.2. Closing the Climate Resilient Infrastructure Gap. This sub-component will finance both preparatory studies and construction of new and in-dire-state priority infrastructure to increase climate resilience in participating countries. Studies will include dam safety assessments of critical storage – this infrastructure is critical in terms of managing too much/too little water, in addition to potentially supporting multiple water uses fundamental for countries' development. Eligible infrastructure includes protective assets (e.g., embankments/dikes, wetland restoration, urban drainage, channelization), drought-cop and multipurpose storage (including priority large-scale dams). Both conventional infrastructure investments and nature-based solutions will be considered. In this SOP-1, works for flood and drought risk management and high priority remedial works to ensure the safety of existing storage will be financed in South Sudan and Mozambique. In both countries, the project uses a framework approach with eligibility criteria to identify, prioritize and screen flood and drought management and dam safety interventions including consideration of (i) potential for impact on project outcomes, including regional benefits, (ii) environmental and social impact (no high E&S risk in Mozambique), (iii) cost-effectiveness, (iv) sub-basin level clustering; (v) accessibility and security, and (vi) synergies with ongoing World Bank and development partner's engagements. In South Sudan, the project may finance rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure, construction of community-based infrastructure, among other high impact interventions that provide tangible near-term benefits to communities and protection from water related climate impacts. The project will also support identification of potential high-priority drought infrastructure investments in participating countries to be financed in latter operations of the SOP. It is likely that more infrastructure needs will be identified than existing resources – thereby the potential for co-financing from other donors.

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<sup>11</sup> Whole-of-Government refers to joint activities performed by diverse ministries, public administrations and public agencies in order to provide a common solution to particular problems or issues, in this case improving climate resilience planning at the system level, and financial availability for proper maintenance.



27. Sub-component 2.3. Sustainable Asset Management. This sub-component will include an evaluation of the legal and institutional framework and flow of funds, and cost recovery for operating and maintaining protective and storage infrastructure. It will support technical assistance and capacity-building to strengthen the water agencies' capacity to operate and maintain existing and new assets for drought and flood management, including financial, legal, and human capacity aspects, considering gender inclusion. The technical assistance will help define an approach to public asset management and minimal standards, and - where applicable - recommendations for and support to set up a regional/national asset maintenance fund for storage and protective infrastructure, including recommendations and support for the revision of water laws. The specific set-up will vary in each country, with the common objective to increase coverage of maintenance costs of protective assets/storage, including those with transboundary benefits. Capacity building will be conducted at the regional, national, and sub-national levels.
28. **Component 3. Adaptive Climate Services for Resilient Communities** (US\$17.9 million, including US\$2.2 million National IDA, US\$5.7 million Regional IDA, US\$6 million CRW, and US\$4 million WHR). Strengthening social and human capital resilience to climate change in AFE will include enhancing last mile community preparedness and mainstreaming the climate dimension in social protection policy design, operational and budgetary planning, including in cash for work programs, whilst integrating gender needs. Adaptive social protection programs play a key role in the climate change risks cycle, from information campaigns about climate risks to vulnerability reduction to shock response. The development of these programs would decrease the number of refugees and displaced in case of disaster, thus preventing negative spillovers across countries, whilst safeguarding livelihoods of people in exposed areas.
29. Sub-Component 3.1. Empowering Communities to Manage Climate Risk. This sub-component will focus on enhancing last mile community preparedness and response capacity via (i) the development and implementation of community-level plans, simulation exercises, capacity building activities for community leaders and women to participate in effective preparedness, response and recovery efforts (including drought impacts reporting and drought contingency planning); and (ii) enhancing the capacity of beneficiary communities to actively participate in asset operation and maintenance through training and education programs targeting youths, leveraging wherever possible existing local governance for O&M of flood and drought infrastructure. This will include support for the development and piloting of didactic tools to enhance the quality of community engagement and knowledge around floods and droughts planning and mitigation, with a particular focus on improving the knowledge and participation of women, youth and other marginalized groups. While these programs will be tailored to the local context, cross-fertilization and learning across the region will inform their design and implementation.
30. Sub-Component 3.2. Mainstreaming Climate Resilience in Social Protection Programs. The ability of SP to timely respond to emerging needs depends on four activities supported by RCRP: (1) strengthening the climate-change content of the operational design of social protection programs, from public works to livelihoods; (2) improving information systems and households data to better assess climate change vulnerability, especially that of water; (3) enhancing the financial agility to support risk reduction measures and shock mitigation; and (4) supporting the intersectoral and cross-country coordination arrangements and partnerships, including for climate sensitive cash-for-work programs.



- 31. Component 4. Project Management.** (US\$22 million, including US\$3.3 million National IDA, US\$7.8 million Regional IDA, US\$9 million CRW, and US\$2 million WHR). This component will finance all project management activities in participating countries and regional organizations, including equipment and materials, technical assistance and compliance with fiduciary, procurement, and environmental and social risk management requirements, security planning and management, remote supervision, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and impact assessment, knowledge management and communication, and when needed, support to technical activities and supervision. It will also finance national grievance redress mechanisms (GRM) and other project operating costs. At the national and regional organizations' level, the activities will be performed by Project Implementation Units (PIUs) or or a Project Coordination Unit (PCU),, established under relevant Ministries, maximizing wherever possible complementarity with existing PIUs. A Regional Steering Committee (RSC) will be established to increase coordination across the region. This component will finance participation at regional events and knowledge sharing, including in the meetings of the RSC. Finally, this component will also finance digital communications of the overall project– including blogs, social media posts and developing translated and engaging infographics targeting beneficiaries and community members.
- 32. Component 5: Contingent Emergency Response** (US\$0). A Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) is included in the project, under South Sudan's, Madagascar's, and Comoros' and Mozambique's financing agreements.<sup>12</sup> This will allow for rapid reallocation of uncommitted funds under corresponding credits and grants in the event of an eligible crisis or emergency. Under this Project, eligible emergencies would be limited to the following: (i) floods/cyclones causing destruction, contamination, and limiting access to water services; (ii) droughts affecting water supplies for human consumption and livestock; (iii) localized water-borne disease epidemics related to flood/cyclones, and drought emergencies, and (iv) conflict-related impacts to water infrastructure. For the CERC to be activated and financing to be provided: (a) the Recipient's relevant authority has to declare a disaster, emergency or catastrophic event; (b) the Association and the Recipient have to agree in writing to address such disaster, emergency or catastrophic event under the Project and in accordance with the provisions of the respective Financing Agreement; (c) the Recipient has to ensure that all environmental and social management instruments required for said activities have been prepared and disclosed, and the Recipient has to ensure that any actions which are required to be taken under said instruments have been implemented, all in accordance with the applicable provisions of the respective CERC Manual; (d) the Coordinating Agency in charge of coordinating and implementing the CERC must have adequate staff and resources, for the purposes of said activities; and (e) the Recipient has to adopt a CERC Manual.

### **Project Beneficiaries**

- 33.** The Program's primary target groups are (a) selected national, sub-national and regional entities that will increase their capacity; and (b) vulnerable communities in selected areas of participating countries:
- a) *Regional Institutions.* SADC and ENTRO's capacity will be enhanced through their participation in tailored technical trainings (e.g., access to climate financing) and South-South exchange on priority topics, as well as through the enhancement of their role as regional convenors and promoters of dialogue and cooperation around regional EW systems, data sharing, transboundary waters, and NR management.

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<sup>12</sup> in accordance with Investment Project Financing (IPF) Policy, paragraphs 12, for Situations of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints



- b) *National Institutions.* Program beneficiaries include institutions responsible for hydromet and EWS, disaster risk management, and water resources management at the regional, national and subnational levels, including line Ministries, government agencies, national authorities, and agencies at the national and sub-national levels.
- c) *Community-Level.* Vulnerable communities and families will directly benefit from improved early warning systems and preparedness capacity, and will also indirectly benefit from the flood risk management works, community outreach, and inclusion in social registries and possible participation in water related public works. In South Sudan, the project's beneficiaries will include refugees and host communities in flood hotspots.

In addition, the nature of the supported activities would also create benefits for the wider population in participating countries.

#### Legal Operational Policies

##### Triggered?

Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50

Yes

Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60

No

#### Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

34. ESS6 is relevant as the construction and operation of the flood management and water harvesting structures (Pillar II) in Phase 1 countries, as well as other potential infrastructure investments under the other Pillars could have some adverse impacts on biodiversity and habitats. South Sudan is the only Phase 1 participating country where implementation of major infrastructure investments during Phase 1 is anticipated, however the potential downstream biodiversity and habitat risks of investments identified during phase 1 feasibility studies and other TA for possible future phase implementation in all countries will be examined. The specific locations for the project activities are known at this stage. Detail assessment on the location of the investments will be conducted during preparation of the E&S instruments and potential risks shall be mitigated following the mitigation hierarchy.

Habitat alteration may occur due to reservoir creation (especially for small dams), changes in hydrologic flow regime, and construction material extraction. Habitat conversion may also result from construction-related aspects such as storage/disposal sites, and establishment of temporary work. The construction flood management and water harvesting structures can interrupt the pattern of seasonal flooding necessary to many fish for breeding and growth, change seasonal flow patterns, alter water quality, and disrupt fish habitats. Construction of small dams or run-of-river water retention structures may physically obstruct upstream and downstream movements of fish and other aquatic organisms, causing a loss of connectivity between upstream and downstream components of the riverine ecosystem. These can have significant negative effects on aquatic fauna that require annual or periodic in-river migrations upstream or downstream past the dam to habitats that are essential for the maintenance of the species or stock. Change in flow regime of water can also change the habitat suitability for aquatic plants and birds. Construction activities may lead clearance of terrestrial vegetation and disturbance of wildlife. Retention ponds may attract wildlife and livestock which may become mired in mud and drown in the water. There are potential risks to biodiversity because of sedimentation.



The sourcing of construction materials could have impacts on biodiversity. Sand and gravel borrow pits could cause disturbance of ecosystem. There are potential downstream risks to biodiversity and habitats because of technical assistance activities to be financed under Pillars I-IV.

Further screening will be conducted during preparation of the ESMF for each country. The ESMFs and TORs for TA activities in each country will include criteria and procedures to allow for screening of any sensitive ecosystems and services, to ensure that the investments are designed and implemented in ways that avoid damage to sensitive areas or critical habitats. Site specific ESMPs will cover risk mitigation measures for potential risks to biodiversity and habitats. The country ESMFs will also establish a clear exclusion list for activities that can have significant adverse impacts on biodiversity, protected areas, critical and natural habitats. The ESMFs shall cover potential cumulative impacts of the project investments on biodiversity.

Where the screening process deems it necessary for some countries, the need to prepare a country Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) will be addressed in the ESMF which will set out principles, rules, guidelines and procedures to assess the impacts and to propose mitigation measures and monitor biodiversity related implications of all phases of the project. The specific requirements related to natural habitats and biodiversity will be detailed in the specific environmental impact assessment instruments, notably in the subproject level ESMPs and the C-ESMPs.

Further screening for environmental and social impacts, including those anticipated from potential downstream impacts of Phase 1 TA will be carried out through the ESMFs, which will look across the typology of possible projects in each country. GBV Risks will be further assessed in each country based on country and sector activity contexts, leading to SEA/SH Prevention and Response Action plans proportionate to the risk associated with subprojects contemplated for each country

## E. Implementation

### Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

35. **The proposed RCRP SOP-1 will be coordinated at both the national and the regional level.** At the national level by national project implementation units (PIUs) and/or project coordination unit (PCUs) under relevant Ministries/SADC and ENTRO Secretariat, strengthening already existing units, whenever possible. The PIUs will retain all fiduciary functions and will be responsible for the implementation of the activities. Both SADC and ENTRO are eligible to receive a grant from the IDA Regional Window. The Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU) will carry out some technical activities and supervision as part of this project, under ENTRO's coordination. ENTRO and NELSAP are institutions of the Nile Basin Initiative and have a common purpose in contributing to the achievement of the shared vision of the NBI.
36. **Collaboration between participating entities will be strengthened by formalizing coordination mechanisms** (e.g., quarterly meetings and annual coordination meetings between PIUs, convening joint technical working groups to discuss thematic areas on preparedness for climate change, such as EWS, maintenance, infrastructure planning, etc). At the national PIU level, focal points will be nominated to liaise with the regional PIUs on implementation of activities requiring country-level inputs (i.e., data platforms). A Regional Steering Committee (RSC) will also be



established to increase overall regional coordination at the Program level and maximize the impact of the RCRP's framework approach. The RSC will reinforce the role of the RCRP as a coordination platform expected to consolidate regional cooperation in climate governance in the AFE region by actively engaging stakeholders at multiple levels and encouraging communication and exchange. It will include heads of PIUs/PCU, focal points from each participating Ministry/Implementation Agency, and will convene at least once a year to discuss implementation progress, and at least another time to discuss technical themes addressed by all countries of the SOP. Details of these arrangements will be provided in the Project Implementation Manuals (PIM).

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