

Sweden
Sverige

Institutional Strengthening and Support (ISS) to the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)

Through

**THE EMBASSY OF SWEDEN IN ADDIS ABABA,
REGIONAL SECTION FOR COOPERATION WITH
SUB SAHARAN AFRICA Progress Report (January – December 2022)**

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ACRONYMS

AMCOW	African Ministers' Council on Water
ARBE	Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment
ARDWE	.....	Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and the Environment, Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and the Environment
AUC	.....	Africa Union Commission
ERP	.....	Enterprise Resources Planning
ISS	.....	Institutional Strengthening Support
L/RBO.	.....	Lake/Rivers Based Organization
SIDA	.....	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
STC	Specialized Technical Committee
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee

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I. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Project Background

In 2018, SIDA signed an agreement with the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) to support the institutional strengthening of the AMCOW Secretariat during the period 2019 – 2022 with a grant of 40 million Swedish Krona (SEK 40m). The Swedish support aims to enable AMCOW to fulfil its mandate, achieve its vision, and implement its Strategy 2018 - 2030. It allows Member States to manage sustainable water resources to address poverty reduction and social development goals. SIDA provides this support by strengthening AMCOW's Organs and the Secretariat to:

- a. More effectively serve as the Working Group on Water and Sanitation of the African Union's Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and the Environment (STC on ARDWE).
- b. Leverage more financial resources to ensure a more sustainable Secretariat and support the implementation of the 2018-2030 AMCOW Strategy1; and to
- c. Influence policy and practice using research and best practice by policymakers, private companies, non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, and public institutions.

The ISS project aligns with Sweden's strategic priorities as defined by the 2016 – 2021 Strategy for Sweden's regional development cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa. The strategy framework expects that SIDA contributes to the strengthened capacity of regional actors to work towards sustainable management and use of the typical ecosystems, services, and natural resources. The contributions also aim to improve regional actors' capacity to increase resilience against climate change and natural disasters, including food security.

1.2. Overview

This document is the Annual report submitted by AMCOW Secretariat to the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) for the Financial Year 2022. It covers progress in the grant implementation from January to December 2022. The Grant supports the 4th pillar of AMCOW Strategy 2018-2030, which strengthens AMCOW's governance and operational effectiveness. The Grant aims to help AMCOW deliver a high-level platform to push the African water agenda forward at the continental, regional and national levels. Ultimately, the Grant will enable the Member States to ensure sustainable water resources management and address poverty reduction and social development goals.

The specific objectives are:

1. Representation and Engagement - AMCOW more effectively serves as the Working Group on Water and Sanitation of the African Union's STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment.
2. Financing - AMCOW successfully attracts and leverages more financial resources to ensure a more sustainable Secretariat and support implementing the 2018-2030 Strategy.
3. Influencing Policy and Practice / Knowledge Broker - To increase the application of research results and best practices by policymakers, private companies, non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, and public institutions.

In the following sections, information is provided on the progress towards achieving project results and outcomes.

1.3. SIDA ISS Grant Implementation Strategy

AMCOW collaborates with national, regional, and international water and sanitation sector partners to implement the Grant. Practically, implementing this Grant relies on engaging a broad and complex array of expertise across a wide range of stakeholders to achieve set goals.

Among the key stakeholders are the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment at the African Union Commission (AUC/ARBE), Lake/River Basin Organizations (L/RBOs), and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of AMCOW, among others.

The organisation of the Report

The project activities focus on achieving three specific objectives. Therefore, this report is organised under these three objectives to show the extent of progress made during the period. Progress made over the period correlates with planned activities in the AMCOW/Sida Institutional Strengthening and Support (ISS) 2022 Work Plan approved by AMCOW governing council and submitted to SIDA.

II. HIGHLIGHTS OF PERFORMANCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The 2022 Fiscal Year marked a significant milestone, the last year of the SIDA-ISS 4-year programme implementation period. Some of the targets set earlier in the year got achieved - drawing AMCOW closer to the programme's goal. The SIDA-ISS has increased AMCOW performance by providing a high-level platform to push Africa's water agenda at the continental, regional and national levels and ultimately helping member states ensure sustainable water resource management. Within the framework of the three Specific Objectives of the SIDA-ISS, AMCOW Secretariat implemented the FY 2022 Work Plan approved by the SIDA.

The annual achievements established over the period correlate with planned activities in the SIDA-ISS 2022 Work Plan.

Table 1 highlights the annual achievements according to the 2022 workplan. The table categorises the details into four primary columns showing:

- Activity/Event
- Achievement
- Challenges and lessons, and
- Next steps

Table 1: Annual achievements according to the 2022 workplan

	Activity/Event	Achievement	Challenges and Lessons Learnt	Next Steps
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Specific objective 1: Representation and Engagement - AMCOW more effectively serves as the Working Group on Water and Sanitation of the African Union STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment.

1	<p>Statutory meetings of the sub-regional organs of AMCOW convened in collaboration with the RECs and the River and Lake Basin Organisations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Africa: 20-21 July 2022, Abuja-Nigeria • North (14-15 September in Mauritania) • Southern Africa (18-19 September in Mozambique). • East Africa: 04-05 August 2022, Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia • Central Africa: 08-09 August 2022, Yaoundé-Cameroon. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional priorities identified, and processes initiated for collaborative operational arrangements with relevant institutional partners to act on them. • Renewal of engagements with RLBOs and RECs to deliver on the water and sanitation agenda. • Wider involvement of Member States in decision-making processes for their representation on the EXCO and TAC, as well as the AMCOW Work Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued engagement is required to align schedules with the RECs to convene their water Sector Ministers' Meetings with AMCOW's Sub-Regional Ministerial Committee (SMC) meetings. Regions like Eastern Africa, which more than one REC serves, will require a more elaborate dialogue process and approach. • There is consensus among RLBOs and related partners for the revitalisation of ANBO and its empowerment to coordinate AMCOW's transboundary Water Resources management function effectively. • Strengthening the relationship with ANBO/RLBOs will improve transboundary cooperation. • The importance of involving Member States in decision making processes to increase their ownership and commitment to AMCOW initiatives, and commitment to AMCOW initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue engagement with RECs for a practical approach to collaboratively institutionalise the convening of regional ministerial level meetings on water and sanitation issues. • Organise the Statutory meetings scheduled for 2023. • Continue development of detailed engagement plans to implement the collaborative operational arrangements with relevant institutional partners.
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	Activity/Event	Achievement	Challenges and Lessons Learnt	Next Steps
2	<p>Engagement with Member States and partners on key priorities to inform implementation of the AMCOW's work programme. This included high-level meetings with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Honourable Minister for Water Resources of Nigeria, 12 April 2022 the Honourable Minister for Public Works, Housing and Water Resources, Mozambique, 12 April 2022 the Honourable Minister for Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt, 24 April 2022. the Honourable Deputy Minister for Water and Sanitation of Malawi, 24-27 May 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement in real-time awareness of Member States' individual and regional priorities that should form the basis of AMCOW initiatives. A projects pipeline worth more than US \$18m was developed, with separate agreements signed by USAID and BMGF to support the 3-year work plan. The proposal submitted to AfDB part of the pipeline, is still pending. US \$767,653 collected in Members States Contributions, up from \$291,486 reported over the same period for the FY 2021. This represents a 163% growth. An express commitment from the Arab Republic of Egypt to mobilise the Ministers responsible for water and sanitation to achieve critical mass on common African positions and strategies to mitigate the climate crisis. Raising awareness of the importance of sanitation and hygiene for national development and economic growth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustained engagement with Member States is essential to create buy-in for AMCOW initiatives. Collaboration is key: The discussion between AMCOW Secretariat and the Ministers in charge of water and sanitation affairs highlighted the importance of collaboration among relevant stakeholders to achieve common goals. Event awareness is critical: The increased awareness about upcoming events contributed to higher attendance and participation, indicating the importance of promoting event awareness among relevant stakeholders. The role of political will and leadership in mobilizing action on the climate crisis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase outreach efforts to raise awareness among Member States of AMCOW's flagship programmes and the impact they are having. Continued engagement with Member States and the African Union Commission to understand their evolving priorities and ensure that AMCOW initiatives are aligned with them. Continued engagement with funding partners on the project proposals in the pipeline as well as development of new proposals, especially to the AfDB and the EC. Setting up regular follow-up meetings with Member States and partners: Regular follow-up meetings or check-ins can be scheduled to monitor progress, address any issues that may arise, and ensure that everyone is on track to achieving the desired outcomes.

	Activity/Event	Achievement	Challenges and Lessons Learnt	Next Steps
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Oswald Chanda, the African Development Bank's Director of water development and sanitation department, June 1st 2022, Abuja (Nigeria) • The AMCOW President, 20 June 2022 • The Hon. minister for Water and Energy Ethiopia, H E Dr Eng. Habtamu Itefa Geleta, PhD, 17 June 2022 • H E the Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Blue Economy, AUC, 6 July 2022 • H.E Ihab Moustafa Awab Moustafa, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Nigeria, 13 September 2022 • World Toilet Summit in Abuja, Nigeria, 19th November 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased awareness among Member States regarding upcoming events organized by AMCOW, such as SIWI 2022, AMCOW 13th EXCO, and COP27, resulted in higher attendance and participation at the 13th EXCO. • Improved awareness among Member States of ongoing AMCOW flagship programmes. • A reiteration of the Federal Government of Nigeria's commitment to honouring its obligations stipulated in the AMCOW Host Agreement. These include providing land for the construction of a permanent AMCOW Secretariat, and two brand new utility vehicles delivered to AMCOW Secretariat in April 2022. • Commitment from the Development Partners to continue supporting the implementation of the AMCOW 2018-20230 Strategy through their budgetary contributions into the 3-Year Work Programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for clear and effective communication to raise awareness and build support for AMCOW initiatives. • Early warning systems are crucial: The conversation emphasized the importance of strengthening early warning systems in Africa to improve disaster preparedness and response. 	

	Activity/Event	Achievement	Challenges and Lessons Learnt	Next Steps
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa Regional Consultations on the Midterm Review of the UN Water Action Decade 2018 2028 with AUC, AfDB and UNECA: • 1st consultation from 13 – 14 May 2022 at the UN-Economic Commission for Africa (Addis Ababa) • 2nd consultation from November 7-8, 2022, in Tanzania (Dar Es Salam) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Plan agreed to support Member States facing challenges to achieve related SDGs targets. • A harmonised approach adopted to present Africa's inputs to the Mid-Term Review of International Water Decade; "Water for Sustainable Development" in March 2023. • Member States commitment to developing and implementing strategies and programmes to enhance synergies across the water – energy – food nexus reaffirmed. • Africa Common messages for the UN-Water Conference were developed and approved by all the stakeholders, indicating a unified and collaborative approach towards water-related issues in Africa. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration and coordination among Member States is crucial to address challenges and achieve common goals. • The water-energy-food nexus is an interrelated system that requires a holistic approach to address challenges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary Generals' Special Report to the United Nations General Assembly on the midterm review of progress on the implementation of the Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028. • The outcomes of the stakeholder consultation will form the basis of the final Report of the United Nations. • Disseminate the messages: The Africa Common messages will be disseminated widely among stakeholders and other relevant parties to ensure they know the messages and their significance. • Engage with stakeholders: Continuous engagement with stakeholders will be crucial to ensure that they remain involved and committed to achieving the goals outlined in the Africa Common messages.

	Activity/Event	Achievement	Challenges and Lessons Learnt	Next Steps
4	<p>Collaboration on a Team Europe Initiative on Transboundary Water Resources Management in Africa, April-December 2022.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the period under review stakeholder consultation was conducted on the Team Europe Initiative on transboundary water with Member States of the African union, RECs, AMCOW, AUC and EU. The consultation solicited inputs on the Action Document towards the launch and implementation. • An initial commitment of €11.5m was announced by the EC to support coordination, regional integration and cooperation for effective management and utilisation of transboundary water resources within the framework of assuring water security in Africa and achieving the goals of AU Agenda 2063. • Following this, the AMCOW Executive Committee (EXCO) at the 13th EXCO in Namibia took a decision (EXCO/13/2022/WDH/18) on TEI • Urging Member States to take up the opportunity presented by the Team Europe Initiative to improve transboundary water resources management and water security in Africa. • Tasks the Secretariat to finalise the Action Document for the Team Europe Initiative in line with the AMCOW Strategy 2018-2030 and in collaboration with AUC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective collaboration and partnerships with various stakeholders, including the European Commission, African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities, African Network of Basin Organizations, and River/Lake Basin Organizations, are critical for the effective management and utilization of transboundary water resources. • Coordination and regional integration are key to achieving water security in Africa and meeting the goals of the AU Agenda 2063. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of the Team Europe Initiative and Action Document on transboundary water management water at the UN 2023 Water Conference in collaboration with AU, EU and the water community. • Set up a coordination mechanism for implementation of the TEI in collaboration with AUC, EC, RECs, ANBO and Member States. • Leverage the initial commitment of €11.5m from the European Commission to support the coordination, regional integration, and cooperation for effective management and utilization of transboundary water resources within the framework of assuring water security in Africa and achieving the goals of AU Agenda 2063. • Engagement with stakeholders: Continuous engagement with stakeholders, including Member States, civil society, and the private sector, is crucial to ensure their involvement and commitment to achieving the goals of the TEI.

	Activity/Event	Achievement	Challenges and Lessons Learnt	Next Steps
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge-sharing: Knowledge-sharing initiatives can be implemented to share best practices and experiences on transboundary water resources management and other relevant water-related topics, to enhance learning and support the achievement of the TEI goals. • Establish monitoring, evaluation, and learning frameworks to assess the effectiveness of the Team Europe Initiative and other water management initiatives and make necessary adjustments to achieve their intended objectives.
5	<p>Spearhead the Africa Water & Sanitation Agenda at Continental and Global Platforms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMCOW, in collaboration with AUC, AfDB and the Basin Organisations, organised the maiden joint Africa Water Pavilion at the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar, February 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The maiden joint Africa Water Pavilion at the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar and the Africa Focus Day and Africa Water Pavilion at the 2022 World Water Week in Stockholm (SIWI) provided platforms for showcasing Africa's water resources potential and management efforts, as well as opportunities for networking and sharing knowledge and best practices • The profile of water raised in national systems for economic planning, as well as advocating for commensurate funding to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event partnership with AfDB during the World Water Forum in Dakar increased knowledge exchanges and sharing of experiences. • Collaboration and partnerships with various stakeholders, including civil society organizations, research institutions, and development partners, are essential for achieving the goals of the water sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue engagements with the Africa Water and Sanitation Sector Development Partners Coordination Framework for the marketing of partner engagement plans. • Continuously advocate for the value of water and its importance in economic planning to ensure that the sector receives adequate funding.

	Activity/Event	Achievement	Challenges and Lessons Learnt	Next Steps
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMCOW further extended its collaboration with AUC, AfDB, ANBO and ANEW to jointly organise the Africa Focus Day and the Africa Water Pavilion at the 2022 World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden (22-23 August 2022) • Election to the Board of Governors of the World Water Council (WWC) for 2023–2025 during the 9th General Assembly from 10 to 11 December 2022. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the sector. It promoted the value of water as the backbone of the action framework for the post-2025 Africa Water Vision. • Signing of six (6) MoUs at WWF9 with: i) the African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC); ii) the African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEWS); iii) the Federal Institute of Geoscience and Natural Resources of Germany (BGR); iv) the International Water Management Institute (IWMI); v) Speak up Africa (SUA); and vi) the World Vision International (WVI); • Co-chairing of the Africa Regional Consultations on the mid-term review of the Water Action Decade with AUC, AfDB and UNECA • Engagement with EC-INTPA, AUC, ANBO, RLBOs and RECs on formulating the Blue Africa Initiative • The Africa Water and Sanitation Sector Development Partners Coordination Framework (DPCF) was completed and launched at the 9th World Water Forum. Following the launch, a ToR was developed and validated by development partners at SIWI to guide the functioning of the DPCF. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing coordination frameworks and Terms of Reference can help to guide the functioning of partnerships and ensure that they are effective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen and expand partnerships with various stakeholders to facilitate knowledge sharing, capacity building, and resource mobilization. • Effectively utilize the Africa Water and Sanitation Sector Development Partners Coordination Framework and ensure that the partnerships are aligned with the priorities of the African region. • Leverage the membership on the Board of Governors of the World Water Council to advance the water sector's interests and priorities at the global level. • Establish monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess the impact of events and pavilions on water management efforts in Africa and make necessary adjustments to improve their effectiveness.

	Activity/Event	Achievement	Challenges and Lessons Learnt	Next Steps
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMCOW was elected to the Board of Governors of the World Water Council (WWC) for 2023–2025 during the 9th General Assembly. It provides an opportunity for AMCOW to contribute to global water management efforts and represent the interests of African countries. 		
6	<p>Convene the 13th Ordinary Session of the EXCO in Windhoek, Namibia: The Ordinary Session comprised the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) session (from 10-12 October 2022) and the Ministerial Session (on 13 October 2022).</p>	<p>The 13th Ordinary Session of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) EXCO held important discussions and took several important decisions. These decisions were aimed at enhancing the water and sanitation goals in Africa and included among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of the report on the implementation of the July 2008 Sharm El Sheikh Commitments for Accelerating the Achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa. Adoption of the amended AMCOW Governance Framework which among others is the requirement of Ministers with Sanitation Portfolio as alternates in EXCO to ensure that decisions related to sanitation and hygiene are given due consideration. Adoption of the key messages from the Africa Regional Consultations on the Midterm review of the Water Action 	<p>Importance of high-level political engagement and participation in addressing water and sanitation governance challenges in Africa. This highlights the need for continued efforts to increase the level of political commitment and engagement among African ministers and other key decision-makers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the adopted work program and initiatives, as well as continued engagement and dialogue among EXCO members and other stakeholders on pressing water governance issues in Africa. Continue the outreach and engagement with African ministers and other high-level political stakeholders, to build their understanding of the critical role they can play in advancing water and sanitation governance in Africa. Enhance the visibility and impact of AMCOW's work, as well as strengthening partnerships and collaboration with other relevant stakeholders to mobilize resources and support for water governance initiatives in Africa.

	Activity/Event	Achievement	Challenges and Lessons Learnt	Next Steps
		<p>Decade and related African initiatives towards the UN 2023 Water Conference.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of the 3-Year Work Programme (2022-2024) and the corresponding budget amounting to US\$20,057,532 (Twenty million and fifty-seven thousand five hundred thirty-two United States Dollars). The decisions of the EXCO can be downloaded here. 		
7	<p>The 3rd Partners' Coordination Platform (PCP) meeting on Africa Water and Sanitation was organised through collaboration between the African Union Commission and the AMCOW Secretariat, 2-3 August 2022 in Addis Ababa.</p>	<p>The 3rd meeting of the Partners Coordination Platform (PCP) on Water and Sanitation led to important discussions and several important decisions. These decisions aim to improve Africa's water and sanitation goals, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AUC in collaboration with AMCOW – to set approach, mechanisms, processes and road map to advance preparation for postAWV 2025 framework. RLBOs should work through the Member States to protect water and forest resources. Member States should support and prioritise investment for data collection and reporting on integrated water resources development and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration and joint efforts between AUC and AMCOW are necessary to set a clear approach, mechanisms, processes and road map to prepare for the post-AWV 2025 framework, which will help improve Africa's water and sanitation goals. AUC and AMCOW can strengthen ANBO to effectively position it to perform its functions, which will help improve the coordination and implementation of transboundary water management initiatives in Africa. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up on the decisions made during the meeting to ensure their implementation and impact. Continue to convene PCP meetings to facilitate ongoing collaboration and coordination. Review the effectiveness of the PCP and make necessary adjustments to ensure its continued relevance and impact.

	Activity/Event	Achievement	Challenges and Lessons Learnt	Next Steps
		<p>management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member States encouraged to follow the example of Zambia and Zanzibar in the development of Water Investment Programmes. • AUC and AMCOW to strengthen ANBO to effectively position it to perform its functions. <p>The Aide-memoire of the 3rd PCP is at Annex 10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration and coordination between different entities and organizations is crucial to achieving sustainable water and sanitation management. 	
<p>Specific objective 2: Financing - AMCOW is successful in attracting and leveraging more financial resources to ensure a more sustainable secretariat and to support the 2018-2030 Strategy.</p>				
8	<p>A follow up review of the EU Pre-Pillar Assessment and use of the Enterprise Resources Planning (ERP) System.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 90% of the recommendations from the Pre-Pillar Assessment got implemented successfully. AMCOW is on track to meet all the EU Pillar Assessment requirements. • Formal application to the EC for an EU Pillar Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the necessary Administrative and fiduciary systems have been put in place. The focus now shifts to compliance with the set policies and procedures rather than having the systems in place. • The ERP system must be used for all AMCOW transactions to minimise the system and control weaknesses in the Finance and Accounts function. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13th EXCO approved a new Organogram which among the newly established functions is that of the Internal Auditor and Senior Finance Officer. Recruitment for these positions to strengthen the staff complement of the Accounts Department for proper segregation of duties will commence in the first quarter of 2023. Improve functionality and utilisation of the full potential of the ERP system, including adding a Document Management module to strengthen the archiving

	Activity/Event	Achievement	Challenges and Lessons Learnt	Next Steps
				<p>function of the system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive review and optimisation of the ERP (after one and half years of working with it) to get the full potential benefits from the system.
9	The 2021 Annual Financial Audit for the Secretariat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An unqualified audit report for 2021 with just two audit findings down from four results reported in the 2020 Audit. All audit recommendations from the 2020 Audit have been implemented except those requiring structural changes such as establishing an Internal Audit and Legal Units. 		
10	New donor to support the implementation of AMCOW Secretariat Workplan.	<p>The following funding agreements with AMCOW have been secured, contributing to the organization's improved financial stability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> USD 3,000,000 from the US Department of State (USDS) through USAID. USD 3,500,000 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). USD 250,000 from the New Venture Fund EURO 30,000 from BGR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective engagement and representation can yield results in terms of increased funding from partners. Demonstrating results and accountability can help Increase confidence in AMCOW and attract more funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up on the status of the project proposals submitted to AfDB, SIDA and EC. Develop and implement effective monitoring and evaluation frameworks to track progress and report back to funding partners. Build on the momentum of increased funding to attract additional support from other development partners and foundations.

	Activity/Event	Achievement	Challenges and Lessons Learnt	Next Steps
		This increased support from funding partners demonstrates the growing confidence in AMCOW and its ability to effectively pursue its goals in the water and sanitation sector in Africa.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure transparency and accountability in the use of funds to maintain the confidence of funding partners and attract more support in the future. • Use the secured funding to strengthen AMCOW's organizational capacity, such as improving data management and analysis, strengthening partnerships, and enhancing staff capacity to effectively deliver on its goals.
Specific objective 3: Influencing Policy and Practice /Knowledge Broker - To increase the use of research and best practice by policymakers, private companies, non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations and public institutions, etc.				
11	Knowledge Management: Operationalisation of the knowledge hub and managing the Mukhtari Shehu Shagari Resource Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2022, AMCOW Secretariat introduced a Knowledge Management initiative to expand and to promote KM activities across the Member States and regional institutions. • A water and sanitation KM Challenge by the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, Namibia, H E Carl Herman Schlettwein in his capacity as AMCOW President 2021-2022. The KM Challenge is mobilising Member States to improve water wisdom in line with the Africa Water Vision 2025. 	<p>Lessons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder engagement is important: Involving relevant stakeholders from the start and ensuring their buy-in is essential for the success of a KM initiative. • A clear vision is equally important: Having a clear vision for the KM initiative helps guide the effort and ensures everyone is working towards the same goal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commence training of Focal Points on Knowledge Management Principles and Practices. • To kick start a second Project Phase to link other partners' hubs to AMCOW's Knowledge Hub through the API. • Increase the number of Africa water and Sanitation sector professionals and organisations in AMCOW's contact database.

	Activity/Event	Achievement	Challenges and Lessons Learnt	Next Steps
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 countries have nominated two focal points each (one male and one female) to lead KM activities. A total of 32 (16 males, 16 females) officers have been nominated and approved by their various Ministers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KM activities require adequate resources: Adequate resources are necessary to ensure the success of a KM initiative. • Sustainability planning: Sustainability planning is key to ensuring the longterm success of a KM Initiative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a harmonised Knowledge agenda and establish a community of practice to improve water Africa's wisdom. • Rally remaining Member States for the nomination of KM focal persons. • Initiate a KM initiative with the RLBOs to promote effective exchange of knowledge and improve Decision Support Systems in integrated water resources management for the benefit of the Member States. • Enhance stakeholder engagement: Build on existing stakeholder engagement and expand it to include more relevant stakeholders.
12	Knowledge brokerage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMCOW Secretariat is striving to establish its position as a knowledge broker, an intermediary, developing relationships and networks between sector knowledge producers and users. • Memoranda of Understanding signed with about six organisations indicated possible knowledge partnerships, including IRC, World Vision, ANEW, UNESCO IHP, IWMI, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the various water and sanitation networks and institutions can increase knowledge partnership, improve cocreation and exchange in the sector • Setting up mechanisms for knowledge exchange: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seize opportunities to establish communities of practice to support co-creation and exchange of information among professionals. • Expand engagement plans with additional RLBOs and relevant organisations.

	Activity/Event	Achievement	Challenges and Lessons Learnt	Next Steps
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions are ongoing to develop similar EPs to facilitate the co-creation and exchange of information among RLBOs, where indigenous information and knowledge can be captured/generated. AMCOW and the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance have initiated a partnership to facilitate knowledge exchange among African water and sanitation professionals using the SUSANA online forum which will be embedded into AMCOW's Knowledge Hub of Hubs. 	<p>There is need for a well-structured and dynamic platform to facilitate the exchange of information and knowledge.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuously monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of AMCOW's knowledge activities and adjust as necessary.
13	Knowledge creation, cocreation, documentation, sharing and storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge sharing coordinated effectively at the 9th World Water Forum, WASSMO trainings events, Sub-regional Ministerial Committee consultation, 13th EXCO: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Over 2000 volumes of knowledge resources covering ten (10) topics. These were part of efforts to influence policy, practice, and knowledge sharing. The AMCOW Story Book in commemoration of its 20th Anniversary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AMCOW story book inspired more appreciation about the work of AMCOW.. Sustaining and increasing the level of engagement and interest from stakeholders in the knowledge resources produced. Securing adequate resources for the production and dissemination of knowledge resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commence the connection of partners' knowledge hubs to AMCOW's through the Application Programming Interface (API) to increase resources and access. Support development for thematic case studies and success stories to highlight lessons learned and good practices from projects.

	Activity/Event	Achievement	Challenges and Lessons Learnt	Next Steps
		<p>3. A Policy Brief – Strengthening Enabling Environment for Sanitation in Africa: An opportunity for accelerating action.</p> <p>4. over 200 pieces of hardcopy knowledge materials during statutory meetings and thematic workshops to encourage exchange of best practices and learning.</p> <p>5. Aide Memoires and reports were documented across several statutory and partnership.</p> <p>6. Audio-visual materials produced and broadcast before, during and after the forum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through continental and global events, AMCOW collected recently produced resources from nine organisations, including the World Water Council, UNECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, Tunisia, Ministry of Water Resources, Nigeria, Observatoire du Sahara Et Du Sahel (Sahara and Sahel Observatory-OSS), UNESCO IHP, UNESCO UN-Water, UNICEF, Water Policy Group. • The Secretariat collected and produced 20 videos which were published on AMCOW YouTube Channel. 	<p>There is need for a well-structured and dynamic platform to facilitate the exchange of information and knowledge.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuously update and improve the knowledge resources to keep them relevant and current. • Develop a strategic plan for the production and dissemination of knowledge resources to ensure sustainability and effectiveness. • Expand outreach and dissemination efforts to reach a wider audience and ensure greater impact.

	Activity/Event	Achievement	Challenges and Lessons Learnt	Next Steps
14	Communications and Visibility Activities: website, social media handles and content creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMCOW Secretariat revamped its website with an improve look and feel, user experience, search engine optimisation and content management. • About 1,252 followers' new followers connected to AMCOW social media platform (444 on Twitter, 578 on LinkedIn and 230 on YouTube) in 2022. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of a well designed and functional website for effectively communicating and engaging with stakeholders. • The value of social media in reaching new audiences and increasing the reach of messages. • The need for regular maintenance and updating of the website and social media platforms to ensure relevance and accuracy. • The significance of engaging and interacting with stakeholders to foster community and foster information-sharing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to improve the website, making it more user-friendly, accessible, and informative. • Regularly update and maintain the content on the website and social media platforms to ensure relevance and accuracy. • Expand the reach of AMCOW's online presence by increasing its social media presence, leveraging other digital platforms, and reaching new audiences. • Develop new communication and visibility strategy for AMCOW Secretariat.

	Activity/Event	Achievement	Challenges and Lessons Learnt	Next Steps
15	Communication and visibility activities: media engagement and publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMCOW's visibility increased with the development of the following knowledge products: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMCOW at 20 announcement video film. • AMCOW at 20 announcement video broadcasts. Reaching approximately 1,467,434 per broadcast; source, All Media products survey (AMPS)– 2019 • Press releases and news reports published across eight (8) mainstream media as print and online publications. • AMCOW at 20 post-9th World Water Forum video produced • 300 copies of branded session note pads, pens, and AMCOW at 20 participants branded ID cards (for participants at the pavilion) were made and • 213 social media posts reached 83,185 persons across AMCOW's social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, and YouTube, • Nineteen thousand four hundred four (19,404) individuals found the content relevant by engaging with them through likes, comments, profile visits, website visits, or post shares across the digital media. • The content shared within the reporting period also increased new followers across AMCOW's social media platforms by 3,118. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member States mobilisation for activities like AfricaSan Ngor monitoring and the WASSMO processes can be improved through deepened awareness creation with the use of generic media. • AMCOW Secretariat can also assist regional organisations and RLBOs in amplifying their voice by sharing news about their work. This support can facilitate learning and sector-wide sensitization and attract the government's and donors' attention. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop new communication and visibility strategy for AMCOW Secretariat.

	Activity/Event	Achievement	Challenges and Lessons Learnt	Next Steps
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMCOW website report, which reviewed and diagnosed the platform, is available and used in improving the website. • News articles were developed covering 96% of AMCOW activities and disseminated via the AMCOW website, and social media handles including, Twitter and LinkedIn handle. 		
16	Operationalising a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning function for AMCOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2021 Africa Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring Report launched at the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal and shared with stakeholders. • The capacity of over 70 representatives from 53 Member States strengthened on data collection and reporting of the WASSMO and AfricaSan Ngor indicators. • Operational links established and strengthened between AMCOW and UN monitoring initiatives (the Joint Monitoring Program (JMP), WHO/UNICEF, UN Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 (IMI-SDG6) and the Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking (GLAAS). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The alignment of WASSMO with AfricaSan Ngor monitoring frameworks provides an integrated approach to data collection and continental reporting. • It is difficult to observe changes in indicators reporting for an annual report due to the short reporting period. Furthermore, it does not allow enough time to learn. A two-year interval is ideal for submitting reports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination of the outcomes of the 2022 WASSMO reports. • Collaboration with relevant stakeholders to ensure that the report's findings are integrated into relevant policies, plans, and programs, and that effective interventions are put in place to address the challenges identified in the report. • Conducting a comprehensive assessment of the capacity development needs of Member States to determine the systemic, institutional, and technological (ICT) and human capital requirements of the participating Member States.

	Activity/Event	Achievement	Challenges and Lessons Learnt	Next Steps
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WASSMO upgraded to Global standards and AfricaSan Ngor Commitments M&E framework integrated into the WASSMO reporting System. The 2022 Africa Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring Report, developed and approved during the 13th AMCOW EXCO. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Coordination Platforms (NCP) should be established at the national level to improve coordination among sectors. It will increase the participation of other sectors in the water value chain and, therefore, enhance the quality of data. Increase public sector allocations to the sector and incentivize water supply, sanitation, and hygiene services provision: Most of the African Union Member States will not reach the SDG 6, Africa Water Vision 2025, and Sharm El Sheikh targets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish functional National Coordination Platforms that will enhance collaboration and coordination in the water and sanitation sector.
17	<p>Improve the profile and potential of Groundwater/Water Resources Management for Africa's development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted Stakeholders' Engagement on the AMCOW Water Quality (AWaQ) Programme was conducted on 10th November 2022 in Dar-es-Salam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report developed on State of water quality monitoring and pollution control in Africa: Towards a African Water Quality Program (AWaQ). Engagement of Member States and Stakeholders on the margins of the 9th WWF. This facilitated the launch of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A document on Urban Groundwater in Africa: A Dialogue for resilient towns and cities was unveiled and disseminated at 9th WWF. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The discussions at the World Water Forum contributed to a more appreciation of the new approach towards the development of the groundwater programme. The engagement of Member States and stakeholders has been successful in promoting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up Groundwater Partner Coordination Framework. Dissemination of the White Paper on Groundwater. Finalize and implement the Strategic Programme on Groundwater to ensure a coordinated and harmonized approach to groundwater management across Africa.

	Activity/Event	Achievement	Challenges and Lessons Learnt	Next Steps
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated at the UN Groundwater Summit @ UNESCO HQ, Paris and convened two sessions: Side-line Session on Stakeholder Engagement on AMCOW Strategic Groundwater Programme @ UN Groundwater Summit, 6th December 2022: • High level Panel Session on Groundwater: Focus on Africa @ UN-Water Groundwater Summit 8th December 2022. • Two online Course on Groundwater Resources Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. A high-level summary of the White Paper on Groundwater 3. Presentation of Country Support Tools (CST) for Groundwater Management for Namibia and Uganda. • Participated in the UN Groundwater Summit @ UNESCO HQ, Paris and convened two sessions, which helped to promote groundwater resources management in Africa. • Conducted two online courses on groundwater resources management in collaboration with BGR and ApaGroP partners, with a total of 165 participants (of which 40% female) from 35 countries, over a period of 4 months. These courses aimed to equip water resources professionals with the necessary knowledge and skills to manage groundwater effectively. • Produced the draft of a AMCOW Groundwater Strategic Programme for Water Security and Resilience in Africa: This is a significant achievement as it shows the commitment of AMCOW to prioritize the importance of groundwater for water security and resilience in Africa. The development of this program highlights the value of groundwater to support socio-economic growth of Member States and achieve development outcomes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> dialogue and the exchange of ideas regarding water quality monitoring and pollution control. • Engaging stakeholders is crucial in addressing water quality issues, as it helps to identify the root causes of water quality challenges, and develop solutions that are effective and sustainable. • Participation in international events such as the UN Groundwater Summit can help to increase the profile of groundwater resources management in Africa and promote collaboration with other regions of the world. • Building the capacity of water resources professionals through online courses is an effective way to enhance their knowledge and skills in groundwater resources management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build the capacity of water resources professionals in Africa through more training and knowledge-sharing opportunities, including online courses, workshops, and conferences. • Increase investment in research and development of innovative technologies and approaches for groundwater resources management in Africa. • Promote the adoption of best practices in groundwater resources management, including the integration of groundwater and surface water management, and the use of sustainable and equitable approaches to manage groundwater resources. • Validation and implementation plan meeting for the New Strategic programme on Groundwater as part of steps ahead.

	Activity/Event	Achievement	Challenges and Lessons Learnt	Next Steps
18	Strengthening youth and gender equality in the water and sanitation domain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft AMCOW Youth, Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy validated by stakeholders on the margins of the 9th world water forum in Dakar. This document is now referred to as; Africa's Youth and Gender Inclusion (YoGI) Strategy for the water and sanitation sector. • A short-term action plan from April 2022 to June 2023 was adopted as initial steps toward finalising and implementing the strategy. • Increased inclusion of youth professionals has champions of the AMCOW Knowledge Management Challenge. Increased inclusion of young men and women professionals has champions of the AMCOW Knowledge Management Challenge. This step is in response to a high-level call by the AMCOW President, for countries to mainstream women and youth in AMCOW activities by appointing a male and female youth as in-country knowledge officers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For inclusive and sustainable implementation of Africa's sector goals and targets, AMCOW Secretariat will strengthen its collaboration with the Africa Union Commission departments responsible for youth and women development. • Cross-fertilisation resources is required to fully implement the YoGI Strategy and its action plan. • Key partners, including the AfDB and Member States are crucial actors in the overall framework of accelerating the integration of policies and strategies for mainstreaming gender and youth. • The importance of involving stakeholders in the validation and development of the YoGI Strategy to ensure ownership and buy-in. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the revised YoGI strategy to AMCOW constituents and stakeholders for their buy-in. • Official launching of the Strategy during the AfricaSan Conference • Dissemination the YGSI Strategy to all member states through regional consultations, webinars, and other knowledge events (hard/soft copies) • Signing of engagement plans with UNICEF, IRC and APHRC toward operationalizing the YoGI strategy. • Strengthening capacities of relevant stakeholders to effectively utilise and implement the YoGI Strategy and its action plan.

	Activity/Event	Achievement	Challenges and Lessons Learnt	Next Steps
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Program Management

19	Mid-Term and End of Project Review & Evaluation (SIDA-ISS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive and draft midterm evaluation report was submitted which to assess the progress, effectiveness, and impact of the SIDA-ISS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of adhering to project timelines and deadlines to ensure that evaluations are conducted and completed on schedule. • Importance of ensuring that evaluation reports are submitted in a timely manner to allow for effective decision making and implementation of any necessary changes. • It is essential to conduct a mid-term evaluation of all AMCOW initiatives. This process will help to correct mistakes and improve implementation. • Continuous improvement: Midterm evaluations can provide valuable insights into areas for improvement and can inform ongoing efforts to continuously improve programs, projects, or initiatives within AMCOW Secretariat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive and draft midterm evaluation report was submitted which to assess the progress, effectiveness, and impact of the SIDA-ISS.
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2.1 Photo Galleries and News



[AMCOW and AfDB co-hosted an African Pavilion to provide a central point for African institutions to engage with partners and exchange information and knowledge.](#) A summary report of the outcomes of AMCOW's engagements at the 9th World Water Forum is provided as Annex 1.

(Picture: From right to the left) Project Manager, INBO, Mr. Edouard Boinet, Manager International Cooperation, Ms. Stéphanie Laronde, Managing Director International Office of Water, INBO, Mr. Eric Tardieu, Dr Rashid Mbaziira-AMCOW, Dr Tanko Azzika-AMCOW, Mr. Bernard-INBO, and Patrice Leumeni-AMCOW



[AMCOW Presented awards to its founding leaders – some of them represented – during the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar.](#)

Picture: From right to left:
H E Fredrick Lowassa (representing his father H E Edward Lowassa - one of AMCOW's founding leaders), Ronnie Kasrils, Former Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, South Africa and one of AMCOW's Founding Leaders, Ms Rosa Kariuki Wangu Representative of Hon. Martha Karua, Former Deputy Prime Minister Lesotho and one of AMCOW Founding Leaders, H E Moleleki Monyane, and Marianne Mutagamba representing Mrs Maria Mutagamba (one of AMCOW's founding leaders)



First engagement of African Institutions and the EU Commission on the Team Europe Initiative on Transboundary Water Corporation.



AMCOW, represented by Nigeria's Hon. Minister for Water Resource, Engr Suleiman Adamu – signing MoUs with Partners on the sidelines of the 9th World Water Forum.

Picture: Opposite right to left
Regional Director West Africa, World Vision International, Mrs Carla Denizard, MACOW Vice President Western Africa, H E Engr Suleiman Adamu, Director General IWMI, Mark Smith, Project Officer Speak Up Africa, Aida Kabo and Head of Department Groundwater and Soil Science, BGR, Prof Dr Thomas Himmelsbach.



<https://amcow-online.org/news/amcow-visitsmozambique-s-new-minister-of-public-workshousing-and-water-resources>

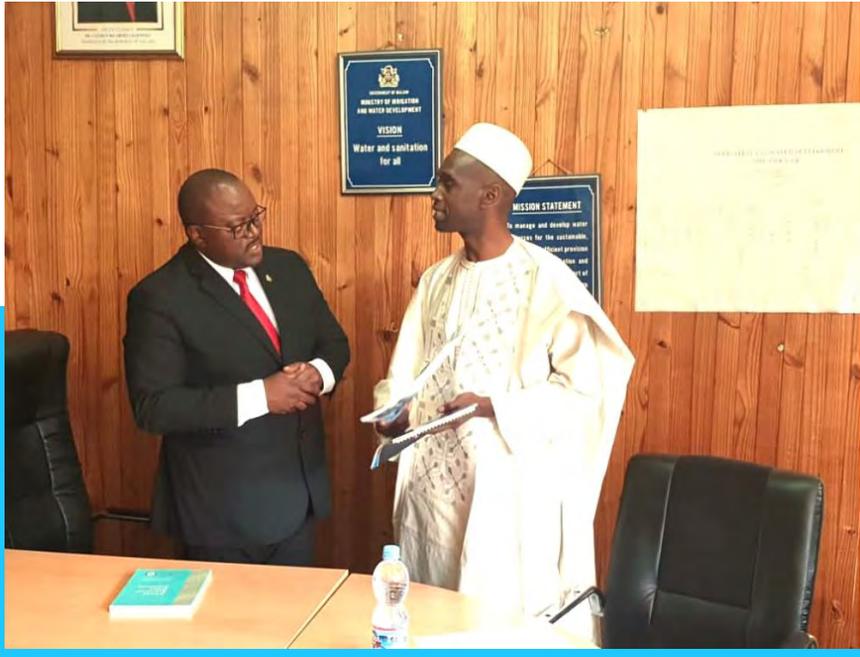
Picture: from right to left:
 AMCOW Executive Secretary, Dr Rashid Mbaziira, the Minister of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources, the Republic of Mozambique and AMCOW Vice President Southern Africa, H.E. Carlos Alberto Fortes Mesquita, and the Vice Minister, Public Works, Housing and Water Resources, the Republic of Mozambique, H.E. Cecilia Chamutota.



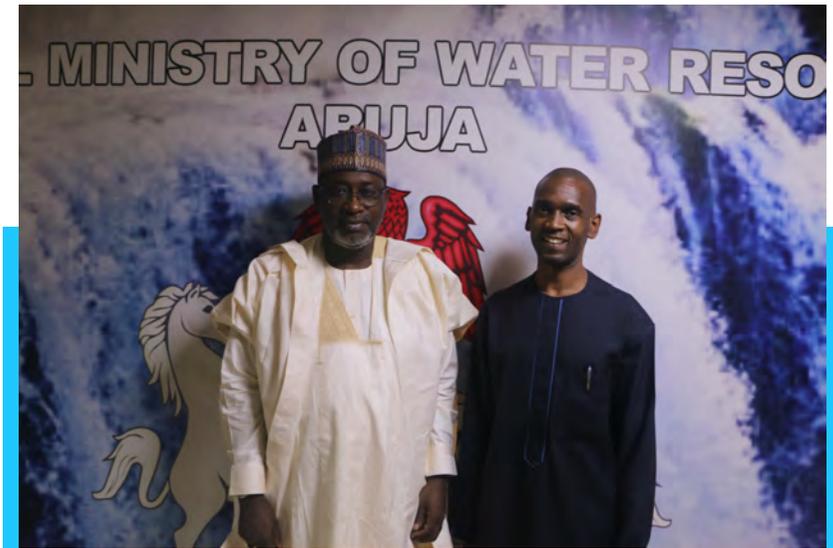
[On 20th April 2022, the African Union, AMCOW, ANBO and the EU Commission convened at the Africa Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa on the Team Europe Initiative on Transboundary Water Management - an engagement that started at the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar. The Aide Memoire of the meeting is provided as Annex 2.](#)



[The Executive Secretary of AMCOW, Dr Rashid Mbaziira and H E Muhammed Aty, Minister for Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt, 24 April 2022](#)



[AMCOW's Executive Secretary, Dr Rashid Mbaziira, paid a courtesy call to the Deputy Minister for Water and Sanitation, Republic of Malawi, Hon. John Bande, 24-27 May 2022.](#)



[AMCOW's Executive Secretary, Dr Mbaziira, and Nigeria's Minister of Water Resources, H E Eng Suleiman Adamu, the AMCOW Vice President, West Africa, 12 April 2022](#)

AMCOW Secretariat on consultation to Cameroun
10 August 2022

<https://www.facebook.com/CRTVweb/videos/cameroon-the-executive-secretary-of-the-african-ministers-council-on-water-amcow-1246279969516865/>





[AMCOW organised a Sanitation Partners' Aligning Workshop to discuss new programme - ASPGs in Action](#)

7-8 June 2022



[AMCOW Secretariat pays a courtesy call to the Hon. minister for Water and Energy Ethiopia, H E Dr Eng. Habtamu Itefa Geleta, PhD](#)

17 June 2022

Picture: from right to left
Hon. Minister of Water and Energy Ethiopia, H E Dr Eng. Habtamu Itefa Geleta and AMCOW Executive Secretary, Dr Rashid Mbaziira.



[AMCOW Secretariat pays a courtesy call to Namibia's Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform and AMCOW President, H.E Carl Hermann Gustav Schlettwein on 20 and 21 June, to plan the 13th Ordinary Session of the EXCO.](#)

Picture: from right to left

AMCOW Director of Programme (Acting), Dr Tanko Azzika, Deputy Executive Secretary (Acting) of the Ministry and the Alternate TAC Chair for Namibia, Mrs Maria Amakari, AMCOW HR/PO, Bala Tuham, AMCOW Executive Secretary, Dr Rashid Mbaziira, Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform and AMCOW President, Carl Hermann Gustav Schlettwein, AMCOW Director of Finance and Admin, Thomas Banda, and the Executive Director of the Ministry for Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, Republic of Namibia and AMCOW TAC Chair, Mrs Ndiyakupi Nghituwamata



[AfDB and AMCOW agree to strengthen their relationship for sustainable water management in Africa.](#)

In the picture: [Osward Chanda](#), the African Development Bank's Director of water development and sanitation department, the African Water Facility's Coordinator [Mtchera Chirwa](#), AMCOW ES Dr Rashid Mbaziira and its staff.

June 1st, 2022

Photo: right to left

AMCOW Executive Secretary, Dr Rashid Mbaziira, AfDB Director, Water Development and Sanitation, Osward Mulenga Chanda, Coordinator African Water Facility, Mtchera Johannes Chirwa, AMCOW Senior Policy Adviser Monitoring and Evaluation, Patrice Leumeni, AMCOW Senior Policy Adviser Water Resource Management, Prof Moshood Tijani, AMCOW Acting Director of Programmes, Dr Tanko Azzika, AMCOW Director of Finance and Admin, Thomas Banda.



[AMCOW, AUC and UNECA co-convoked the Africa Regional Consultation of Water Action Decade in Addis.](#)

(Ethiopia)
13 – 14 May 2022



[AMCOW ES paid a courtesy visit in July to H.E. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment \(ARBE\).](#)

7 July 2022



[AMCOW Sub-Regional Ministerial Consultation with ECOWAS. The Commissioner for Infrastructure, Energy and Digitalisation, ECOWAS, H E Sédiko Douka was present at the event.](#) The Aide Memoire of the Meeting is provided as Annex 3.

20-21 July 2022

Picture: from right to left
 Director Water Supply, Federal Ministry of Water Resources Nigeria,
 Engr Danjuma Madaki, ECOWAS Commissioner for Infrastructure,
 Energy and Digitisation, H E Sediko Douka, Acting Director ECOWAS
 Water Resource Management Centre, Mr Djeri-Alassani Bougonou,
 AMCOW Executive Secretary, Dr Rashid Mbaziira.



In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the 3rd Partners' Coordination Platform (PCP) meeting on Africa Water and Sanitation was organised through collaboration between the African Union Commission and the AMCOW Secretariat.

August 2nd, 2022



H.E Ihab Moustafa Awab Moustafa, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Nigeria, paid a courtesy visit to the AMCOW Secretariat in Abuja.

13 September 2022



Namibia hosted the 13th Ordinary Session of the Executive Committee (EXCO). See the news link below for the Decisions of the 13th Ordinary Session of the EXCO – African Ministers' Council on Water

10-13 October 2022

<https://amcow-online.org/decisions-of-the-13th-ordinary-session-of-the-exco-africanministers-council-on-water/>



AMCOW witnesses Africa Water Facility's 22nd Governance Council and 2nd Donors Meetings.

3-4 November 2022

<https://amcow-online.org/amcow-witnessesafrica-water-facilitys-22nd-governance-counciland-2nd-donors-meetings/>



Two-day stakeholder engagement to develop a strategic groundwater programme in Africa.

Dar Es Salam, Tanzania

9-10 November 2022



Panel session between AMCOW Secretariat, IRC, UNICEF during the World Toilet Summit, In Abuja, Nigeria.

19 November 2022



Africa concludes its second regional consultation of the mid-term review on the implementation of the UN Water Action Decade in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.

7-8 November 2022

<https://amcow-online.org/africa-concludes-its-second-regional-consultation-of-the-mid-term-review-on-the-implementation-of-the-un-water-action-decade-in-dar-es-salaam-tanzania/>



AMCOW organised the Africa Focus session at the UN-Water Summit on Groundwater from 7-8 December 2022 at UNESCO HQ, Paris.

III. PROJECT SUPPORT-HUMAN RESOURCES AND EQUIPMENT

3.1.1. Process Payroll for Project Staff

During the Annual Project Review meeting of 2021, AMCOW proposed a budget modification to SIDA. One of the key proposals was to move from staffing arrangements tied to positions defined in the projects to implementing an organogram financed from one pool of resources.

AMCOW thus requested SIDA to contribute USD610,728 to this pooled fund for the fiscal year 2022. The fund got operationalised retrospectively in June 2022 with SIDA's contribution as the seed money. As of 31st December 2022, USAID and BMGF also made related contributions to the fund of approximately USD1.8million over the next three years.

3.1.2. Project Management Office Supplies

During the reporting period, USD127,979.08 has been awarded in Procurement Contracts for goods and services against the Procurement Plan of USD151,451.85. Table 2 below provides a summary of the Contracts which were planned and awarded for the period January - December 2022.

TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF CONTRACT PLANNED AND AWARDED FROM JANUARY-DECEMBER 2022

Summary Procurement Report			
January-December 2022			
No	Type of Contract	Contract Value (USD)	
		Planned Contracts	Contracts Awarded January to December
1.0	Supply Supplies and Consumables		
1.1	Computer consumables	15,500.00	744.92
	Sub Total-Supply Contracts	15,500.00	744.92

2.0	Services Contracts		
2.1	Procurement of Translation Services	15,555.17	15,555.17
2.2	Communication Support services Consultancy for the 9th WWF	6,300.00	6,300.00
2.3	Consultancy Services report design and conference interview WWF	15,500.00	744.92
2.4	Mid-Term Independent Evaluation of ISS project Consultancy service	25,500.00	25,500.00
2.5	Transcription of Knowledge Products	5,000.00	5,000.00
2.6	Printing of World Water Forum Communications Product (La Rochette)	17,547.58	17,547.58
2.7	Graphic design and Printing	10,102.48	10,102.48
2.8	Editing of AMCOW Annual Report	5,000.00	619.81
2.9	Interpretation Service	22,763.60	22,763.60
	Sub Total-Services Contracts	17,242.93	17,242.93
	Total	151,451.85	127,979.08

3.1.3 Summary of Project Financial and Budget Spending:

The ISS project total Grant is equivalent to US\$ 4 million and is expected to run from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2022. As of 31 December 2022, a total of US\$3,689 million had been spent on the project – against the total project life budget of US\$4 million – representing a 92% utilisation rate. For the period under review, a total of US\$1,638,527 has been spent on the project – against the annual budget of US\$1.949 million – representing 84% utilisation rate for the current year budget. During the period under review, almost all the activities have been implemented. A summary of cumulative expenditure incurred on the project as of 31 December 2022 is shown in the table below:

TABLE 3: SUMMARY OF THE FY 2022 EXPENDITURE ENDING BY 31ST DECEMBER 2022

Item No	Budget Line Item	Life of Project Budget	Annual Budget 2021	Current Period Liquidation (Expenditure)	Previous Period Cumulative Liquidation (Expenditure)	Current Period Cumulative Liquidation (Expenditure)	Balance of Life of Project Budget	Current Utilisation Rate (%)	Cumulative Utilisation Rate (%)
		(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	e=(c+d)	f=(a-e)	g=c/b*100	h=e/a*100
1.0	Staff Costs	1,727,700	610,728	610,728	1,128,929	1,739,657	(11,957)	100%	101%
2.0	Office Equipment & Supplies	136,733	15,500	666	125,595	126,261	10,772	2%	92%
3.0	Financial Management, Administration & Sustainability	517,891	246,000	81,724	261,021	342,745	175,146	9%	66%
4.0	Strategic Planning	95,177	-	-	95,177	95,177	-	0%	100%
5.0	Program Management	94,510	62,000	764,147	51,148	115,295	(20,785)	103%	122%

6.0	Water Management	100,488	43,500	78,393	20,844	99,237	1,251	180%	99%
7.0	Knowledge Management	143,617	0	3,350	150,168	153,518	(9,901)	7%	107%
8.0	Governance & External Relations	1,183,884	922,209	799,519	217,181	1,016,700	167,184	87%	86%
	Total	4,000,000	1,949,937	1,638,527	2,050,063	3,688,590	311,410	84%	92%

PROJECT SUMMARY		
Overall Project Status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project is well controlled. Although some issues were identified, AMCOW has taken practical actions to solve them.
*Key indicators: budget, schedule, stakeholders, scope, resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	The project has problems that require a change in plans. Additional focus and management are essential to bringing the project back under control.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	The project has serious problems. One or more* key indicators are in At-Risk status
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not started (and not scheduled to start)
Comments:		

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND PERSPECTIVES

The year 2022 marks the last stage of the first phase of the SIDA-AMCOW ISS Project. In response to the outcomes of annual evaluation exercises, the project implementation schedule and approach have regularly been updated. The impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic have had a major effect on the delivery of work plans and, in turn, the significant project revision in 2022. One such adjustment has been the ongoing independent (mid-term) evaluation of the project originally scheduled for 2021. Now being conducted in the final year of the project, the evaluation will document achievements and the lessons learnt. Recommendations are also expected on transitioning the project outcomes into a possible next phase of the project aimed at consolidating the achievements and responding to emerging issue.

The summaries of the results achieved in the period of reporting under each strategic project objective are presented below:

Objective 1: Representation and Engagement: This section highlights the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)'s significant progress in enhancing cooperation and coordination among Member States and partners for the sustainable use of water resources. AMCOW has identified regional and continental priorities through various activities and events and started collaborating with relevant institutional partners to act on them.

AMCOW's engagement with Member States and partners led to a project pipeline worth over \$18m, including a signed agreement with USAID and BMGF. Moreover, the payment of Member States' contributions has increased by 163% compared to FY 2021.

UNECA, in collaboration with AMCOW, made progress in the mid-term review of the UN Water Action Decade 2018-2028 by adopting a harmonised approach to present Africa's inputs to the review and reaffirming the commitment of Member States to enhance synergies across the water-energy-food nexus. A common message for the UN-Water Conference was developed and approved, showing a unified and collaborative approach towards water-related issues in Africa.

3.1.2. Project Management Office Supplies

AMCOW achieved another key milestone by collaborating on a Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on African transboundary water resources management. The Secretariat and European Commission (EC) conducted stakeholder consultations on the Action Document; The EC made an initial commitment of €11.5m to support coordination, regional integration, and cooperation for effective management and utilisation of transboundary water resources within the framework of assuring water security in Africa and achieving the goals of AU Agenda 2063.

AMCOW also renewed its engagements with the River and Lake Basin Organisations and Regional Economic Communities to deliver on the water and sanitation agenda. The wider involvement of Member States in decision-making processes during the Executive Committee and Technical Advisory Committee, as well as the AMCOW Work Programme, was ensured.

AMCOW led the way in promoting the Africa Water & Sanitation Agenda on a continental and global scale through various initiatives. To this end, the Secretariat arranged the Africa Water Pavilion at the 9th World Water Forum in Senegal, which featured a Ministerial Roundtable marking AMCOW's 20th anniversary, a high-level panel on finance, a breakfast meeting advocating for a UN Secretary General's Special Envoy on Water, nine side events, five bilateral meetings, and a cocktail reception and report launch. The Secretariat also organised the Africa Focus Day and Africa Water Pavilion at the 2022 World Water Week in Stockholm, hosting multiple high-level meetings and side events. Additionally, AMCOW was elected to the Board of Governors of the World Water Council (WWC) for 2023–2025.

The 13th Ordinary Session of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) EXCO took place in Windhoek, Namibia, where several important decisions were made. These included the adoption of the amended AMCOW Governance Framework and approving the 3-Year

Work Programme (2022-2024). In addition, the African Union Commission (AUC) and AMCOW collaborated to organise the 3rd Partners Coordination Platform (PCP) meeting on Africa Water and Sanitation in Addis Ababa.

The outcome of this meeting was the decision to advance the preparation for the post-AWV 2025 framework, protect water and forest resources, prioritise investment for data collection and reporting, and strengthen the African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO) to perform its functions effectively.

Overall, AMCOW's achievements during the period under review demonstrate the organisation's efforts towards ensuring water security and sustainable use of water resources in Africa. With continued efforts towards these goals, AMCOW can contribute to achieving sustainable development in Africa.

Objective 2 – Financing: In pursuit of its goal to improve water and sanitation in Africa, the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) has made significant progress in securing financing from various sources. A discernible response is observed from the Member States in meeting their financial obligations to AMCOW, which is similarly matched by interest from AMCOW's funding partners. We have seen an almost 80% increase in Member States Contributions from USD430,000 in 2020 (the highest ever recorded) to USD767,653 in 2022. This has leveraged a 133% increase in budgetary contributions from Development Partners from approximately USD4m contributed in 2020 to USD9.3m in 2022 (SIDA-\$2m, BMGF-\$3.6m, USAID-\$3m, AfDB/AWF-\$0.4m and New Venture Fund-\$0.250). Engagements with the Commission of the European Union (EC-INTPA) are expected to yield funding support for coordinating the continental window of the Blue Africa/TEI-TWM initiative.

Similarly, negotiations are ongoing with the African Development Bank (AfDB) for support towards implementation of the AMCOW Work Programme. The Secretariat has already secured funding for its 3-years programs with USAID and BMGF. The support is expected to strengthen

AMCOW's capacity to formulate initiatives that are responsive to the pursuit of water and sanitation goals in Africa. This increased support from funding partners is a testament to the growing confidence in AMCOW's ability to effectively pursue its goals in the water and sanitation sector in Africa.

Efforts to streamline all internal processes and incorporate the preliminary EU Pillar Assessment recommendations have continued at AMCOW Secretariat. The results from a pre-pillar assessment indicate a 90% readiness for a successful assessment. A formal application has been lodged for the assessment as efforts continue to implement the recommendations of the pre-pillar assessment. The accreditation as an implementing partner of the EU, coupled with the USDS accreditation as a Public International Organisation, are key success factors of SO2 of the Project.

In conclusion, AMCOW's progress in securing financing from various sources is a significant achievement that reflects the organization's commitment to improving water and sanitation in Africa. The successful implementation of the EU Pre-Pillar Assessment recommendations, the positive results from the Annual Financial Audit, and the secured funding agreements with various donors all demonstrate AMCOW's financial management capacity and growing credibility in the eyes of potential funding partners. The organization will continue to pursue funding opportunities to further strengthen its financial stability and enhance its ability to achieve its objectives.

Objective 3: Influencing Policy and Practice /Knowledge Broker: The AMCOW Secretariat has been working to establish itself as a knowledge broker by creating relationships and networks between knowledge producers and users in the water and sanitation sector. Six organisations have signed memoranda of understanding with AMCOW, indicating potential knowledge partnerships, while discussions are underway to develop exchange platforms to facilitate the co-creation and exchange of information among Regional Learning and Knowledge Centres for Water.

AMCOW and the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance have partnered to facilitate knowledge exchange among African water and sanitation professionals using the SUSANA online forum, which will be embedded into AMCOW's Knowledge Hub of Hubs. AMCOW Secretariat coordinates effective knowledge sharing across various continental and global events, collecting recently produced resources from nine organisations. These resources, which include over 2000 volumes of knowledge resources, a policy brief, and reports, were part of efforts to influence policy, practice, and knowledge sharing.

The Secretariat has also revamped its website and increased its social media presence, significantly increasing followers across various social media platforms. About 1,252 new followers connected to AMCOW social media platforms in 2022. Moreover, AMCOW has produced and disseminated several knowledge materials and reports, including:

- AfricaSan Ngor Report 2021
- 2021 and 2022 Water and Sanitation Sector Report
- AMCOW at 20 Story
- Africa Sanitation Policy Guidelines (ASPG)
- The Role of Groundwater in Africa's Socio-Economic Development
- Groundwater for Africa's Resilience and Socioeconomic Transformation (A high-level summary)
- COVID 19 Case Studies: Lessons Learned from Countries
- WASH Ministers Finance Brief
- WASH Finance Advocacy Brief
- Urban Groundwater in Africa: A dialogue for resilient towns and cities.

These resources are part of the organisation's efforts to influence policy, practice, and knowledge sharing in the water and sanitation sector.

In addition to the efforts mentioned earlier, the AMCOW Secretariat has also worked towards strengthening its monitoring, evaluation, and learning function. The Secretariat has strengthened the capacity of 70 representatives from 53 Member States on data collection and reporting of the WASSMO and AfricaSan Ngor indicators.

This is a critical step in ensuring that reliable and accurate data is collected and reported, which is essential for effective policy development and decisionmaking. Furthermore, the Secretariat has established links with UN monitoring initiatives and integrated the AfricaSan Ngor Commitments M&E framework into the WASSMO reporting system. This is a significant achievement as it helps align the reporting framework with international standards and best practices.

The 2021 Africa Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring Report was launched and shared with stakeholders at the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal. The 2022 report was developed and approved during the 13th AMCOW EXCO. These reports are essential tools for tracking progress, identifying gaps and challenges, and informing policy development and decision-making.

Finally, the Secretariat has finalised the draft midterm evaluation report of the SIDA-ISS, which aims to assess the progress, effectiveness, and impact of the SIDA-ISS program.

In conclusion, the AMCOW Secretariat's commitment to knowledge sharing and management is a crucial component of its efforts towards achieving its vision of ensuring access to safe and sustainable water and sanitation for all in Africa. Through partnerships, exchange platforms, and capacity-building initiatives, AMCOW has made significant progress in establishing itself as a leading knowledge broker. The organization's focus on monitoring, evaluation, and learning is essential in ensuring accountability, transparency, and effectiveness. With its strong foundation, AMCOW is wellpositioned to continue making significant contributions towards the development and progress of Africa's water and sanitation sector.

NEXT STEPS

In 2023, the focus will be on completing ongoing activities as follows:

Specific objective 1: Representation and Engagement

- i. engagement with the RECs at an operational level for a practical approach to collaboratively institutionalise the convening of regional ministerial-level meetings on water and sanitation matters.
- ii. engaging the RLBOs strengthen institutional linkages and building consensus for the revitalisation of ANBO.
- iii. Continue engagement with funding partners on the project proposals in the pipeline as well as development of new proposals.
- iv. Finalisation of the contract for the TEI continental window expected in early 2023.

Similarly, direct engagement with the Member States will be consolidated in preparation for the General Assembly of the Councils of Ministers in 2023.

On Specific objective 2: Financing

Efforts are underway to strengthen the Secretariats Internal Audit/Compliance function, as well as implementing measures to ensure proper segregation of duties within the Accounts department. Related planned activities include conducting a comprehensive review and optimisation of the ERP (after one and half years of working with it) to get the full potential benefits from the system. These activities are within the framework of demonstrating the level of fiduciary risk management consistent with the requirements for accreditation as an Implementing Partner of the European Commission.

In the aspect of resources mobilisation, the relevant actions will be taken to advance negotiations on the proposals in the pipeline, as well as developing new funding proposals.

On Specific objective 3: Influencing Policy and Practice /Knowledge Brokerage The key planned activities under SO3 are:

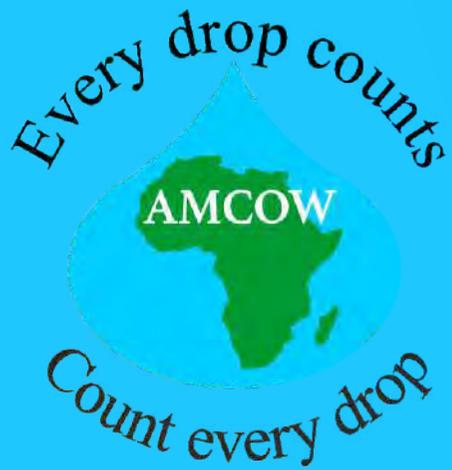
- Dissemination of the midterm evaluation report of the SIDA-ISS.
- Activation of the Access Programming Interface (API) to create linkages with partners' knowledge hubs, thus creating the AMCOW Knowledge Management Hub-of-Hubs.
- Commence training of Focal Points on Knowledge Management Principles and Practices
- Update AMCOW's communication and visibility strategy to capture current realities and support the delivery of its subsequent activities in the water and sanitation sector.
- Continue implementation of the recommendations of AMCOW website diagnosis report developed in April.
- Collect baseline data of the WASSMO indicators and prepare the 2023 Report.
- Finalise the 2022 Annual activity Report of the Secretariat.
- Continue to build up its database of stakeholders leveraging on those of attendees of global events; and,
- Seek 13th General Assembly approval for the AMCOW Youth, Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy (YGSi) and initiate action on implementing the strategy

Annexes:

- Annex 1: Report on the Outcomes of AMCOW's Activities at the 9th World Water Forum
- Annex 2: Signed Aide Memoire of the Consultations on the Blue Africa/Team Europe Initiative on Transboundary Water Management
- Annex 3: Signed Aide Memoire of the Western Africa Technical Experts Committee Meeting
- Annex 4: Signed Aide Memoire of the Northern Africa Technical Experts Committee Meeting
- Annex 5: Signed Aide Memoire of the Southern Africa Technical Experts Committee Meeting
- Annex 6: Signed Aide Memoire of the Eastern Africa Technical Experts Committee Meeting
- Annex 7: Signed Aide Memoire of the Central Africa Technical Experts Committee Meeting
- Annex 8: Report of the 2nd Water Action Decade Consultation
- Annex 9: Groundwater summit report
- Annex 10: 3rd Partners Coordination Platform Aide-memoire



A group Photograph of AMCOW Secretariat and the SIDA team during the early stage of the SIDA ISS Project



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