



October 2017

SECTORAL COMPONENT

Water management in the context of urban resilience



BACKGROUND

Water channels most of the impacts of climate change in society and ecosystems; this is why it has to be a central issue in adaptation strategies.

In addition, Central and South America are the regions with the highest rate of urban population (80.4%, which continues to grow), behind North America (81.6%) and significantly above the world average (United Nations, 2014).

According to the regional report of the IPPC on adaptation, the provision of critical resources, services and infrastructures are decisive factors in urban vulnerability, accentuated by climate change. This is especially true in the water sector. The importance of water management for climate change adaptation has also been highlighted in the “Paris Agreement on water and climate change adaptation of hydrographic basins, lakes and aquifers” that was presented at the COP21.

In addition, the water sector already occupies a leading position in most countries’ climate change adaptation strategies. Some 82% of NDCs include a specific section devoted to adaptation. Of these contributions, 92% mention water, which shows the relevance and priority of this issue (FWP, 2015).

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

The component has a budgetary allocation of EUR 10 M.

IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

The agencies delegated by the European Commission to implement the Water Management component in the context of Urban Resilience are:

- Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
- Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID)

IMPLEMENTATION CALENDAR

- Working Group workshop: 1st quarter 2018
- Call for proposals: 1st quarter 2018
- Selection and procurement: 2nd quarter 2018

OBJECTIVES AND RESULTS

Specific objectives

The specific objectives are to strengthen the resilience of urban areas through better water management, improve access for the most vulnerable populations to drinking water and ensure the quality of water resources to reduce the negative impacts on health and the environment and increase their availability.

Expected results

- The resilience of cities is strengthened through better management of water resources and the promotion of access to drinking water for everyone (e.g. urban resilience strategies are established in light of water stress risk caused by problems of access to or scarcity of re-

sources); standards are established and efficient water use is fostered; information for planning, including environmental monitoring networks (focused on water resources) is available, etc.

- The quality of water resources is preserved with the aim of reducing the negative effects on health and increasing their availability (e.g. focuses of pollution are identified), sources (basins) are protected, sections of rivers in urban areas are recovered, urban and industrial purification systems are operational, waste water is used to generate energy and obtain sub-products such as fertilizers, etc.).

ACTIVITIES

The action will be carried out in two phases:

- a project selection and preparation phase: national and local organizations that are interested will be able to submit project proposals through an open call for proposals focused on the priority areas described. In this stage, technical assistance will be made available to countries to support the project call process. The proposed projects will then be examined and selected by a committee according to criteria that will be described in detail and published in the call.
- A project execution phase: the bodies that have submitted the selected projects will be the beneficiaries of subsidies with which to fund the execution of the projects. Technical assistance will be provided to enable the exchange of experiences and knowledge management among projects executors and with public.

PROGRESS TO DATE AND FUTURE STEPS

- Analysis on the priorities of the component with the Latin American countries during a regional seminar in Costa Rica in **September 2016**.
- Drafting of a concept note by AECID, AFD to outline the priorities, objectives and future work in this sector.
- Consultation with Latin American countries on the conceptual note.

FUTURE STEPS

- Validation of the concept note.
- Organisation of the regional seminar to launch the component
- Launch of the call for proposals
- Selection and award of projects



POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES

The eligible activities will include:

- Feasibility studies of investment programmes
- Specific technical assistance for implementing organizations
- Capacity development
- Implementation of pilot projects (including conservation and restoration activities of ecosystems that contribute to improving the offer and quality of water)
- Diagnostics and actions to improve existing systems
- Strengthening of governance in the sector

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- National authorities and other national agencies
- Sub-national governments and other local institutions (water and sanitation operating agencies, basin management agencies, etc.)
- Regional organisations, including civil society
- National meteorology and hydrology institutes
- International organisations
- Regional academic networks, scientific and academic institutions

Projects may also be submitted by associations of several institutions (e.g. a scientific organisation, a government agency and a local institution).

FURTHER DETAILS:

www.afd.fr
www.aecid.es

- www.euroclima.org
- www.afd.fr
- www.aecid.es

