

The African Union Heads of State and Government adopted the [Sharm el Sheikh Declaration on Water and Sanitation](#) in July 2008, emphasizing their political priority for water and sanitation. The Declaration commits countries to put in place adaptation measures to improve the resilience of countries to the increasing threat of climate change and variability to water resources.

In November 2010, during the 3rd Africa Water Week, the extra-ordinary session of the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) adopted a decision recommending that the [Global Water Partnership \(GWP\)](#) and partners operationalize the Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP). The programme supports the implementation of climate change commitments in the Sharm el Sheikh Declaration and is part of AMCOW's work programme.

The Water, Climate and Development Programme aims to integrate water security and climate resilience in development planning processes, build climate resilience and support countries to adapt to a new climate regime through increased investments in water security.

Adaptation to climate change converges on the goal of water security for all: harnessing water's social and productive potential and limiting its destructive force. Water security provides a focus for adaptation and a framework for action.

The future resilience of human communities to climate change-related impacts depends on the success of water management interventions.

The **goal** of the programme is to promote water as a key part of sustainable regional and national development and contribute to climate change adaptation for economic growth and human security.

The **objectives** of the programme are to support countries in:

- the integration of water security and climate resilience in development planning processes
- the development of partnerships and capacity of institutions and stakeholders to build resilience to climate change through better water management
- the development of “no regret” financing and investment strategies for water security and climate change adaptation.

For more information <http://www.gwp.org/WACDEP>