

**Bucketlist**

Progress on achieving MDG 7 is too slow. This is the first message pouring out of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa Water Week in Addis Ababa these days. The three primary reasons cited are [weak governance of the water sector](#), severe under-investments in infrastructure, and a lack of political prioritization at the national level. As a result, more than 350 million Africans still do not have access to safe drinking water and only 37 percent of the population has access to adequate sanitation.

Ensuring that water and sanitation services are universally available and financially viable, in addition to being environmentally and socially sustainable is one thing. Doing so at a time of growing populations and food needs as well as accelerating climate change and urbanisation, is a daunting challenge – but one that delegates at the Water Week think can be met by sticking with plans outlined in the [African Water Vision 2025](#), the [eThekweni Declaration](#), the [Tunis Action Plan](#), and the [Sharm-el-Sheik Communiqué](#).

As in many other sectors, including transport infrastructure and energy, hopes rest on market forces and the potential of “innovative” sources of financing to close the funding gap. Estimated at \$45-60 billion annually, this gap clearly out-sizes the possible contributions from national budgets and official development assistance. While multilateral initiatives like the African Water Facility can help to encourage private-sector investment into crucial infrastructure, including irrigation systems, rain water harvesting and storage capacities, the necessary regulatory reforms can only be made at the national level.

The Water Week’s second message is thus the need for national efforts to catch up with regional announcements. More concrete steps are also needed to address the large-scale failure to balance demand, mostly at the expense of the poorest, the wide-spread inefficiencies and the lack of regional cooperation. The potential benefits of effective national action are enormous. Greater contributions from commercial users and efficiency gains from utility reforms, for example, alone could yield as much as \$2.7 billion annually and increase progress towards MDG 7 by 2-3 percent a year, according to the AfDB.

Water is a test case for Africa’s states, partly because it cuts across so many issues and borders, but also because it literally evaporates if not harnessed skilfully.

“ **The strong get the water, the poor remain deprived.** ”

Oswald Chanda,  
AfDB Chief Water and Sanitation Engineer

**News Overview**

The long awaited elections in **Côte d’Ivoire** have gone relatively smoothly so far. [As Ivoirians prepare for a tense presidential run-off on 28 November, analysts doubt that the radicals in the losing party will easily accept defeat](#) and fear that the fragile peace of the first round could easily crumble.

**Guinea’s** veteran opposition politician [Alpha Conde was declared winner of its first free presidential election](#) amid violent clashes and claims of voting fraud. The challenges facing the new president include ethnic divisions, poverty and the need to make a real difference from the preceding dictatorships. (Article in French)

[President Blaise Compaore, who has been in power since 1987 was reelected in Sunday’s first round ballot](#) with an 81% share of the [presidential vote amidst a low-turnout in Burkina Faso](#). Candidates of the opposition reject all provisional results and calls for new elections to be held.

A recent coup attempt to overthrow the current president in Madagascar failed last week as [a nationwide vote took place regarding constitutional reforms](#) including lowering the minimum age for presidential candidates from 40 to 35, allowing the 36-year-old Rajoelina to stand in presidential elections scheduled for May 2011. As [the results of the referendum may not be accepted, Madagascar could be thrown into further turmoil](#).

[Conflict erupted in Western Sahara between the Moroccan security forces and local people](#) seeking independence for the vast, resource-rich desert region; [the Moroccan government is being accused of provoking the violence in an attempt to derail the UN sponsored talks](#) on the future of the territory.

[Jean Pierre Bemba is facing crimes against humanity and war crimes against the civilian population in the CAR during 2002 and 2003, pleaded not guilty at the ICC](#). He argued that his troops, once in the CAR, were transferred under CAR President’s authority, however, former President Patassé is not being charged (Article in French).

[259 investors from North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and Latin America with collective assets totaling over \\$15 trillion call for government action on climate change](#) and outline areas in which they hope to see agreements and progress at COP16 in Cancun.

[North African agriculture will be the worst affected by climate change](#), according to an assessment of how 50 key crops will perform around the world under increasing temperatures over the next 40 years.



Source: UNICEF

**G8/G20 Update**

**AUSTRALIA**

[Australia reviews the country’s aid and development program](#), examining the effectiveness of aid and guiding the strategic direction of Australia’s aid program

[Australia will provide an additional \\$9m in assistance to Sudan for the upcoming referendum](#)

**BRAZIL**

[Brazil announces new initiatives to advance climate change policy and to meet the voluntary commitments under COP15](#)

[Brazil and France commit to coordinate the international partnership on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation \(REDD\)](#)

**CANADA**

In line with its G20 commitments, [Canada will support economic and social development in Africa by replenishing the African Development Fund](#)

**CHINA**

[The Chinese government will speed up development in Lusophone Africa](#) with a development fund scaled up to \$1 billion by 2013

**EU**

[The EC adopts new custom rules to allow developing countries benefit from trade with EU countries](#)

[The EC published its green paper on development](#)

**FRANCE**

[France pledges to contribute €110m per year for the next 3 years to UNITAID](#) to promote access to health products to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis

**G20**

[G20 leaders agreed on the Seoul Declaration](#) and a Multi-year action plan on development

**SOUTH AFRICA**

[The UK and South Africa present a proposition for a free-trade area](#) to help the African continent match the growth of other impoverished regions

**UK**

[UK presents two new public-private partnership projects to generate renewable energy in developing countries](#)

[UK Prime Minister David Cameron says the future of the UK’s foreign policy will be ‘hard-headed internationalism’, ensuring that the UK will carry its weight in the world](#)

**USA**

[The US Government released its annual International Religious Freedom Report](#) providing detailed information on each African Country on matters relating to religious freedom

## Multilateral Organizations

### African Development Bank

[AfDB launches African Carbon Support Program](#) aimed at supporting countries to access carbon finance

[AfDB allocates \\$810m to the Climate Investment Fund in Africa](#) to support countries in advancing clean energy

### African Union

[The African Heads of States prepare the African negotiation system ahead of COP16](#) in order to have a cohesive common position in Cancun

### ITC

[ITC launches network of enterprise competitiveness trainers and advisers for small and medium-sized enterprises in Africa](#)

### SADC

[SADC says it will not recognize the constitutional referendum in Madagascar](#)

### UN

Despite last year's disappointment in Copenhagen, [the UN sees potential for progress in the climate change negotiations at COP16](#)

[2 million children in Uganda are targeted to receive polio vaccination by a UN-backed vaccination campaign](#), a similar campaign, also by UNICEF/WHO, [targets 3 million children and adults in the Republic of Congo, DRC and Angola](#)

[FAO developed a guide for African farmers with advice on the most appropriate crops to plant](#), based on climatic conditions and soil types in the areas where they live

FAO warns that [the world may face acute shortage of food in 2011](#) and that another surge in food prices may occur

According to the [UNAIDS Report on the "Global Aids Epidemic 2010"](#) 56 countries have either stabilized or achieved significant declines in rates of new HIV infections

### WHO

[A new WHO report says around 1 billion people cannot afford any health services, and having to pay for health care pushes 100 million people a year into poverty](#)

### World Bank

[WB expands its Agricultural Productivity Program to cover Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria, providing the countries with support to food security](#)

[The World Bank releases its draft strategy for Africa: 'Africa's future and the World Bank's role in it'](#)

A joint report by the World Bank and IFC says [Africa will be the world's largest market for solar portable lights by 2015](#) with up to 65 million users accessing safe and clean lighting

## Opinions

[Mail & Guardian: Seoul-searching shows results, 22 Nov. 2010](#)- As opposed to the conventional view that there was no 'meaningful agreement on global balances' at the G20 Seoul Summit, Alan Hirsch, Chief Director of Economic Policy at the South African Presidency argues that substantial progress had been made.

[Concord Times: Implications of nation's oil discovery, 18 Nov. 2010](#)- As the discovery of gem stone diamonds shook Sierra Leone, there are renewed fears today with the recent discovery of oil-petroleum.

[Addis Times: African leaders downplay prospects for climate deal, 15 Nov. 2010](#)- Top climate negotiator, PM Meles Zenawi cautions Africans to lower their expectations of the Cancun talks as global economic troubles and pressing domestic issues in many countries seem to have pushed climate concerns to the 'back burner.'

80% of African countries are off-track for the sanitation MDG target



Source: WHO and Wateraid 2010

## In the blogs...

[Guardian Poverty matters Blog: What can we expect from the French G20? 18 Nov. 2010](#)- As work towards the next G20 in France is underway, author questions what is to be expected from the French G20. He further states that for many, "South Korea's G20 Chairmanship helped to illustrate that Asia is the future and that in 2011, France needs to prove that Europe is not the past" by playing a transformative role in the fight against poverty.

[Reuters Africa Blog: More transparency for Africa, Please 19 Nov. 2010](#)- With many African countries propping up the bottom of [Transparency International's Corruption Index](#), the author suggests that a way in which African governments can reduce corruption is to copy the recent US legislation forcing companies to report any payments made to foreign governments for the extraction of oil, gas and minerals.

[World Bank's Conflict and Development Blog: Encouraging leaders to do the right thing, 9 Nov. 2010](#)- Nicholas Van Praag argues that rewarding leaders may encourage them to do the right thing but that there needs to be an agreement as to "what is worthy of reward" and acceptance that it may take a long time for progress to show in fragile states.

## Reports

As governments prepare for the UNFCCC-COP16 in Cancun, [UNEP launches a new report that spells out what the pledges of the past 12 months by governments might actually mean](#) in terms of putting the world on track to limit global temperature rises.

According to a new AfDB report, [millions of Africans are denied access to reliable sanitation and safe drinking water in adequate quantities because of poor governance in the water sector](#) which fails to balance demand.

[Time is running out on climate change](#) says, [Word Energy Outlook 2010](#). It demonstrates that it is what government's do that affects technology, the price of energy services and end-user behavior as well as the crucial importance of energy in achieving the MDGs.

## Calendar

22-26 November	<a href="#">3<sup>rd</sup> Africa Water Week</a>
23-26 November	<a href="#">2<sup>nd</sup> Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health &amp; Environment in Africa:</a> Luanda, Angola
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
26-30 November	<a href="#">3<sup>rd</sup> Africa-EU Summit &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> EU-Africa Business Forum:</a> Tripoli, Libya
28 November	Mauritania 50 Years of Independence
29-30 November	OECD Global Forum on Agriculture: Paris, France
29 Nov-10 Dec	16 <sup>th</sup> UN Climate Change Conference: Cancun, Mexico
1 December	World Aids Day
1 December	<a href="#">8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the AFD-EUDN:</a> "Do we really know how to measure development?" Paris, France
1-2 December	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Africa Public Private Partnership Conference & Showcase: Tunis, Tunisia
2-3 December	The Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation: Two Years On, Where Are We? Nairobi, Kenya
4-5 December	<a href="#">World Climate Summit:</a> Cancun, Mexico
6 December	<a href="#">Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the UNFCCC (COP16/CMP6):</a> Cancun, Mexico
6-7 December	<a href="#">European Development Days:</a> Brussels, Belgium
10 December	International Day Against Corruption
11 December	Human Rights Day

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