

New WWF report highlights better water management in Africa as key to sustainable development

[*Africa's Watershed Moment: How better water management can underpin Africa's development*](#) - a recently released report commissioned by WWF and AB InBev - highlights how the management of water is fundamental to sustainable development across the continent.



The report calls on decision makers to prioritise better management of water – and the rivers, lakes and wetlands from which it is sourced – in order to lay the necessary foundation for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

“This is Africa’s watershed moment. Decisions taken in the next few years about how to manage our freshwater resources will shape the continent’s development for decades to come,” said Fred Kumah, WWF director for Africa. “Africa urgently needs to invest in appropriate freshwater infrastructure, management and policies to catalyse economic growth, mitigate water risks and achieve its Sustainable Development Goals – or risk missing the boat.”

“More than just a key ingredient in our products, water is a precious resource for the economic, social, and environmental wellbeing of communities across the continent,” said Tony Milikin, chief sustainability and procurement officer at AB InBev. “We recognise the need to act as a responsible steward of water in the areas where we operate, but we also recognise that it will take more than one organisation, company or government to tackle the growing freshwater challenges in Africa.”

Key themes

- The report focuses on four key themes – sustained growth requires water investment; feeding a billion more people; rural water vulnerability, poverty and migration; and cities as the engine of water-resilient development – and calls on decision makers to act. Key recommendations include:
- Economic planners should catalyse development by investing in water management.
- Business leaders should increase investment in water management to reduce their water risks, advocate with governments, and inspire collective action.
- Investors should explore mechanisms to finance water development that underpins sustainable and inclusive economic growth.
- City managers should ensure coherent planning between urban and rural areas.
- Development agencies should promote water-resilient development, with a focus on the livelihoods of the most marginal people in the least developed economies.

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