

What services can CRIDF offer you?



Improved water infrastructure is key to improving the lives of the resource poor

The Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Facility (CRIDF) is a DFID (UK Aid) funded programme working to improve livelihoods across Southern Africa by finding better, and more climate resilient ways to manage transboundary water resources. To achieve its goals, CRIDF has adopted an 'infrastructure development facility' model, which (i) advances the preparation of climate-resilient water infrastructure projects; (ii) helps climate-resilient water infrastructure projects access financial resources; and (iii) provides partners with technical advice and support on the best way to select, prepare, manage and implement water infrastructure projects.

CRIDF's expert team understands the complexities required in bringing an infrastructure programme to completion, and our large pool of experts provides a variety of services to support you at any stage of the project selection and implementation process.

CRIDF's project cycle

CRIDF reviews a range of water sector projects to identify those that align with the Facility's goals. Those that are identified as being transboundary (i.e. the river basin is shared by more than one country), reducing poverty and building climate resilience are put into the Facility's work flow and are eligible to benefit from CRIDF services designed to improve project management and implementation and package the project in a way that is attractive to funders.

Project Preparation services

Projects selected for CRIDF support go through a rigorous cycle of assessment and preparation. By identifying weaknesses in this way and then addressing them, CRIDF aims to build projects that are sufficiently robust to allow them to qualify for funding. Within CRIDF, this whole process is known as 'Project Preparation'.

Assessment & capacity development

Projects are assessed and capacity development provided as required

Funding capture/matching

Funders are identified to carry project forward

Implementation & project assistance

CRIDF advances projects to implementation. CRIDF may also implement some small projects to show proof of concept

What can CRIDF offer?

CRIDF uses two main approaches to bring about change: (i) it works to mobilise a range of infrastructure finance and (ii) it prepares and implements small-scale water infrastructure and provides technical assistance to Southern African communities on the ground as a form of sustainable resilience capacity building.

Examples of the comprehensive assessments run by CRIDF as part of the assessment and preparation stage include the following:

- Water Infrastructure Feasibility Studies with Financial and Economic Analysis. Using a DFID-approved cost–benefit analysis tool, we cross-reference project financial data with studies by engineers on the ground to assess the economic potential of a project.
- Environmental and social impact assessments. Our environmental and social science specialists work closely with project staff to identify potential impacts on the environment and communities (both direct and indirect) and to identify measures to prevent, reduce or manage these impacts.
- Climate risk assessment. We assess projects to ensure that climate resilience is integrated into all stages of water infrastructure planning. Examples of the tools used include Climate Resilient Development Pathways (CRDP), Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) and use of the Vulnerability Adaptation Tool.
- Gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) study. As primary users of natural resources, women are faced with difficult challenges when water, food and fuel security are threatened by climate change. CRIDF's GESI tool aims to integrate gender equality within organisations at national, regional and basin levels.

Funding capture/matching services

Building infrastructure to provide long-term solutions to transboundary water issues is expensive, and projects require funding from a range of sources.

Identifying potential funders and capturing funding can be challenging. So CRIDF works with project stakeholders not only to support them technically, but also to help them to develop innovative models, approaches and strategies for attracting the funding that they require.

One way we do this when working with smaller, more rural projects, for example, is to group and package projects as 'financeable programmes'. This amplifies their attractiveness to potential financiers and maximises their impact.

The Facility also uses an exceptional network of connections with development funding partners, the private sector and the governments of Southern Africa to match projects to funders' needs and so help leverage spend.

Implementation & project assistance

The final stage of CRIDF's work is to bring projects to a successful close. This can be done in either of two ways:

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(i) through direct funding by CRIDF or (ii) through assistance to projects funded by other organisations to help ensure sustainability.

Direct funding by CRIDF

For a limited number of small water infrastructure projects, CRIDF will provide the funding and oversee project design and implementation.

The aim of this approach is to provide demonstration projects which will allow other funders and project implementers to see the systems proposed by CRIDF in action. This, coupled with risk mitigation strategies and engagement activities, will result in extending good practice across Southern Africa and help improve the delivery of much larger projects right across the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. It also results in funders reconsidering how risky they feel such projects to be, which results in additional funding being unlocked.

Assistance to non-CRIDF funded projects

Most of the projects identified by CRIDF and brought up to the standards required by funders will not be funded by CRIDF itself. Rather, other groups (such as governments or the private sector) will take up the projects. CRIDF will continue to play a role, however, by providing a range of technical assistance to these projects as requested.

'On demand' technical assistance

CRIDF also offers a Rapid Advisory Service (RAS) which gives technical support to relevant stakeholders. The CRIDF RAS allows us to quickly respond to stakeholder demands. It's a very effective way for the Facility to begin working with new partners, not only on the technical aspects of water infrastructure provision, but in areas such as gender equality and social inclusion in relation to transboundary water management.

