

The Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Facility (CRIDF)



Finding long-term solutions to inter-country water management that will benefit some of the poorest people in the world

The Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Facility (CRIDF) is a DFID (UK Aid) supported programme working to provide long-term solutions to water infrastructure issues that affect the lives of the vulnerable and poor in Southern Africa. Addressing such issues is seen as being of particular importance in the face of climate change. The demand-driven Facility focuses on water services, water resources management and agriculture, and aims to have a lasting impact on the region's water security and disaster risk management.

What are CRIDF's aims?

- To help improve the lives of over 3 million people in 12 different countries across the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.
- To demonstrate how water infrastructure in Southern Africa can be better planned, developed and financed.
- To deliver long-term impact with value for money.

What is CRIDF's approach?

To achieve its goals, CRIDF is using an 'infrastructure development facility' model – an approach which works to prepare projects and attract financial resources for both project preparation and implementation in the region.

CRIDF works with local counterparts – regional/national authorities and private sector entities as partners to deliver climate resilient, pro-poor infrastructure. This enables CRIDF to demonstrate best practices, models and approaches for delivering water infrastructure in the region.

CRIDF believes that this approach is the best way to bring about effective, sustainable development and management of water infrastructure.

Why do we work in southern Africa?

Several key issues underpin CRIDF's decisions to focus on the Southern Africa region:

Southern Africa is exposed to a highly variable climate – which often means the population experiences extreme flooding punctuated by long periods of drought. For this reason, DFID sees Southern Africa as a high-priority region.

Southern Africa is a vast area with a complex socio-political landscape and geography – Southern Africa has a vast array of social, environmental, economic and political perspectives. This causes complexity in the sector, as over 70% of the SADC region's fresh water resources are shared between two or more member states.

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.

Mobilising finance services

A key issue for water projects in Southern Africa is that while money is available to develop these economy-building solutions, projects are often unable to access it.

This is because the private sector and major funding bodies like the World Bank can only commit funds to projects if they can demonstrate that they are planned and managed to agreed standards and can be completed within budget. These and a range of other requirements define what is known as a 'bankable' (or financially viable) project.

A critical part of CRIDF's strategy is to leverage international, private and government sector financing on a regional scale. In Southern Africa, this may simply involve connecting relevant funders with appropriate projects. Or in other cases, bringing projects up to bankability through CRIDF's project preparation work.

Through its Mobilising Finance work stream, CRIDF will help viable projects in the region access finance from the private sector, governments and development finance institutions, and will catalyse and influence access to finance from a variety of sources.

Project preparation services

CRIDF's project preparation services address a variety of project needs. These range from project assessment and preparation services to design, implementation and capacity building for sustainability. The ultimate aim of this work is to identify the best practices in the sector and encourage their spread throughout the region.

Project assessment and preparation services. CRIDF's project preparation and development services are intended to review how projects are delivered and where they need strengthening through technical assessments. This includes the whole range and types of analyses including engineering, environmental assessments, cost-benefit analyses, gender equality and social inclusion analyses, climate change risk analyses, as part of full technical feasibility studies.

Capacity building services. CRIDF's capacity building services support local partners in acquiring the skills that they need to implement, build and manage Southern Africa's infrastructure projects. The aim is to ensure that both the infrastructure and the skilled workforce needed to develop, prepare and maintain it are available long-term in the region.

Part of CRIDF's capacity building services involves identifying and supporting champions who can work closely with CRIDF in the long term. The aim is to build their capacity to implement carefully selected projects using CRIDF-designed tools and approaches.

We also support those champions in the work that they do to encourage the use of best-practice approaches in other non-CRIDF climate-resilient water infrastructure projects. This is another aspect of the project's work to extend its best-practice approaches from country to country across the SADC region.

Rapid Advisory Services (RAS). Another unique CRIDF service is its provision of rapid, 'on demand' advice and technical services to qualifying organisations and projects. This service allows relevant requests to be quickly actioned and reviewed using a fast-track screening process. The services provided may be one-off. Or, if the request is seen as something that will help improve the approach to transboundary water management across the region, it may lead to further focused work designed to ensure long-term impacts.



Contact us

If you are interested in the services CRIDF offers, please contact us at:

enquiries@cridf.com



cridf.net

