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Description

Morocco is the only country in North Africa to be self-sufficient in water resources, thanks to the watersheds of the Rif and Atlas mountain ranges. However, as it is located in the southern Mediterranean zone, it will suffer the impacts of climate change by a factor of two.

That said, Morocco faces major challenges in achieving the goals of MDG 6 by 2030, due to its rapidly growing population, its dilapidated infrastructure and its dependence on hydroelectric power and agriculture. Climate change is expected to worsen the situation by altering hydrological cycles, depleting natural reserves (mountain snow, lakes, aquifers, soil moisture), making the hydrological cycle more unpredictable and increasing the frequency and intensity of floods and droughts.
Indeed, in 2019, the Economic, Social and Environmental Council (EESC) announced that Morocco's water resources were severely depleted, estimated at less than 650m3 per year per person - a level that the Water Stress Index considers to be "water scarcity", not far from the level of "absolute scarcity" at 500m3 per year and a sharp drop from the 2500m3 that Moroccans accessed in 1960. The EESC also warned that climate change could lead to the disappearance of 80% of Morocco's available water resources in the next 25 years.

The implementation of the national strategy 2020 2030 of the resources, will contribute to implement an integrated management of the water resources (GIRE)" by fixing the rules of an integrated, decentralized and participative management of the water resources to guarantee the right of the citizens to the access to the water and with a view to a rational and sustainable use and a better quantitative and qualitative valorization of the water It also aims at the implementation of the rules of prevention of water-related risks to ensure the protection and safety of people, property and the environment. It also aims to put in place rules and tools for water planning, including wastewater, desalinated sea water and others, in order to increase the national water potential, taking into account climate change and adapting to it.

It will address the challenges of sectoral fragmentation at the scale of the country's basins, in order to achieve optimal efficiency in water resources management.
In many parts of the country, inadequate water management practices are causing huge environmental problems, including overexploitation of groundwater, soil salinisation and erosion, and water pollution.

The strategy will set priorities for addressing complex and interrelated water challenges, and will also provide policy for the necessary transition from interconnected surface and groundwater systems to sectoral water use plans to ensure optimal use and protection of resources.
The strategy will identify key investments in institutional strengthening, information management and resilient infrastructure development. It will also address institutional tools such as legal and regulatory frameworks, water pricing and incentives to better allocate, regulate and conserve water resources.
The strategy should incorporate integrated information systems for resource monitoring, decision-making under uncertainty, systems analysis and hydrometeorological forecasting and

warning, with the national water information system to be strengthened for this purpose. Taking into account the expected impact of climate change, the strategy will also provide a basis for encouraging investment in innovative technologies to improve productivity and conserve and protect resources.

Expected impact

By adopting Law 35 15 in 2018 and through the implementation of the National Resource Strategy 2020 2030, will contribute to accelerate the achievement of SDG 6.5, which "aims to implement integrated water resources management (IWRM)"
The provisions of the present water law and the NSSD 2020-2030, which are based on the following principles
- To facilitate the equal access of citizens to water and a healthy environment to meet their basic needs, in accordance with the provisions of Art. 31 of the Constitution;
This will require the methodology to focus on the linkages between surface and groundwater resources, and also amplify the role of natural and artificial storage for IWRM.

At the same time, it would contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 6.1 "Universal and equitable access to safe drinking water for all" by strengthening the information base for planning water supply systems and monitoring their performance; Sustainable Development Goal 6.3 to improve water quality by reducing pollution; Sustainable Development Goal 6.3 to protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes. Improved river basin management and regulation of multi-purpose water reservoirs under the proposed National Water Resources Strategy would contribute to the achievement of water, food and energy security. Improving the link between water, food and energy will accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 2 (reduce hunger, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture) and Sustainable Development Goal 7 (energy).

The national water resources strategy will also accelerate the development of the irrigation and land reclamation program and set targets for water and energy efficiency in the irrigation sector, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

integrated, participatory and decentralized water management, taking into account the principle of spatial equity and solidarity
- protection of the aquatic environment and promotion of sustainable development of water resources;
- prevention, through the evaluation and assessment of the impacts of activities likely to affect water in particular and the public hydraulic domain in general, the definition and implementation of concrete measures to eliminate these impacts or reduce their negative effects;