



RÉPUBLIQUE  
FRANÇAISE

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*



AFD GROUP IN

# Southern Africa



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**1.6 B**

of commitments  
since 2015

**10 Countries**

Angola, South Africa,  
Botswana, Eswatini,  
Lesotho, Namibia, Malawi,  
Mozambique, Zambia,  
Zimbabwe

**134 Projects**

supported by the  
Group since 2015

**10%**

of the  
Group's  
activities

The AFD Group supports the Southern African region by addressing common regional challenges and developing regional integration.

#WorldInCommon

# OUR VISION IN Southern Africa

AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT | SOUTHERN AFRICA

## Strategic priorities

- Meet the challenges of climate change and preserve biodiversity
- Fight inequalities and promote social cohesion
- Support regional integration and address cross-border challenges

1

### *Meeting the climate challenge and preserving biodiversity*

As part of its 100% Paris Agreement commitment to low-carbon and resilient development, the AFD Group wants to support the energy transition of Southern African countries by prioritizing the development of renewable energies and promoting the reduction of fossil fuel consumption. In order to improve the resilience of the populations, the AFD Group will also develop its action in favour of sustainable and inclusive management of natural resources, in particular water and biodiversity.

2

### *Fighting inequality and promoting social cohesion*

The AFD Group will continue to support actors at the local level in order to achieve a more balanced territorial development aiming at a better integration of disadvantaged populations and reducing inequalities by promoting access to housing, infrastructure and employment.

The AFD Group will work closely with three countries in the region: Angola, South Africa and Zimbabwe, to support the structuring of sustainable agrifood chains that promote the creation of decent jobs in the rural areas.

In line with its 100% social connection commitment, the AFD Group would like to develop interventions in sport and culture to mobilize the youth, promote inclusion, gender equality and openness to the world.

3

### *Supporting regional integration and responding to cross-border challenges*

The AFD Group will promote the development of a partnership with the Southern African Development Community (SADC), whose regional expertise is consistent with its own priorities. The Group will also be attentive to the evolution of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) to determine the most relevant areas for joint cooperation in Southern Africa.

The AFD Group will ensure the development of regional corridors, which primarily concern the energy, trade, tourism, transport, and communication sectors as well as the protection of the biodiversity.

4

### *Partnering with France and Southern Africa*

The AFD Group will pay particular attention to the mobilization of French expertise whenever relevant and to the promotion of partnerships between French and Southern African players. Through Expertise France, AFD's subsidiary dedicated to technical assistance, the Group will mobilize international technical experts to provide assistance and advice in France's priority sectors of operation for Official Development Assistance (ODA).

The AFD Group will seek to develop exchanges of expertise between Southern Africa and the French territories located in the Indian Ocean. This initiative is already in progress in tourism and biodiversity with the Réunion National Park and SANParks in South Africa.

5

### *Private sector*

As part of the "Choose Africa" and "Choose Africa Resilience" initiatives through its subsidiary PROPARCO, the AFD Group will provide a larger number of financing solutions in favour of African SMEs and French companies established abroad.

The AFD Group will also continue to work to strengthen capacities of local banks in terms of financing green and social impact projects and to create a leverage effect to green the private sector and support employment.

6

### *Innovation*

In South Africa, the AFD Group will continue to support digital technology for cities (smart cities) and climate (greentechs). It will support local companies to innovate both technologically and in terms of governance and professional practices, particularly when it comes to equality between women and men.

The AFD Group will remain attentive to the actions of the "Digital Africa" platform, which supports start-ups and local incubators in order to strengthen the innovative digital ecosystem of Southern Africa.

AFD is a founding partner of the Digital Content Hub (DCH), an incubator of innovative and creative audio-visual content, launched by Tshimologong and the Institut Français Afrique du Sud. The DCH promotes the exchange of expertise and the transfer of skills between French and African professionals.



# OUR OUTLOOK AND MEANS OF INTERVENTION IN Southern Africa

## 1 *Financial outlook*

The AFD Group's average activity over the past four years amounts to an estimated 320 million euros per annum. The horizon of business activities for the next few years is around 400 million euros per annum. This estimate will obviously depend on the quality of the projects identified and the counterparts that support them.

## 2 *Public policy dialogue*

The group will strive to strengthen the public policy dialogue coordinated by the French embassies by developing its research activities, with local actors in line with its strategic objectives in the fight against inequality and climate change.

The Group supports the Cape Town-based African Center of Excellence for Inequality Research (ACEIR) which provides tools to the South African government to inform public policies in order to reduce the gap in terms of inequalities and aims to collaborate with other countries in the region.

## 3 *Means of intervention*

The perspectives for the coming years are based on the development of sovereign loan activity in Angola, South Africa and Namibia. They will be based on an institutional and public policy dialogue, particularly in key sectors where the French offer is recognized. Although the project approach will remain leading, AFD will look to establish public policy loans (PrPP).

These perspectives rest on the continuation of a significant sovereign activity. In heavily indebted countries (Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe), the AFD may, on a case-by-case basis, continue to work with the most viable companies and public banks with non-sovereign tools.

The dialogue with other donors present in the region will continue with the objective of coordinating our actions and co-financing the most emblematic projects.



*It always seems impossible until it is done.*  
– Nelson Mandela

AFD Group implements France's policy in the areas of development and international solidarity. The Group includes Agence Française de Développement (AFD), which finances the public sector and NGOs, as well as research and education in sustainable development; its subsidiary Proparco, which is dedicated to private sector financing; and soon, Expertise France, a technical cooperation agency. The Group finances, supports and accelerates transitions towards a fairer, more resilient world.

With our partners, we are building shared solutions with and for the people of the Global South. Our teams are at work on more than 4,000 projects in the field, in the French Overseas Departments and Territories, in 115 countries and in regions in crisis. We strive to protect global public goods – promoting a stable climate, biodiversity and peace, as well as gender equality, education and healthcare. In this way, we contribute to the commitment of France and the French people to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **Towards a world in common.**



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### **Southern Africa Regional Management**

Angola, South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia,  
Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe

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