KENYA CLIMATE VENTURES KCV | AISA 2026 ACCELERATING CLIMATE ADAPTATION FINANCE

ADAPTATION INVESTMENT SUMMIT FOR AFRICA 2026

Accelerating Climate Adaptation Finance and innovation for a Resilient Future

Session Title:

Investing in Water, Investing in Adaptation: Cross-Sector Pathways for Resilient Economies

Convened by:

KIFFWA | Aqua for All | KIWASCO | Cooperative Bank | Sidian Bank

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Investing in Water, Investing in Adaptation: Cross-Sector Pathways for Resilient Economies

Venue: Kifaru

Session snapshot

Item	Proposed content
Session format	Cross-sector investment roundtable with two short business spotlights, finance response and structured table work
Duration	90 minutes
Moderator	Aqua for All
Conveners	KIFFWA, Aqua for All, KIWASCO, Cooperative Bank and Sidian Bank
Indicative contributors	WSFT, Sidian Bank, Co-operative Bank, fund managers or investors, county/national government representatives, KIWASCO, Water SMEs and non-water SMEs and other sector actors
Core message	Water and wastewater management are not only water-sector issues. They are adaptation investments that enable agriculture, health, food processing, SMEs, cities and livelihoods to become more climate resilient.

Proposed session objective

To position water and wastewater management as high-impact, cross-sector climate adaptation investments that enhance water security, strengthen resilience, promote nature-based solutions, accelerate circularity and resource recovery, improve last-mile connectivity, increase energy efficiency, and unlock sustainable financing and partnerships.

The session will show how investments in reliable water access, wastewater management, water-use efficiency, non-revenue water reduction, energy efficiency and circular solutions can reduce climate risks for communities, utilities, SMEs, farms, health systems, food processors and urban economies.

Executive summary

Water is a foundation for climate adaptation. In many sectors, businesses and public services cannot become resilient without reliable, safe and sufficient water and effective wastewater management. Agriculture depends on water availability and reuse; food processing depends on water quality and wastewater compliance; health facilities depend on safe water and sanitation; SMEs depend on reliable services to continue operating during droughts, floods and supply disruptions.

This session will therefore move beyond a traditional technical water-sector discussion. It will position water and wastewater management as enabling infrastructure for adaptation across sectors. The session will connect utilities, water enterprises, banks, fund managers, government delegates, SMEs, sector actors and development partners around one practical question: which water and wastewater investments create adaptation value beyond the water sector, and how can they be financed?

The session will blend two perspectives. First, it will make visible the cross-sector demand for water-related adaptation investments in agriculture, health, food processing, SMEs, urban services and livelihoods. Second, it will show that last-mile connectivity, non-revenue water reduction, energy efficiency, resilient utility operations, wastewater reuse and circularity are essential foundations for these adaptation outcomes. The aim is to bridge silos and help non-water actors see water and wastewater management as investable climate adaptation opportunities.

By the end of the session, participants should have identified a small number of practical water-adaptation investment pathways or pilots that can be explored after AISA, involving combinations of utilities, enterprises, banks, investors, regulators, county/national government and development partners.

Strategic framing question

How can water and wastewater management be transformed from a public service obligation or technical sector issue into a cross-sector climate adaptation investment opportunity that strengthens resilience in agriculture, health, food processing, SMEs, urban services and livelihoods?

Key discussion themes

1. Water as adaptation infrastructure across sectors

- Water security as a condition for climate-resilient agriculture, food processing, health, SMEs and urban livelihoods.
- Reliable water and wastewater services as foundations for business continuity, public health, production stability and income protection.
- Understanding which water-related investments create adaptation benefits beyond the water sector.

2. Utility and service-provider resilience as an enabler

- Last-mile connectivity, non-revenue water reduction, energy efficiency and service continuity as foundations for cross-sector adaptation outcomes.
- Utility performance not as a separate technical discussion, but as an enabler of resilience for households, SMEs, cities and productive sectors.
- Partnership opportunities between WSPs, enterprises, county governments, banks and investors.

3. Innovation, circularity and nature-based solutions

- Nature-based solutions such as watershed restoration, catchment protection and nature-based wastewater treatment systems.
- Wastewater reuse, sludge-to-energy, nutrient recovery and circular economy business models.
- Smart water management, digitalization, data systems and water-quality solutions that improve resilience and investment readiness.

4. **Financing water-related adaptation pathways**

- Climate finance, blended finance, guarantees, asset finance, SME finance, project finance, PPPs and performance-based models.
- What banks, fund managers and investors need to see to finance water and wastewater adaptation opportunities.
- Bankable project preparation and partnership structures that connect water investments to measurable adaptation outcomes.

Proposed 90-minute session design

Time	Segment	Lead / Contributors	Purpose
0-5 min	Welcome and framing	Aqua for All-*Leonard Obuna*	Set the tone that this is an adaptation investment discussion. Key message: investing in water and wastewater management helps other sectors become more climate resilient.
5-10 min	Strategic framing: water as adaptation infrastructure	KIFFWA-*Erik Labee*	Explain how water and wastewater investments reduce climate risks such as drought, floods, water stress, health risks, production disruption and income vulnerability.
10-15 min	Utility perspective embedded in the adaptation story	KIWASCO -*Elda Odhiambo*	Explain why resilient utilities and WSPs matter for all sectors. Touch briefly on last-mile connectivity, NRW reduction, energy efficiency, service continuity and wastewater management as foundations for wider adaptation investment.
15-25 min	Business spotlight 1: water business elevator pitch	Nazava Water Filters - *Bright Ngina*	5-minute pitch plus 5-minute clarification. Show what climate risk the solution addresses, who benefits, what resilience outcome is created, and what finance or partnership is needed to scale.
25-35 min	Business spotlight 2: non-water business elevator pitch	Grofunder- *Kelvin Dol*	5-minute pitch plus 5-minute clarification. Show how water insecurity, wastewater challenges, droughts or floods affect operations, jobs, hygiene, supply chains, income or service delivery.
35-45 min	Finance and investment response	Sidian Bank- *Alex Karimi*	Respond to the two spotlight cases. Discuss what would make water-related adaptation opportunities financeable, including SME loans, asset finance, project finance, guarantees, blended finance and risk-sharing.

45-55 min	Public and regulatory enabling perspective	County government of Homabay -*Roy Odongo*	Identify and strengthen the public-sector enabling conditions required to unlock climate adaptation investments in water and wastewater management, including water resource security, equitable water allocation frameworks, streamlined permitting processes, supportive regulatory environments, county climate adaptation priorities, and effective Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mechanisms.
55-85 min	Mixed roundtable exercise: build an investable water-adaptation pathway	All participants; mixed tables of government, SMEs, WSPs, banks, fund managers, investors, non-water sector actors and development partners	Each table identifies one concrete pathway linking a sector need, climate risk, water/wastewater investment, adaptation outcome, financing need and required partners. *Number of Tables depends on the number and categories of delegates present*
85-90 min	Closing and next steps	KIFFWA – *Erik Labee*	Close with 2-3 priority water-adaptation investment pathways or pilots to explore after AISA.

Roundtable exercise template

Each mixed table will identify one concrete investable water-adaptation pathway using the following structure:

- Sector or user group: agriculture, health, food processing, SMEs, urban communities or another sector.
- Climate risk: drought, flood, water stress, heat, disease risk, supply-chain disruption or income vulnerability.
- Water or wastewater investment needed: last-mile connection, reuse, treatment, storage, non-revenue water reduction, energy efficiency, safe drinking water, wastewater recovery or another solution.
- Adaptation outcome: improved resilience, reduced service disruption, protected income, health benefits, business continuity or reduced vulnerability.
- Financing need: loan, grant, guarantee, blended finance, PPP, technical assistance, working capital, asset finance or project finance.
- Required partners: utility, enterprise, bank, county, regulator, investor, development partner or sector association.

Suggested roles and participants

Actor	Suggested role in the session

KIFFWA	Co-convener and investment bridge. Links water enterprises, utilities, banks, SMEs, fund managers and investors.
Aqua for All	Co-convener and blended-finance / market-development voice. As facilitator, help frame how inclusive water solutions become scalable and investable.
KIWASCO	Utility anchor. Shows why resilient water and wastewater services matter for businesses, households and cities, and how WSP investments enable wider adaptation outcomes.
County government of Homabay	Water resource and regulatory perspective. Links water availability, allocation, catchment management and water security to adaptation investment- Policy and enabling environment perspective, including county adaptation priorities, PPPs and public-sector support.
Nazava water filters	Water business spotlight. Demonstrates how a water business can create resilience, health and productivity outcomes.
Grofunder	Business demand perspective from agriculture, health, food processing, manufacturing, hospitality, education or another sector that depends on water to adapt.
Sidian Bank and Co-operative Bank	Finance response. Respond to the two business cases and explain what makes water-related adaptation investments bankable.

Potential outcomes

- A clearer shared understanding of water and wastewater management as cross-sector climate adaptation investment, not only as a public service or technical utility issue.
- Two to three priority water-adaptation investment pathways or pilots identified for post-AISA follow-up.
- Stronger collaboration between water-sector actors, non-water SMEs, government delegates, banks, fund managers, investors and development partners.
- A practical pipeline lens for nature-based solutions, circular economy, last-mile connectivity, energy efficiency, wastewater reuse and other water-related adaptation investments.
- Improved understanding of what makes water and wastewater adaptation opportunities bankable, including the role of blended finance, guarantees, PPPs and technical assistance.

Call to action

Governments, utilities, WSPs, investors, banks, development partners, SMEs and innovators should work together to develop bankable water and wastewater projects that build resilience beyond the water sector. By investing in reliable water access, resilient wastewater management, nature-based solutions, circularity, last-mile connectivity and energy-efficient services, AISA participants can support climate-resilient agriculture, health, food processing, SMEs, urban development and livelihoods across Africa.

KIFFWA Aqua for All SidianBank