



Banjul, February 17th, 2022

Press release

Agence française de développement is upscaling its cooperation with The Gambia, with two new projects: one is dedicated to domestic resource mobilization, leading to an increase of the State budget, and the other one is supporting the local development and climate resilience through mangrove conservation.

On 17 February 2022, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs and Agence française de développement (AFD) will sign two financing agreements for a total of 8,9 € millions through grants.

The signing ceremony will take place in Banjul, in the presence of Honorable Mambury NJIE, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs; Honorable Lamin B. DIBBA, Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources; His Excellency Philippe LALLIOT, Ambassador of France in Senegal and The Gambia; Mr. Yankuba DARBOE, Commissioner General of the Gambia Revenue Authority; and Mr. Alexandre POINTIER, Director of the AFD regional agency of Dakar.

A delegation of the French National Assembly, representing the parliament friendship group between The Gambia and France, will honor the ceremony with the attendance of Mr. Jean François MBAYE; Mrs. Marion LENNE; Mrs. Valérie THOMAS; Mr. Jean-Luc LAGLEIZ; and Mr. Philippe SAGOT.

Under the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, the Domestic Resource Mobilization project will be implemented by the Gambia Revenue Authority. The funding of the project through a grant of 2 € million is provided by the French Ministry of Finance and delegated to AFD.

Targeting an ambitious objective of increasing the rate of internal resources from 13.3% to 15.7% of GDP between 2020 and 2025, the mobilization of domestic resource is a key challenge for the Gambian Government. The Gambia Revenue Authority (GRA), an autonomous agency under the supervision of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA), collects more than 70% of all State resources. Domestic resource mobilization is facing some structural challenges, such as the stagnation of the share of non-customs resources, the low digitization of collection circuits, or the narrowness of the taxable base in a context of a prevalent informal economy. The purpose of the project is to optimize the mobilization of domestic resources, through capacity building, by promoting tax compliance and exploiting the potential of information and communication technologies in the tax and customs field.

Through a grant of 6,9 € millions and under the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources, the project *Resilience Gambia* aims to enhance the resilience of coastal communities and natural ecosystems in a context of climate change, through

the adoption of a field-tested strategic and technical approach for large-scale mangrove restoration in the Gambia.

Whereas the Gambian mangroves are facing the negative effects of climate change and human activities, the ecosystems hosted by the mangroves play a crucial role for the Gambians, by offering numerous services, including harvesting of wild resources; protection against erosion and marine submersion; and processing natural water decontamination.

As part of the environment policy of The Gambia, the *Resilience Gambia* will focus on 5 mangrove pilot sites totalizing about 100.000 ha. The project will also provide a support to the authorities for an in-depth integration of the mangrove conservation issues within the legal and institutional frameworks.

With these new funding, the AFD portfolio in The Gambia now totals € 39.4 million in grants, in line with the priorities defined by the Government of the Republic of The Gambia.

Press contact

Ms. Marie MOUTON, Communication Officer (AFD) moutonm@afd.fr

About Agence française de développement – AFD

Agence française de développement (AFD) is a public financial institution that implements the policies defined by the French government, works to combat poverty and promotes sustainable development. The AFD is present on five continents through a network of 85 offices and 3 000 employees. In 2021, AFD allocated € 12 billion to finance projects in developing countries and the French Overseas.