Promoting sustainable infrastructure

More than half of the infrastructure that will be needed by 2050 still has to be built, including infrastructure for energy, transportation, water supply and purification, as well as climate change adaptation.

The choice of a type of infrastructure has long lasting and wide ranging consequences. It not only locks in a certain type or technology for decades, it also promotes the associated markets for skills, technologies and services. For these reasons, infrastructure has a very strong influence on the general development path of a country or region.

With new global commitments to achieve sustainable development goals worldwide, we are entering an opportune moment to engage with countries in revising their infrastructure strategies as part of their green growth and green economic strategies.

"We aim to demonstrate that sustainable infrastructure is actually less risky and a better investment (even in a pure financial sense) than traditional counterparts."

Holger Schmid, Director, Sustainable Economy Programme, MAVA

With settlements and industrial activities now reaching some of the last pristine places on earth it has become urgent to deploy and finance infrastructure that is planned according to sustainability criteria – social, environmental and economic.

However, sustainable infrastructure options are often not adopted because they are deemed to have lower rates of return due to higher construction cost and higher risks due to new and less tested technologies.

We believe that both of these perceived barriers – high risk and low return – can be addressed so that sustainable infrastructure can become the preferred option for both governments and investors.

WHAT ARE OUR GEOGRAPHICAL INTERVENTION AREAS

Our partners will mostly focus their efforts globally and around 20% of the actions will take place in MAVA focal regions (West Africa, Mediterranean Basin, Switzerland).

MAN MADE INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE PROMOTED
Green energy, public transport and green buildings

NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE PROTECTED
Mangroves and wetlands

LINKS WITH OTHER MAVA ACTION PLANS

SE1: National Green Economy planning and practice integrate the conservation and restoration of natural capital

SE2: the finance system becomes aligned to sustainable development goals and supports the Green Economy transition
HOW WE THINK CHANGE WILL HAPPEN

The action plan is based on a “results chain” elaborated according to the methodology of the Open Standards for the practice in conservation. A summary is presented below.

**DEMONSTRATE**
1. Develop methodologies & tools to quantify & monetize sustainable infrastructure (SI) environmental, economic & social co-benefits to build its case

**STRENGTHEN**
2. Build capacities of governments & procurers to increase the number of bankable SI projects

**INNOVATE**
3. Design financial instruments to increase capital flows into SI

**INFLUENCE**
4. Influence international & national policy frameworks for enabling & promoting SI projects

**WE AIM TO:**
- demonstrate financial viability of sustainable infrastructure
  - A toolbox containing customized financial instruments & de-risking instruments is available
  - Convincing business cases are available for investors, policy makers and procurers
  - Sufficient capacities to understand and procure SI exist
  - Enabling regulatory environment is in place

**EXPECTED KEY RESULTS**

**HOW THE ACTION PLAN WILL BE IMPLEMENTED**

The International Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (IISD) is our framework partner for the implementation of this outcome action plan. Together with IISD we will identify the most appropriate partners for our projects either through our existing partners (such as Global Infrastructure Basel) and networks or through limited calls for proposals. New partnerships will be tested before entering into longer term relationships.

Sustainable infrastructure has been identified as an important issue by many organisations. We will therefore strive for collaboration without being absorbed by the mainstream. Our ambition is to support work that advances the issue by being ahead of the curve, catalytic or when necessary even controversial.

**OUR PARTNERS**

**ANNUAL BUDGET**

The total annual budget to implement this action plan is estimated at 2.5 million EUR. The allocation per strategy is presented below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategy 1: Demonstrate</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategy 2: Strengthen</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy 3: Innovate</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy 4: Influence</td>
<td>20%</td>
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</tbody>
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