

Development of Inland Waterway Transportation



PROJECT OWNER

Lagos State Government



NATURE OF SUPPORT

› Feasibility study



PERIOD

september 2022
- december 2023



CLIMATE FOCUS

Climate change mitigation



COM SSA FUNDING

€690,000



OUTCOMES

- › **Acceleration of appraisal process:** grant of €1.2 million
– including €690,000 from CoM SSA funds – to conduct feasibility studies
- › **Access to finance:**
€409 million
(loans and grants)
- › **Capacity building of the Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA)** – the project executing agency



TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY



LAGOS,
NIGERIA



Context of the support

The development of a sustainable and inclusive urban mobility system is a major challenge for the State of Lagos, whose population – 22 million inhabitants in 2019 – is expected to double by 2050. The city suffers from a high level of road congestion, and public transport is mainly provided informally and unregulated. This situation directly impacts the inhabitants: Lagosian households spend on average 5 hours a day in traffic jams and spend 30 to 40% of their monthly income on transport.

Aware of the mobility problems, the State of Lagos has set up an efficient bus system with the support of AFD. The authorities also aim to develop an Inland Waterways Transport (IWT) designed to accommodate a large number of passengers. The Omi Eko project is part of this approach. Its aim is to create a modern transport network, served by a fleet of electric ferries. In a state with 22% water surface, river transport is expected to play an increasing role in adapting mobility to climate change.

The COM SSA facility has financed feasibility studies for the Omi Eko project.

Objectives



To develop a sustainable, inclusive and modern transportation offer



To analyze technical and financial feasibility of the project



To create the business model of the future lagoon and river transport system



Achievements

The support of CoM SSA has laid the foundations for a modern and sustainable river transport system that integrates the needs of the population and environmental imperatives.

- › **Assistance in the selection of 15 priority lines** for the waterway transport network.
- › **Assessment of the project's carbon footprint and environmental and social impact studies.**
- › **Completion of a comparative study** to determine the specifications of the boats and the optimal propulsion technology.
- › **Development of a Lagos State Waterways Authority development plan:** support for the establishment of a project management unit and an HR strategy, ISO certification, etc.
- › **Presentation of the results of the studies to stakeholders** and validation of the project's main orientations.

Results

The study identified 140 kilometers of waterways linking 25 ferry terminals and jetties. The project will benefit all residents: **100,000 passengers** should use these lines daily as soon as they are put into service. In addition, thanks to the modal shift and the choice of a 100% electric fleet, the Omi Eko project should avoid the emission of **682,000 tons of CO₂** equivalent over twenty years.

Beyond the environmental impact, the project will also produce **significant economic and social benefits**. The choice of an inclusive pricing policy will help to open up neighborhoods that are isolated and thus far from employment. Gender considerations in service and infrastructure design – “universal” accessibility for vulnerable populations, public lighting, campaigns to raise awareness about violence against women – and promoting women's employment within the Lagos State Waterways Authority will help reduce gender inequalities.

Study follow-up

By involving the European Union and the European Investment Bank in the major stages of the study, CoM SSA facilitated the mobilization of co-financers. The project was thus able to benefit from a sovereign loan of 130 million euros from the French Development Agency, 169 million from the European Investment Bank, a grant of 60 million euros from the European Union and 40 million from the State of Lagos.

The EU grant will help finance the transition from diesel to electric technology. The private sector will also participate in financing under a public-private partnership covering the supply and operation of intelligent transport systems, ticketing and control center management.

The management of the service will be delegated to private companies remunerated by the Lagos State Waterways Authority according to performance criteria. Operating and maintenance costs will be covered by tariff revenues and the rental of commercial and advertising space within the terminals.

Launched in 2015, the Covenant of Mayors for Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) is a major catalyst for local climate action in the region, thanks to the political commitment of more than 300 local governments. The objective of the CoM SSA is to help local governments move from planning to implementation, with a focus on unlocking climate finance at the local level.



For more information:

<https://comssa.org/>

