

Empowerment of  
Resilient nationsSecretary of State in Charge  
of Sustainable Development

## SUSTAINING INTERNATIONAL WATERS COOPERATION

# Adopting the Water Funds Model for Sustainably Financed Source Water Protection of GEF IW Project Basins

The Water Fund model of public-private action and sustainable finance can be used to address source water protection and restoration challenges in IW basins, but it requires some key modifications to work across boundaries and at that scale.

- The Water Funds Project Cycle is captured in the publicly accessible Water Funds Toolbox ([waterfundstoolbox.org](http://waterfundstoolbox.org)) and covers fundamental concepts of Governance, Science, Finance, and Implementation with regards to Water Fund development.
- Each participant was given a hard copy of the Water Funds Field Guide (<https://www.tncmx.org/agua/wp-content/uploads/Files/Agua/Water-Funds-Field-Guide-2018.pdf>) and offered an opportunity to learn about and consider enrolling in the global or Africa water funds learning and sharing network
- Presenters and participants discussed ways in which IW Projects could effectively modify the Water Fund model to fit their situations, including: 1) working through a basin commission; 2) selecting a source watershed area for green infrastructure investment that was relatively small in size to begin with, to be able to demonstrate success and then build up; 3) to avoid the type of payments seen in PES literature, and instead have extension services and other technical support play a key role in improving water stewardship.
- WWF Morocco presented a compelling case of adapting the Water Fund model to the Sebou Basin in Morocco, demonstrating the value of public-private partnership and a science-based approach to a water scarce part of the world
- Participants emphasized the need for French language materials on Water Funds, given the lack of examples in the Francophone world, and this will be followed up upon by The Nature Conservancy