



**WATER RESOURCES COORDINATION CENTRE
CENTRE DE COORDINATION DES RESSOURCES EN EAU
CENTRO DE COORDENAÇÃO DOS RECURSOS HÍDRICOS**

7th ETC MEETING

**REPORT OF THE 7th SESSION OF THE
TECHNICAL EXPERT COMMITTEE OF THE
PERMANENT FRAMEWORK FOR
COORDINATION AND MONITORING OF
INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT IN WEST AFRICA**

Lomé, December 8 – 9, 2011

The 7th Session of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Permanent Framework for Coordination and Monitoring (PFCM) of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in West Africa was held on December 8-9, 2001 in the Conference room of Hotel Ibis Centre in Lomé, Togo.

Participants at the meeting included:

- National Focal Points;
- Focal Points from Basin Organizations;
- Representatives of partner agencies; and
- WRCC staff.

The list of attendance is attached to the present document.

I. OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony went on as follows:

- In his welcoming address, Mr. Akakpo Wohou, Director of Planning and Management for Water Resources, representing the National Focal Point of Togo, wished an agreeable stay to all the participants.
- Coming next, Mr. Ousseini Salifou, Commissioner in charge of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources at ECOWAS Commission, touched on the meeting objectives. Mr. Salifou expressed his appreciation to the Authorities of Togo for hosting the proceedings of the 7th ETC Session in Lomé. The Commissioner also extended his appreciation to the technical and financial partners for supporting the regional IWRM process in West Africa, before inviting the TAC members for a careful consideration and review of the meeting agenda items.
- In his opening address, Mr. Diabakté Kounadi, Director of Cabinet, representing the Minister of Water, Sanitation, and Rural Water Supply of Togo, highlighted the greater water resources interdependence between countries in the region, the growing interest in the sector from communities, the ascertained interest currently in integrated management and the effort made by Togo and Benin as part of the shared Mono Basin. To conclude, Mr. Kounadi wished some fruitful deliberations to the TAC members.

II. SESSION BUREAU

The deliberations of the meeting were chaired by a bureau, including:

Chairman: Mr. HABU Reuben, Nigeria;

Rapporteurs: Mr. Akakpo Wohou, Togo;
Mr. Yusupha Bojang, the Gambia.

A minute's silence was observed in memory of Mr. Momodou S. JALLOW, former Focal Point of the Gambia, who passed away in April 2010. His colleague was tasked by the Chairman to offer the committee's condolences to his family and to the Minister.

III. AGENDA

The following items of the agenda were adopted for the meeting:

- State of implementation of recommendations by the 6th TAC Session;
- Review of the PFCM activities for 2010 and 2011:
 - Dialogue on large water projects:
 - o Guidelines for the development of sustainable infrastructures;
 - o Prioritization of works projects;
 - Promotion of three new basin organizations;
 - o Mono Basin (Benin-Togo);
 - o Cavaly-Cestos-Sassandra Basin (Côte d'Ivoire-Guinea-Liberia);
 - o Comoé-Bia-Tanoé Basin (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire-Ghana-Mali).
 - 2012-2015 Action Plan for implementing the Regional Water Policy of West Africa;
 - Regional Project for Integrated Management of Invasive Aquatic Plants;
 - Prospective vision on Water and its uses in West Africa;
 - Observatory of Water Resources;
- CPCS activity programme and budget for 2012;
- Initiatives by Partners;
- A.O.B.

IV. RESULTS OF THE PROCEEDINGS

IV.1. State of implementation of resolutions by the 3rd MFC Session;

The Acting Director of WRCC reported on the state of implementation of the resolutions made by the 3rd Ministerial Follow-up Committee (MFC) Session held in Bamako on November 18, 2008.

The status is as follows:

- **Resolutions n°1 and n°2** relative to approval of activity reports and programme and budget:

The above documents were not transmitted to the ECOWAS Council of Ministers since the council did not take place.

- **Resolution n° 3** relative to promotion of three new Basin Organizations:

- a) The Terms of Reference for feasibility studies were drafted and validated by countries;
- b) There has been consultation to identify a consultancy firm to carry out the study in each of the basins;
- c) For the Mono Basin: (i) The study was carried out; (ii) the study report was validated by a workshop; (iii) national dissemination workshops were organized in both countries, Benin and Togo; (iv) the first meeting of the Mono Basin Technical Committee (Steering Committee) was organized;
- d) For the Comoé-Bia-Tano Basin: (i) The study was carried out; (ii) preliminary reports are being reviewed before submission to the countries involved;
- e) For the Cavaly-Cestos-Sassandra Basin (Côte d'Ivoire-Guinea-Liberia): No study has been carried out. Consultation is to be started again in 2012.

- **Resolution n°4** relative to elaboration of a shared vision for the Mono River Basin:

A Mano River Development Project (Mano River Union), including a shared vision, was submitted to the African Water Facility for approval.

- **Resolution n° 5** relative to greater involvement of ECOWAS in implementing the Integrated Regional Development Programme of the Fouta Djallon Massif (PRAI-MFD):

The 5th PRAI-MFD Conference strongly recommended the signing of a framework cooperation convention between ECOWAS and the AU on this programme. Moreover, the ongoing Extraordinary Session of the ECOWAS Parliament in Abuja should be able to classify the Fouta Djallon Massif as a common heritage.

- **Resolution n° 6:** Fast-tracking the recruitment process of additional staff for WRCC:

WRCC took upon itself the initiative of drafting the ToR and requested National Focal Points (NFPs) to come up with CVs of consultants meeting the profiles of the positions being provided for. WRCC thus suggested some CVs to the Human Resources Department for the positions of National Programmes Officer, GIS Geographer and IT Specialist.

IV.2. Review of the CPCS activities for 2010-2011

With 6 cards describing the main projects, the Acting Director of WRCC provided details on the execution of the 2010-2011 work programme for validation.

Following the presentation, the discussions centred on the following:

- The possibility of having the “Convention 97” signed by ECOWAS on behalf of all the States;
- Concerning invasive aquatic plants, action needs to be taken at basin level to avoid any prejudice to downstream countries;

- Concerning the dialogue on large infrastructure, the two reports (Guidelines for developing sustainable water infrastructure in West Africa and the list of priority works) were adopted following lengthy discussions. It should be pointed out that the selection of priority works is meant to be an evolving process; countries are therefore requested to provide additional data;
- Request for technical and financial support from WRCC-ECOWAS for fund-raising;
- Concerning the prospective vision, WRCC was urged by the meeting to carry on with the project;
- The IWRM methodological guide will serve as a tool for all the countries. It provides details on the main IWRM principles, but does not touch on country specificities;
- The Regional Water Policy of West Africa (RWP-WA) precedes over national policies under the principle of supra-nationality; but in practice, the RWP-WA is meant to be a guide to inspire national policies, which are more specific.

IV.4. Activity programme for 2012

A presentation of activities for 2012 was made by the Acting Director of WRCC.

After the presentation, the following recommendations were made by participants:

- Identify 7 beneficiary countries for the dissemination of the RWP-WA in the final activity programme for 2012;
- Set a time line for implementing the various activities;
- Lay emphasis on support in raising funds for the IWRM process, both at country and basin level, as of the next programmes;
- Continue the programmes on “invasive plants management” and “shared vision” in 2012 and raise funds for their implementation.

IV.4. Initiatives by partners

IUCN shared its experience with the civil society as part of the dialogue on large water infrastructure in the region, and wished to continue disseminating the dialogue recommendations with WRCC.

Jointly with the Global Water Initiative (GWI), IUCN considered the issue of benefit-sharing at construction of dams and just published a book.

IUCN is currently supporting the process for the construction of three big dams in the Niger River Basin.

Moreover, IUCN has experience on water governance (PAGEV and Komadougou Yobé), and is wishing to develop a regional programme of decentralized water governance.

Finally, IUCN is supportive of the idea to continue the fight against invasive plants.

OMVS presented an ongoing study on the development of a monitoring network for the quality of water resources (both surface and ground water) in the Senegal River Basin.

OMVG presented some of its projects, especially the energy project, the integrated management project of the Kayanga-Geba River water resources, the Gambia and the Koliba/Corubal River Basins project.

CBLT touched on the progress made under the transfer study of the Oubangui waters to the Lake Chad. The conclusions of the feasibility study will soon be made available.

NBA explained that its Observatory had developed a set of 28 interesting indicators, 15 of which have already been informed, and equally reported on the study on cost-benefit sharing under big works.

The chair of the session indicated that a GWP dialogue initiative on the management of ground water is being prepared. WRCC should be a partner of it.

VBA explained that its Observatory project will be extended up to 2013, that the Hycos Volta project (FFEM+AWF) started again, and that the EU Facility will be funding the expert committee as well as a forum of stakeholders as of 2012.

IV.5. A.O.B.

The Acting Director of WRCC recalled that any change in focal points should be backed-up by an official ministerial note.

The Director informed the meeting about two new initiatives:

- A World Bank project on water resources management risks in line with vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in West Africa, which was selected as pilot region for the continent;
- A support from FDA (French Development Agency) to WRCC as part of capacity-building programme with a component to be piloted by the International Water Office.

Cape Verde indicated that its IWRM action plan has been finalized and is being implemented with 6 dams according to plans, 3 of which are under construction. The country is looking for support from WRCC as part of SNIEAU.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

After the deliberations, the following main recommendations were made to the Ministerial Monitoring Committee:

1. Approval of the WRCC activity report;
2. Approval of the WRCC Activity programme and budget for 2012;
3. Fast-tracking the recruitment process of additional staff for WRCC.

VI. CLOSING CEREMONY

The closing ceremony was chaired by Mr. Habu Reuben, who congratulated the participants for the work achieved.

In return, the participants commended the WRCC team and the Government of Togo for the warm welcome and for all the arrangements made for them during their stay in Lomé.

Done at Lomé, this 9th day of December 2011

For the Committee
The Chairman

Mr. HABU Reuben