



**REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR CONSULTATION  
ON LARGE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE  
ECOWAS SPACE**

**Ouagadougou, July 12- 13, 2011**

**FINAL REPORT**

**July 2011**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Regional Workshop for Consultation on large water infrastructure in the ECOWAS space was held on July 12 and 13, 2011 in the Conference room of “PPALM BEACH” Hotel, Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso).

Participants in this meeting included:

- National IWRM Focal Points from ECOWAS Member States;
- CTE President;
- CRCRE President;
- IWRM Focal Points from Basin Organizations;
- Representative of the ECOWAS Commissioner in charge of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources;
- Vice- President of the Regional Coordination of Users of the Niger Basin Natural Resources;
- Representatives of the Civil Society;
- Representatives of Financial and Technical Partners (CILSS, GWP, WWF, UICN) ;
- Representative of the International Water Office (OIEau) ;
- Representatives of the Panel of Experts;
- Representatives of WRCC/ECOWAS.

The list of participants is appended to this report.

### **1. OPENING CEREMONY**

The opening ceremony was chaired by Mr. RUI SILVA, representing the ECOWAS Commissioner in charge of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, during which two speeches were delivered.

First speaker to take the floor, Mr. Innocent OUEDRAOGO, Acting Director of WRCC, touched on the overall objective of the project which is to contribute to the harmonious development in ECOWAS Member States and to regional integration through the implementation of a Dialogue. Mr. OUEDRAOGO also stated that the expected outcomes of the workshop relate to the guidelines (recommendations) for the development of sustainable water infrastructure in West Africa and the identification of priority projects (dams) to be submitted to the ECOWAS diplomacy for fund sourcing. He finally highlighted the key role played by the panel of experts and wished all the best to the workshop proceedings

In his opening speech, Mr. RUI SILVA first and foremost welcomed all the participants to Ouagadougou and to the workshop for disseminating the findings of the Dialogue on Large water infrastructure in West Africa. Mr. SILVA highlighted the need for Africa in general, and West Africa in particular, to develop projects that can help improve access to domestic and irrigation water, sanitation, energy, transport, and communication and enhance in a general manner people’s living conditions.

After pointing out the poor level of fresh water deduction in the West African region, accounting for a tiny proportion (less than 4%) of the overall availability of renewable resources in the region (more than 1,000 billion m<sup>3</sup>), he stated that West Africa is home for large hydrological systems taking their origins in the tropical wetlands.

The representative of ECOWAS finally recalled that the “Dialogue on Water Infrastructure in West Africa” initiative is being conducted by the Water Resources Coordination Centre (WRCC) since late 2008 and aims to providing Basin Organizations with dialogue tools to support and foster the development of water infrastructure. He then declared open the workshop on large water infrastructure in West Africa.

## 2. APPOINTMENT OF BUREAU MEMBERS

The Bureau of the workshop was as follows:

President :	Habu REUBEN/Nigeria President of CTE
Vice- President :	Abel AFOUDA/Benin President of CRCRE
Rapporteurs	Garba RADJI/Niger
	Lumor MAWULI/ Ghana
	Demba DIALLO/Civil society - Senegal

## 3. PROGRESS AND OUTCOMES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

### 3.1. Place of the Infrastructure Dialogue in the WRCC approach

This presentation was delivered by Mr. Innocent OUEDRAOGO, and focused on the following:

- Background;
- Expected outcomes;
- Place of the dialogue ;
- Major steps;
- Activities carried out and ongoing;
- Expectations by WRCC.

### **3.2. Recommendations of the Panel of Independent Experts Presentation of outcomes:**

This presentation was jointly made by Mr. Loic TREBAOL and Edmond KABORE, and touched on the following:

- a) Background;
  - Mission of the Panel ;
  - The Panel ;
  - Progress of the proceedings ;
- b) Results achieved by the Panel
  - 25 recommendations ;
  - 6 strategic pillars;
  - 77 measures.

### **3.3. Screening of a documentary film**

A shorter version (12 mn) of the film “Large Dams in West Africa-Building the Dialogue” was screened. Prior to screening, the film was commented on by Mr. Jérôme KOUNDOUNO, focal point for the Dialogue on Large Dams at IUCN-PACO. The film is meant to raise awareness and update the various stakeholders on the numerous stakes and ways forward relating to large dams in West Africa.

### **3.4. Identification of priority projects**

This presentation was made by Mr. Christophe BRACHET from OIEau, and focused on the followings:

- Projects to prioritize;
- Criteria for regional integration;
- Regional prioritization;
- Detailed criteria;
- Conclusion.

### **3.5. Debates**

Following these presentations, the workshop participants unanimously commended the consultant and the Expert Panel for the quality and relevance of their reports. However, they expressed some concerns which if taken in consideration could improve the next steps of the process. These include:

- Funding of the ESMP for which an appropriate mechanism should be determined as of project start-up;
- Reference framework that will require going beyond the mentioned standards towards national regulation and legislation;
- Comprehensiveness of the report on the recommendations of the Expert Panel that requires the production of a good practice handbook;
- Failure to take into account climate change in the report;
- Establishment of Basin Organizations where there is not any, which may take a long time;
- Failure to mainstream gender issues in the process;
- Role of civil society under which some suggestions of modification were made;
- Legal aspects under which access to legal structures may sometimes be challenging;
- Quantitative and qualitative knowledge about water resources and setting hydrological standards;
- Compensation for injustices and damage resulting from past dams construction;
- Difficulties related to project impacts on wildlife;
- Fomi dam being considered as a project for which decision is not yet made while it is integrated into the NBA's sustainable development action plan as adopted by Basin Management;
- Reclassification of the Sambangalou dam judging from its transboundary nature and updating data on the other OMVG projects;
- Need to apply the criteria defined for ranking projects in the sub region;
- Need to consolidate data for improved assessments;
- Issue of common infrastructure, although located in the one single country;
- Need to make more concrete proposals to ECOWAS for it to take action for projects with completed studies;
- Some dams that were poorly rated due to lack of information;
- ECOWAS expectations on the recommendations and a very specific implementation roadmap, particularly for the adoption of a framework-guideline for the development of projects and the implementation of large water infrastructure in West Africa.

In response to these concerns, representatives of the expert panel provided the following details:

- The issue relating to the ESMP funding is discussed in section 6.6.1 of pillar 6. However, all the suggestions will be taken into consideration;
- Since legal aspects were much commented on, relevant proposals were expected;
- Climate change was actually covered under section 4.5.1 of pillar 4; the point is how to implement the related measures;
- Concerning the establishment of Basin Organizations in the event when there is not any, the basin management should be gradually optimized, but this is not a prerequisite;
- Gender is addressed under the involvement of stakeholders, but not specifically highlighted;
- Intangible and cultural assets have been included;
- Concerning compensation for people through legal support, some proposals were put on the table including other support mechanisms;
- The knowledge aspect is covered in the roadmap ; besides, there is another “water and its uses” initiative covering this aspect according to ECOWAS;
- Inclusion of the Fomi dam was requested by NBA;
- The Kenie dam is part of projects for which there are no adequate data;
- The physical location relates to indicator R1 while sharing of dam-induced benefits relates to indicator R2 ;
- Inaccurate data will be corrected.

### **3.6 .Ways forward and Recommendations**

#### **3.6.1. Preliminaries**

Dissemination of the Dialogue results

1. Produits du Panel (rapports 1 et 2)
2. Report on “Prioritization of works projects”
3. IUCN deliverables (video film, conclusion of the Dialogue, etc.)  
*(To who? via which media? (Web Site, etc.)*

#### **A. Review the recommendations by making them more accessible**

#### **B. Workshops on how to implement recommendations**

For each of the 77 measures, identify elements of answers on:

1. *How to implement each of them? (tasks, phases/planning, etc.)*

2. *Who are the stakeholders to involve?*

Thematic groups could be worked out (1 per pillar, per group of pillars) including participants in the Dialogue.

**3.6.2. Deliverables**

1. ECOWAS framework-guideline(s)
2. White Paper to Heads of States
3. Handbook/guide of best practices
4. Other WRCC actions.

**3.6.3. Recommendations**

The following recommendations were made by the workshop participants:

1. Construction of the following dams appears as a priority for regional integration in West Africa.

SITE	RIVER BASIN
Adjarala	Mono
Boureya	Senegal
Digan	Gambia
Fomi	Niger
Kaleta	Konkouré
Noumbiel	Volta
Saltinho	Koliba Corubal
Sambangalou	Gambia

2. For each of these projects, specific institutional and financial mechanisms for cost and benefit sharing between the countries involved should be implemented.

Done at Ouagadougou on July 13, 2011

The workshop

#### **4. List of participants**