

AUTORITE DU BASSIN DE LA VOLTA

VOLTA BASIN AUTHORITY



Bénin – Burkina Faso – Côte d'Ivoire – Ghana – Mali - Togo

1^{ère} Réunion du Forum des Parties Prenantes
1st Meeting of the Forum of Parties

Ouagadougou, 18 -19 jan. 2012

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

The first meeting of the Forum of Parties Involved in the Development of the Volta Basin (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Togo) was held from 18 to 19 January 2012 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso at the Joly Hotel, Ouaga 2000. It was held under the high patronage of his Excellency M. Laurent SEDEGO, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Volta Basin Authority (VBA).

Present at the meeting were:

- Twenty two (22) Members of the Forum representing water users, civil society concerned with the management of water resources and local communities of each national portion of the Basin, led by the Focal Point of each Member State;
- Representatives of Technical and Financial Partners including France, AFD, the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), Seine Normandie Water Agency (AESN), ECOWAS-WRCC, GWP-WA, IUCN, Green Cross and CPWF.
- Staff of the Executive Directorate of the VBA.

The first meeting took place within the framework of strengthening the institutional capacity of VBA and operationalising its permanent bodies and of the start of activities of the EU Water Facility Project on Capacity Development of the VBA for Implementation of Priority Actions of its 2010-2014 Strategic Plan.

Following deliberations, the Forum of Parties Involved in the Development of the Volta Basin, a permanent advisory body established under the VBA Council of Ministers, congratulated the VBA on progress made in water management since its establishment in 2007, and

Recommended:

To the Ministers responsible for water resources of the Members States

- To strengthen the capacity of the VBA for the full implementation of its mandate, including the payment of financial contributions;

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- To ensure a good representation in the Forum of Parties, of water users, civil society and decentralized authorities, according with Article 7 of the Statutes of the VBA;

To the National Focal Points

- To work towards the establishment of a framework for dialogue similar to the Forum of Parties at national and local levels with the support of members of the VBA Forum of Parties;
- To publish the final communiqué of the first meeting of the Forum of Parties in newspapers and national and local media in collaboration with journalists already trained by the VBA;

To the Members of the Forum

- to collectively increase public interest in the management of water resources for the benefit of economic and social development of the Volta River Basin;
- To support and appropriate the projects and activities of the VBA in the Basin;
- To maintain their role as interface between the grassroots communities, civil society and water users on one hand, and the local, national and regional authorities on the other hand;
- To encourage and participate in appropriate communication of current legislation at all levels including their extension to the grassroots;
- to be a platform for proposals for the common interest of the Basin;
- to present the recommendations of the 1st meeting of the Forum of Parties to the next Council of Ministers on 27 February 2012 in Abidjan;

To the VBA Executive Directorate

- to increase awareness of the members of the Forum of Parties on the legal texts of the ABV;
- To make efforts for the recovery of national financial contributions with support of the Forum of Parties;
- to regularly inform the Forum of Parties on progress of its activities, including development of the Water Charter and Master Plan;
- to submit the draft bye laws for review at the next meeting of the Forum of the Parties, taking into account comments made at the Forum

Ouagadougou, 19 January 2012

The Forum of Parties