

2ND WORKSHOP: RIVER BASIN COMMISSIONS AND OTHER JOINT BODIES FOR TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION - GENEVA, 09-10 APRIL 2014

TRANSBOUNDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES IN THE VOLTA BASIN

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THE VOLTA BASIN



Country	% of Basin Area	% of Country
Benin	3.41	12.1
Burkina Faso	42.9	62.4
Cote d'Ivoire	2.48	3.1
Ghana	41.6	70.1
Mali	3.12	1.0
Togo	6.41	45.0

VOLTA BASIN AUTHORITY (VBA)

- January 2007 – Heads of State sign **Convention on Status of Volta River and Establishment of VBA**
- November 2007 – Water Ministers sign Statutes of VBA
- August 2009 - VBA Convention came into force



VBA Strategic Plan 2010-'14

5 Strategic Objectives

- More focused approach on priorities of the VB



SO1: Strengthening policies, legislation and institutional framework;

SO2: Strengthening the knowledge base of the basin;

SO3: Coordination, planning and management;

SO4: Communication and capacity building for all stakeholders;

SO5: Effective and sustainable operations.

(SO2) VOLTA BASIN OBSERVATORY FOR WATER RESOURCES AND RELATED ECOSYSTEMS

Objective to ensure sustainable utilization of water and related resources whilst preserving and even regenerating degraded environment

Funded by:

- *FFEM;*
- *SIDA/IUCN;*
- *Member States*



VOLTA BASIN OBSERVATORY II

Component 1

Baseline Studies (Socio-economic, environmental, hydrometeorological)

Component 2

Establishment of communication, information and decision-making tools

Component 3

Involvement of stakeholders in water resources management and environmental monitoring

104 Civil Society Organizations identified;
MoUs, Training – selected CSOs



(SO4) IUCN PROJECT ON IMPROVING WATER GOVERNANCE IN THE VOLTA BASIN (PAGEV)

PAGEV combined long-term benefits of ecosystem conservation with immediate impacts of meeting the livelihood needs of marginalized communities.

3 key thematic areas (2004-2012):

- i. Knowledge and information sharing;
- ii. Community- based actions to promote local TWRM;
- iii. Inst / legislative instruments for transboundary cooperation.

Some achievements:

- Establishment of **Local Transboundary River Bank Protection Committees** in communities in the White Volta sub-basin
- Establishment of **multi-stakeholder forums for WRM**
- Formulation of a **Code of Conduct on the shared management of the Volta basin between Burkina Faso and Ghana**



Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) of the Volta Basin (2012)

Identified and prioritized the following problems:

i. **Changes in water quantity and seasonal flows;**

ii. **Degradation of Ecosystems:**

Coastal erosion

Aquatic invasive species

Increased sedimentation in river courses

Loss of soil and vegetative cover

iii. **Water quality degradation** (agricultural, industrial and domestic).



Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the Volta Basin (2013)

On the basis of the TDA, the SAP has identified specific investments to:

- Ensure water availability;
- Conserve and restore ecosystem functions;
- Ensure adequate water quality; and
- Strengthen governance and information management in the basin

Investments include a range of policy, legal and institutional reforms as well as on-the-ground actions to address the environmental and water problems.



Future Actions on Environmental Protection

Water Charter for the VB:

To define principles and procedures for:

- Allocation of water resources among various sectors incl the environment;
- Approval of new projects likely to have negative impacts;
- Preservation of aquatic ecosystems;
- Protection against pollution;
- Harmonizing national policies and legislation on water resources use and protection;

Other Actions from the SAP:

Promote/implement:

- Create biodiversity conservation zones;
- Protect and restore river banks and gallery forests upstream of Lake Volta;
- Combat invasive aquatic species;
- Techniques on adaptation to climate change



Future Actions on Environmental Protection II

Collaboration with other Partners, e.g.,:

IUCN – Partnership for Environmental Governance;

GWP WAP – Water Climate and Development;

ANBO - Strengthening Insts. for TWM in Africa;

World Bank/UNEP/GEF – SAP Actions

New VBA Strategic Plan 2015-2019

- Recommendations from review of current SP;
- Linkages beyond basin
Regional and int. developments – post 2015 agenda

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

