

Supporting a Dialogue on Transboundary Collaboration on the Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin (SMAB)

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14th meeting of the Working Group
on IWRM (Geneva, 22-24 October
2019)



Genesis of this dialogue

- Willingness to initiate dialogue triggered in the frame of the 40th anniversary of the transboundary cooperation between France-Switzerland on the Geneva Aquifer (Nappe du Genevois) in November 2018
- Roundtable of experts on transboundary collaboration around the SMAB with rep. of Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia, OMVG, OMVS and financial and technical partners, Geneva 6-7 February 2019
- Report submission to authorities and political approval to move forward, June 2019 onwards

Roundtable of experts on transboundary collaboration around the SMAB

- Co-convened by the Secretariat of the UNECE Water Convention and the Geneva Water Hub :
- Objectives:
 - Providing representatives of ministries in charge of water in the four riparian countries and of Transboundary Basin Organisations (TBO), with an opportunity to assess the state of knowledge available on the complex system of the SMAB;
 - Highlighting benefits of cooperation around this basin, as well as opportunities for technical and financial collaboration;
 - Identifying ways to improve collaboration of different actors around the sustainable management of SMAB's resources.

Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin (SMAB)



Roundtable of experts on transboundary collaboration around the SMAB

- Main outputs:
 - Common understanding that a sustainable management of the SMAB is a strategic axis in ensuring water security of major cities and the development of rural economy in the region
 - Acknowledgment of the need to further develop knowledge of the SMAB, in particular in Guinea-Bissau and The Gambia, to produce predictive models
 - Assessed the potential role for Transboundary Basin Organisations in the co-ordinated management of the SMAB

Lessons learned and challenges

- Medium Term: Progressively implement an institutionalised concertation mechanism integrating resource knowledge and monitoring capacities, resource planning capacities, resource protection and regulation capacities.
- Short Term: Design and fund a joint project aiming to initiate the SMAB concerted management containing knowledge and monitoring components and exploitation components
- Anchor transboundary cooperation in joint capacities to address local challenges

Partners

- Participants to the Roundtable of 6-7 February 2019:
 - African Development Bank (AfDB)
 - Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources of Germany (BGR)
 - International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
 - International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC)
 - Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
 - State of Geneva
 - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Collaborative process open to other actors



Thanks you!