WATER AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN TRANSBORDER BASINS:

INITIATIVES AND LESSONS LEARNED IN RIVER NIGER BASIN

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I. Niger Basin Authority (NBA):

- A length of river 4200 kms. Main tributary River Benue: 1200 kms. — An active basin: 1 500 000 sq kms - Population more than 110 Million people - Basin shared by 9 Countries: Bénin, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinée, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Tchad
MISSION OF NBA

To promote cooperation among member states and ensure an integrated development approach of the Niger Basin through the development of its resources.
The impact of climate change and variability combine with increasing population pressure to degrade the environment of the basin with consequences in the decrease in the natural resources especially the water resource and the impoverishment of the population of the basin.
II. Environmental problems associated with climate change in the Niger Basin

Land and water resources degradation

FLOW REDUCTION TRENDS: 20 to 70%
INTEGRATED APPROACH INITIATIVES FOR ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Sustainable and equitable utilization of water resources by all the users.

Development of a Shared Vision

Poverty alleviation and Improvement of living conditions

Protection of environment and ecosystems

Food security

Economic development and regional integration

Mutual benefit sharing
III. INITIATIVES FOR ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE:
THE SHARED VISION

«A common development approach of the basin based on negotiated and accepted activities by all the members countries of NBA.»

Therefore during the last 6 years we have had many activities of consultation and information sharing among member states through several technical and political fora; many basic studies including national multi-sectoral studies which enabled us to reach a consensus on the areas of priority actions.
The main outcomes of the shared vision are:

1. Adoption of three priority action areas on basis of multisectorial studies:
   (i) Development of socio-economic infrastructures;
   (ii) Protection of resources and ecosystems of the basin;
   (iii) Capacity building and participation of the actors;

2. Adoption of a Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP) of the basin and its detailed Investment Program (2008-2027) including the construction of three major dams (Kandadji, Taoussa and Fomi), the rehabilitation of three other existing dams (Kainji, Jebba and Lagdo) and protection of resources and ecosystems actions for a total cost of 5.6 billion Euros;

3. Adoption of the NBA Water Charter. This charter came into force in July 2010.

SOME ACTIONS ON THE GROUND

Restoration of degraded land in progress

Land restored in 2006
Sand dune fixation in progress

Sand dune fixed in 2006
Vegetable farming by women in Sadia (Mali) Site of FAFA (Mali)
Lessons learned from the Shared vision experience

1. The hydrographic basin remains the appropriate space for management of phenomenon with transboundary impacts like climate change for harmonization and better coordination of actions.

2. Political will, solidarity and equity are key issues in the management of trans-boundary water resources;

3. Dialogue, consultation, transparency and sharing of relevant information are conducive to the creation of an atmosphere of confidence among the stakeholders and thus, facilitate a concerted management of shared waters;

4. A good knowledge of the impacts of climate change on the natural resources is required for a better planning of development, especially, the actions of adaptation to climate change;

5. A legal and regulatory guidance is necessary for a concerted and coordinated management of transboundary basins;

6. The participation of the users in the decision-making process is necessary for the consensual planning of the sustainable development of the basin.
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