



Our ambition,  
achieve the mission

Annual report

GWP-WA 2014

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## About GWP West Africa

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Global Water Partnership West Africa (GWP-WA) is the regional branch of Global Water Partnership (GWP).

It was officially established in 2002 with headquarters in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. GWP's vision is for a water secure world. The mission of GWP-WA is to build alliances and strengthen the institutional capabilities of its members in order to encourage and reinforce the research, expertise and information networks of the IWRM. This fits in the network's mission to advance governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development.

The Network is open to all organisations which recognise the principles of integrated water resources management endorsed by the Network. It includes states, government institutions (national, regional, and local), intergovernmental organisations, international and national non-governmental organisations, academic and research institutions, private sector companies, and service providers in the public sector.

At date GWP-WA has thirteen (13) Country Water Partnerships in :

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cap Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo.

## Acknowledgements

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GWP-WA is grateful to GWPO, the Partners whose financial and in-kind contributions help implement our Work Plan, projects and programmes. GWP-WA wishes to thank all those who have contributed to this annual report.

# Our actions aim at the well-being of the West African populations!

Prof. Abel AFOUDA  
Chair GWP-WA

The actions of Global Water Partnership West Africa (GWP/WA) are resolutely focused on the achievement of the goals set by the countries through the adoption of the West African Water Vision which states that : *“By 2025, water resources are managed efficiently and effectively in an environmentally sustainable manner so that every person in the region has access to safe drinking water for basic needs, has safe excreta disposal facilities, food security, poverty is alleviated, human health is protected, and also the biodiversities of the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems protected.”*



This commitment is reaffirmed in the **West Africa Water Resources Policy (WAWRP)** whose general objective *“is to contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development by advising the Community and its Member States on water resources management, reconciling economic development, social equity and environmental protection”*.

In its 2014-2016 regional work programme, GWP/WA has set the ambition to make the advocacy in order to engage the West African governments together with the civil society and development partners to devote more resources to achieve water security and resilience to climate change in all countries. *And for this reason, ECOWAS and the governments of the region should be supported with appropriate tools and experiences to address the issues of water governance and climate change in the region.*

The implementation of the regional work programme in 2014 was focused on initiatives contributing to achieve these ambitions. The **Integrated Drought Management Programme in West Africa (IDMP/WA)** prepared during the year 2014 whose official launch will take place in early 2015 is an initiative aiming at supporting the states in the sharing of scientific information, knowledge and best practices to better inform policy-making and management methods. The ongoing cooperation with CILSS, WASCAL, ACMAD, and regional and national institutions are all assets for the synergy of actions to support the countries.

The Project: **“Water for Growth and poverty reduction in the Mekrou Transboundary River Basin”**, called the **Mekrou Project** is an initiative aiming at promoting green growth and bringing a well-being to the communities of the Basin. Several studies were carried out or

planned in 2014 and the prospects are excellent with notably the establishment of the Global Coordination Mechanism of the project that involves the main stakeholders in the countries.

The **Water, Climate and development Programme in Africa (WACDEP)** is heading towards its end; and the actions carried out in 2014 helped contribute to the process of the review or development of a certain number of policies and strategies in the countries (Ghana and Burkina Faso), and with the Volta Basin Authority for the consideration of water security in the climate change adaptation measures. The demonstration projects will enter the active phase of implementation and the first results are expected in late 2015.

With the regional partners, we have undertaken to strengthen and consolidate our working relationships to better harness our complementarities so as to achieve our respective goals. The contribution of all our financial partners is very valuable and I would like to sincerely express our gratitude and thank them all for their action for the GWP network as a whole, but particularly in the region. We thank GWPO for the invaluable support, and our Country Water Partnerships (CWPs), without which, our action in the countries will be less visible. We express our gratitude to all the partners of the regional network for their care and commitment to achieve the common goals we have set. This report is dedicated to them.

I conclude by paying a tribute to the members of the Regional Secretariat who devote themselves day and night to implement the action plan.

I pay a special tribute to my predecessor, Honourable Hama Arba DIALLO who passed away during the year and whose contribution to enlightening GWP-WA and development work are recognized in Burkina and internationally. He has fundamentally boosted GWP-WA with clear guidance and giving some orientations to Global Water Partnership these last years.

We rely on you all in 2015 so that we together contribute to consolidate the achievements of 2014 and to do better for the happiness of the populations of the region.

Prof. Abel AFOUDA  
Chair

## Commitments for 2014 :

### WORKPLAN SUMMARY - MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

#### WORKPLAN SUMMARY 2014 - MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

**Highlight 1:** GWP WA will contribute in the implementation of the regional water Policy and carry out capacity building activities of key stakeholders including counsellors at municipal level. The transboundary issues will be tackled through the Regional dialogue on the joint Management of Groundwater taking into account climate change in West Africa; this will have a special focus on the management of aquifers but also on water security as a whole. The WACDEP and the projects on the management of Mekrou basin water resources and Drought management in West Africa will be implemented to help GWP achieve its objectives.

**Highlight 2:** Collaboration with major stakeholders including journalists will be continued through new initiatives. The regional IWRM bulletin "Running Water" will be revitalized and partners will be encouraged, invited and supported to contribute to the GWP knowledge chain. The results of GWP actions in the region will be documented for dissemination.

**Highlight 3:** GWP WA is willing to consolidate the regional network with an improved follow-up/ support to the Country Water Partnerships. The 13 CWP should be supported to have functional secretariats so that they can hold the statutory meetings of the various organs, to develop and implement an action plan. The challenges related to self-hosting of the regional Secretariat will be overcome expectedly with more visibility and credibility for fundraising activities.

**Highlight 4:** Efforts on fund raising will be a focus of GWP in the region during 2014 and throughout the 2014-2020 strategy period. This is expected to be jointly undertaken with key partners such as IUCN-PACO, ECOWAS/WRCC, and ACPC. Implementing the MOUs signed with these partners, and building joint proposals are part of the strategy.

#### Outstanding facts

The implementation of the 2014 work plan was marked by:

- The result of the consolidation of the autonomy of administrative and financial management of the Executive Secretariat with a significant portion of activities focused on the internal governance of GWP / WA;
- The pursuit of collaboration with strategic partners such as the WRCC / ECOWAS, IUCN, UEMOA, CILSS, VBA (in the development of joint initiatives), the media etc. ;
- The ongoing effort to develop projects that remains an absolute necessity for GWP / WA including the challenge for raising funds to implement the regional dialogue on groundwater in West Africa;
- The Mékrou project which was launched in January 2014 and whose implementation continues with great satisfaction. This is for GWP / WA, to take advantage of this opportunity to strengthen cross-border dimension of its work plan;
- The Integrated Drought Management Project in West Africa which started in 2014 with the recruitment of a Project Manager in July 2014;
- The implementation of the Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP) carried by the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW) and the West African component which entered into the phase of full implementation with ongoing activities at both the regional level with ECOWAS and the VBA, and at country level in Burkina Faso and Ghana; an active collaboration around planned actions show a lot of commitment and ownership;
- The contribution to SITWA project.
- Participation in important events (Pre-African Water Forum 2014, African Water Week in Dakar, GWP General Meeting in Trinidad and Tobago).

The major challenges include:

- The limitations of the available financial resources and especially at CWP level who are unable to mobilize resources to implement a program of work; This results in a weak human and Institutional Capacity and
- The nature of the settlement agreement as an NGO in Burkina Faso, which does not offer as much tax exemption as desired is an additional constraint to be taken into account;
- Constraints linked to networking. If certain elements of the chain are weak or inactive, the entire network is minimally responsive to requests from partners.

#### Implementation remarks and perspectives

The implementation of the 2014 program of activities has been for GWP / WA, the opportunity to implement the activities contributing to the 2014-2019 GWP strategy, through its Programme of Action from 2014 - 2016.

GWP / WA also began a full year autonomy of administrative and financial management of the network activities through the Executive Secretariat. With a large fiscal liabilities dragged from 2013, and a challenge not to exceed the budget.

To this end the Chair pledged to coordinate the development of a strategy to master the budget for 2014 and 2015 and beyond. This requires important decisions on the operation of the network. The draft document is available for review and finalization.

The implementation of the Mékrou project and the drought management project reveals many difficulties in capacities from CWP requiring a recovery and financial support strategy.

The support received GWPO on both financial and programmatic plans and its accompaniment, is greatly appreciated for the success of the work.

The implementation of the activities planned for 2014 has a very good level of performance if one takes into account the budget constraints, and the occurrence of the Ebola epidemic in some countries, disturbing some scheduled actions.

## Financial execution

# A broad satisfaction for the financial management

— Aguiratou YARO/OUEDRAOGO

Finance and Administration Manager

The GWP-WA 2014 Work Plan was implemented in the context of administrative and financial self-hosting with the challenges to be met.

As a reminder, at the end of the hosting, GWP-WA had a deficit in 2013 which was reflected in the budget of 2014. The challenge was to implement the 2014 Work Plan in compliance with the allocated budget for the year.

Regarding this situation, a strategy was developed to control the budget for 2014 and even the years to come.

At the end of 2014, in the context of effective autonomy of administrative and financial management, the search for budget control proved to be satisfying with an overall execution rate of **88%**, including **93%** achievement for the CORE budget; **94%** for the WACDEP at Regional level; **88%** for WACDEP Burkina; **77%** for WACDEP Ghana and



**97%** for the IDMP.

In addition to the other GWP-WA projects, the year 2014 experienced the start of the implementation of the Project ; “Water for Growth and Poverty reduction in the Mekrou Transboundary River Basin”, in Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger; with the funding of the European Union. For the first year of implementation, the project had an overall execution rate of 57% which can be considered satisfactory given the delay in carrying out some activities.

The prospects for the year 2015 are focused on the continuity of the control for the budget allocated in the implementation of the 2015 Work Plan at all levels. We should build on lessons learnt in the context of autonomy to address the weaknesses identified in 2014 in order to achieve a better administrative and financial management.

### AUDIT REPORT AND LETTER OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2014

Thirteen recommendations were done in the audit report of 2013:

- Seven (07) were fully satisfied ;
- Four (04) were partially satisfied;
- One (01) was not satisfied ; and
- One (01) is no more needed since the Law was changed in Ghana.

In the Audit report for 31 Decembre 2014, two weaknesses were identified and recommendations done. The Auditor’s conclusion for 2014 is as follow « *In our opinion, the financial statements accurately reflect the financial position on the supply and uses of GWP / WA on 31/12/2014, same as for CORE, WACDEP program, IDMP/WA and Locally Raised Funds, all according to the accounting principles adopted by GWP/WA* ».

Prospects for 2015 are to work to totally satisfy all recommendations that were done partially or not all in 2013 and the two new ones for 2014 for a better financial management.

#### MEKROU Audit report and letter of recommendations for 2014

A total of fifteen (15) recommendations were done in the audit report for the Mekrou accounts :

- One (1) common to GWP/WA and CWPs in Benin, Burkina and Niger ;
- Five (05) for CWP in Benin ;
- Two (02) for CWP in Burkina ;
- Seven (07) for CWP in Niger.

Prospects for 2015 is to draw lessons from weaknesses raised at the end of the first year of implementation of the Mekrou Project and satisfy all recommendations made for the accounts on 31 Decembre 2014 in order to respect European Union procedures and for a better financial management mostly at the level of Country Water Partnerships.

Aguiratou YARO/OUEDRAOGO

Finance and Administration Manager

# Lessons of 2014, a challenging year for the implementation of the work programme!

**DAM MOGBANTE**  
Executive Secretary

This report is the result of the commitment of the Regional Executive Secretariat of GWP-West Africa. 2014 was a very busy year full of all kinds of initiatives. The collective work was oriented by both the GWP Strategy by 2020 and the Regional Programme for 2014-2016 from which the 2014 work plan was drawn.



For the first year of the implementation of the Strategy, the objective was to consolidate the bases of the sub-regional network, continue the actions undertaken and lay the foundation to enable the success of the initiatives contributing to achieve GWP goals in our region.

The major challenge of **consolidating the GWP network in West Africa** was to ensure the **autonomy of administrative and financial management**, pursuant the decision taken by the partners during the General Assembly in 2012. This role initially assigned to the host institution was carried out according to the rules of administrative, financial and accounting orthodoxy. Efforts were done to control the budget based on the adopted manual of administrative and financial procedures.

Strengthening the network also requires the active collaboration with the regional partners such as the WRCC/ECOWAS, IUCN, NBA, ZIE and CILSS, through the participation and the contribution to joint initiatives and projects. We are happy with the mutually renewed trust between GWP/WA and these partners. It was also necessary to support some Country Water Partnerships (CWPs), which are the links of the network with the basis in West Africa ; to enable them to properly implement the projects on which they are involved (Benin, Burkina, Ghana and Niger) or to hold their statutory meetings (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Senegal). Since CWPs are playing a fundamental role at country level, we think that this should be a sustained action. We have followed with a great concern the situation of countries affected by the Ebola Virus in the sub-region and we appreciate the effort of the CWP-Guinea in such a context.

We can say that the network is doing well in West Africa and the Secretariat is satisfied with the results achieved. We wish to thank the GWPO for its support and the team of the Regional Secretariat and the CWPs for their efforts.

## Support ambitions with concrete initiatives

The 2014 Action Plan of GWP/WA has committed to implement the major projects such as the "Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP) in Africa", driven by AMCOW and GWP, and the Project: "Water for Growth and Poverty Reduction in the Mekrou Transboundary River Basin, (Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger)" which is funded by the Commission of the European Union. These two integrating projects, address somehow, at least the transboundary, food, and environmental dimensions of water security in a context of climate change, and fit well with GWP/WA goals. The "pilot" nature of these projects gives us hope on our contribution to clear the way and bring approaches to decision-makers and other sustainable development stakeholders. The Integrated Drought Management Project in West Africa (IDMP/WA) for







its part has an enthusiastic reception from relevant organisations before its inception.

We try to put a special focus on the gender perspective with gender equity and the involvement of youth in the various actions. The other thematic areas such as urban water and the energy dimension inter-alia are important to us and they will be considered in the coming years to push the integrated management forward.

The added value of water partnership goes also through a documentation of actions and good practices sustained by a strong and well-targeted communication to impact the stakeholders' behavior and attitude change.

For the years to come, we will work to consolidate CWPs, maintain and strengthen the ongoing cooperation with regional organisations for more synergy. The projects being implemented will be carried out efficiently to the satisfaction of partners and communities concerned. And we will implement the strategy for the development of new initiatives and fundraising. To achieve this, the capacities of the Secretariat need to be built and we must ensure proper budgeting and an appropriate staff for each project and a strong partnership with the Technical and Financial Partners.

It is on this note of hope that we invite the development stakeholders, echoing GWP, to work together for a very high positioning of water issue in the Agenda of sustainable Development Goals under negotiation.

**Dam MOGBANTE**  
Executive Secretary



## Coordination and partnership

### Planning and good organisation are challenging

**Fati Flora KABORE/COMPAORE**  
Administrative Assistant

Managing the telephone switchboard, correspondences, preparing the staff missions, classifying the records and bringing various supports to all the programmes and projects are the main tasks in addition to those the Executive Secretary could entrust to the Administrative Assistant. As the entry point to the institution, all the phone calls are managed and filtered by the Administrative Assistant.



consultancy firms or services delivery agencies was part of the Administrative Assistant 's activities in 2014.

#### Managing the Daily Pressure

GWP-WA's Administrative Assistant combines her function with that of the Administrative and Financial Assistant of the Mekrou Project. She provides an administrative support to all the Project Officers including the Integrated Drought Management Programme/West Africa (IDMP/WA) and the WACDEP, creating pressure on this position, especially when activities such as workshops have to be organized.

In 2014, the daily management of the mail constituted nearly 30% of the working time with a total of 527 incoming mails recorded and processed, against 229 outgoing mails for the same period. To be effective, an efficient classification system was set up and used for the GWP-WA and different project records.

In 2014, a total of eight (8) workshops were organized and managed by the Regional Secretariat of the GWP-WA. Each of these meetings required several of the following actions.

The organisation and follow-up of the rhythm of the actions (time management, meetings, trips and errands), are hugely time consuming and require a sound planning and a perfect work organisation. A total of 54 missions were organized for the staff in and out of Burkina Faso in 2014. The working time used at this level can be estimated at nearly 30%.

Identifying and establishing the list of the guests, sending invitation letters and documentation, involving in the preparation of the press release, preparing and sending invitation letters with the sending of press release to the media; receiving confirmations of guests, making the reproduction of documents for the preparation of kits, making

The participation in committees set up for the stripping of some bids for the recruitment of either





of kits, purchasing the office supplies, ensuring the management of contacts with the meeting venue for the booking of the meeting room, hotel rooms, the organisation of the participants reception, the reservation of coffee-breaks and lunch, the setting up of the secretariat in the meeting venue and making sure the equipment for the proceeding rooms is working well.

Organizing meeting also includes the booking and sending of air-tickets to participants, the registration and installation of participants at the opening ceremony; and at the same time, ensuring the secretarial work for the meeting (registration and delivery of kits to participants, finalizing the list of participants, photocopy, confirmation of air-tickets) and securing the payment of DSA (per-diem) to the participants.

This work goes up to the production of financial reports, the sending of documents for translation; fol-



lowed by the formatting of documents/reports before sending them to the participants.

### A full year of Self-hosting

2014 was the first full year of administrative and financial management following the termination of the institution ties with the WSA in July 2013.

At the beginning of this management, some tasks which were executed by the Administrative and Financial Officer (AFO), proved incompatible and because of the limited number of staff, have been reassigned to the Administrative Assistant. This is the case for the payment of per-diem to participants of the GWP-WA meetings.

Among the difficulties encountered this year, are the manifestations of frustration of some participants regarding the GWP per-diem rate which are considered to be relatively low for some countries.

There is a need for more anticipation in order to plan activities so as to have enough time to get best costs for the various services and better prepare documents to be sent on time. Yet, it is better for us to expand the scope of our service providers (take at least two (02) agencies to work with instead of one). We should diversify our service providers to compensate for non-availability or sometimes, the bad faith of some service providers.

**Fati Flora KABORE/COMPAORE**

Administrative Assistant

## Implementing programmes and projects

### WACDEP: stakeholders hoping for greater results

**Mahamoudou TIEMTORE**  
Programme Officer

The implementation of the Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP) has allowed to get significant results including the two studies carried out as part of the development process of the Volta Basin master plan and the integration of water security and climate change adaptation into this master plan.

The validation in Burkina Faso of the study and the mapping of the water resources vulnerability to climate change in the Volta Basin: case of the Nakanbé, represents a significant step.

Climate change is a phenomenon of great concern for West African countries. This is why the WACDEP is committed besides government structures in the development process of the National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change (NAP) in Burkina Faso. The challenge is that water has not been taken into account in the NAP because water resource is considered as a cross-cutting sector and multi-sectoral. We will work towards implementing the recommendation for the development of a water sector NAP like the other sectoral NAPs. The sectoral NAPs



already developed will be reviewed by the Council of Ministers before being submitted to the national Assembly to be voted as law.

The GWP-Ghana and its partners contribute to the integration of water security and climate resilience in the national development planning processes. To this effect, it helped develop an analysis tool for the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC).

The WACDEP has contributed to the strengthening of cooperation between the GWP-WA and its partners at the regional and national levels; especially where the national cooperation protocols have been signed between the CWP of Burkina and Ghana and some national partners.

#### Funding, a major concern

Supporting the efforts with credible investment plans as recommended by the reference group is very important. That is why the WACDEP team supports the Volta Basin Authority (VBA) to develop a bankable project document for the “development



of an early warning system for droughts, floods and spread of pollutions in the Volta Basin». In Burkina Faso, this action will be carried out with the General Directorate of the Nakanbé Water Agency (DG-AEN), on a bankable project document, entitled; “Fight against the proliferation of the Invasive Aquatic Plants in the Nakanbé” which is being formulated. In Ghana, the project document being developed takes into account the nexus Energy -Food.

One of the highlights of the WAVDEP action turns around field demonstration activities in the countries. In Burkina Faso, the demonstration action is targetting the efficiency of the drip irrigation techniques for the management of agricultural water for the vulnerable communities in the municipality of Loumbila in the centre of the country. In Ghana, the demonstration project will be performed in some districts in the northern part of the country (Bawku, Bawku West and Bongo in the “Upper East Region”) and it will be about promoting innovative solutions and technologies to improve the availability and access to water resources and the management of agricultural water in the context of climate change for rural communities.

The capacities building of planners and decision-makers in the thematic of water resources/climate, economics and funding of projects and policies, analysis of stakeholders and vulnerability appeared to be essential.

For a greater visibility of its activities, the WACDEP contributed to the training of its teams on the use of social media for communication purposes. This activity was carried out in the framework of the south-south cooperation through the contribution of the project Strengthening Institutions for Transboundary Water Management in Africa (SITWA), hosted by the Organisation for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS).

The WACDEP budget has not often allowed to easily scale certain activities. The limit of the language



with the majority of documents in English does not favour a quick understanding for the partners of Burkina Faso and other French speaking people. We were also faced with the unavailability of some stakeholders for their inputs during data collection by consultants during the studies. Finally, some of the constraints include the difficulty to communicate and to further disseminate the results of the WACDEP to a wide audience.

### Constraints pushing to review ambitions

Due to limited budgets, we were obliged to review our ambitions and resize some activities. The time for the translation of documents into French or their synthesis has impacted the deadlines for the implementation of some activities. Regular information of partners and the holding of meetings helped create more synergy and to further involve resource persons. Reciprocal exchanges enabled us to be involved in our partner activities, making the WACDEP an opportunity to activate the existing co-operation protocols and sign new ones when needed.

To improve communication and visibility of the WACDEP activities, flyers, articles and reports were produced and disseminated. In the same line, websites have been regularly updated at the regional and country levels. Training sessions are also occasions to stay in contact with our partners.

For 2015, we will continue strengthening the work already done and improving our communication for information sharing with our partners and especially strengthening the work of formulating and seeking funding for new projects. We wish to thank all our regional and national partners, the reference group members, the WACDEP Coordinating Unit, the members of the GWP-WA Secretariat and the Network Officer.

**Mahamoudou TIEMTORE**  
Programme Officer

## Mekrou Project: A passionate lessons learning first year

Corneille AHOUANSOU  
Project Officer

**The Project:** “Water for Growth and Poverty Reduction in the Mekrou Transboundary River Basin”, commonly known as “Mekrou Project”, is a four-year pilot project, aiming at developing planning tools and approaches in an IWRM context, to allow policy-makers and water management technical officers to meet the complex challenges of climate change. The Mekrou River is a tributary of the Niger River shared by the three countries: Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger.

The first year of the Project implementation was much more devoted to events and actions aiming at creating conditions for a better awareness raising and an ownership of the IWRM principles and rules in a transboundary context. Baseline studies in each country were initiated and the ownership of the project by the main stakeholders of the sub-basin was the target.

The activities to obtain the endorsement of the Project by the governments of the three countries, lobbying meetings with the authorities and the national stakeholders for the revitalization and strengthening of the Country Water Partnerships (CWPs), with a clear affirmation of their catalytic role in the IWRM were decisive. The mobilization of conversant executives and ministries in charge of water, environment and meteorology of the three countries in the inception workshop under the patronage of the Minister of Water, Hydraulic Facili-



ties and Sanitation of Burkina Faso with leading personalities, demonstrates the availability of the governmental authorities of the beneficiary countries to support the Project. We have been able to engage synergies with the regional and national processes through the participation in regional and international meetings in order to harmonize interventions in the Basin. The creation of a strong regional political will was one of the areas we worked on, particularly through the presentation of the Mekrou Project at the 33<sup>rd</sup> session of the Niger Basin Authority (NBA) Council of Ministers.

The various actions have allowed us to identify the numerous challenges in the conduct of this project and to take appropriate actions for the next steps. Thus, there is a need to develop the manual of operational monitoring/evaluation/planning of activities in order to facilitate the operationalization of activities in partnership with ongoing initiatives in the project zone.

These are some of the lessons learnt from the implementation of planned actions thanks to the dynamism of the project team which needs to double effort to catch up the delay especially due to the nature of the partnership based networking.

### Involving main stakeholders

The launching workshop brought together all the stakeholders, that is, about 80 people representing





*Group picture during the validation workshop in Cotonou in December 2014*

state, scientific and the civil society structures. The participants took ownership of the Project by adopting the Global Coordinating Mechanism which represents the framework within which all the stakeholders find themselves through their representatives. During the year 2014, all interim reports and key documents were sent to all members of this body. Regular work sessions in each country and regional workshops were organised under the coordination of the Project Management Team. Yet, the validation of studies conducted in 2014 in Burkina Faso brought together in December 2014 in Fada Gourma, about fifty (50) structures both from the communities and central levels.

In the prospect of broadening the base of involvement and in view of the enthusiasm aroused by the implementation of the Mekrou Project, it had been decided that after the inception workshop of Ouagadougou with structures from Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger; a national restitution workshop be organised in each country and preferably in a location in the Basin to better involve structures and the grassroots populations. Because of the budget constraints, these restitutions could not be done. But it shows the will of the Project Coordination to make it “the thing” of the stakeholders themselves.

It was also planned to finalise all the studies initially scheduled for 2014 in order to proceed with the signing, under the aegis of the NBA, of the Framework and Mechanism of Cooperation for the political dialogue and the Basin planning process which was the ultimate objective of the first year. Unfortunately, all the studies could not be completed on time.

The second year will be particularly busy. The actions will be more focused on the finalization of activities started during the first year and the

strengthening of dialogues and synergies with the other stakeholders for a better consideration of water issues in the political agendas; in addition to the activities for 2015 in the initial programme. The development of the Manual of Operational Monitoring/Evaluation/Planning of the Project activities will identify relevant activities with allocations or forecasts of appropriate budgets in order to carry them out appropriately. This should help identify cooperation avenues with the other stakeholders with budgets and actions to be implemented jointly in a partnership system.

### **Everybody needed for greater impact!**

The availability of the entire GWP-WA team, JRC, GWPO and the European Union was key the outcomes achieved.

The development of the Manual of the Operational Monitoring/Evaluation/Planning will help overcome the major challenges identified in 2014, with performance indicators and allocation of appropriate budgets for the activities planned with a forecast of human resources at the CWPs level for the conduct of the Project activities.

If the consequences of a weak political commitment of the authorities of Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger could be lessened with the mobilisation, the worry about the non mobilisation of additional funding to complete all the project aspirations and satisfy the enthusiasm of the stakeholders still remains a concern. Finally, in 2014, the fears related to the spread of the Ebola virus and Lassa fever hovered on the implementation of the project activities.

**Corneille AHOANSOU**  
Project Officer

## IDMP-WA: an unusual approach that releases initiative on the methodology

Félicité CHABI-GONNI Epse VODOUNHESSI  
Project Officer

The year 2014 was primarily marked at the Integrated Drought Management Project in West Africa (IDMP-WA), by the recruitment of the Project Officer, the analysis of the regional situation on drought management and the drafting of the project document. The main regional stakeholders in West Africa working in the field of drought and climate change were interviewed to clearly define how to take their needs into account in the implementation of the IDMP-WA actions. Similarities were also identified with the actions which were already implemented by these stakeholders. This exercise helped highlight some joint actions including capacity building, the search for funding of bankable projects and the establishment of platforms on drought. These platforms cover Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger and as a whole the West African region. National stakeholders were not involved enough in the situation analysis but this deficiency was caught up during the launching workshop and during the assessment of the national initiatives in the field of drought in each of the three (03) countries. This will enable to efficiently take into account



the concerns of the national stakeholders in the country activities including the key policy areas to consider when designing documents for demonstration projects.

### A well-coordinated collaborative work

Unlike the traditional way of entrusting a “ready” to be implemented project document to a Project Officer, the unusual process of drafting the IDMP/WA document by the Project officer herself allows a careful choice of a controlled methodology of activities planned to achieve the expected results of the project.

The involvement of key regional stakeholders (NBA-ACMAD-CILSS-AGRHYMET-WRCC/ECOWAS-WASCAL) from the design of the IDMP/WA document is an important factor for taking into account the priorities identified in the actions planned by the Project.

The results of the comprehensive analysis of the drought situation that led to reframe the expected results vis-à-vis the priority expectations of the







project stakeholders were crucial to adapt the objectives of the regional programme to the specificities of the West African region.

## Consolidate the existing

The process for the development of the IDMP/WA document has not started from “scratch”. Following the launch of the programme at the global level in March 2013, an initial consultation was conducted in May 2013 in Accra-Ghana during the General Assembly of the Global Water Partnership-West Africa (GWP/WA). At the end of this consultation, a first draft of the proposal was developed and shared with the West African regional stakeholders. It is on this basis that the IDMP/WA has had a funding from DANIDA, and then instructions were given for the recruitment of a Project Officer. The latter had as specification, the drafting of the project document based on the specificities of West Africa. The project document therefore took into account the results of the situation analysis with the main stakeholders based on the document of the Global ‘Integrated Drought Management



Programme (IDMP). This background helped in drafting in a relatively short time the project document taking into account the priorities of the region.

The four components of the IDMP/WA fall within the three (03) strategic areas of the GWP/WA, notably, i) catalyze change for the components on the national and regional policies and strategies; ii) generate and share knowledge for the component on the capacity building and iii) strengthen partnership.

To put milestones for the achievement of each of the three goals, the action of the IDMP/WA will be focused in 2015 on:

- The review of ongoing drought initiatives in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and in West Africa. Foundations will also be laid to establish national and regional platforms on the issue of drought/climate change. The component on funding research will be marked by the development and the implementation of fund raising strategy;
- The launch for call for demonstration projects in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger to enable the development of different project documents;
- The assessment, using tools, of capacity building needs for key sub-regional stakeholders. Training modules will be designed or updated afterwards to allow the consolidation of capacities.
- The different actions planned for the year 2015 will therefore serve as a basis for the cruising phase starting in 2016 for a period of two years.

**Félicité CHABI-GONNI/ VODOUNHESSI**

Project Officer

## Communication and visibility

# An active corporate communication to support the management of the organization

—Sidi COULIBALY  
Communications Manager

Communication is meant to support both activities and humans; and should be integrated in the planning of the organisation at all stages. Communication is a powerful tool for managers and employees in an institution to give themselves better perspectives and allow the sharing of knowledge drawn from experience, i.e. **capitalization**. But generally, the day to day, the one-time action that is sometimes limited to a specific activity are only perceived or considered. The activities an organisation is implementing are communication guides and the strength of the image of an institution has an impact on the perception of the public and even the targets on the importance of these activities.

Global Water Partnership West Africa (GWP-WA), comes from a situation “of physical or administrative localization” which weighed on its visibility as an institution. Being hosted (CREPA was host for GWP-WA since its creation until mid-2013) inhibited in some way the impact of communication efforts towards the public. Most of the professionals of water-related sectors know what GWP is, even if the perception can be different from the network reality.



Speaking about the “reputation” of Global Water Partnership, this is what a former senior official of the public administration says: “In the administration, GWP is well known, even if we do not like NGOs too much. When we hear GWP, we think about a big company where all the conditions are met”. We should work to move closer to this **perceived** image which is after all “a good thing” for us. We need to work more on the field in order to be closer to our targets knowing that GWP is not a donor, but a facilitator. However, in our region and maybe elsewhere, your place is determined by the amount of funds you can release to finance investment.

When asked, what is the GWP for you? A group of students learning water related disciplines have answered in their majority: “GWP is the toolbox, our lecturer told us that it was well done”. For professionals of the water sector, GWP is a repository of all kinds of opportunities, including documentation and experiences sharing.

In the network, GWP is an “instrument” used to look for solutions to the water resources management challenges, through the regional branch, GWP/WA. A reminder is done in the 2014-2016 Re-





gional Action Plan developed to support the implementation of the first period of the GWP Strategy by 2020 launched in March 2014.

The first year of the implementation of the regional communication strategy still suffers from the lack of human, material and financial means despite the multiple initiatives developed. To date, in the region there are various experiences that can and should be shared.



It is important for GWP/WA managers to make better use of the potentialities of communication to better assert the identity of the organisation and “to catch up” the years of inhibition during which GWP was considered at the best as a “project”, (not even an organisation) of its host institution. The electronic newsletter “**L@ Chronique**” and the IWRM bulletin “**Running Water**” were revitalized in addition to the regular updating of the website with the creation of pages for each project contributed to communication efforts in 2014. A lot of discussions and information sharing on the network, the publication of institutional flyers on GWP/WA, on some results of WACDEP and the media coverage of some important events were done. The first “Water and Environment” journalism competition in collaboration with IUCN was a successful test after the series of seven (07) regional annual workshops for the training of media men/women.

The actions will be focused on documenting activities and achievements of the projects and programmes already implemented or under implementation, despite the limited resources. Linking up with actions in the GWP network, the water dedicated goal campaign in the post-2015 development agenda) will be part of communication actions in West Africa. Another area of work will be to support the Chair and the Executive Secretary in resources mobilization efforts with appropriate tools. Training efforts should be continued.

**Sidi COULIBALY**

Communications Manager



# Synthesis of 2014 activities

Global Water Partnership is engaged in the implementation of its strategy by 2020, developed in a participatory process for the entire network. This strategy, which was launched in March 2014 in Tokyo, Japan is characterized by an orientation towards a resolutely practical Integrated Water Resources Management, building on the themes defined in relation to the current global challenges. These challenges include i. water security and climate change adaptation, ii. Trans-boundary Water Security iii. Food and water security, iv. Urbanization and water security, v. Energy and water security, and vi. Ecosystems and water security. Let's remind that GWP Vision is on «A water secure World and our mission is to advance governance and water resources management for sustainable and equitable development. Three strategic goals have been set as benchmarks to achieve this mission :

- i. Catalyzing change in policy and practice,
- ii. Generating and sharing knowledge and expertise, and
- iii. Strengthening partnerships.



## INTRODUCTION

The activities presented in this report were conducted between January and December 2014 as part of the implementation of the GWP / WA work plan for 2014.

Global Water Partnership developed the GWP Strategy by 2020 and in the process GWP / WA developed its Work Plan for 2014-2016 to contribute to the implementation of the strategy. 2014 is the first year of the strategy period and the foundations for success should be put in place. GWP / WA has also an opportunity with the starting then implementation of the Mekrou project, but also to finalize drafting the project document for the Integrated Drought Management Programme in West Africa in collaboration with key partners.

This report presents in a summary the execution of activities. It includes for each strategic goal the outcomes, a summary of some activities during the reporting period (January-December 2014).

It is therefore in line with the GWP strategy; and regional 2014-2016 work program to:

- Hold the statutory meetings and ensure as far as possible the proper functioning of the various organs of GWP / WA;

- Continue to pursue actions initiated in collaboration with partners such as WRCC / ECOWAS, VBA, WWF, IUCN-PACO, etc.;
- Pursue capacity building activities, especially for men and women of media in collaboration with IUCN-PACO;
- Maintain relationships with partners to explore funding opportunities;
- Implement successful projects for which funding is acquired, and develop new projects;
- Work with CWP towards strengthening their governance, and see that they comply with the conditions of accreditation, and;
- Contribute to various important events at international, regional or national level, organized by GWP, partners, and CWP;
- One of the main challenges for GWP / WA was to ensure that self-hosting is sustained and consolidated despite the major financial liability as a result of this decision.

## Strategic Objective 1

### Catalyzing change in policy and practice

#### *Outcome Challenge # 1: Water management practices are effectively taken into account in national/local development plans and funding strategies*

Implementation of WACDEP for West Africa  
The implementation of the Water Climate and Development Programme in Africa (WACDEP) continues in Burkina Faso and Ghana.

Demonstration activities were identified in Burkina Faso and Ghana, and implementation has started and continues. In Burkina Faso, the demonstration is about the efficient techniques of drip irrigation for the management of agricultural water for vulnerable populations in the Municipality of Loumbila in the center of the country. In Ghana, the demonstration will be done in the districts of Bawku, Bawku West and Bongo in the «Upper East Region» at the border with Burkina Faso. Baseline studies were completed in Burkina Faso and Ghana and feasibility studies are being finalized. The procurement





process for equipment and facilities to implement on the demonstration sites has started and will be completed in early 2015.

CWP Burkina organized in collaboration with the Nakanbé Water Agency a training session for the members of CLE-Massili on participatory management and IWRM to help them better understand and integrate best practices in planning their activities locally.

***Outcome Challenge # 2: Collaboration between countries is advanced with the application of IWRM principles to transboundary water and other natural resources management and use, in West Africa.***

Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP) permitted to carry out for the Volta Basin Authority two studies that were validated in June. They are the assessment of the current state of water management and climate change in the Volta Basin in the context of the establishment of an Observatory for water resources and related areas and the definition of guidelines and principles for sustainable development of the basin and the mainstreaming of Water security and Climate resilience into the elaboration of the VBA Master Plan.

The Project «Water for growth and poverty reduction in the Mekrou transboundary river basin » or Mékrou Project was officially launched in March 2014. There was a lot of exchanges with the three countries (Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger), which strengthened relationships with key partners in the transboundary cooperation. The first year of the project implementation was characterized by (i) the structure and organization of the project teams at GWP-WA, GWPO and JRC; (ii) resolving matters relating to the implementation of the project (implementation strategy for future action, organization and project management, cooperation with local stakeholders), (iii) the presentation of the scientific framework and methodology for each type of activity, (iv) the endorsement of the Project by the governments of the three countries, (v) lobbying

meetings with national authorities and stakeholders for participation appropriate executives and Ministers in charge of Water, Environment and Meteorology of the three countries at the launching workshop and the signing of the Agreement on the cooperation framework and mechanism.

There was also vi) the launching workshop involving the project partners (vii) the validation of the Project Global Coordination Mechanism, which is the highest technical body to whom the management team of the project reports regularly on the progress; (viii) the revitalization of the functioning of CWP in the 3 countries contracting process, (ix) strengthening of the dialogue between CWP to share experiences and discuss different solution approaches that take into account the specificities of each country, (x) the organization of advocacy missions to some donors in Benin and Burkina Faso to explore the possibility of mobilizing additional funds, (xi) contributions to dialogues in the sub-region on the most pressing issues of water management in particular those related to climate change and gender mainstreaming in IWRM in conjunction with industry partners; (xii) the development of synergies with regional and national processes through participation in regional and international meetings to harmonize interventions in the basin; (xiii) the launch of calls for proposals for the selection of consultants for studies to be carried out in 2015 at the country level; (xiv) the presentation of the Mékrou project at the 33rd session of the Council of Ministers of the NBA.

Advocacy continued especially with the authorities of The Gambia for the ratification of the 97 United Nations Convention on the use of international watercourses for purposes other than navigation. Finally 35 countries have ratified the Convention and it enters into force in September 2014.

GWP-WA has actively participated in various activities of the project strengthening the institutions for transboundary water management in Africa (SITWA) especially at the Steering Committee, the validation of the ANBO 2011-2025 Strategy and 2015-2019 action plan, and the revamp of the AWIS portal for sharing information and documentation.

***Incidence Sighting # 3: Food security and En-***

### *ergy security enhanced taking into account climate change issues on water in West Africa*

The WACDEP started the implementation of the demonstration project of techniques for water management climate resilience in agriculture to benefit vulnerable populations in the area of Bolgatanga in Ghana and in Burkina Faso in the area of Loumbila Municipality.

The Integrated drought Management Project has started with the recruitment in July 2014 of a project manager has made a lots of contacts to coordinate the development of a project document and sechedule the official launching of the project for early 2015. Milestones for a future collaboration between regional institutions in the field of drought are already launched and there is confidence that IDMP will footprint in 2015.

## **Strategic Objective 2**

### **Generate and communicate knowledge**

#### *Outcome Challenge # 1: GWP/WA actions and knowledge products are well known and properly used as tools in the decision making processes in West Africa*

A communication strategy document is available and shared within the Secretariat. This document provides general guidelines for communication in line with the new strategy and open doors for the development of specific annual communication actions plans for various projects and programs if needed.

Significant efforts for the regular updating of the website are to be noted. Both WACDEP and Mekrou Project have dedicated pages regularly updated on the regional Website.

A flyer has been produced and disseminated on some achievements of WACDEP.

Production and dissemination of flyers and others for Information and knowledge dissemination on WACDEP at regional and country level. CWP-Burkina website was developed and available at [www.pneburkina.bf](http://www.pneburkina.bf).

CWP Ghana has also developed a Website for more visibility on its activities: [www.gwpghana.org](http://www.gwpghana.org).

Some actions, including extensive media coverage resulting in releasing in newspapers and online articles in addition to a television program were conducted during and after the launching of the Mékrou Project for the visibility and the information of the public. The issue #19 of «Running

Water», the West African IWRM bulletin was focused on the Mékrou Project.

The Prize for the journalism award «Water and Environment» on the theme of «Water security and Climate Change in West Africa» was organized in collaboration with IUCN-PACO. It raised some interest with journalists who complained saying the time was too short (one month) for them to react massively. Quality works have been presented and the jury set up by IUCN and GWP-WA has given their results. There were three (03) winners including two in radio and one in print media. They were given prizes at the Africa Water Pre-Forum held in June 2014 in Ouagadougou. The winning article in the print category is available here:

[http://www.podcastjournal.net/Perturbations-climatiques-a-Adjohoun-Quand-la-terre-ne-nourrit-plus-son-homme\\_a16783.html](http://www.podcastjournal.net/Perturbations-climatiques-a-Adjohoun-Quand-la-terre-ne-nourrit-plus-son-homme_a16783.html)

or the GWP-WA website:

<http://www.gwp.org/fr/GWP-Afrique-Ouest/GWP-in-Action/News—Activities/Prix-du-journalisme-Eau-et-Environnement—Les-laureats-primés/>

At the end of the year 2015 the second edition of the competition was launched on December 3, 2014 with the possibility of inviting the winners at the 7thWorld Water Forum in South Korea in April 2015.

#### *IV # 2: Local and national capacities are reinforced for the application of IWRM principles in water and sanitation infrastructures, in West Africa.*

According to a sort of tradition for several years GWP-WA made presentations / animation sessions during the IWRM training organized by ZIE in February 2014.

In Burkina Faso and Ghana, WACDEP is implementing a capacity building Programme related to Water Resources / Climate; Economics & Projects Financing and Policy, Stakeholders and Vulnerability Assessment. In all seventeen (17) participants' planners and decision makers in each country will attend the five (5) modules of the programme in five (5) Workshops. The capacity of planners and decision makers were built on the above domains. Three workshops were held in Ghana and two in Burkina Faso.

Two have more visibility on WACDEP activities, flyers, news stories and reports were produced and distributed along with the updating of the websites. At regional level, WACDEP is contributing to the ca-





capacity building of stakeholders in the National Adaptation Plans process. In May WACDEP West Africa participated in the joint GWP/UNITAR/UNEP/UNDP mission in Niamey. The objectives was to stock stake relevant initiatives on climate mainstreaming to support in Niger and to suggest next steps and actions for NAP process in Niger.

WACDEP organized a training workshop on the use of social media for the dissemination of information. This training involved members of the Regional Executive Secretariat and the CWP Burkina in order to make them more active in the production, distribution and processing of data using the tools available on the Internet. This activity was done in the framework of South-South cooperation with the contribution SITWA (Strengthening Institutions for Trans -boundary Water Management in Africa) hosted by the Organization for the development of the Senegal River (OMVS).

### ***Outcome Challenge # 3: Knowledge of GWP products are well known and used as tools in the process of decision making***

Different GWP and GWP-WA publications were distributed in the region through appropriate channels.

Efforts are still needed to develop case studies for the GWP TOOLBOX. The weakness of the funding for CWP does not allow them to carry out communication and knowledge sharing activities.

Several studies have been initiated at the country level in the Mékrou project. Some have been validated late in the year in Burkina Faso and those of Benin and Niger will be validated early next year.

### **Strategic Objective # 3: Strengthening Partnerships**

According to the statutes the regular meeting of the Steering Committee was held in May 2014 in Ouagadougou. The meeting was scheduled to take place in late March in Conakry but was moved at the last minute because of the Ebola epidemic in Guinea.

Timely financial support has been made to CWP in Guinea and Niger.

The Chair and two members of the Secretariat were able to take part into the GWP meetings in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Technical Committee because of budget problems has not been very busy this year despite the need for their help.

Self-hosting is effective for the Secretariat and GWP-WA is recognized as an organization in its own right by the authorities and partners in Burkina and is invited to much more activities.

The Country Water Partnerships (CWP) of Senegal, Niger, Burkina Faso and Côte d' Ivoire were able to hold their Assembly of Partners respectively on December 6, 2014 in Dakar, December 13, 2014 in Niamey, December 19 2014 in Ouagadougou and on 18 December in Abidjan.

In Senegal, Mr. Antoine Diokel THIAW was elected new Chair to replace Prof. Serigne FAYE.

Prof. Bouréïma OUSMANE replaced Dr. Yahaya TOUNKARA as Chair of CWP Niger.

In Burkina Faso, Mr Dibi MILLOGO was elected Chair to replace Mr Dieudonné NIKIEMA .

Mr. Koffi Ndri was reappointed as Chair of CWP Ivory Coast.

## Steering Committee

**Pr. Abel AFOUDA**, Chair

**M. N'DRI KOFFI**, PNE Côte D'ivoire (CWP)

**Mme Ly KANE Fatoumata**, Direction Nationale de l'Hydraulique du Mali (States)

**M. Mamadou DAFFE**, IDEV Sénégal (Private sector)

**Dr. Yahaya TOUNKARA**, PNE Niger (CWP)

**Mme Mame Tacko DIOLLO/GAYE**, Eau Vive (NGO)

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**M. Reuben A. Habu**, Nigeria IWRM Commission (States)

**M. Manuel FULCHIRON**, GWPO (Ex-Officio)

### Permanent Observers

ECOWAS/WRCC

UEMOA

CILSS

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**Dr. Karidia SANON**, Burkina Faso

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M. Nii Boi AYIBOTELE, Ghana

M. Ibrahima SYLLA, Guinea

M. Mamadou SYLLA, Mali

Pr. Bouréima OUSMANE, Niger

Dr. Hassan BDLIYA, Nigeria

M. Antoine THIAW, Senegal

M. Abdoulaye ZAKARI-TRAORE, Togo

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