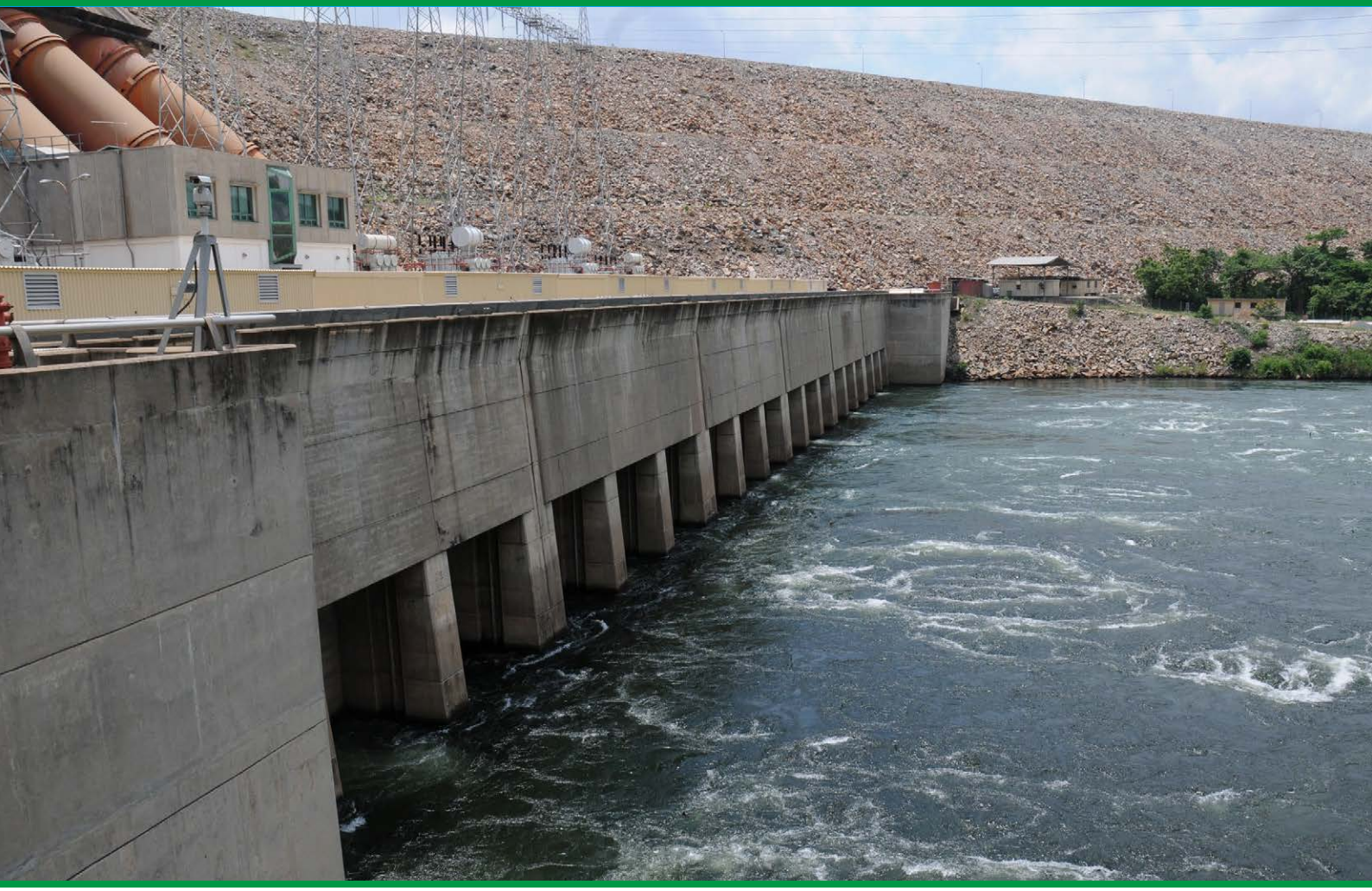
IWRM best practices for water security and resilient development in the WAEMU region

March 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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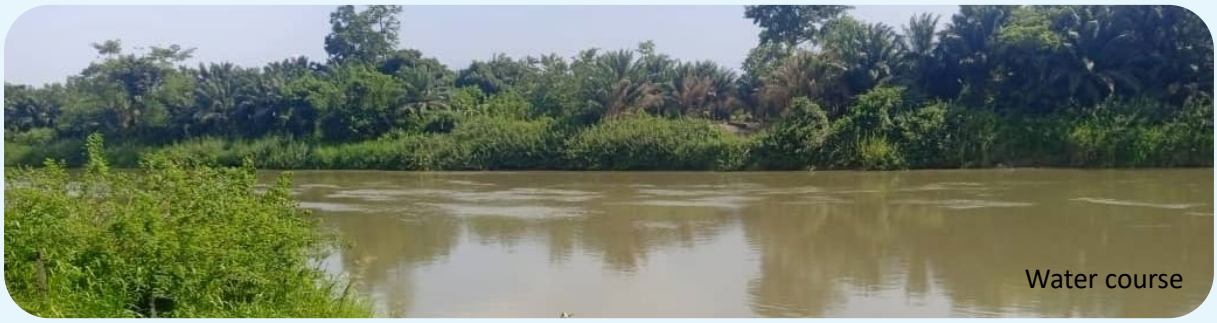


Water course

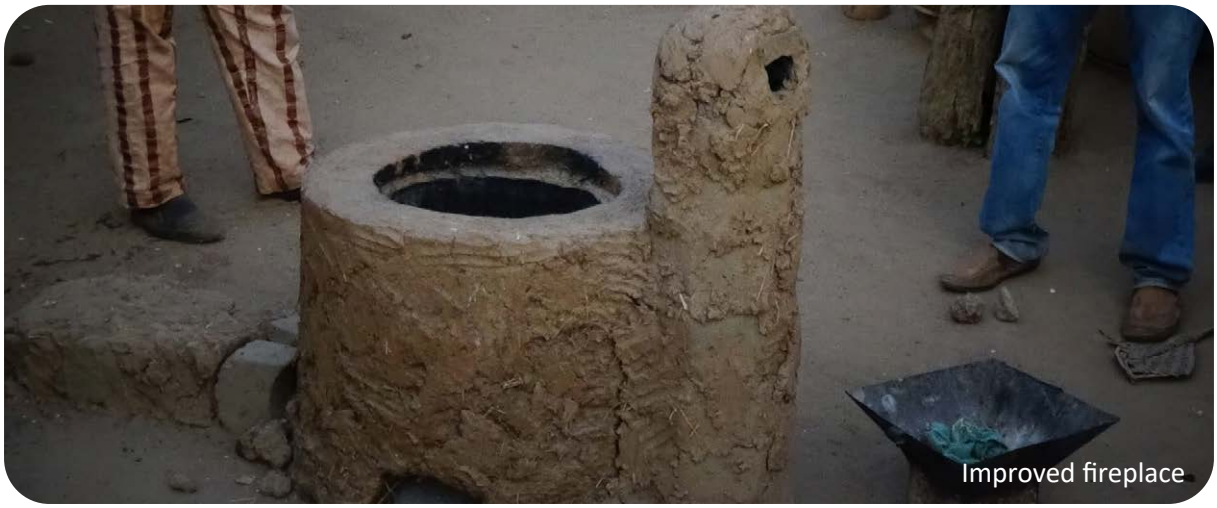
The 'IWRM best practices for water security and resilient development in the WAEMU region' handbook is the result of a process initiated by the WAEMU (UEMOA) Commission, in collaboration with the Global Water Partnership – West Africa (GWP-WA), Pôle Eau Dakar (PED), the Netherlands Embassy in Burkina Faso, the UNEP-DHI Centre on Water and Environment, and the Secretariat of the Water Convention. The process aims to drive the large-scale implementation of IWRM at local, national, cross-border and regional levels in the WAEMU region.

The process has focused on documenting and sharing innovative and successful best practices in IWRM implementation in the WAEMU region. It included a call for submissions of IWRM best practices in October 2023, the organisation of a regional Forum in November 2023 on capitalization and scaling up of best practices, experience sharing at the 10th World Water Forum in May 2024 in Bali, Indonesia, and at the 10th Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention in October 2024 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, as well as the preparation of this handbook.

The WAEMU region faces major challenges in terms of availability, access and management of water resources, and socio-demographic developments, climate variability and change are increasing the region's vulnerabilities. Convinced of the importance of ensuring good management of water resources for the sustainable and equitable development of the region, the States, institutions and stakeholders have been committed to implementing IWRM since the late 1990s. Remarkable progress has been made, with, for example, the adoption of laws, policies and action plans promoting IWRM, the setting up of institutional and participatory frameworks, the development and strengthening of basin organisations, and the deployment of initiatives by various stakeholders from local to cross-border levels. However, major challenges remain to ensure effective implementation of IWRM in the WAEMU region. The state of implementation of IWRM varies considerably from one country to another in the WAEMU region. The average IWRM implementation rate for the region is 52 in 2023, compared with the global average score of 57. Progress remains to be made, for example, on the operationalisation of management and planning instruments and the establishment of innovative and sustainable IWRM funding mechanisms. Source: SDG indicator 6.5.1 Implementation of integrated water resources management (IWRM), data for 2023

In this context, it is important to learn from best IWRM practices in the WAEMU region, in order to inspire stakeholders and learn from past experiences, to accelerate progress towards the effective achievement of SDG 6 and other water-related SDGs. This handbook is part of that objective. It presents an overview of the issues related to water resources and the progress made in implementing IWRM (Chapter 1); a collection of 'best practice' case studies, with 25 at national and sub-national levels (Chapter 2), and 8 at transboundary levels (Chapter 3). Each case study includes a presentation of the issues and activities carried out, the results obtained, and the lessons that can be learned from each experience. The case studies themselves are currently only available in French.

The IWRM practices documented at various levels in the WAEMU region teach us, among other things, (i) the vital importance of strong political will, the involvement of stakeholders, and the establishment of endogenous funding mechanisms, in addition to support from external partners; and (ii) the value of deploying pilot initiatives, within broader governance processes or on a larger scale, in order to learn from experience and mobilize stakeholders by demonstrating tangible achievements.



Improved fireplace

IWRM best practices per country

IWRM best practices in Benin Republic

2.1. Delta Plan for the efficient implementation of IWRM for climate change resilience in the Ouémé Delta.

The Ouémé Delta is made up of a river system feeding wetlands and a system of highly urbanised coastal lagoons. Together, they form a rich ecosystem, which has led to it being designated a Ramsar site. These systems are being weakened by demographic pressure, which is leading to overexploitation of natural resources and increasing pollution, and by climate variability and change, which are leading to increasingly frequent floods and droughts. The Delta Plan for the efficient implementation of IWRM to ensure resilience to climate change is an initiative led by Benin's Directorate General for Water (DGEau). Its aim is to create a shared vision of this ecosystem among the various public, private and civil society stakeholders, with the development and implementation of a development and management plan for effective IWRM.

2.2. Concerted management of water resources and related ecosystems in the Volta and Niger basins in Benin.

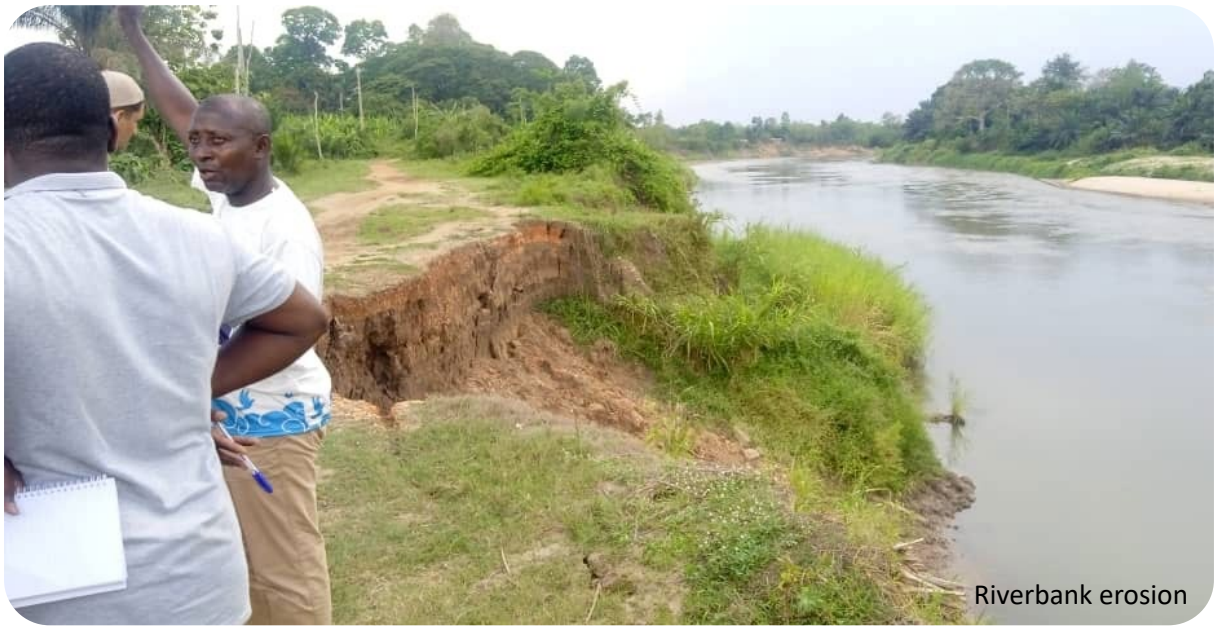
The waters of the Volta and Niger river basins are facing major pressures and degradation from a variety of sources, which are steadily increasing. In order to reverse the trend towards degradation of water resources and associated ecosystems in the Volta and Niger river basins, water management bodies have been set up in these basins since 2011. The process of setting up Local Water Committees (CLE) was marked by the stages of triggering, characterizing the area of competence, mobilising stakeholders and setting up the CLE. In the Volta basin, three (03) sub-basin committees and three (03) local water committees were set up from 2019 to 2023 and, in the Niger basin, three (03) sub-basin committees and three (03) local water committees were set up in the same period. All this has led to optimal structuring of the stakeholders involved in the water sector and their capacity building for concerted management of water and related resources.

2.3. Implementing the 'user pays' principle for sustainable financing of IWRM in Benin.

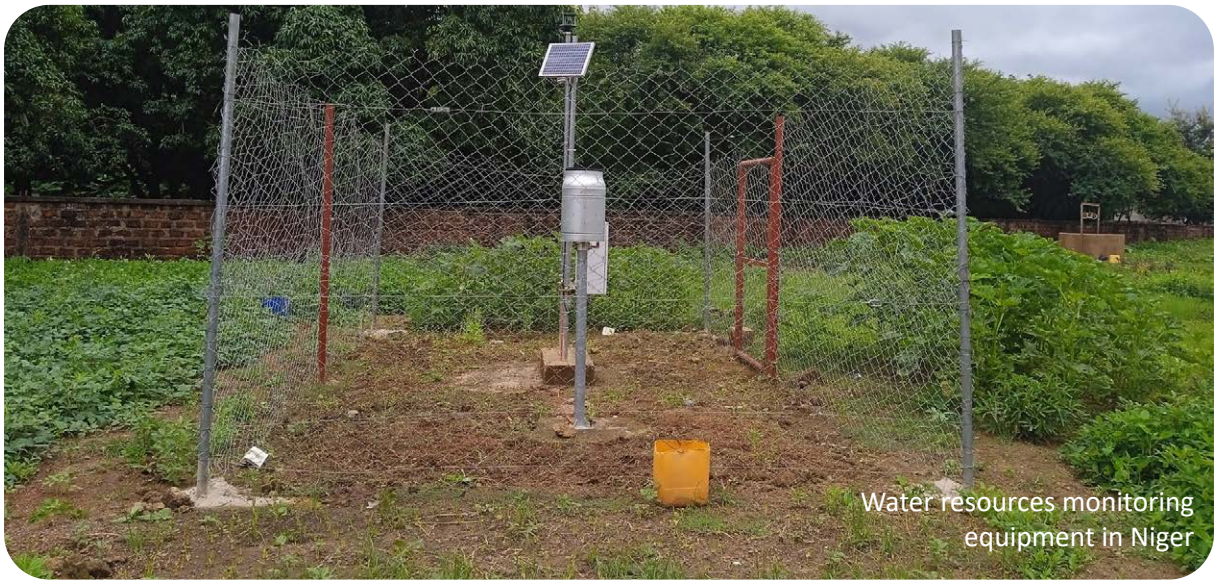
Law 2010-44 of 24 November 2010 on water management in the Republic of Benin enshrines, among other things, the 'user pays' principle. However, application of this principle remained limited for more than a decade. In October 2022, an Interministerial Order setting the rates of proportional charges for the exploitation of water resources was issued to make it operational. Subsequently, the DGEau undertook a campaign to raise awareness and disseminate the texts to the various players involved, including water promoters and operators, local elected representatives and water users. The provisional results of the campaign appear encouraging; in eleven (11) months, it has enabled the recovery of more than one hundred million CFA francs.

2.4. Reversing the degradation of the headwaters of the Mékrou river at Yakabissi in the commune of Kouandé, Mékrou/Niger Basin sub-basin.

The Mékrou River is a tributary of the River Niger shared by Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger. A diagnostic study carried out by the PNE-Bénin in 2012 revealed serious degradation of the head of the 'Makrou Wirou' watershed (TBV) at Yakabissi in the commune of Kouandé in Benin. From 2013 to 2020, PNE-Benin, with the support of its partners, implemented a pilot local IWRM initiative to restore degraded ecosystems in the watershed by empowering grassroots stakeholders and promoting communication. The results of the initiative are judged to be satisfactory, including: (i) increased awareness among communal authorities and users of the need to protect the TBV and water resources; (ii) restoration by reforestation of degraded areas in the TBV; (iii) regulation of hunting in the TBV; and (iv) a contribution to the empowerment of women and young people by training them in techniques for making and promoting the use of improved stoves.



Riverbank erosion



Water resources monitoring equipment in Niger

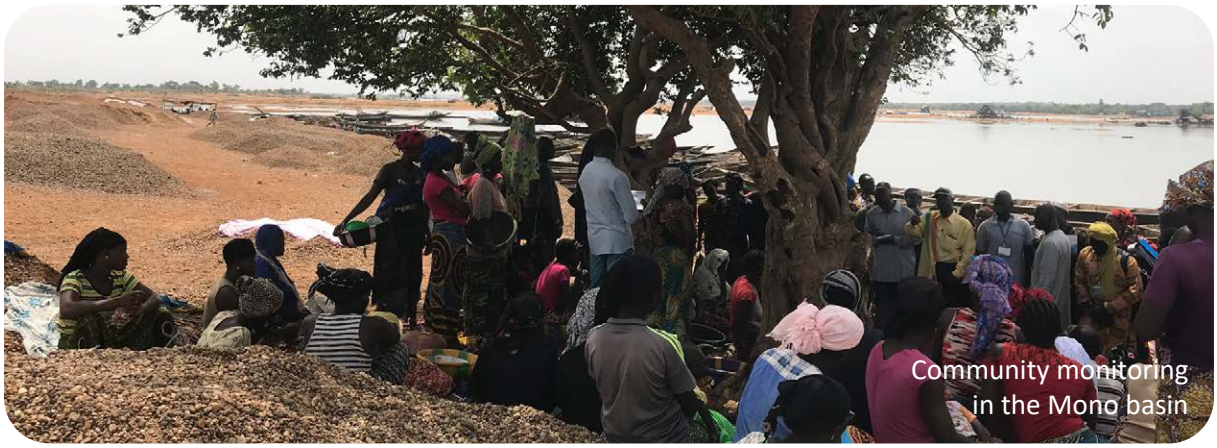
IWRM best practices in Burkina Faso

2.5. Institutional and technical innovations in the local implementation of IWRM in the Kou watershed in Burkina Faso.

The Kou watershed is the main source of drinking water for the populations of the basin, including those of the city of Bobo-Dioulasso. The basin's relatively abundant agro-ecological and water resources are subject to a dynamic of use that threatens the environment and social peace, with ecological and environmental problems resulting from industrial and urban pollution and nuisances, intense conflicts over the use of water resources, and agricultural dynamics and practices that are unsuited to the stability of riverbanks and the preservation of water resources. In response to these documented problems, the Association Eau Environnement et Développement (AEDE), the Institut National de l'Environnement et de Recherche Agricole (INERA) and local stakeholders have carried out actions that have enabled decision-making tools to be developed (a vulnerability map of the basin and water management models for different scales of use in the basin), the CLE du Kou to be revitalized, and local stakeholders to take over the financing of actions.

2.6. Community monitoring of water resources through community relays in the upstream Sirba pilot sub-basin in Burkina Faso.

The concept of community monitoring of water resources by local people has been adopted by Burkina Faso, which has implemented it in many parts of the country with the support of the Water Agencies. The aim is to get communities more involved in management and decision-making to ensure the sustainable management of water resources, by relying on 'community relays'. These are volunteers selected from their respective villages, who receive basic technical training in collecting data in their locality (reading rain gauges, water level gauges, water levels in wells) and transmitting this data to the relevant water agency. The community relays also act as partners for the Water Agencies in organising and leading village general assemblies, identifying priorities and planning water use. The Gourma Water Agency (AEG), in association with the NGO WaterAid, has supported the identification, training and installation of community relays in 24 villages in the pilot sub-basin of the Sirba, a sub-tributary of the River Niger.



Community monitoring in the Mono basin

2.7. Community monitoring of water resources: a means of strengthening the resilience of local communities in the context of climate change in Burkina Faso.

To strengthen the resilience of local communities in the face of the climate challenge, WaterAid has developed an approach to securing water resources that empowers communities to monitor these resources at local level. The experiment, which began in 2011, has reached 151 villages in 5 Water Agencies in Burkina Faso with 302 community volunteers, known as 'community relays', who are responsible for monitoring water resources in their locality. The results of the monitoring of water resources are used to run village General Assemblies, at which measures are taken to prioritize and plan the use of the available water capital, in order to manage it better and reduce water-related conflicts. Experience has shown that: (i) in areas where the approach has been implemented, local people are more mobilized and aware of the importance of good water resource management; and (ii) there is also greater participation by women in decision-making in areas where community relays have been set up.

2.8. Community-based flood and drought management in the village of Badara, Bama department, Houet province, Burkina Faso.

The Burkina Faso Country Water Partnership (CWP-BF), in association with VBA, GWP-WA and the WMO, has implemented a community-based flood and drought management initiative in the village of Badara, with a view to improving people's resilience to the recurring floods and droughts in the village. This initiative was implemented as part of the 'Integrating flood and drought management and early warning for climate change adaptation in the Volta Basin (VFDM)' project. The activities carried out have made it possible to develop and deploy a community-based flood and drought management system, focusing on, among other things: (i) building community capacity in flood and drought management; (ii) acquiring and installing meteorological and hydrometric equipment and information transmission systems; (iii) developing and implementing a Community Flood and Drought Management Plan (CFDMP), and (iv) setting up a Community Flood and Drought Management Committee (CFDMC).

Sharing experiences in the Mono

2.9. The Integrated Water Resources Management School Sites (SE-GIRE) in the Mouhoun basin, Burkina Faso.

The Mouhoun Water Agency (AEM) has set up SE-GIRE sites in the Mouhoun basin, around which it has built and tested IWRM models supported by the CLEs. These IWRM models are designed to address problems specific to the area concerned. The initiative has helped to improve the restoration, protection and management of water resources, in particular by raising awareness and inspiring communities, and by delivering tangible results on the ground, such as reforestation and the establishment of agroforestry sites, and improved gold panning practices.

2.10. Experimenting with artificial groundwater recharge in the upstream part of the Sirba sub-basin, in north-central Burkina Faso.

The main objective of the initiative led by the Gourma Water Agency (AEG) is to produce the technical data and plans needed to build an infiltration basin and manage the works, in order to promote artificial groundwater recharge in the upstream Sirba sub-basin. This main objective could not be achieved due to the unfavourable security situation. However, the financial resources available were reallocated to the redevelopment of an irrigated market garden managed by the Dargo Women's Association, thereby contributing to food security and improving the living conditions of women and livestock farmers.

2.11. Restoring degraded farmland and protecting riverbanks in the Nakanbé catchment area.

The Nakanbé catchment area, a tributary of the Volta, is characterised by severe degradation of natural resources, attributable to both natural and man-made factors. As a result, the Nakanbé Water Agency is acting to strengthen the climatic and economic resilience of grassroots communities in the basin, by providing multi-faceted support to local people in their efforts to combat invasive aquatic plants in watercourses, protect and restore riverbanks, and promote sustainable agricultural practices. The results showed that the involvement of the CLEs in the implementation of the activities is a guarantee of improved bank stability, restoration of degraded land and a significant reduction in silting. They also revealed the importance of upstream capacity-building for CLEs and riverside communities, to ensure the success of activities to protect water resources and restore degraded land.


Water supply in Niger

2.12. Setting up Water Agencies to operationalise IWRM in river basins in Burkina Faso.

Burkina Faso has been involved in the IWRM implementation process since the 1990s. An important component of this process was the establishment, between 2007 and 2011, of five (05) Water Agencies on the national territory. The areas of competence of the Agencies have been delimited according to hydrological, economic and social criteria. The establishment of the Agencies promotes the river basin as an appropriate framework for generating data, planning and managing water resources, and coordinating related actions. After 10 years in operation, the contribution of the Water Agencies to IWRM and their impact in social, economic, environmental and financial terms are clear; with the improvement of water data, the development of drinking water supply and sanitation facilities, the development of water allocation plans, the development of financial resources through the application of the law on the Financial Contribution for Water (CFE).

2.13. Sustainable financing of local IWRM through the application of an efficient CFE collection mechanism in the Mouhoun basin in Burkina Faso.

The Government of Burkina Faso introduced the CFE, a para-fiscal tax for the benefit of the Water Agencies, by adopting Law No. 058-2009/AN of 15 December 2009. However, collection of the tax is still low in the country. In order to make this tax operational, the Mouhoun Water Agency (AEM) has set up a mechanism with the relevant stakeholders in the basin, from the administration to water users. The mechanism comprises two (02) essential components: identification of taxpayers and actual collection. The tools used include collection forms, identification sheets and outreach strategies. The initiative has helped to identify and raise awareness among taxpayers, which has facilitated collection of the CFE by bringing public treasuries closer to taxpayers.

2.14. Sustainable land management and adaptation to climate change in the rural commune of Komki-Ipala in Burkina Faso.

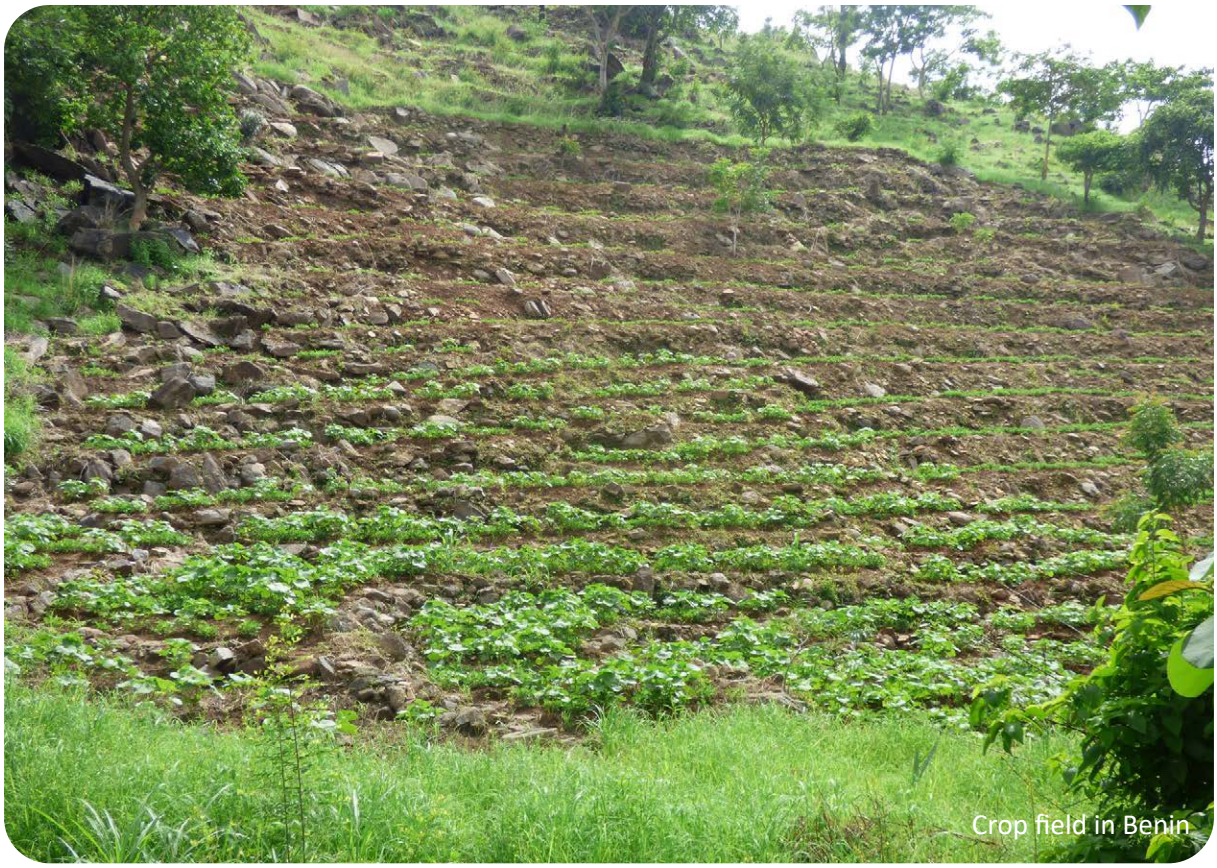
The 'Sustainable land management, adaptation to climate change and conservation of biological diversity' project, supported by GWP-WA, the International Secretariat for Water (ISW) and implemented by CWP-Burkina Faso, has benefited the local population, particularly young people, in the rural commune of Komki-Ipala in Burkina Faso. The actions carried out included the development of a community management plan for natural resources, the promotion of innovative techniques for the restoration and sustainable management of land, the creation and maintenance of a model agroforestry park, and the development of economic activities. The initiative, implemented in close collaboration with the community, has helped to restore ecosystems and improve living conditions for local people, as well as raising awareness and mobilizing the population, particularly young people, to adapt to climate change.

2.15. Promoting the holistic and integrated dimension of water in museums: the case of the Water Museum of Burkina Faso.

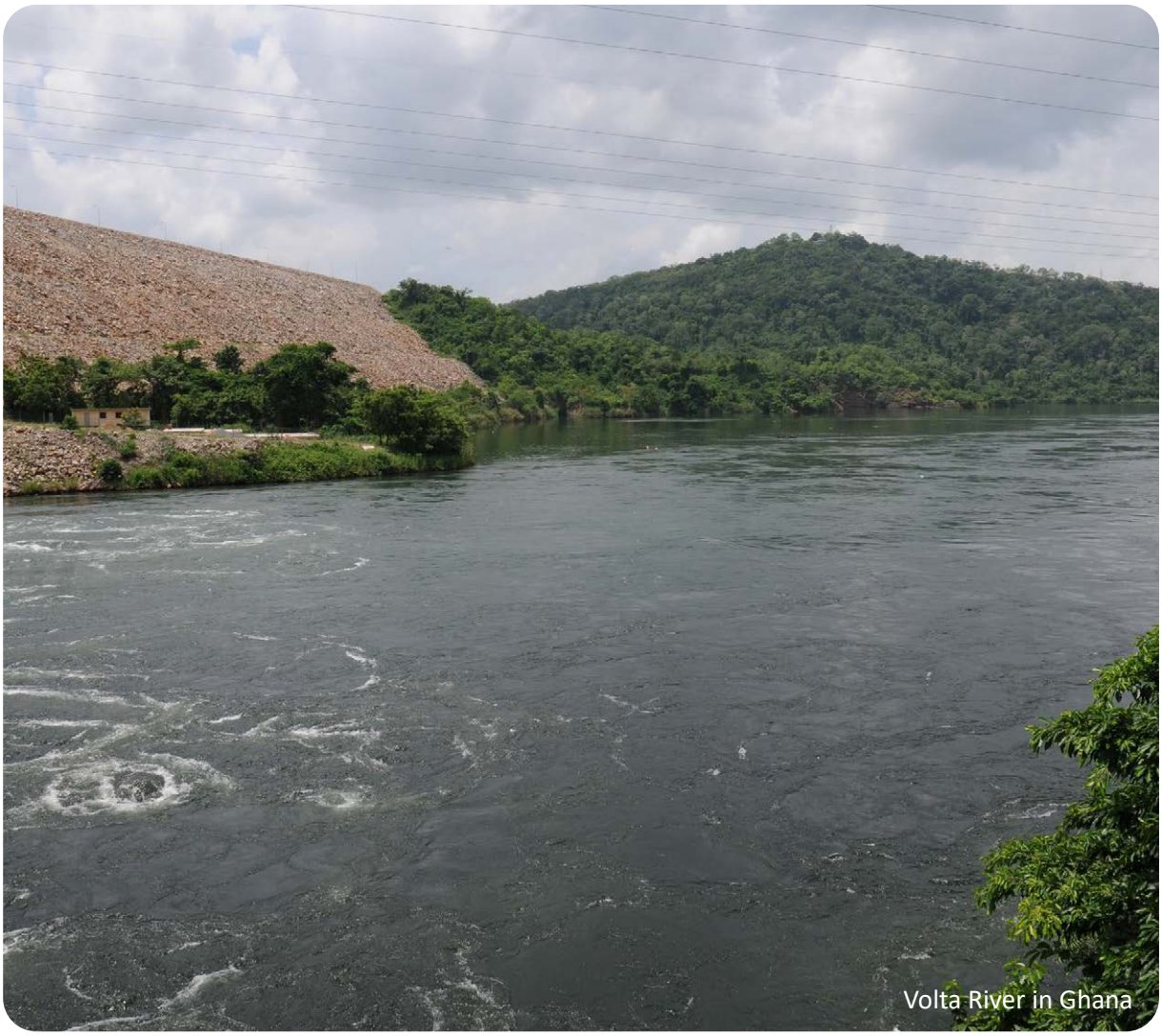
Created in 2005, the Water Museum of Burkina Faso is the first museum space on water in Africa. It aims to be: (i) a space for the general public to discover and learn about water in its holistic dimension (cultural, economic, linguistic, political, sociological, anthropological, etc.), to provide information, raise awareness, educate and train people about the values and virtues of water and to apply IWRM in practice, and (ii) an observation and research laboratory. The Museum has been a great success with visitors of all kinds, including schoolchildren, students, academics, NGO workers and associations, diplomats and artists.

2.16. Water resource management for effective resilience in a context of security crisis: the case of the Liptako Water Management Area in Burkina Faso.

The management area of the Liptako Water Agency (AEL) in the north of Burkina Faso faces major challenges, including the low availability of water resources, the population's heavy dependence on natural resources, and the difficult security context. In recent years, the AEL has developed a resilience strategy based on the principle of subsidiarity and stakeholder participation, which has enabled local stakeholders to become more involved in development initiatives. This involved issuing calls for project proposals to associations, CLEs, local authorities and decentralised technical structures. The activities carried out include raising awareness, setting up market garden areas, reforestation, building drinking water facilities and controlling invasive aquatic plants in water reservoirs.



Crop field in Benin



Volta River in Ghana

IWRM best practices in Mali

2.17.

The Water Management Commission for the Sélingué Water Reservoir and the Markala Dam: a tool for equitable sharing of the waters of the Niger River in Mali.

The sectoral management of the Sélingué hydroelectric dam built on the Sankarani, a tributary of the Niger in Mali, generated negative impacts downstream in the 1980s and 1990s. In 2002, the Government of Mali created the Water Management Commission for the Sélingué Water Reservoir and the Markala Dam (CGESM) and assigned it the mission of ensuring the efficient and equitable use of the Sélingué water reservoir integrating non-electrical needs, as well as the Markala reservoir for agricultural use located downstream. The multi-stakeholder Commission, the CGESM, is a recognized tool for concerted management and equitable sharing of water. Its work has enabled the rational use of the resources of the two reservoirs, the availability of water all year round for agricultural uses, flood prevention, and the maintenance of a minimum flow rate to preserve Lake Débo, a RAMSAR site.


Fountain in Bélindé, Niger

IWRM best practices in Niger

2.18.
Design and operationalization of a computer system for monitoring alluvial water tables (SISNA), pilot in five hydrological sub-basins of Niger, subject to strong anthropogenic and climatic pressures.

The implementation of a National Water Information System (SNIEau) has proven to be complex. In view of this situation, the Ministry in charge of water and the Abdou Moumouni University of Niamey have initiated a simplified pilot computer system for monitoring alluvial aquifers at the sub-basin scale, the SISNA. The initiative has made it possible to collect and store data; as well as to ensure the monitoring and valorization of quantitative and qualitative data on 5 pilot hydrological sub-basins in the country.

2.19.
IWRM and participatory resolution of water conflicts in the semi-arid zone of Dosso, Niger.

The FREXUS project "Improving security and resilience to climate change in fragile contexts through the Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus" was implemented to address recurring tensions between farmers and herders, due to the increasing use of natural resources exacerbated by the effects of climate change in the semi-arid region of Dosso, Niger. The initiative implemented according to the IWRM approach with a participatory approach made it possible to: (i) establish and strengthen an environment conducive to peace and development through the development and signing of four local social agreements as well as (ii) implement concrete actions including the construction of a solar pastoral pumping station.

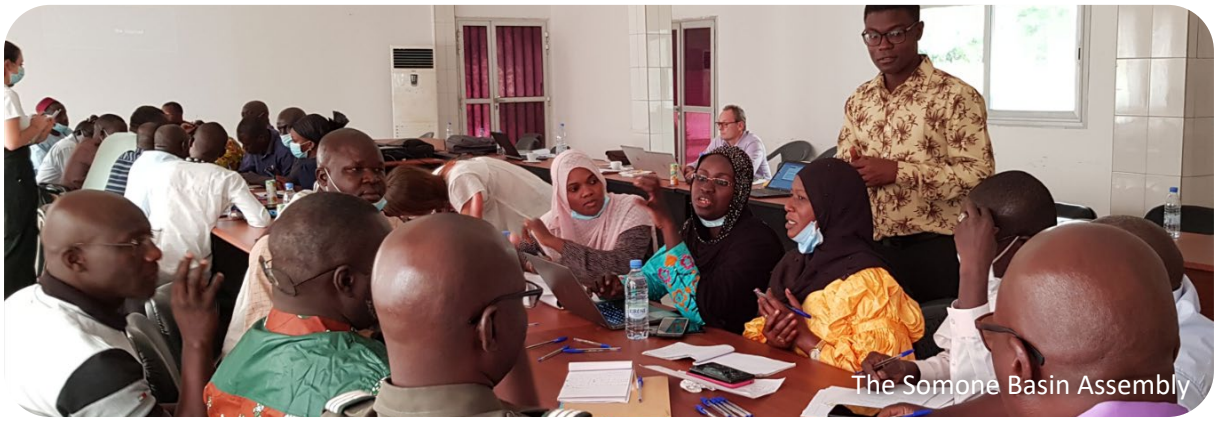
2.20.
Implementation of IWRM in the Mekrou sub-basin in Niger.

The Mékrou Phase 2–Niger Project "Water for growth and poverty reduction in the Mékrou sub-basin in Niger" was implemented by GWP-WA and the Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation (MH/A) of Niger. The initiative contributed to supporting green economic growth and poverty reduction in the parts of the Niger territory located in the Mékrou River sub-basin and its area of influence in Niger; notably through the establishment of local IWRM bodies, the development of a Water Development and Management Plan (SAGE), and the identification and implementation of pilot actions for the integrated protection and development of water resources.

2.21.
IWRM and the NEXUS Water-Energy-Food Security approach for the empowerment of women in the Niger Basin: the case of a women's group in N'Dounga Tarey (Kollo-Niger).

The Sougui women's group of N'Dounga-Tarey, Niger, which operates a market gardening area, was identified to test the nexus approach at the local level. The initiative led by the National Coordination of Users of Natural Resources of the Niger Basin (CNU-BN/ABN) and the German cooperation GIZ has made it possible to install boreholes powered by solar panels, ensure access to water for multiple uses, and support the women's group in agricultural production. Water use conflicts have been reduced and the income of the women members of the group has been increased.

Market gardening at Gadi Béri in Niger



The Somone Basin Assembly

IWRM best practices in Senegal

2.22. Implementation of territorial IWRM in Senegal.

In 2007, Senegal adopted an IWRM Action Plan (PAGIRE) to ensure equitable and sustainable use of water. Subsequently, the country adopted the Strategic Plan for the Mobilization of Water Resources (PSMRE) in 2011, which divides the territory into Management and Planning Units (UGP) and provides guidance for better local involvement and more targeted management of water resources. The update of the PAGIRE in 2018 identified the operationalization of IWRM at the territorial level as one of the priorities to be implemented. To ensure the sustainable success of territorial IWRM, it is essential, among other things, to perpetuate consultation frameworks, mobilize innovative financing, and strengthen the capacities of the stakeholders concerned.

2.23. A trajectory of change in the Guiers Lake Basin, Senegal – applying an adaptive systems approach to establish participatory governance for water security.

As part of the international program «Unlocking Resilient Benefits from African Water Resources – RESBEN», Cheikh Anta Diop University (UCAD) in Dakar, in association with partner universities, applied an Adaptive Systems Approach (ASA) in the Guiers Lake basin in Senegal. The approach aimed in particular to address the challenges related to the management of conflicts of use, anthropogenic pollution and governance gaps. The ASA made it possible to identify key actors, analyze the drivers of environmental degradation and integrate stakeholder perspectives into the decision-making process. The result is a model of water governance for Guiers Lake promoting environmental sustainability that could be replicated in other contexts.

2.24. Operationalization of IWRM in Togo and Senegal: action research to sustainably secure water uses and preserve ecosystems at the local level.

GRET noted that in Senegal and Togo, national IWRM policies and strategies are poorly implemented at the local level. In both countries, it committed itself, alongside public authorities and grassroots stakeholders, to initiating IWRM at the local level by adopting a bottom-up, territorial and inclusive approach. The initiative was implemented in the Niayes area in Senegal and in the Lake Togo watershed (BVLT) in Togo. In both countries, it ensured (i) the strengthening of State-Civil Society collaboration, (ii) the establishment of local IWRM bodies, (iii) the co-construction and implementation of IWRM planning documents at the local level, (iv) the consideration and strengthening of the capacities of vulnerable or marginalized groups in terms of water.

IWRM best practices in Togo

2.25.
Master plan for irrigated agriculture (SDAI) for IWRM in Togo.

Wishing to establish a favorable environment for the development of irrigated agriculture in line with the principles and orientations of IWRM, Togo adopted in 2022 a SDAI 2023 – 2040. The process of developing the SDAI 2023 – 2040 is based, among other things, on the results of the assessment of both groundwater and surface water resources, as well as the potential of irrigable land in the country. Six (6) pilot sites were also selected for the establishment of different systems for mobilizing water resources for irrigated agriculture within the framework of a public-private partnership (PPP). The results of the pilot phase will guide the scaling up of the SDAI program.

Mono river fish


Members of the local flood management committee

IWRM best practices at transboundary level

The WAEMU area has many cross-border IWRM experiences, some of which are well-developed and cited as references at the international level, including the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS), the Niger Basin Authority (NBA), the Volta Basin Authority (VBA). Other experiences are emerging or developing, such as those with the Mono Basin Authority (MBA) and the Mano River Union (MRU).

3.1. Integrated flood and drought management for climate change adaptation in the Volta Basin.

The initiative, covering six (6) West African countries, was implemented by the consortium of partners comprising the VBA, WMO, and GWP-WA. The latter, together with national stakeholders, developed and implemented from 2019 to 2024 the Project «Integrating flood and drought management and early warning for adaptation to climate change in the Volta Basin» or Volta Flood and Drought Management (VFDM-Project). The project strengthened the capacities of technical and political stakeholders in the VBA member countries, and established institutional frameworks at local, national and regional levels for integrated flood and drought management, and the implementation of concrete environmentally friendly Climate Change adaptation actions. The project made it possible to (i) establish knowledge of flood and drought risks; (ii) improve the frameworks for prevention and management of these risks; (iii) to develop concrete adaptation measures to floods and droughts and (iv) to set up a forecasting and warning tool for extreme events VOLTALARM as well as six (6) centralized databases, one for each country in the basin, to support the operation of the platform.

3.2. Integrated water resources management tool for the Niger transboundary basin in a context of climate change and multiple water uses.

The harmonious and sustainable management of the Niger River's water resources is a challenge. The harmonious and sustainable management of the Niger River's water resources is an important challenge in view of the multiple needs and uses. Annex 3 to the NBA Water Charter requires each Member State to notify the Executive Secretariat of any project that requires a significant water withdrawal from the Niger River or one of its tributaries. In this context, the NBA has set up a model for the management and allocation of water resources in the Niger River, making it possible to assess the hydraulic impacts of the notified projects. The Niger Basin Observatory (OBN) is responsible for examining the notification files for projects from different countries.


A tributary of the Volta River

3.3. Cooperation around the Senegalese-Mauritanian aquifer basin (BASM), a model of governance of shared waters

The BASM is shared by Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal. The BASM is under increasing pressure due to population growth and agricultural activities carried out in its coverage area. It is currently estimated that this aquifer provides nearly 80% of the domestic water needs of the populations living there; which makes it a strategic transboundary resource and which has justified the four countries engaging in a process of integrated and concerted management of the BASM water resources. They have thus created a Regional Working Group (GTR) responsible for preparing a framework for transboundary cooperation around the aquifer basin and a model for governance of shared waters.

3.4. Promotion of transboundary IWRM through the institutionalization of the Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus and environmental sustainability EESADE in the Niger River Basin.

Between 2017 and 2023, the NBA undertook, tested and promoted the NEXUS Water-Energy-Food Security and Environmental Sustainability (NEXUS - EESADE) approach to take into account the interconnections between water, energy and food security in the planning and development of the basin's water resources. The objective of the initiative, deployed within the framework of the «Nexus Regional Dialogues (DRN)» program, was to institutionalize the nexus approach in governance structures and investment decisions. It raised awareness and mobilized stakeholders, developed guidelines on the inclusion of the approach in NBA projects and programs, developed a nexus project assessment tool, and identified a portfolio of projects with Nexus EESADE potential.

3.5. The Transboundary Committee for the Integrated Management of Water Resources in the Sourou Basin (CTGS), a successful example of decentralized cooperation in the area of shared waters.

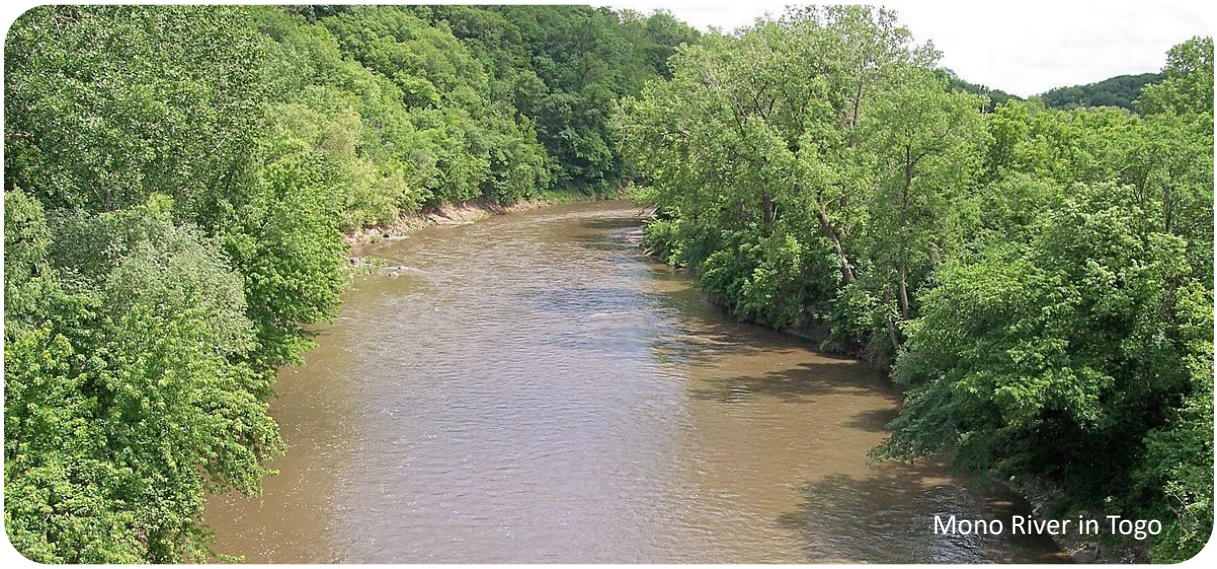
The Sourou River is a tributary of the Mouhoun River (Volta) shared by Burkina Faso and the Republic of Mali. The two countries created by bilateral agreement on June 20, 2013 a Transboundary Committee for the Integrated Management of Water Resources in the Sourou Basin (CTGS). The latter constitutes a framework for permanent consultation between the two countries that has allowed authorities and technicians to share experiences and resolve common problems. The two countries collaborate in the collection and sharing of data on the state of water resources and risks, particularly floods and droughts, in the review of planning tools such as Water Development and Management Plans (SAGE), as well as in the development and implementation of action plans for the protection and management of water resources in the basin.

3.6.
Mano River Union Strategic Action Program: A Tool for Sustainable Planning and Management of Ecosystems and Water Resources to Improve the Living Conditions of Riverside Communities.

The Mano is a transboundary river shared by Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone. A MRU Strategic Action Programme (SAP) was developed within the framework of the Mano River Union (MRU) "Ecosystem Conservation and Sustainable Management of International Water Resources" project, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented from January 2017 to December 2023 by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The SAP provides a strategic framework to restore degraded forest ecosystems, improve crop productivity, and strengthen water resources governance frameworks at the national and transboundary levels, and is accompanied by an investment plan.

3.7.
From the stakeholder forum to the transboundary participatory framework of the National Basin Committees: an innovation in the service of water diplomacy in the Mono.

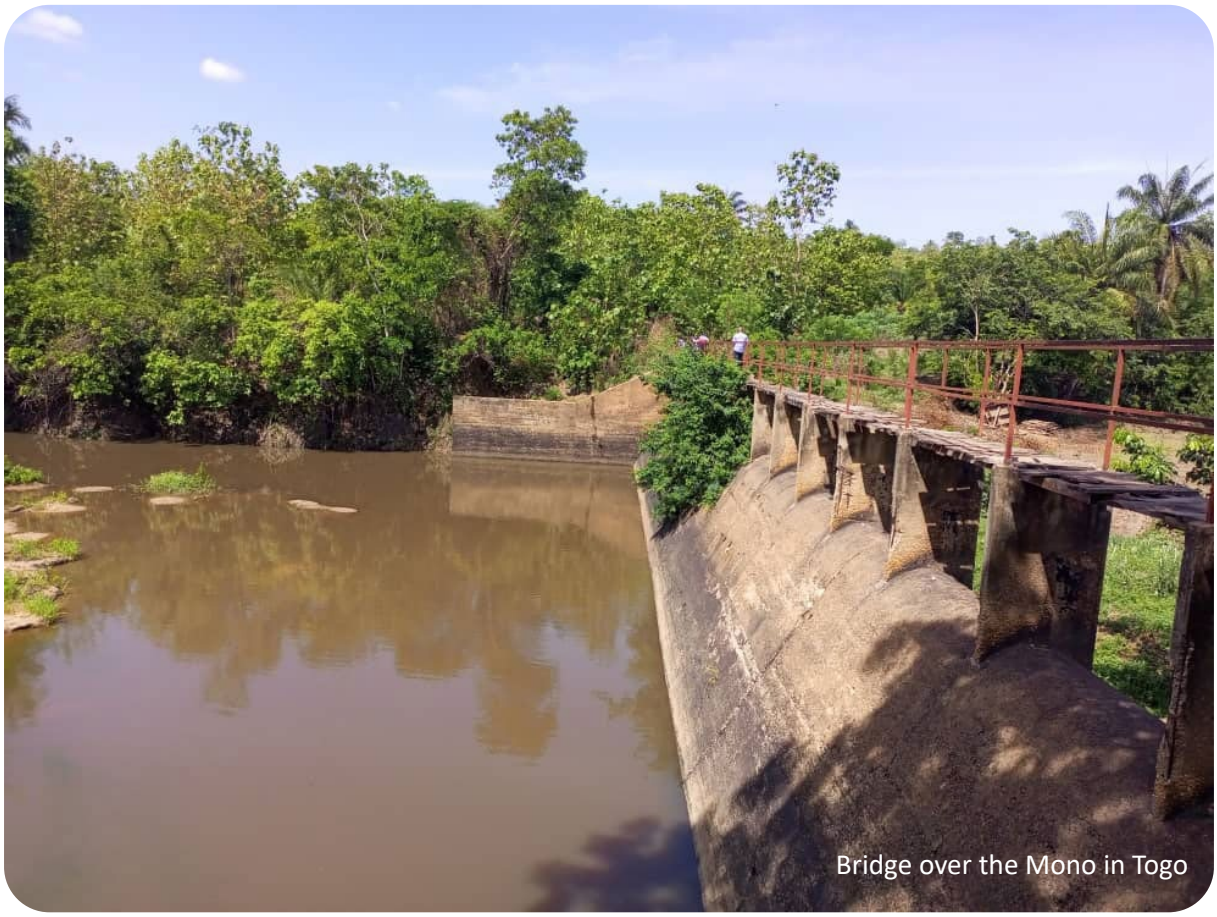
The transboundary Mono River basin, shared by Benin and Togo, presents significant challenges for socio-economic development and the preservation of natural resources. Given these challenges, the States of Benin and Togo have decided to set up a basin organization on the Mono, the Mono Basin Authority (MBA). In 2021, the MBA led a process to set up a Mono Basin Committee in Benin and Togo. The initiative helped promote IWRM in the Mono basin; through the establishment of a participatory management framework, the strengthening of water governance capacities and the development of transboundary cooperation by strengthening capacities in leadership and consensus building in dialogue processes.



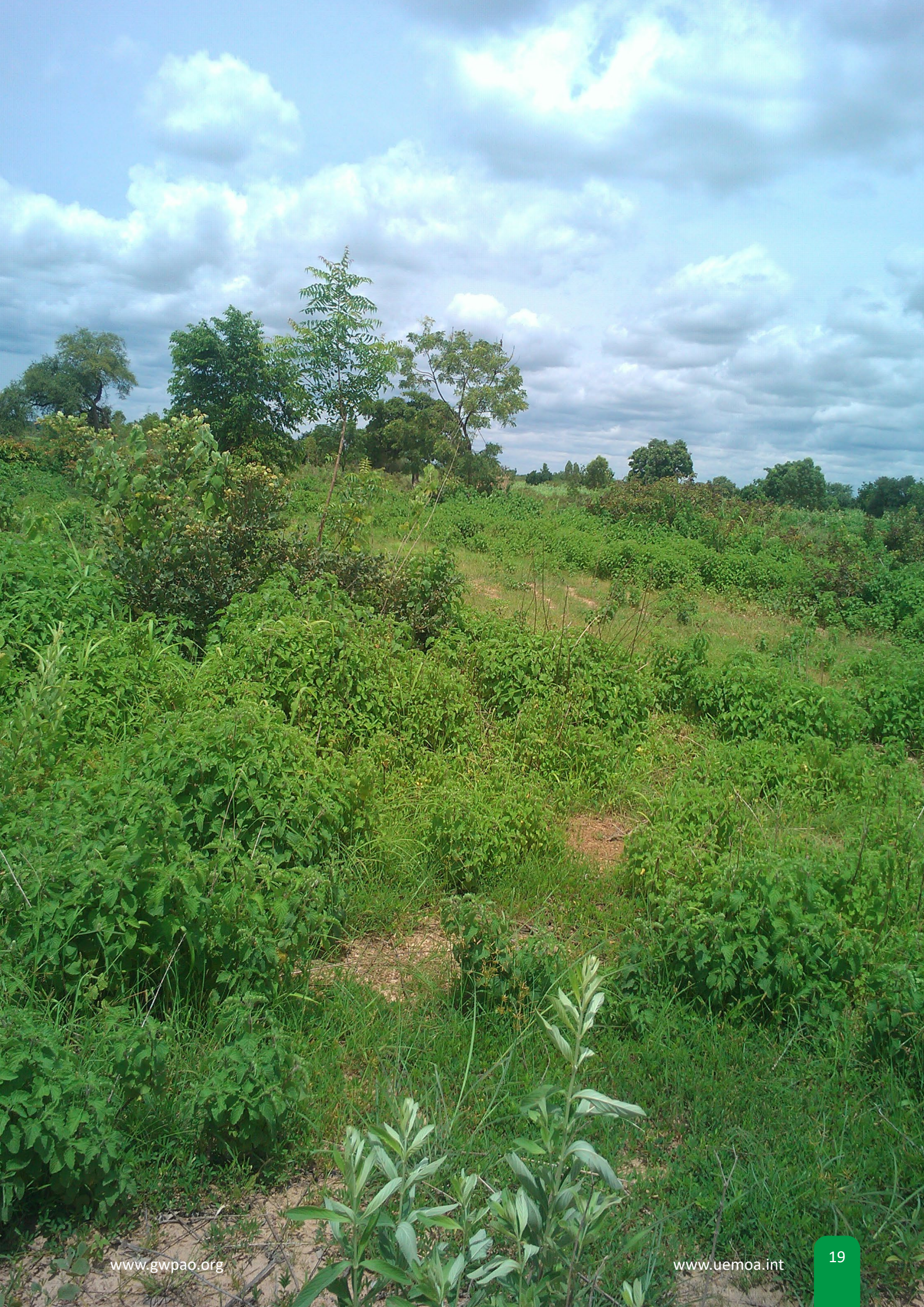
Mono River in Togo

3.8.
Implementation of IWRM for the socio-economic development of the Senegal River Basin States: realities, best practices and challenges.

The Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS: Mauritania, Mali and Senegal) implements IWRM to meet the major development challenges of the basin (population dependence on natural resources, food and energy security, growing demand for water for irrigation and drinking water, increasing pressure on resources and climate change). The IWRM implementation strategy focuses in particular on planning, flow regulation, environmental protection and capacity building, as well as the construction of structuring infrastructure through the equitable sharing of costs and benefits between member states. The significant results obtained include: (i) an improvement in the living conditions of riparian populations, (ii) better management of water resources and (iii) strengthened cooperation between OMVS member countries. The analysis of the results obtained highlights the importance of transboundary cooperation, shared governance, and a participatory approach to ensure effective and sustainable management of water resources.



Bridge over the Mono in Togo

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UEMOA


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