



**BRIEF ASSESSMENT OF COUNTRY
PROGRESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF “IWRM
AND WATER EFFICIENCY PLANS” IN WEST
AFRICA**

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1 INTRODUCTION

The end of the 20th century was basically marked by all mankind raise of awareness for the imperative need to manage planet earth resources differently otherwise this will result to a serious dead-end open to endanger existence even of mankind as long as production modes will disregard the limited character of natural resources. Fresh water resources therefore made the purpose of a particular consideration at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and most countries of the world committed themselves to implement provisions in section 18 of Agenda 21.

Stakes in the management of this natural resource are important and expressed health, food, social, economical, financial, environmental, political and geopolitical terms.

Water availability issues particularly affect West Africa.

Unbalance between water needs and resource availability is already turned into scarcity situations in many places of the subregion at certain periods. To face this situation, West Africa decided to put in place an integrated water resources management (in short « IWRM ») following the Conference of Ouagadougou on March 3 to 5 1998.

Achieving IWRM requires social mobilisation of all actors to contribute in achieving this objective at the global level, the Global Water Partnership (GWP) was created in 1996, as the leading animator of this mission to make water management a common cause for humanity.

The objective of this report is to assess the state of IWRM development in the subregion of West Africa since March 1998. The report outlines are:

- Introduction;
- Brief background on IWRM process in the subregion;
- State of IWRM implementation in countries;
- Critical analysis;
- Conclusion.

2 BRIEF BACKGROUND ON IWRM PROCESS IN THE SUBREGION

As a reminder, at the Conference of RIO, the international community committed itself to manage differently the planet natural resources. Such dynamic also took shape in the West African subregion under the lead of Burkina Faso and with the technical and financial support of Denmark. So was born what people agreed to call «IWRM process in West Africa » commonly known as the West African Conference on IWRM.

At this Conference, convened in Ouagadougou from 3 to 5 March 1998, Ministers in charge of water and heads of delegation of ECOWAS 15 member countries and Mauritania adopted the « Declaration of Ouagadougou » which urged Governments to:

- *Implement in their respective countries, an integrated water resources management process, basing on a Country Water Action Plan;*
- *Create a regional co-operation framework for integrated water resources management, harmonisation of water policies and regulations and experience sharing;*
- *Create or regenerate frameworks of consultation between riparian countries for shared basins water joint management;*

- *Develop national and regional strategies to raise financial means needed in integrated water resources management.*

This process benefited from the technical and financial support of the Kingdom of Denmark and led to the following results:

- The adoption of West Africa Regional Action Plan on IWRM (WARAP-IWRM) by the Conference of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government in December 2000 in Bamako;
- The adoption of the new regional water resources management institutional framework by the Conference of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government in December 2001 in Dakar.

Following this important conference, IWRM process started to take shape gradually in the various countries and is at various levels of implementation from one country to the other.

This process also prompted at the civil society level the creation of specific structures to promote IWRM in the subregion. The main achievements with the support of the Global Water Partnership (GWP) at this level are:

- The creation of a GWP West African Technical Advisory Committee (WATAC) in January 1999, which developed into a West African Water Partnership (WAWP) in March 2002 in Bamako;
- The creation of Country Water Partnerships in six countries of the subregion (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal).
- The development of the West African Vision for Water and its Action Plan presented at the 2nd Global Forum on Water at The Hague in March 2000.

As from the Ouagadougou Conference , ideas relating to water resources management considerably developed at the African and the Global levels and numerous initiatives in this regard were born (Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the 2005 Objectives, the New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD), the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), the European Initiative on Water, etc).

The state of Implementation of IWRM , five years after the Ouagadougou Conference shows as follows in the 16 countries of the subregion.

3 STATE of IWRM IMPLEMENTATION IN COUNTRIES

3.1 Benin

Benin Government being aware of its responsibility in country water resources management is making big efforts with the assistance of water sector partners to implement IWRM.

To contribute in IWRM implementation, studies relating to the following aspects are being executed:

- The Water Code;
- The Institutional Framework;
- The financial Mechanism;
- The renewal and the training of staff.

The main constraints in the implementation of integrated water resources management are:

- The low level of knowledge on Benin water resources (surface water and underground water);
- Ignorance and/ or poor knowledge on the water demand of various development sectors and their evolution in time;
- The low level of water integration in the country economy (water is not recognised as an economic asset in Benin);
- The absence of a monitoring system of the water resources quality, particularly around urban centres like Cotonou.
- The absence of co-ordinating structure for institutions in charge of the water sector;

The commitment of the Government to implement IWRM provides opportunities

3.2 Burkina Faso

Historically speaking, the birth of IWRM in Burkina Faso results from the conjunction of many factors, the most important being:

- International environment, with particularly recommendations from the Conference of Rio;
- The creation of the Ministry of Environment and Water in July 1995;
- The strengthening of co-operation between Burkina Faso and the Kingdom of Denmark, particularly in the water sector;

This period coincided with that of the formulation of a new country water based policy and strategies.

Aware of the current and future stakes, the Burkina Faso Government deemed necessary to proceed for new forms of water management. The adoption of the « water based policy and strategy » document in July 1998 comes in support to this political will and consecrates integrated water resources management (IWRM) as the basis to guarantee the various water needs of country economy in a sustainable vision.

The Conduct of IWRM process at the country level was based on a project called by the same name «Burkina Faso Integrated water resources management Programme» that started in March 1999.

The IWRM Programme was defined with the vocation to plan and support the transition process towards a new water management mode in which the main principles adopted by the Burkinabe nation will be made operational.

At this stage of the country development, the global objective of IWRM programme is the implementation of an integrated management of water resources adapted to the national context, in keeping with orientations decided by Burkina Faso government and respecting principles internationally recognised for sustainable water resources management.

The two immediate objectives are:

1. Define (accept) transition strategies towards IWRM, in the form of « Country Water Action Plan »;
2. Put in place IWRM based basic capacities in IWRM needed and sufficient for Burkina Faso to be able to implement Water Action Plan.

The implementation of the Action Plan will gradually take place, in the long term, at the rhythm of internal absorption capacities and mutation, and subject to available human and material resources.

To reach these objectives, the adopted strategy consisted in conducting meanwhile the diagnosis in the whole country and conducting in large in the Nakanbe Basin a model project called «Nakanbe Pilot project ».

The following main actions were realised to reach these two immediate objectives:

- Conducting the process of developing «draft water management blueprint law», which made available a legislative and regulatory framework in keeping with current developed ambitions of the country in water sector. The National Assembly voted water management blueprint law on 8 February 2001.
- The development of 11 texts to enforce water management blueprint law, 6 of which were adopted by the government;
- The development of « Burkina Faso water resources management mapping» document in May 2001 whose objective is to highlight and rank all the issues that impede on efficient and rational water resources management, with the perspective of developing a country integrated water resources management action plan,
- The implementation of «Nakanbe Basin integrated water resources management pilot project»;
- The development of Burkina Faso «Integrated water resources management Action Plan» adopted by the government in March 2003. The main orientations of this plan are to refocus Government missions, define the missions of other actors, water basin structures and managing bodies, actors capacities building plan, and plan implementation strategy and modalities;
- The conduct of activities relating to capacities building of actors in the water sector.
- The preparation of an IWRM Action Plan funding roundtable in late October 2003;
- The setting up of a technical advisory framework on transboundary water between Burkina Faso and Ghana technicians in the water sector;
- Significant contribution to the development process of IWRM in West Africa as from March 1998.

The implementation of the IWRM Programme opened undoubtedly a large radical reform activity in Burkina Faso water sector.

With the existence of «*integrated water resources management action plan*», there are bases to conduct efficiently sustainable country water resources management. IWRM future in Burkina Faso relies on the implementation of the adopted action plan for 2003-2015.

3.3 Cape Verde

In Cape Verde, execution of IWRM process has not started yet. Still, we must notice the existence of a strong will of political authorities to find sustainable solutions to water related issues. As a result of the diagnosis made in the water sector, it came out that to solve wholly current water resources related problems, it has become illusory to attack each case in isolation, as interactions between cases are strong and complex. The solution must necessarily be in the integrated water resources management framework, that is to say through a process which favours water, land and related resources joint development and management, for an equitable maximisation of social and economic welfare thereof resulting without jeopardising vital ecosystems.

3.4 Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and FAO, undertook as from 1996, preliminary studies to "put in place an Integrated Water Resources Management System in Côte d'Ivoire".

Studies permitted the following results:

- A draft « country integrated water resources management policy in Côte d'Ivoire » document;
- A water related Law and 20 draft enforcement decrees;
- A draft integrated water resources management institutional framework;
- A study on «the economical and financial analysis of the water sector» and «*proposals of solutions to fund efficiently and integrated management of water and sanitation* » ;
- A « National Hydraulic Programme» project involving about ten integrated water resources management programmes for a global cost of 21, 400, 000 Euro.

The IWRM implementation process met objective difficulties due to frequent institutional changes.

IWRM development perspectives in Côte d'Ivoire will fundamentally concern:

- the development and implementation of enforcement texts for Water and Environment Code ;
- the revision and the adoption of a country water policy document ;
- the creation of an IWRM Fund;
- The putting in place of a new institutional framework involving Basin Agencies and Actors' advisory frameworks at the national, regional and local levels.

Yet, we must point out that obstacles to IWRM development are important because of a relatively difficult environment. These constraints concern:

- socio-political crises since December 1999 ;
- instability of the country structure in charge of water resources management;
- problems of institutional collaboration ;

- insufficient human resources, particularly in the legal, economical, and financial sector ;
- Insufficient financial resources for an adequate operation of the structure in charge of water resources management.

The absence of arrangements to overcome these constraints may cause IWRM process to retrogress and even to come at a long-term stoppage.

3.5 The Gambia

In The Gambia, the development of water resources management followed the following steps:

- Before 1970, no particular answer to problems relating to IWRM stakes;
- From 1970 to 1985, the creation of The Gambia River Development Organisation (OMVG), the creation of the Country Water Resources Council and associated Institutions like the department of water resources and the implementation of the rural Water supply programme ;
- From 1985 to 1994, adoption of guidelines for a rural drinking water supply operational policy;
- From 1994 to date, development of a strategy to alleviate poverty and formulation of a water resources management strategy.

The IWRM development process will basically concern in the short and the mid terms the finalisation and adoption of water related strategies and policy document whose funding is ensured by the United Nations agencies. Besides, the country is negotiating financial resources with development partners to fund water management and power services to alleviate poverty in rural area.

The main constraints in the development of IWRM process are:

- Insufficient sensitisation and prejudice according to which water resources are unlimited ;
- Limited country water resources related capacities ;
- Insufficient financial resources for the operation of water resources management structures;
- An absence of co-ordinating and monitoring structures among operators in the water sector.

3.6 Guinea

Guinea has still not defined a consistent strategy to conduct IWRM process so to speak for the whole country. The country plans to engage into a long-term integrated water resources management. Yet, elements that participate in the birth of the process gradually come into place and are the following:

- The development of an emergency plan involving 10 programmes to reclaim beds of water courses and watershed and the dragging of reservoirs including the adoption and the promulgation of texts to enforce the Water Code.
- The development of a short, mid, and long term programme enabling quantitative and qualitative inventory of country water resources, ensuring protection and conservation of country water resources for rational use.

In the long term, conducting process of integrated water resources management in all the country river basins, whose main steps are the following:

- Identification of all the institutional workers and water users ;
- Assessment of current and future needs various users ;
- definition of the main orientations in the country strategy of integrated water resources management ;
- document presentation to the civil society and validation

The suggested programme is just a starting point for actions identified to enable sustainable and rational use and management of country water resources, which comprise 1161 water courses identified and distributed in 23 river basins, among them 14 basins shared with neighbouring countries.

Besides, we must notice the existence of a pilot project through the Higher Niger Basin Integrated Water Resources Management (GIRENS) and the Niger Basin Initiative supported by Wetland International, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF).

3.7 Guinea -Bissau

In Guinea-Bissau, IWRM process has not started yet. Yet, there is a strong will at the level of the Direction General of Hydraulic Resources to identify ways and means to start an IWRM process following the example of other countries in the subregion.

3.8 Ghana

The experience of Ghana in IWRM particularly developed during the past five years; so, we can say that it is maturing from learning into operational stage.

The implementation process to introduce implementation both at the national and at the decentralised level is geared by a strategy developed by the Commission on Water Resources.

The current state of IWRM in Ghana can stand as follows:

- The institutional framework enabling the Commission on Water Resources to fully assume its role as country institution in charge of IWRM and seeing that Water rights are implemented. The authority of the commission on water resources is recognised by all the actors in the water sector of Ghana ;
- Procedures and regulation of water use and rights were prepared by the Commission on Water Resources and adopted by Parliament in late 2001. The implementation of these provisions started with education, sensitisation, and the organisation of workshops for stakeholders. Royalties involved in water uses were agreed with all the various actors ;
- A first version of the country water policy centred on integrated water resources management approach was developed and submitted to the opinion of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing ;
- Two Water basins (Densu and the White Volta) were selected as model basins to test capacity building, public involvement and sensitisation strategies, regulation and planning of water resources in a decentralised administrative framework with water basin as planning unit;

- Tools to help decision were developed as tools for planning and allocation of water resources;
- A public mass education and sensitisation plan including various components according to social layers was developed and implemented by the Commission on Water Resources ;
- A draft water information system was initiated and being executed.

Perspectives in Ghana IWRM for the five coming years shows as follow:

- Improve the institutional capacity of the co-ordinating institution to implement its mandate whose objective is to promote IWRM focused on water demand, monitoring pollution, activities to assess water resources for efficient basin based planning of water resources at basin scale;
- Put in place a viable and sustainable institutional framework for IWRM initiatives at the decentralised level to develop at the water basin level and basing on lessons learned from two model basins and new experiences to get from activities in other similar basins.

Needs in IWRM implementation are:

- in terms of methodological support, a balanced approach in international assistance use and local expertise must be considered ;
- A financial assistance is needed to support implementation of basin agencies. There are needs also for capacity building, and training sessions in subjects relating to water resources planning and IWRM principles.

The main constraints that can affect IWRM implementation process in Ghana are:

- sustainable co-ordination and collaboration of institutions of water information systems and other agencies;
- a local will to participate ;
- political support to facilitate IWRM implementation ;
- and, raising of financial resources to backup and support the process.

3.9 Liberia

Efficient water resources management and meeting rural and urban populations drinking water needs and sanitation were the major concerns of the Liberia Government. In keeping with provisions in the document of political orientations for the achievement of these concerns with the involvement of all stakeholders in the water sector while creating the need for an integrated water resources management approach in Liberia according to the recommendations of the Ouagadougou Conference.

Following the Ouagadougou Conference in March 1998 and in the perspective of developing an IWRM process, the Liberia Government reactivated the Inter-ministerial Commission that served as Co-ordinating Unit. The Government later created a co-ordinating technical committee better known as Drinking Water and Sanitation Committee.

Drinking water and Sanitation Committee inherited its responsibilities from the country water resources and sanitation committee, is nation-wide, the legal structure regulating water and sanitation, and has powers to take political decisions. The committee operation reduced

problems of function duplication between institutions in the water sector and improved co-operation and co-ordination for IWRM implementation in Liberia.

3.10 Mali

To implement IWRM, Mali benefited a credit as a technical and methodological support from the International Development Association (IDA) in the implementation of a country integrated water resources management in Mali.

For this, a diagnostic study of the water sector was conducted in October 2001 then validated by a country workshop in January 2002 and whose conclusions were adopted by the Government in July 2002.

This diagnostic study of the water sector involves thematic studies which must enable the development of country water resources management policies and strategies for the coming years. These studies constitute the first links of the process that must lead to the implementation of an integrated water resources management (IWRM) plan.

Expected outputs of this integrated water resources management plan are:

- A mapping of current water resources management ;
- Proposals of policies and strategies, which must contribute in making available a Country Water Action Plan ;
- Capacities building to make the Action Plan operational.

The diagnostic study will be conducted in 2003 and 2004. In the implementation process, a pilot programme is ongoing on the Higher Niger with the financial support of the Netherlands.

This five-year programme, called «Higher Niger Integrated water resources management (GIRENS) » aims globally at contributing in Higher Niger Basin sustainable development and alleviating poverty in a subregional context and for specific objectives:

- The IWRM implementation as a model in Higher Niger transboundary Basin in relation with the other IWRM workers.
- The development of a short and mid term action plan aiming at the protection of water resources.
- The identification and promotion of alternative income generating activities for River riparian populations.

Perspectives of IWRM process development involve:

- The conduct of fora and consultations to promote dialogue, advice, consultation, sensitisation, and partnership of all the public, private, and non governmental actors;
- the development and the validation of IWRM action plan;
- The organisation of a roundtable with all the development partners to adjust and implement an IWRM Action Plan funding strategy.

Constraints besides concern:

- insufficient human resources in the areas of economic and social sciences (lawyers, economists, financiers, sociologists) ;
- capacities from methodological viewpoint ;
- insufficient financial and material resources for an adequate operation of structures in charge of water resources management;
- an absence of consultation between structures in charge of water and country development ;

- conflicts of jurisdiction between structures ;
- An absence of text enforcing existing laws.

In terms of IWRM development perspectives in Mali, environment is more enabling seeing:

- an important development of decentralisation in the country ; which is a winning asset for IWRM implementation ;
- the existence of a law relating to the Water Code (Act 02-006 of 31 January 2002), an order and a decree creating, organising and arranging operation modalities of Niger Basin Agency ;
- The existence of a model project for IWRM implementation on the Higher Niger.

3.11 Mauritania

There is no official information allowing an appreciation of the state of IWRM implementation process in this country.

3.12 Niger

Concerning IWRM, the process bases on the existence of a country policy drawing inspiration from the principles of Dublin and RIO and the existence of Blueprint Water Resources Development and Management

Consideration of national context development, particularly «country strategy note» with its four major aspects that are Environment, Poverty Alleviation, Good Governance and Strengthening the Private Sector, led Niger Government to revise the blueprint to implement Water Managing units (UGE), and update its Country Hydraulic Programme.

Water resources management and development blueprint came up with a strategy basing on ownership of development actors concerned by water, each at each one's level, starting from the grassroots level. Seven (7) water-managing units were established to serve as foundations for water resources exploitation, development and planning.

A study initiated in 2002 made proposals of an institutional and legal framework relating to UGE, proposals of UGE managing structures and an implementation strategy. The Government is considering legal texts of this new institutional framework.

Implementation of UGE managing structures is intended as a model, and identification of one or many reasonable sized zones is intended in each of Niger 7 UGE to form and build up experiences.

Zones proposed are those ecologically sensitive which have some very significant economic stakes (intense practice of irrigated agriculture) and a very vulnerability to climactic hazards and anthropic actions.

Five levels of water resources management were identified respectively at the local (village level); subregional (valley, watershed, and/ or large aquifer systems); the regional (UGE level); country (country level) and international levels.

Implementation strategies base mainly on ownership of all development actors through water and sanitation starting from the following principles:

- Users of hydraulic infrastructures, Government (for country interest structures) and communities (for collective infrastructures) are the implementing agents ;
- Private sector and NGOS come in support of the implementing agents while ensuring implementation ;

- The Regional Commission on Water and Sanitation has a Permanent Technical Secretariat and permits to ensure harmony between users water needs, available resources and the most appropriate technical solutions at the region level;
- The Country Commission on Water and Sanitation has a Permanent Secretariat at the central level, and ensures co-ordination of water resources and sanitation planning and development and management ;
- Central and decentralised Directions of the Ministry of Hydraulic and other concerned Ministries devote to designing, developing and implementing water policy particularly the Blueprint.

To better appreciate the operation of a Water managing unit, Niger government got from UNDP and DAES a financial and technical support to experiment this approach for Liptako Gourma Unit.

The main constraints in IWRM process development are:

- A low allocation of country budget resources to water resources management;
- A gradual reduction of foreign financial assistance for water resources management ;
- Poor co-ordination of interventions by various actors (country services, international institutions, grassroots communities, others) ;
- Insufficient observation of hydrology network ;
- Difficulties in enforcing rules and laws regulating the sharing and management of international waters.

Opportunities:

- The existence of Water Resources Development and Management Blueprint ;
- UNDP support to build capacities in the water sector ;
- Preparatory assistance for Niger River integrated water resources management in the context of the Niger Basin Authority (NBA) ;
- The existence of a strategic approach programme for Lake Chad Basin integrated water resources management, in the context of the Commission on Lake Chad Basin (CLCB) ;
- FAO support for a legislation of water resources ;
- The putting in place of integrated natural resources management : Natural Resources Managing Unit (C/GRN), National Council on Environment for a Sustainable Development (CNEDD) ;
- The presence of subregional and regional institutions specialised in water resources management: AGRHYMET Centre, Hydro-Niger, and ACMAD...
- A renewed interest of certain partners for water resources management particularly through projects to assist NBA and CLCB member countries;

For short or mid term perspectives the following elements will contribute to the development of IWRM process in Niger:

- Consideration of Water resources development and management Blueprint as an integral part of the Country Environment Programme for Sustainable Development (PNEDD) ;
- Integration of water policy in the country development strategy ;
- The setting up of all the texts to enforce laws already adopted as water resources legislation and regulation ;
- A better co-ordination of water resources management at the national and regional level ;
- A better advised management of the same basin by riparian countries.

3.13 Nigeria

Awareness of the top level authorities in Nigeria on the issue of sustainable water resources management gave birth to numerous programmes and initiatives to reform the water sector as it was for IWRM establishment. Such initiatives involve rehabilitation of nation drinking water supply blueprint, promulgation of decree 101 in 1993 on water resources, finalisation of country water resources blueprint in 1995 with the assistance of the Japanese International Co-operation Agency (JICA), and the ongoing process of country water law and resources management.

Process to reform the water sector started in 1997 following the opinion of the National Council on Water Resources (NCWR) and executed jointly with the World Bank.

Reform process adopted follows the model of “Cycle of Governance” which involves the following stages:

- Stage of statement of affairs (mapping the sector) conducted on the basis of seven (7) thematic studies on water resources on the following aspects :
 - Legislative and regulatory framework ;
 - Institutional framework and participatory approach ;
 - Water resources information and database;
 - Economic and financial aspects of water resources;
 - Environment and sustainable resources ;
 - Hydraulic infrastructures and patrimonial management ;
 - International waters.
- Stage of policy development (principles and details) conducted from recommendations of thematic studies of stage of statement of affairs. This stage must result in the finalisation of a policy document to be presented to the Federal Executive Council for approval in November 2003. Meanwhile a draft bill on water resources will be submitted to deliberation at the National Assembly in the first quarter of 2004.
- Reform stage (legislative and institutional) ;
- Implementation Stage.

Short or mid term perspectives of IWRM process in Nigeria will concern the finalisation of the policy document of country water resources management and development of a draft bill based on policy document.

For constraints, we can name an important number of actors (public and private) whose activities have impacts on water resources with an absence of horizontal co-ordination between public structures and NGOs and the private. There is also an insufficient vertical co-ordination between various government levels (federal, state and local)

We can also see an insufficient involvement of stakeholders in decision-making processes for water resources planning and development plans.

Some of these insufficiencies in the sector of water resources relate to overlapping of responsibilities of organisations, change of policy by various governments resulting from a poor capacity of institutions.

Assets in IWRM implementation are in strong political intentions, a legislation widely in place, fully developed institutions, 30-year experiences in water basin management.

3.14 Senegal

Senegal has not defined a country strategy yet and least IWRM Action Plan. Yet, elements that participate in the birth of the process gradually come into place. These elements concern:

- the offsetting up the Senegal Country Water Partnership in November 2002 ;
- the putting in place of a Project to Reform Engine Powered Boreholes Management System (REGEFOR) based on a partnership between the public sector, beneficiary populations and the private sector ;
- The putting in place of a unit at the Lake Guiers water basin level. This unit which gathers the various categories of users, representatives of Local Communities, and representatives of Government are an consultative framework to harmonise interventions on the lake ;
- the putting in place of an Advisory Committee on Niayes Hydrogeological Basin water resources in August 2003, in charge of co-ordinating the implementation of integrated water resources management action plans for the Niayes area ;

Consideration by the country highest political authorities of stakes involved in country sustainable water resources management led to the decision of implementing IWRM with the support of the Canadian Co-operation in late 2003.

3.15 Sierra Leone

It is important to mention that this country has just been emerging from war, with an administration under construction and particularly in the water sector. IWRM process has not really started yet. Despite this difficult situation, we can see that the country, which has an important development potential, is being reconstructed on all fronts with huge diverse needs for resources.

Stakes that justify IWRM implementation are the following:

- Insufficiently integrated political environment at the country level ;
- Ad hoc functions and fragmentation of responsibilities between ministerial departments, public services and agencies ;
- Insufficient integration of social development objectives and concerns in the area of water resources at all levels;
- Insufficiency of integrated water resources management approach;
- Insufficiency of information sharing between actors in the water sector ;
- Insufficiency in updating information on water resources ;
- Low level of investments in the sector of water.

For short and mid term perspectives, the objective of Sierra Leone regarding IWRM is to rehabilitate and build in the country capacities at the institutional, financial, and technical levels, and an assessment of country water resources as well in a sustainable vision will be made for the development, management and protection of these resources.

To achieve this objective, the following schedule will be made:

- Identification of local people for IWRM implementation activities in the country;
- Creation of a co-ordinating structure and co-operation mechanisms between actors of the water resources sector ;
- Creation of a secretariat or a commission to co-ordinate IWRM activities;
- Promotion of IWRM sensitisation activities;
- Research of technical and financial supports for the development of IWRM based activities.

Constraints in the development of IWRM process stem from the war, from which the country has long suffered with a destruction of hydraulic infrastructures and water resources monitoring network. Indeed the country does not have a water policy document allowing to take in charge IWRM activities. Besides, institutional capacities are very low so there is a huge need for water-based training and capacities building of human resources and reconstruction of physical infrastructures and water resources monitoring networks.

3.16 Togo

Togo engaged in implementing IWRM process with the support of UNDP, ONU/DAES and FAO with the implementation of project called «National Policy and Strategies for Integrated water resources management (IWRM) ».

Process to implement IWRM started in June 2002. Activities scheduled in the context of this process are:

- sensitisation on the need for IWRM ;
- finalisation of mapping provisional report production ;
- conduct of IWRM experience in large in the Zio Basin;
- development of IWRM institutional reform project ;
- development of IWRM draft policy and strategies and Water Code and its enforcement decrees ;
- development of IWRM priority action plans for a period of five years;
- Organisation of validation workshop for IWRM draft policy and strategies, institutional reform and priority action programmes with the participation of the main partners.

Short and mid term, perspectives in the process development are the organisations of a validation workshop, which will permit a further IWRM development.

Main constraints are:

- the suspension of financial co-operation between the country and the main donors resulting in difficulties to mobilise public development aid ;
- the insufficient number of competent and experimented executive staff ;
- the absence of advice between ministry departments involved in water management ;

Opportunities for the development of IWRM process relate to:

- a strong political will to reform the water sector ;
- the existence of an ongoing decentralisation process;
- the potential support of the ECOWAS Resources Regional Co-ordination Unit ;

4 CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Based on the documentation and official information provided by countries in the subregion and regarding commitments made by the same countries at the Ouagadougou Conference in March 1998, we can affirm that results achieved to date are far from expectations. Indeed if at the regional level we can consider that results are relatively satisfactory (development and adoption of West Africa IWRM Regional Action Plan, creation and putting in place of Water Resources co-ordinating Unit within regional development institution called ECOWAS, mobilisation of highest level political authorities), besides progress made concerning development of country IWRM action plans remain weak. Indeed only 2 countries out of 16 have an action plan by 2005, it must be reasonable to see 4 other countries at the meeting, that is a total of 6 countries out of 16, that is to say 25% of all the countries in the subregion; the road to go is still long.

Justifications of this situation are in the fact that concerning achievements at the regional level, there was a secretariat in charge of following up the process and which benefited from Burkina Faso constant political support and the technical and financial support of Denmark.

As for countries considered individually, the level of development of IWRM process depends largely on the commitment of each country and the specific environment of the country concerning the issue of water resources management (socio-economic and physical context), with still a special mention for afflicted countries following conflicts (Liberia and Sierra Leone) or plunged into political instability.

As a reminder, the following chart ranks countries according to the level of IWRM:

Group A: countries that can achieve the objective of getting their country IWRM plan developed by 2005;

Group B : countries that need **a light support** to be able to achieve the objective of getting their country IWRM plan developed by 2005;

Group C : all the countries that need **a significant support** to be able to achieve this objective of getting their country IWRM plan developed by 2005;

Available official information allows ranking of countries as follows :

Group	Country	Justifications
A	Burkina and Ghana	These two countries already have IWRM action plans adopted by their respective Governments and the main concern for this group of countries is the implementation of their country plans.
B	Benin, Mali, Nigeria and Togo	A light support both technical and financial must enable this group of countries to complete the development process of their country action plans by 2005. Indeed they have already passed significant steps, which they executed or are executing in the process (Methodological approach, Mapping, Consultation with actors, new legislative and regulatory framework defined). The most difficult steps can be regarded as completed. Countries like Benin, Mali and Togo are benefiting from a financial support of development partners while Nigeria must on the other hand seek for support.
C	Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea , Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania ¹ , Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone	This group is made of countries that will not reasonably be at the meeting of 2005 even with whatever significant support, in fact, one of the major demands of a well conducted process and promising is to consider time needed the sensitisation and involvement of actors. Two years before 2005 are objectively insufficient to implement all these steps (methodological

¹ No official information is available

		<p>approach, mapping, sensitisation/ consultation of actors, adapted new legislative and regulatory framework, and plan development and adoption).</p> <p>Yet, this group of countries is not homogeneous and it must be relevant to distinguish sub-groups as follows :</p> <p>Sub-group comprising Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea , Niger and Senegal, countries that have partial elements of IWRM process (model experiment, ongoing studies of legislative and regulatory framework, existence of water resources blueprint) and can proceed fast towards the realisation of an action plan in the absence of socio-political constraints.</p> <p>Sub-group composed of Cape Verde, The Gambia and Guinea Bissau which are at the level where IWRM process has not started being executed for numerous reasons (absence of methodological approach, insufficiency of competencies, no ongoing study) and which will proceed more slowly despite a significant support.</p> <p>Sub-group composed of countries afflicted by wars like Liberia and Sierra Leone for which the priority remains political stability followed by a reconstruction of water public service before they can engage in a reliable IWRM process.</p>
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RECAPITULATIVE CHART OF ANALYSIS OF COUNTRIES IN THE WEST AFRICAN SUBREGION WEST				
STEP	BENIN	BURKINA	CAPE VERDE	COTE D'IVOIRE
1. Increase awareness on IWRM and build political will to support process	Political will in the current context is the driving force in the process implementation .	Political will is an achievement which permitted to engage the country in this vision of sustainable natural resources management since 1996, and the adoption of integrated water resources management action plan (PAGIRE) by the Government is a guaranty of permanent support of process to implement plan.	There is a strong will following the statement to solve globally water resources related issues. Process is still to start therefore all the steps are to be built.	Important awareness actions are to be implemented particularly for the political to support process development.
2. Ensure a participation framework for all stakeholders.	Studies are planned for this.	A participation framework for actors is provided by Law at the country, regional and local levels. The remaining task is to make these advisory frameworks operational in 2004.		absent .
3. Overview of ongoing activities that IWRM plan can execute.	IWRM plan has not been developed yet.	Activities are defined the IWRM/AP and the acquisition of funds following the roundtable scheduled for the end of October 2003, will permit their execution.		Various activities relating to regulatory and legislative framework, actors' advisory frameworks and creation of bodies are provided and make the purpose of support.
4. Identify and prioritise IWRM stakes and problems .	Will be made following planned studies.	Already conducted with a study « Water resources mapping and their management framework».		Still to be made
5. Identify IWRM functions	Not to be executed yet.	Already achieved and available in the PAGIRE(IWRM/AP) .		Still to be made
6. Identify management potential and constraints	Ongoing execution.	Already effected and available in « Water resources mapping and their management framework».		Ongoing execution
7. Prepare plans and strategies for IWRM .	Will be made following ongoing studies.	Already effected and available in the PAGIRE.		Planned to be executed
8. Ensure adoption at the highest political level.	Will be made following the development of action plan.	PAGIRE was adopted in March 2003 by Government .		Will be made following the development of action plan.
9. Initiate capacities building.	Studies are planned for this.	Partly executed with the implementation of IWRM project and must continue in the PAGIRE.		To be executed
10. Prepare a portfolio of implementation projects and plan funding strategy	To provide in the plan.	Already existing for 2003 to 2008 period in the PAGIRE.		Existing Portfolio looking for funding.
Conclusions/recommendations	A lot of work still to be made to achieve plan development.	The main task for the country remains implementing PAGIRE with the support of development partners.	Process will certainly be long even with significant technical and financial support.	Methodological and technical support to make consistent existing achievements will be needed to conduct IWRM process efficiently.

STEPS	THE GAMBIA	GHANA	GUINEA	GUINEA BISSAU
1. Increase awareness on IWRM and build political will to support process	Important awareness actions are to be seriously considered particularly of the political to support process development.	Political will is an achievement that must be maintained and consolidated	Important awareness actions are to be seriously considered particularly of the political to support process development..	There is a strong will after the statement of globally solving water resources issues. The process is still to start so all the steps are to be built.
2. Ensure a participation framework for all stakeholders.	Absent and to build	Existing	Does not exist	
3. Overview of ongoing activities that IWRM plan can execute.	To be executed later after plan development.	Capacities building and financial assistance to put in place basin organisations.	To be realised after methodological support to make activities consistent	
4. Identify and prioritise IWRM stakes and problems .	Step not executed yet	Already executed	Step not yet executed	
5. Identify IWRM functions	Idem	Idem	Idem	
6. Identify management potential and constraints	Idem	Idem	Idem	
7. Prepare plans and strategies for IWRM .	Idem	Idem	Idem	
8. Ensure adoption at the highest political level.	Idem	Idem	Idem	
9. Initiate capacities building.	Idem	To be executed	Idem	
10. Prepare a portfolio of implementation projects and plan funding strategy	Idem	Already existing	Portfolio existing but must be re-structured and made consistent.	
Conclusions/recommendations	A lot of work still to be made to reach development of a plan so an important support too	The main task for the country remains implementing IWRM action plan with the support of development partners .	A lot of work still to be made to reach development of a plan so an important support too	Process will certainly be long even with an important technical and financial support.

STEP	LIBERIA	MALI	MAURITANIA ²	NIGER
1. Increase awareness on IWRM and build political will to support process	There is a strong will for the reconstruction of water public service after the war. Process remains to start so all the steps are to be built.	There is a political will to support country IWRM process.		There is a political will to support country IWRM process.
2. Ensure a participation framework for all stakeholders.		Existing		Existing
3. Overview of ongoing activities that IWRM plan can execute.		Existing		To be realised after a methodological support to make activities consistent
4. Identify and prioritise IWRM stakes and problems .		Already effected		To be effected in the context of existing blueprint
5. Identify IWRM functions		Ongoing execution		To be executed
6. Identify management potential and constraints		Ongoing execution		Idem
7. Prepare plans and strategies for IWRM .		Ongoing execution		Idem
8. Ensure adoption at the highest political level.		There is a political availability for this effect		There is a political availability for this effect
9. Initiate capacities building.		Ongoing execution		To be executed after the development of IWRM plan.
10. Prepare a portfolio of implementation projects and plan funding strategy		To be executed after development of action plan		Existing but to be re-structured and made consistent according to IWRM
Conclusions/recommendations	Priority remains the reconstruction of water public service to envision implementing IWRM process. Multiple forms of support are needed.	A light support must allow the country to get an action plan by 2005		Country can proceed faster towards the realisation of an action plan with methodological and financial support.

² No official information available

STEPS	NIGERIA	SENEGAL	SIERRA LEONE	TOGO
1. Increase awareness on IWRM and build political will to support process	Existing political will that prompted country IWRM process.	Political will to consolidate so that to support the process.	There is a strong will for the reconstruction of water public service after the war. Process remains to start so all the steps are to be built .	There is a strong political will to reform the sector
2. Ensure a participation framework for all stakeholders.	Existing	Existing		Absent
3. Overview of ongoing activities that IWRM plan can execute.	Finalisation of policy document and development of draft bill	To be developed		Finalisation of mapping and continuation with further steps in plan development
4. Identify and prioritise IWRM stakes and problems .	Existing	Idem		To be executed
5. Identify IWRM functions	Ongoing execution	Idem		Idem
6. Identify management potential and constraints	Ongoing execution	Idem		Idem
7. Prepare plans and strategies for IWRM .	Ongoing execution	Idem		Idem
8. Ensure adoption at the highest political level.	There is a political availability for this effect	Existing political availability must be consolidated		There is a political availability for this effect
9. Initiate capacities building.	To be consolidated	To be executed after the plan is developed		To be executed after plan is developed
10. Prepare a portfolio of implementation projects and plan funding strategy	To be executed after development of plan	To be executed after plan development		To be executed after plan development
Conclusions/recommendations	A light support both technical and financial must enable the country to complete process of country action plan development by 2005	An important support can enable the country to proceed faster to the realisation of action plan.	Priority remains reconstruction of water public service, so that to envision implementation of IWRM processes . Multiple forms of support are needed.	A light support both technical and financial must enable the country to complete process of country action plan development by 2005.