

The «Mekrou Project»

"... aims at supporting the green economic growth and poverty reduction in Burkina Faso, Benin and Niger, through water management in developing areas."

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Regional Validation Workshop on the Inventory of Data, Models and Information Systems»



Catalyze efforts with decision support tools for the development in a transboundary sub-basin

Dear partners and readers of *"Running Water"*, I am pleased that GWP/West Africa is resuming the publication of this newsletter. *"Running Water"* is a bulletin that GWP-WA has set up to keep you abreast of the latest developments in the implementation of IWRM in the region. Because of various kinds of difficulties, we were not able to meet our commitment to publish regularly.

The issue you are reading is a testimony of our willingness to reconnect with all of our partners through this magazine, which is claimed by many of our partners, who believe it to be an essential tool for having an oversight on IWRM in the West African region.

"Water for Growth and Poverty

Reduction in the Mekrou Transboundary Basin" is a project that symbolizes appropriately the willingness of GWP and their partners to operationalize the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in basin management, especially transboundary basins. This project will enable putting decision support tools at the disposal of states (Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger), and the stakeholders of this transboundary sub-basin of the Niger Basin in a context where climate change is influencing all actions on sustainable development and pushing stakeholders to strongly review the planning schemes and implementation frameworks of actions.

I would like to thank all our technical and financial partners who allow us to drive out planned actions. For this project on the Mekrou River, let me stress the financial support of the Commission of the European Union and the technical support of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Union for the implementation of technical aspects. GWP will deal with institutional aspects and stakeholders mobilization.

The Mekrou Project is being implemented at a time when GWP/West Africa is conducting at the same time other programmes contributing to the achievement of the West African Water Vision in 2025 and the vision of the GWP Network to ensure water security in the region. These include the Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP), and the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP). Other initiatives such as the Project of Regional Dialogue on Ground Water are also carried out by GWP/WA and its partners. New initiatives are under consideration and the search for funding will be finalized soon to empower the GWP/WA to continue to



Pr. Abel AFOUDA
Chair of GWP-WA

play its part in this vital sector facing the disaster resulting from the impacts of climate change.

In March 2014, GWP officially launched its new Strategy by 2020 for the period of 2014-2019. This Strategy has been developed for all the GWP network and GWP/WA, like the other regions, has developed a regional three-year plan taking into account regional priorities to operationalize this strategy.

This edition of *"Running Water"* tries to help you discover the **"Water for Growth and Poverty Reduction in the Mekrou Transboundary Basin"** project called the **"Mekrou Project"** which was officially launched in March 2014 with the Regional workshop held in Ouagadougou on March 17, 18, 19 and 20, 2014.

In the coming issues, we are planning the same exercise to discover other initiatives such as the WACDEP or the IDMP. As you also know, *Running Water* is a magazine in which we like sharing experiences on the implementation of the IWRM; so we are making a call for contribution to all the stakeholders who have experiences to share, to contact us, and we will be pleased to publish these experiences in these columns.



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Introduction and Goals of the Project

"**W**ater for Growth and Poverty Reduction in the Mekrou Transboundary River Basin", commonly called the "Mekrou Project" was jointly prepared by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Union, in close collaboration with the key partners of the West African Region. The Project aims at supporting the green economic growth and poverty reduction in Burkina Faso, Benin and Niger, through water management in developing areas.

This pilot project for the transboundary basin of the Mekrou River aims to develop tools and planning approaches for policy makers and water managers in the context of the integrated water resources management, to enable policy makers and water managers to address the complex challenges to which the Basin is facing. Specifically, it will be about setting up a cooperation Framework on Water for Growth long term planning in the Mekrou transboundary basin, develop an Integrated Water Resource Strategy for green growth in the Mekrou River basin : to deal with food security, appropriate urban and rural development and environmental conservation to meet challenges arising from climate change. It will also be about promoting investments in the water sector.

Project Intervention Zone

Map 1: the Transboundary sub-Basin of Mekrou compared to the Niger Basin



The Mekrou Basin is a sub-basin of the Niger River and covers a surface area of 10.500 square kilometers, or about 3% of the Niger Basin total area. It stretches over three countries: Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger and it includes 36% of croplands and 20% croplands with open woody vegetation.

Issues in the zone

In the Mekrou River Basin, as in many areas in Africa, climate variability is high, water-related investments are relatively limited. Drought in Sub-Saharan Africa represents a major climate risk, threatening agriculture, economy and communities living conditions. To meet the challenge for governments and water managers to balance development and sustainability it is necessary to have a thorough knowl-

Map 2: The transboundary Basin of Mekrou (Niger, Benin and Burkina Faso)



edge of social, economic and political specificities of the Mekrou Basin.

Capacity development and good governance structures and tools are particularly important in supporting countries to cope with (1) changing and unpredictable rainfall patterns and water scarcity arising from climate change, (2) the inter-linkages between water and other sectors of development policy and (3) reinforcement of the catalytic role of water in inclusive growth and for sustainable development.

Funding and Project Management

This four-year project funded by the Commission of the European Union intends to be a real tool for the synergy of actions for the management of the Basin. It is a project of a total cost of **five million (€ 5,000,000) Euros, or three billion, two hundred seventy nine million, seven hundred eighty five thousand (3,279,785,000) CFA Francs.**

The project will be implemented by national and local stakeholders in West Africa with the support of Global Water Partnership (GWP) /West Africa for institutional aspects and the internal service of the European Commission, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) for technical aspects.

The project implementation arrangement includes:

- **The Project Management Unit**, based in the office of GWP/WA in Ouagadougou, it includes a Project Manager and a Finance and Administration Assistant working in permanent relationships with the NBA; and it also ensures communication with and between all the stakeholders involved in the Project. It works in close collaboration with the Country Water Partnerships (CWP) in the countries.
- **A Project Support.** The GWPO in Stockholm is the signatory of the Agreement between the GWP and the EU. It assumes the contractual responsibilities, the overall



IN BRIEF

supervision, the financial control, quality assurance and technical support with the GWP office in West Africa and the CWP of Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger accordingly.

- **Project Communication.** The GWP provides both at the global and national levels, a regular communication with the key stakeholders, the officers of the JRC in Italy and the European Union in Brussels.

Beneficiaries of the Project

The main stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project are governments and authorities in charge of water of the three countries sharing the Mekrou Basin (Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger), including the Niger Basin Authority (NBA).

PROJECT COMPONENTS

The Mekrou Project has eight (08) main components which are:

- The establishment of the Framework and the Coordinating Mechanism;
- The inventory of current status;
- The identification of development priorities;
- The development of the Basin Information System;
- The Development of the Early Warning System;
- Understanding of the Water Balance;
- The Water Security Strategic Framework;
- The Development of Measures and Investment Plans.

CWPs elect New leaderships

The Country Water Partnerships (CWP) of Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal have elected new chairpersons to lead the partnerships after their last statutory meetings.

Mr. Antoine Diokel THIAW was elected on December 6, 2014 as the new chair of the Senegalese CWP for a mandate of two renewable years. He is replacing Professor Sérigne FAYE who was elected in 2012.

Partners in Niger gathered for their General Assembly on December 13, 2014 in Niamey gave the chairmanship to Professor Bouréima OUSMANE was a two years terms renewable once.

In Burkina Faso, Mr. Dibi MILLOGO was chosen as chairperson to replace Mr. Dieudonné NIKIEMA who served two mandates since 2010. The Assembly was held in Ouagadougou on December 19, 2014.

All these country meetings were assisted by the regional secretariat through the Chair himself, Professor Abel AFOUDA in Dakar, Senegal, Sidi COULIBALY and Corneille AHOUANASOU in Niamey, Niger and the Executive Secretary, Dam MOGANATE in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

In Ivory Coast, the General Meeting of partners was held on December 18, 2014 in Abidjan and the mandate of the Chair Mr. Ndri Koffi was renewed by the assembly. Some Steering Committee members were renewed.

Global Coordination Mechanism

Executive Secretariat of the NBA
(Overall consistency at the Basin scale)

EUROPEAN UNION
(Controls of the project contract implementation)

PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM
(JRC, GWP/WA- Project Management Unit, GWPO)
Convenes committee meetings
Reports to the project authorities

ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(Presided over by states in turn)

SCIENTIFIC SUB-COMMITTEE
Presided over in turn by a scientific structure of the state

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In Burkina Faso

From 4 to 26 September 2014, the Chair of GWP West Africa made a round of trips in Burkina Faso, Niger and Benin to exchange with main partner organizations involved in the implementation of various projects executed by GWP.

In Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, after giving some technical orientations to GWP/WA staff, the chair accompanied by the coordinator and Mekrou Project, Drought Management Programme and WACDEP managers met with the new Director of ECOWAS Water Resources Coordination Centre and the WASCAL team. The aim was to introduce all initiatives in which GWP/WA is involved in the region to these strategic partners. The actions GWP is undertaking are all done under the umbrella of contributing to meet goals set by ECOWAS heads of State in the Regional Water Policy. WASCAL team agreed to support the development and implementation of the Integrated Drought Management Project by providing some documentation and technical orientations.

In Niger

In Niamey, Niger, the GWP team including the Chair, the Mekrou Project and IDMP managers were joined by the Mekrou project officer of the Joint Research Center (JRC) of EU. They met with the following institutions: AGRHYMET (of CILSS), Niger Basin Authority (NBA), ACMA, the Laboratory of Geology of the Abdou Moumouni University, the Directorate of Meteorology and the National Directorate of Water Resources. They were received above all by the Minister of Hydraulics and Sanitation, Mr. Wassaké BOUKARI. The Minister expressed the readiness of his department to support the projects through the CWP that is being hosted now by the Directorate of Water Resources in the same premises of the Ministry. The other partners were informed on the evolution in the implementation of the Mekrou Project and expectations on the IDMP were collected.

In Benin

In Cotonou, Benin, only the Mekrou manager and JRC accompanied the Chair. The mission met with the General Directorates of Water and of Environment, the National Institute of Water and its researchers together with experts from the University of Abomey-Calavi. The mission noticed a strong mobilization of partners, ready to bring support for the success of the Mekrou project. Partners in all three countries (Benin, Burkina and Niger) are ready to take part in the next workshop that will validate the inventory of the types of scientific and technical data to be considered in the frame of the Mekrou Project.

How will the Project be implemented?

The project will be developed into two phases: a) an inception phase on one year (2014) and b) an implementation phase of 3 years (2015 to 2017).

The project inception phase will start with a policy dialog in view of establishing the institutional arrangements and signing of the agreement for joint planning and implementation between the three countries involved. This action will ensure the sustainability of the project and it will be organised with the Niger Basin Authority (NBA).

The project implementation will build on the legitimacy and existing technical capacity from various initiatives in the project zone and complement the on-going programmes and projects developed in the Niger River basin.

At the regional level, GWP/WA will coordinate the implementation under the patronage of the governments of the three countries involved in the Basin, in collaboration with the Niger Basin Authority (NBA).

In each country, the coordination is ensured by the Country Water Partnerships (CWP) of Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger. The activities are carried out in each country in relation with the state structures. Each of these structures will ensure the proper execution of activities within the field of its competence, and this, in synergy with partners/stakeholders involved in similar ongoing initiatives in the Basin.

Thus, the following structures have been identified in the countries.

- **Benin** : The General Directorate of Water, the General Directorate of Environment, the National Directorate of Meteorology, the National Water Institute,
- **Burkina** : the General Directorate of Water Resources, the General Directorate for the Preservation of the Environment and Sustainable Development, the General Directorate of Meteorology, the Institute of Environment and Agricultural Research.
- **Niger** : the Directorate of Water Resources, the General Directorate of Environment, the National Directorate of Meteorology, the Laboratory of Geology of the Faculty of Sciences and Techniques of the University Abdou Moumouni of Niamey.



the Niger River in Niamey



CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

The project refers to the management of water as a natural resource in trans-boundary context. By its nature it relates to:

- **Environment:** the water management plans are developed for the sustainable use of water
- **Health:** the project will ensure a better access to adequate quantity and quality of water.
- **Gender:** the fostered participative approach with the multi-stakeholder consultation will address real participation of all actors and that the needs of the women and children been taking into account.
- **Governance and transparency:** The aim of the project is sector development also through government capacity for good governance, including transparency practices.
- **Human rights:** The implication of the civil society and the promotion should have an impact on human rights.
- **Conflict prevention:** The trans-boundary and regional aspect of this project will address conflict prevention issues.

DELIVERABLES

CAPACITIES AND KNOWLEDGE

- Agreement on the framework and coordination mechanism for political dialogue and actions planning process in the Mekrou Basin;
- Development of the capacities of ownership, planning and management of knowledge to support long term planning and transboundary management of water resources;
- Baseline report, completed in collaboration with the JRC, on the current state of each sector, namely the use of lands for agriculture, energy, industry, the current availability of water face to the demand, that is to say, the supply and demand, pollution sources, challenges due to climate change, predictions (forecasts), the state of the environment, that is to say, aquatic and land ecosystem, vulnerability to floods, droughts and socio-economic data at the portion of the territory in the Mekrou Basin;
- List of requirements for the development and of priorities of growth in the Mekrou Basin portion in each of the three countries.

INFORMATION SYSTEM

- Duties, roles and responsibilities identified for the trans-boundary information system;
- Information system at the transboundary level has been set up and it is operational (as water management tool);
- Operational guidelines developed for the information system in place;
- Monitoring programmes of the Mekrou Basin developed

regarding water resources, (quantity and quality) and water users;

- The transboundary early warning information system in place and operational;
- Operational guidelines of the early warning information system developed.

PLANNING & MANAGEMENT

- Tools for accurate planning of water resources and improvement of their allocation;
- Development of maps establishing water balances both geographically and in terms of water catchment, based on hydrological models, improved monitoring of rainfall, better understanding of agri-meteorology and water quality tests;
- Identification of data sets on water at the national level to enable the monitoring of the water balance, abstraction of models and future requests;
- Development of water resources assessment systems based on a range of climate change scenarios;
- Establishment of strategic framework to ensure water security (including the "minimum platform of water infrastructure and management bodies") approved by the Project partners and their counterparts.

INVESTMENTS & MONITORING

- List of proposed investments, based on the minimum platform to ensure water security;
- Associated measures identified and included in the development plan.



PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

Project Title:	« Water for Growth and Poverty Reduction in the Mekrou Transboundary River Basin».
Type of Project :	Regional scope Project (Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger).
Implementing agencies:	Ministries in charge of water of Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger; The Executive Secretariat of the NBA; The Country Water Partnerships of Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger; Global Water Partnership - West Africa (GWP-WA).
Executing agencies:	The Global Water Partnership (GWP) for institutional aspects, which delegates authority to the Regional Water Partnership of West Africa (GWP-WA) ; The Joint Research Centre (JRC) for technical aspects.
Coordination :	Project Management Unit based in the office of the GWP/WA in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso).
Donor:	Commission of the European Union
Intervention Zone:	Mekrou Basin ; a sub-basin of the Niger Basin and covers a surface area of 10,500 square kilometers
Estimated cost :	€ 5, 000,000
Duration:	Inception phase : one (01) year; Implementation phase: three (03) years.
Inception date:	January 1, 2014
Probable end date:	December 31, 2017
Overall goal of the Project:	Support Economic Green Growth and Poverty Reduction in Burkina Faso, Benin and Niger, ensuring continued water to developing areas
Specific goals of the Project:	Establishment of the long-term cooperation and planning framework of water for development (framework and coordinating mechanism for political dialogue and for actions planning process) in the transboundary Basin of Mekrou; Development of an integrated water resources strategy for green growth in the Basin of Mekrou (food security, appropriate urban and rural development and protection of the environment to meet the challenges of climate change) and for the promotion of investment in the water sector.
Project Components:	Component 1.1: Establishment of a Cooperation Framework (GWP) Component 2.1: Inventory of Current Status (GWP - JRC) Component 2.2: Identification of Development Priorities (GWP) Component 2.3: Development of Basin Information System (JRC) Component 2.4: Development of Early Warning Systems (JRC) Component 2.5: Understanding the Water Balance (JRC) Component 2.6: Water Security Strategy Framework (GWP) Component 2.7: Development of Measures and Investment Plans (GWP)



PLANNING OF THE PROJECT IN EACH COUNTRY AND COORDINATION

Indicative schedule

COMPONENTS	ACTIVITIES	T1 2014	T2 2014	T3 2014	T4 2014	2015	2016	2017
1.1 : Definition of the Cooperation Framework	- Creation of an interactive website for project management and accessible to all the stakeholders.							
	- National consultation on the project goals and the methodology in the three countries.							
	- Participatory institutional diagnosis of all the key stakeholders and feedback workshop at the national level in each country							
	- Participatory assessment of capacity building needs, and existing capacities on knowledge management in each country (IWRM, climate change and planning at all levels)							
	- Participatory diagnosis of institutions and knowledge management capacities at the regional level.							
	- Analysis of consultation results and development of the preliminary proposal of the coordinating framework and the validation workshop							
	- Preparation of the capacity building programmes from assessment results							
	- Preparation of the consolidated proposal and exchange with the key regional authorities and the key stakeholders.							
	- Launching of the workshop and signing ceremony.							
	- Additional meetings and activities of the Project Unit as defined in the new coordination framework for the Mekrou Basin (to be specified after the inception phase)							
2.1 : Inventory of the existing	- Analysis of the current use of water resources and definition of the Mekrou Basin baseline situation							
	- Study of the existing IWRM plans, green growth policies and management of drought and flood situations, energy policies and poverty reduction in each of the countries							
	- Validation of results in each country							
	- Dissemination of results to all the key stakeholders of the Mekrou Basin by the publication in each country and on the website							
	- Additional meetings and activities of the Project Unit as defined in the new coordinating framework for the Mekrou Basin (to be specified after the inception phase)							



COMPONENTS	ACTIVITIES	T1 2014	T2 2014	T3 2014	T4 2014	2015	2016	2017
2.2 : Identification of Development Priorities	- Local and national consultation of water users of various sectors, representatives of national local administrations to identify priorities							
	- Development of the assessment methodology of the hydrological variability adaptation capacity (jointly with the JRC)							
	- Preparation of a draft proposal pointing out priorities, perception of development plans and strategies and identification of shortfalls and conduct of a validation workshop in the Mekrou Basin							
	- Dissemination of results to the key stakeholders of the Mekrou Basin in each country							
	- Participation of the CWPs in the meetings on development of the Basin Information System and inclusion of conclusions in other components (technical meetings organised by the JRC)							
2.3 : Development of the Basin Information System	- Participation of the CWPs in the meetings on development of the Basin Information System and inclusion of conclusions in other components (technical meetings organised by the JRC)							
2.4 : Development of Early Warning System	- Participation of the CWPs in the meetings on development of the Basin Information System and inclusion of conclusions in other components (technical meetings organised by the JRC)							
2.5 : Understanding the Water Balance	- Additional meetings and activities of the Coordinating Unit as defined in the new coordinating framework for the Mekrou Basin (to be specified after the start-up phase)							
2.6 : Strategic Framework for Water Security	- Analysis of strategies, policies and plans in the light of climate change and vulnerability constraints.							
	- Development of a document establishing the water security framework from the results of all the components in the Mekrou Basin							
	- Final validation workshop of water security framework with all the stakeholders							
	- Continuation of negotiations, meetings with the Ministries of Finance, local authorities, development banks and the main donors on the existing and potential financial mechanisms for the implementation of the water security framework, throughout the three years of the Project implementation.							



COMPONENTS	ACTIVITIES	T1 2014	T2 2014	T3 2014	T4 2014	2015	2016	2017
2.7 : Development of Measures and Investment Plans	- Definition of investments with no regret and the investment plan integrated in the National Development Plan							
	- Dissemination of lessons learnt from the process as a whole to key partners of the West African Region, as well as the ANBO and the AMCOW							
	- 4 audits							
Audit and Evaluation	- Mid-term and final evaluation							
	- The GWP/WA staff based in Ouagadougou + support of three Country Water Partnerships + GWP/WA support							
Support to the Project								



Filling up of water containers in the river



Rice cultivation



Animals crossing the river



A canoe transporting people and goods



Traditional housing in the banks



Launching of Mekrou, a Project for Integration and IWRM Implementation

The Mekrou Project that will enable to test and correct our various national tools of integrated water resources management, is a major project of institutional, technical and technological innovation and scientific research that will enable to better know the resource in order to establish a real sustainable plan for its use".

The Secretary General of the Ministry of Water, Hydraulic Facilities and Sanitation of Burkina Faso, Mr. Ali Traoré, speaking on behalf of the Honourable Minister, highlighted the importance of the new project that was officially launched on March 18, 2014 in Ouagadougou.

The political launching workshop took place from March 18 to 20, 2014 and the technical workshop on the 17 and 21 March 2014 in the conference room of the Palm Beach Hotel of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. It was chaired by the Honourable Minister of Water, Hydraulic Facilities and Sanitation of Burkina Faso, represented by the Secretary General. Were also represented the delegation of the European Union in Ouagadougou, different water authorities of the three beneficiary countries, the Niger Basin Authority, and the key stakeholders acting in the Niger Basin.

A true transboundary Project

"The project : "Water for Growth and Poverty Reduction in the Mekrou Transboundary River Basin" that brings us together today, from its design to its implementation, will enable several types of water stakeholders, namely financiers, water technicians and scientists to collaborate in a wide transboundary site between three countries, to speak, observe, study, analyze and draw conclusions on the management of this colorless, odorless and quiet liquid, but if we do not know how to handle it, it may be the source of the third World War", said from his part, the Chair of GWP/WA, Prof. Abel Afouda.

The representative of the Global Water Partnership Organisation (GWPO), Mr. Manuel FULCHIRON, said it is a development project based

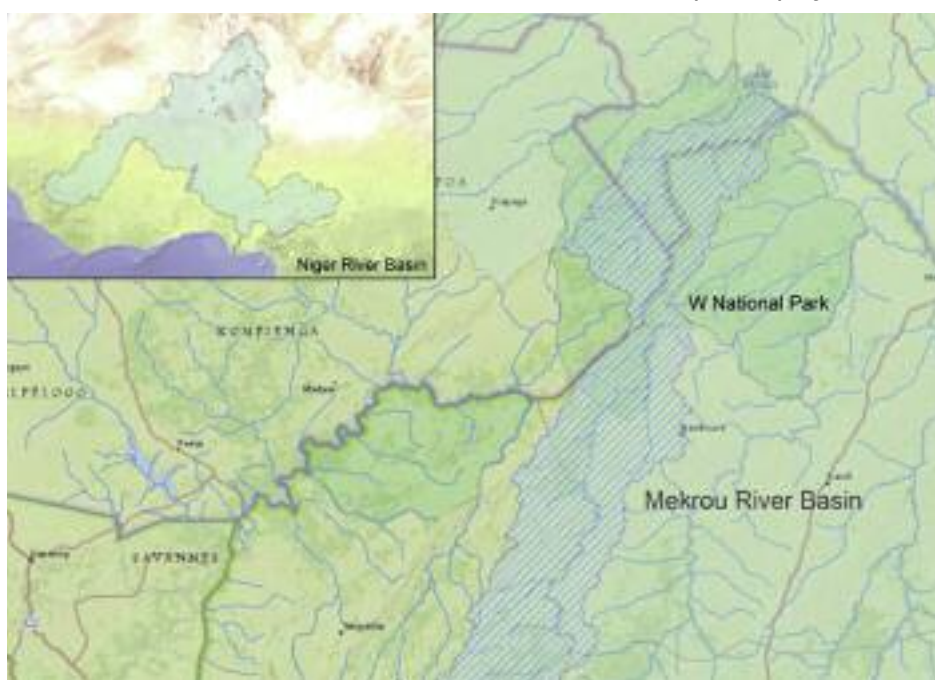


on political dialogue and innovation wishing to introduce a new approach to the management of transboundary water resources while preserving environment so as to put in place sustainable decision support tools. In his speech, he thanked the countries that have helped develop this project and congratulated GWP/WA for its role and work done.

The project was initiated by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the Global Water partnership (GWP), and funded by the Commission of the European Union. The Project inception workshop brought together nearly a hundred participants including representatives of national directorates of water, NGOs and other representatives of the Civil Society from the three countries, as well as technical and financial partners and stakeholders in the Niger River Basin.

A Project for Decision Support Tools

This pilot project aims at developing planning tools and methods in the context of integrated water resources management to enable policy makers and water management officers to address the complex challenges to which the Basin is facing.





In his speech, the representative of the Honourable Minister of Water, Hydraulic Facilities and Sanitation, Mr. Traoré said: *"Economic growth, poverty reduction and demographic and social trends result in a more and more increased demand of water management infrastructure in order to allow sufficient production of food and energy on the one hand, and on the other, to provide goods and services timely. Moreover, the ignorance of the water resource inevitably leads to inappropriate use of its economic potential, therefore, a deficit of adaptation, that is to say, an inability to properly manage existing climate risks and hydrological variability. This situation not only applies to assets and infrastructure, but also to institutional policies and programmes, and systems to improve the integrated water resources management"*.



Luca Busetto

Mr. **Luca Busetto**, the representative of the European Union Commission after observing that his institution has increased its funds for water in its intervention in the countries, said that the EU is developing a new 2014-2020 programming in which the triad water-food security-energy will be considered together and the Mekrou Project is in line with the guidelines that the EU follows in this new approach.

During the three day-meeting the group sessions enable to review the multi-year planning of activities to be implemented and the appropriate

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A Competition for Journalists committed to the Nature

The journalism competition; **"Water and Sanitation"**, is an initiative of the Regional Water Partnership of West Africa (GWP/WA) as part of its work programme and the Central and West Africa Programme of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN/PACO) in the framework of its new programme "Partnership for Environmental Governance in West Africa (PAGE)".

The competition was launched in 2014 for the first time following a series of seven (07) annual training workshops for journalists from West Africa. Thanks to the regular organisation of such training, a strong core of environmental journalists is in activity in the main media of the region and gathered in the Network of Journalists called *"Share Infos"*. This Network is an informal space dedicated to exchanges, capitalization and discussions on issues of environmental journalism in Africa in general, especially in West Africa.

Thus, it was deemed necessary and appropriate to strengthen the position of journalists in their newsrooms, facilitate their commitment to environmental themes, capitalize on their experience and expertise to improve the visibility, and further raise public awareness on issues related to sustainable management of water resources and conservation of nature.

The competition enables to reward the best articles and audio or video reports on a specific environmental theme.

Articles and reports selected by a jury of professionals of GWP/WA and IUCN-PACO are awarded on the occasion of an event of regional or global scope.

The first competition launched on the 29 April 2014 was held on the theme "Water Security and Climate Resilience in West Africa". It enabled to reward three winners during a side event on the occasion of the Africa Water Forum on June 14, 2014 in Ouagadougou.



Ms. Idiatou CAMARA

Employer: National Radio
Country: Guinea
Title of the work presented: "Water Security and Climate Resilience in West Africa"
Duration: 13mn51s
Language: French



Mr. Alain TOSSOUNON

Employer: Internet Portal Podcastjournal.net
Country: Benin
Title of the work presented: "The Difficult Adaptation of the Communities of the Commune of Adjohoun to Climate Change: Climate Disruptions: When Earth no longer Feeds"
Language: French



Ms. Bernadet SANNEH

Employer: Gambia Radio and Television Services
Country: The Gambia
Title of the work presented: "Vision 2016 Food Self Sufficiency in the Gambia".
Language: English



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budget. The discussions helped clarify the role of the key stakeholders and to better guide expectations.

Involve all stakeholders

Presentations were made by key stakeholders (ECOWAS, NBA, AGRHYMET and ACMAD) involved in the Project on environmental and socio-economic issues in the region of the Sub-Basin of Mekrou and projects they may perform there.

At the end of the proceedings, the Chair of the GWP/WA, Prof. Abel AFOUDA said: *"It is therefore clear that the tasks ahead of us over the next four years are well identified"*. He assured that the recommendations of the workshop will be carefully taken into account for the trans-boundary cooperation for the sub-regional development is done in synergy with existing programmes and projects in the Mekrou Basin. This requires the establishment of a constructive dialogue between all the stakeholders to deal with the adaptation to climate change and the balance between needs and availability, the setting up of common tools for decision support, taking into account gender aspect, the setting up of an appropriate strategic framework for sustainable development of the Basin from a transboundary information system; and finally the setting up of an evaluation system of water resource annual variability".



Fisherman on the river

Opinions of some Stakeholders on the project

"We expect the project to help us in the collection of data"

Having gone through the process of launching and implementation of certain activities in Niger, we have retained that this project is primarily a recognition phase of the zone and identification of priorities for development actions through the implementation of the IWRM approach. So, this project should help us in the collection of data and their enhancement for a better control of the natural and socio-economic context of the zone, help in the development of an approach that can be replicated in other zones of Niger.

In Niger, the Ministry of hydraulics and sanitation is in the process of the development of its IWRM-Plan. It is a package of studies carried out throughout the country. In addition, this Project is a potential source of inspiration for us in the development of the IWRM-Plan.

The Ministry has a database on the water resources of Niger and especially the part of the Mekrou Basin. Such data may be made available to the Mekrou Project.

For us, this study phase will result in a programme or project for the achievement of development infrastructure for the communities.

Dr. SANDAO Issoufou,
Coordinator UGP PANGIRE Niger

**The project will deal with a forgotten zone.**

My institution has actually participated in the project inception workshop. It was on this occasion that we really discovered this initiative which is very good because the part covered by the Project in Burkina seems somewhat forgotten in our current efforts of research-development.

We are expecting to be able to carry out research activities in the field relevant to the project issue. This is to make available to the producers, the findings of this research, to contribute significantly to their development.

As a research institution, we will contribute through the coordination to really involve all the scientific structures targeted in Burkina Faso, participate in data collection and analysis and actively participate in the development of these data.

Léopold SOME,
INERA Burkina Faso



Regional Validation Workshop on the Inventory of Data, Models and Information Systems»

The regional workshop on the adoption of the inventory of the types of scientific / technical data to be retained in the Mékrou Project was held in Cotonou from 5 to 7 November 2014. It brought together about thirty participants from the three countries covered by the project (Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger) and partner organizations (GWP, JRC, NBA, etc.). The official ceremony was held under the patronage of the Beninese Minister in charge of water and marked by four interventions. All speakers and especially the Minister in charge of water from Benin stressed the need to see the Mékrou project effectively contributing to the resolution of the concerns of the populations of the three (3) countries.

Several communications were made including on the various ongoing initiatives by countries (Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger) and some key actors (AGRYMET, ACMAD, SAP / UNDP NBA) in the Mékrou basin. It is important for the Mékrou project to profit and exploit the information provided by the various projects and initiatives to achieve its own results.

The discussions came out with a number of reflections including the conduct of extensive field studies



Opening ceremony

because there is a real problem with the knowledge of the water resources. It also revealed the necessity to strengthen institutional and inter-communal capacity to deal with the problems of quality and updated data at the micro level (sub-basin). Participants also stressed the need to make concrete the establishment of an observatory for conflict management. There are indeed problems of knowledge on groundwater resources that do not facilitate the construction of drinking water supply structures. It has been recommended to take into account the concerns of local people including farmers and sustainability aspects.

After the presentations on the models by countries and institutions, it was noticed that each model presented has its weaknesses, so participants proposed a multi-model approach for the Mékrou Project. Thus it was proposed unanimously that AGRHYMET given its experience is in charge of coordinating the scientific models used for the Mékrou project and ensures their operationalization. The project opts for «open source» type models.

Regarding the data, it was recommended to think about how to make the available information accessible to all, on the role of each project actor and the need to develop the list of data needed for the project. The project will work to improve collaboration between all partners to collect data and draw a map of the basin that will zoom on the area covered by the project.

After three days of work and fruitful discussions, the Chair of GWP-WA, Professor Abel AFOUDA thanked everyone and invited stakeholders to a synergy of action for achieving the objectives of the «water for growth and poverty reduction in the Mekrou transboundary River basin» project.



Group picture after the official ceremony



GWP pays tributes to Hama Arba Diallo



Hama Arba DIALLO, MP-Mayor of Dori died on October 1, 2014 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. He has been the chair of Global Water Partnership/West Africa (GWP/WA) from January 2009 to May 2013.

We publish here a few testimonials on the work of the man within the GWP/WA Network.

It is with a deep bitterness and dismay that we learnt the death of the Honourable **Hama Arba DIALLO**.

In this sad occasion, I extend, on behalf of the staff of the Malian Potable Water Patrimony-SOMAPEP-SA (member of the CWP-Mali), our sympathy and our most heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and to all the people of Burkina Faso.

I have to say, on this sad occasion, and as a water sector stakeholder, that the **Honourable Hama Arba DIALLO** not only served with dedication his own country, Burkina Faso, but also all of Africa and the entire world.

He has shared his rich experience in several countries in the world, including Mali on strategic development, (*I remember the advocacy he made to the donors for the funding of the big potable water project of the city of Bamako, called the Kabala Project that my company is now managing*).

The death of this distinguished executive is for the whole of Africa, a huge loss, especially for us- stakeholders of water and sanitation sector.

We join all the prayers to implore the mercy of God, the Almighty, so, He welcomes him in the Paradise

May the departed soul rest in peace. Amen!



Adama Tiémoko DIARRA
PDG / SOMAPEP-SA - BAMAKO /MALI

My sincere condolences to the DIALLO family and his extended family in GWP WAF.

He was always very kind and sympathetic the few times I had the pleasure to meet him.

Martin Löfgren
Web Communications &
IT Strategy Officer

I am devastated to learn about the passing of Mr. Diallo. He was such a gentle man who did so much for GWP. His family is in my prayers.

Karin Linde Klerholm
former Network Operations
Team Coordinator
Global Water Partnership
SWEDEN

A man of great culture, a multi-faceted man, a man of commerce very agreeable with an unparalleled sense of humor, is this great personage we lost so brutally.

The Country Water partnership of Cote d'Ivoire (CWP-CI), deeply touched by this loss, expresses their most heartfelt condolences to those who mourn our late Arba Diallo and to his parents, relatives and political family and of



course to the great family of water partnership.

God tears us away this exceptional great man of this dimension. That His name be praised!

May he rest in peace!

N'DRI Koffi
Chair of the Country Water Partnership
(CWP) of Côte d'Ivoire

«We belong to God, and to Him we return!»

The GWP and Burkina are mourning: they lost a tireless campaigner for African DIGNITY.

Rest in peace and may God accept him among the righteous!

My condolences to all!

Abdoulaye TRAORE
ZAKARI, Chair CWP Togo



I am really saddened by the news of the passing away of Mr Arba Diallo. He came to the chairmanship of GWP West Africa after having served his country in many capacities including the foreign service. It was the experiences that he had in those positions that made him such an effective and competent chairman. We in Ghana will sorely miss him as he spared no effort

whenever the opportunity arose, to remind us of the relationship between Ghana and Burkina Faso during the presidency of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah over sharing the benefits of the Volta River between the two countries. On behalf of CWP-Ghana I will like you to extend to the family of Mr. Diallo and the CWP Burkina Faso our heartfelt condolences on his passing away.

May his soul rest in peace

Nii Boi AYIBOTELE
Chair CWP-Ghana

I learned with great sorrow the death of our late H. Diallo. The Global Water Partnership (GWP) and Africa have lost in him a wise and great militant for the causes of water and development. Please convey to his family and friends, on my behalf and that of my colleagues of the Technical Committee (TEC), our deepest condolences. God rest his soul in His Holy Mercy



Mohamed AIT KADI
Chair GWP Technical Committee

I am really sorry for your loss and it is a huge one for the GWP-West Africa region! I am glad I had the opportunity to meet Mr. Diallo several times at the CP Meeting in Stockholm.

He was always cheerful and would always tell me that he knew the former Prime Minister of my country, Trinidad and Tobago and that they were friends! This is a huge loss also for the GWP but he seemed to have lived a great life and I am sure he imparted a lot of wisdom on those who worked with him.



Gabrielle Lee LOOK
*Communications Officer,
Global Water Partnership-
Caribbean
(GWP-C)*

After more than 4 years working almost daily with Mr. Hama Arba Diallo in his role as Chair of the Regional Water Partnership West Africa, I can certainly say that it was one of the brightest personalities we have experienced. His incomparable modesty contrasts with all the honors he has received during his impressive international career.



At the Global Water Partnership, Mr. Diallo was one of the key pieces during international meetings, taking advantage of his aura and his vast diplomatic experience during major events that constitute the World Water Fora or Conferences of the Parties on Climate mainly.

As a premonition, His Excellency Mr. Hama Arba Diallo said repeatedly in a benign air that he wished not to «live too old.»

Shrewd political context of his country, he felt the coming dusk of the ruling regime in Burkina Faso and told us that the end was near!

We regret just that, almost one month, our dear chair Hama Arba Diallo did not live the moments of the «revolution of 30 and 31 October 2014, he, who spent much of his life to put his energy and Combat for the «liberation of the people» as he would say!

Hopefully, wherever he may be, could he be satisfied for having being useful to his country and Africa. Global Water Partnership West Africa will always be grateful to him for his work.

God bless his soul in peace!

DamMOGBANTE,
GWP-WA Executive Secretary

It is with a big surprise that I learnt the news this morning. It is a big baobab and a good fighter of the IWRM that we have lost!

Recently, at the Africa Water Forum, he said: «We ended it up to you young people to fight for the proper management of water resources, if not, you will not be able to live like us». His message appeals to me a lot. He made the good fight and I join with the other to express my condolences to the family of the GWP/WA.

May his soul rest in peace!



Alain TOSSOUNON
*Journalist, Benin,
WASH-JN Coordinator*



GWP pays tributes to Hama Arba Diallo

The CWP Nigeria received with sadness the news of the passing away of this great patriot Mr. Hama Arba DIALLO (Ambassador or Honourable), the immediate past chair, GWP/WA. Our condolence to the entire GWP/WA networks and his immediate and extended family members.



May his gentle soul rest in peace.

Engr. Peter Henry Sule

For: Country Water Partnership - Nigeria, Abuja

What tragic news you have shared with us. We are so sorry to hear of the passing on of the former GWP West Africa Chair we remember him fondly and he was a man of great wisdom - with whom we were proud to be associated. Our condolences from GWPSA to his family and all of you in GWP WA - as you were his family too.



Ruth Beukman

Regional Coordinator GWPSA

Our sincerest condolences from the region.

We will always remember Mr. Diallo with his strong dedication to water issues and great sense of humor, indeed a sign of a great spirit.



Shall his soul rest in peace

Richard Muhler

Regional Coordinator GWP/CEE



Group picture at the Accra Partners' meeting in May 2013



Inauguration of GWP-WA offices in 2012



GWP-WA Partner's meeting in Accra in 2013



M. Diallo in the Gambia



GWP CP meeting in Stockholm 2013