

Running Water

N° 21 - December 2016

MEKROU PROJECT





- SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION
- GOOD APPRECIATION OF STAKEHOLDERS



Let's discover...
the Water Museum
in Burkina Faso



| | Pages |
|--|-------|
| ADVISORY COMMITTEE  | |
| EDITOR’S WORD MEKROU PROJECT : Water for growth and poverty reduction | 3 |
| 2016 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SESSION Mekrou Project Coordination Global Advisory Committee Meeting in Cotonou | 4 |
| The Advisory Committee updates on the progress | 5 |
| MID-TERM PROJECT ASSESSMENT Analytical narrative of the project implementation | 6 |
| PILOT PROJECTS | 12 |
| SIGNING THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT Promoting the political dialogue for the joint management of the natural resources of the Mékrou Basin | 14 |
| What do the various stakeholders think of the Mekrou project and its mid-term results? | 16 |
| LET’S DISCOVER ...  | |
| LET’S DISCOVER ...THE WATER MUSEUM : A sanctuary for the development of the water resource | 21 |



Mekrou Project

Water for growth and poverty reduction

Project management is a thrilling thing when despite difficulties you feel that things are progressing and reaching out to results. The project «Water for growth and poverty reduction in the Mekrou transboundary basin» has demonstrated to be a real tool for cross-border integration and cooperation between the three basin countries (Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger) but also throughout the Niger River basin.

The meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee of the Global Coordination Mechanism on 12, 13 and 14 October 2016 in Cotonou made it possible to realize the commitment of the countries and the main actors in the countries for the implementation of this project. This was a high-level meeting with the Secretaries-General of the ministries in charge of water in Burkina and Niger and the various national directors. This meeting, which allowed the different actors to exchange and agree on the main concerns, was also the occasion to establish a roadmap to mark the way for a fruitful and happy end of the project. The remarkable and distinguished presence of the new Chairperson of the African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO), together with the Project Manager for the project for the Strengthening of Institutions of Transboundary Water management Organizations in Africa (SITWA) shows a continental focus on the expected results of the Mékrou Project.

The involvement of the Regional Coordination of Users of Niger basin Natural Resources (CRU / BN), the interest and availability as well as the sustained support of the main sponsor of this project, mainly the Commission of the European Union, are all encouraging elements around the implementation of the project whose results to date are very encouraging.

Concrete results include the signing in December 2015 by the Ministers in charge of Water of the 3 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger), but under the watchful eye of their colleagues from the other 6 States of the NBA, of the Framework Cooperation Agreement for the Promotion of Political Dialogue in the Mekrou Basin. The three countries, if need be, demonstrate their commitment and thus express the high level of expectations of their popula-

tions in relation to the concrete results of the Project.

Numerous studies have been carried out and validated in each country and the data collected are being integrated to serve as a basis for the different scenarios to build the models that will be proposed as decision-making tools. The Global Coordination Mechanism of the Project is functional and gives all the regional dimension to the management of this project whose results are much awaited by all the actors. We have all contributed to raising interest and expectations and together we must contribute to proposing real solutions to satisfy these expectations.

I would like to thank all those involved in the implementation of this project. To this end, allow me to express a special mention to the States which demonstrate every day the total consideration they take of this project in their national agenda. I should also like to acknowledge the praiseworthy and highly appreciated efforts of the Niger Basin Authority (NBA), which has integrated the Mékrou Project into its work program. I would like to thank and welcome the commitment of all those involved in public administration, scientific and technical research institutions and civil society to support people whose well-being is the goal of all our actions.

Our partnership with the Joint Research Center (JRC) of the European Union allows the implementation of the Project offering an opportunity for collaboration and sharing between researchers from the North and their colleagues from the South to propose appropriate tools for decision-making for the integrated development of the Mekrou basin. This project, it should be remembered, is a research project and as such aims to prepare the ground for a good planning of development actions. The appeal of the riparian populations relayed by their representatives and the States for a second phase with field actions will be analysed with the necessary attention. That is why my special thanks go to the EU Commission which is funding the implementation of this project.

This issue of Running Water reports on the results of the 2016 meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Global Coordination Mechanism as well as the



Pr. Abel AFOUDA
Chair GWP-WA

signing ceremony of the Framework Agreement. The document of the Framework Agreement is published in full in a separate document which will accompany this issue.

We wish you a good reading!



GWP Secretariat - West Africa

Ouaga 2000, Av. Charles Bila Kaboré
05 BP 6552 Ouagadougou 05, Burkina Faso
Telephone : +226 25 36 18 28
+226 25 48 31 93
Email secretariat@gwpao.org
Site Web: www.gwpao.org

Managing Editor
Prof. Abel AFOUDA

Executive Director
Dam MOGBANTÉ

Coordination
Sidi COULIBALY

Drafting team
Cornelle AHOUANSO
Sidi COULIBALY

Printer
SYC. : +226 78 78 02 32 - 76 66 70 19



2016 Advisory Committee Meeting Session Mekrou Project Coordination Global Advisory Committee Meeting in Cotonou

The opening ceremony of the 2016 session Meeting of the Regional Advisory Committee of the Mekrou Project Global Coordination Mechanism was held in Cotonou on Wednesday, October 12, 2016 under the patronage of the Minister of Energy, Water and Mines of Benin represented by his Water Resource Technical Advisor, Mr. Safari BOUREIMA.

Taking the floor, the Chairman of Global Water Partnership West Africa (GWP-WA), Pr. AFOUDA Abel pointed out that *«due to climate hazards [water] started to be scarce so that with regards to the increasingly growing demand and given the pressure exerted on it to meet the so diverse legitimate needs of our populations whose numbers are increasing every day, it is our duty to seek better understanding and accordingly propose consensual tools for its proper and efficient management especially in this transboundary context.»*

The representative of the Niger Basin Authority (NBA), Mr. Robert DESSOUASSI, on behalf of Madam, the Executive Secretary excused, stated that *«the Mekrou Project objectives perfectly align with the overall Niger basin development strategy»*. He hoped that *"the project will enable to develop proper ways to manage water resources by providing adequate and appropriate solutions to the*



Groupe picture of participants

impact of climate change, solutions replicable and/or applicable in other sub-basins.»

Manuel FULCHIRON, representative of the Global Water Partnership Organization (GWPO), explained the philosophy that underpinned the establishment of GWP as a stakeholder platform twenty years ago, to help meet countries in the good governance of water resources and then help them achieve the MDGs and SDGs to enhance the livelihoods of populations.

He was followed by the representative of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Union, Mr. Cesar CARMONA-MORENO who noted the special nature of this meeting proceeding the last meeting before the end of the

project scheduled for December 31, 2017.

Mr. Luca Busetto, representative of the European Commission indicated that *«the work carried out so far has not been easy but the determination of the various stakeholders involved in the project implementation helped develop a basis on which we must together keep building a water resource management system that addresses the various sector and environment challenges in view of establishing a sustainable growth and a consequent improvement of living conditions in the Mekrou river basin.»*

Finally, Mr. Safari BOUREIMA, representing the Minister of Energy, Water and Mines of Benin, in his opening address, thanked all the partners of the Mekrou Project and specially the European Commission which is funding it before *«calling out to all organizations involved in the management of this project to keep searching for additional financial and human quality resources, in order to make it a successful and thus impact the rest of the world in similar environments.»*

Approximately seventy persons attended this Advisory Committee meeting of the Mekrou Project Global Coordinating Mechanism.



View of participants of the meeting

Sidi COULIBALY



The Advisory Committee updates on the progress

The Mekrou Project has irreversibly embedded into the landscape of the pilot projects in the Niger River Basin with the first results that are encouraging. To date, they include several studies that have been conducted and validated by the countries, the regional syntheses. Among the main assets that will contribute to the development of the basin, there is the signing of the Cooperation Framework Agreement for the promotion of political dialogue in the basin between the three countries, the baseline report, the identification of development priorities for the Mekrou, survey reports and scientific publications on the Mekrou basin and its impact area the contacting of the main Mekrou basin stakeholders who are learning to collaborate and the scientific and technical collaboration between JRC and national institutes that will grow to a win-win situation.

The 3rd Regional Meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Global Coordination Mechanism of the Project «Water for growth and the poverty reduction in the transboundary Mekrou basin» or the Mekrou Project was held on October 12-14, 2016 in Cotonou, Benin. It convened about seventy attendants from Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger, Congo, Senegal, Sweden, Belgium, and Italy, etc. This high-level meeting was attended by General Secretaries of the ministries of water of Burkina Faso and Niger, national directors of water and agriculture, representatives of ministries of environment, national water research institutes of the three countries, Country Water Partnerships, and



representatives of the regional coordination of the Niger Basin natural resources users.

The main recommendations from the meeting to the Joint Resource Centre (JRC) include:

- Working in collaboration with the scientists from the South on all scientific and technical component items and get all the scientific and technical findings validated by the Advisory Committee before putting them online;
- Drafting reports of scientific studies in French first before translating them into English, and after validation by the project scientists;
- Providing the countries with the results of the findings on the household survey, the atlas developed by the JRC, and the scientific publications;
- Provide a clear roadmap for the implementation of JRC activities,

regarding what is still to be done.

The recommendations to GWP-WA include:

- Submit a request to the EU for a second phase of the project focused on the implementation of the actions identified in the management plan thus developed;
- Align the development and implementation of pilot projects with the planning and regulation frameworks in force;
- Involve in the forthcoming Advisory Committee meetings the border management services of each countries.

GWP-WA and JRC should ensure the involvement of the CWP in scientific/technical meetings, make sure they have a consolidated Annual Work Plan encompassing the activities-budgets-timelines authors of intended scientific/technical components and make sure it is sent to all partners (Advisory Committee member) and urge all to comply with the NBA work plan framework for the coming Mekrou project presentations for NBA sessions. Thus, GWP, JRC and NBA were recommended to connect the Mekrou Project database to the one feeding the NBA Environmental Information System to help improve the existing database.

The meeting recommended that ADA consultancy firm should consider the NBA overview documents to finalize the report, by updating the consolidation/summary report data on development priorities from the country reports.

GWPO was invited to take its responsibility to implement the soonest possible the activities related to the final audit, the final evaluation and the Project Implementation Narrative Report drafting.

Finally, it was recommended that project managers should take steps to ensure the presence of AGRHYMET in future Advisory Committee meetings.



Partial view of participants

Summary by Sidi COULIBALY



Mid-term project assessment

Analytical narrative of the project implementation



Exchange session

Project performance analysis

Project performance analysis criteria and approach

The performance was analyzed based on five criteria and assessed based on evaluation questions.

The analysis focused on:

- ♦ The documentary information provided by the Project Management Unit;
- ♦ The data of the *Aquaknow* sharing platform (technical component ...)
- ♦ Individual interviews with staff of the Project Management Unit and the GWP/WA Executive Secretariat;
- ♦ Interviews with some Project partner institutions in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso CWP, including SP-PAGIRE); and
- ♦ Information taken from collection forms received.

Key findings

1. The relevance and consistency of actions carried out by the Project: *Do the actions carried out and the results achieved meet the project and stakeholders' expectations regarding the project objectives and institutional design, the coordination of activities, the resources provided for the implementation of the activities and outputs (research reports, narrative and audit reports...) of the project?*

- ♦ The objectives and the institutional design of the Project were deemed relevant and consistent with the objectives and water resource development and management strategies namely in the ECOWAS, the NBA and the 3 countries. However, this relevance and this

consistency have been undermined or even downgraded (slow down) by the poor prevalence of the spirit of the Paris Agreements, which was evidenced by stakeholders' high expectations to see structuring investment projects and support measures recorded during the Ouagadougou validation workshop. However, it should be noted that because of this workshop, pilot projects are planned for € 50,000 around CFAF 33,000,000 per country.

- ♦ The resources provided for the implementation of activities (namely the institutional component) were not up to the ambitions of the project (engaging many diverse stakeholders) due to the limited funding package;
- ♦ The coordination of actions was deemed relevant and consistent with the institutional design and the project management mechanism; but it has sometimes been misunderstood by some stakeholders due to financial difficulties and the initiatives taken by the Project Management Unit to address them mainly the lump amount given for demonstration projects in each country;
- ♦ The institutional component studies and regional summaries and Cooperation Framework Agreement were deemed relevant and consistent with the ToR. However, the non-implementation of the Framework Agreement and the quality of the studies somewhat affected by the limited funding packages provided for this purpose have to some extent affected this relevance;
- ♦ The technical component studies mainly took a «preparatory» character for the development of the expected outputs. Publishing them in English on the *Aquaknow* sharing platform in a Francophone environment was deemed irrelevant and not consistent with



the project language (French) impacting the visibility of the project to many stakeholders.

2. Effectiveness of the actions implemented by the project: To what extent have the actions carried out by the Project produced the expected impact in terms of outcomes achieved, realization rate and level of stakeholder satisfaction?

- The adoption in early 2016 of a monitoring and evaluation and operational action-planning manual, which changed the timelines for actions under certain components (see the details in the report);

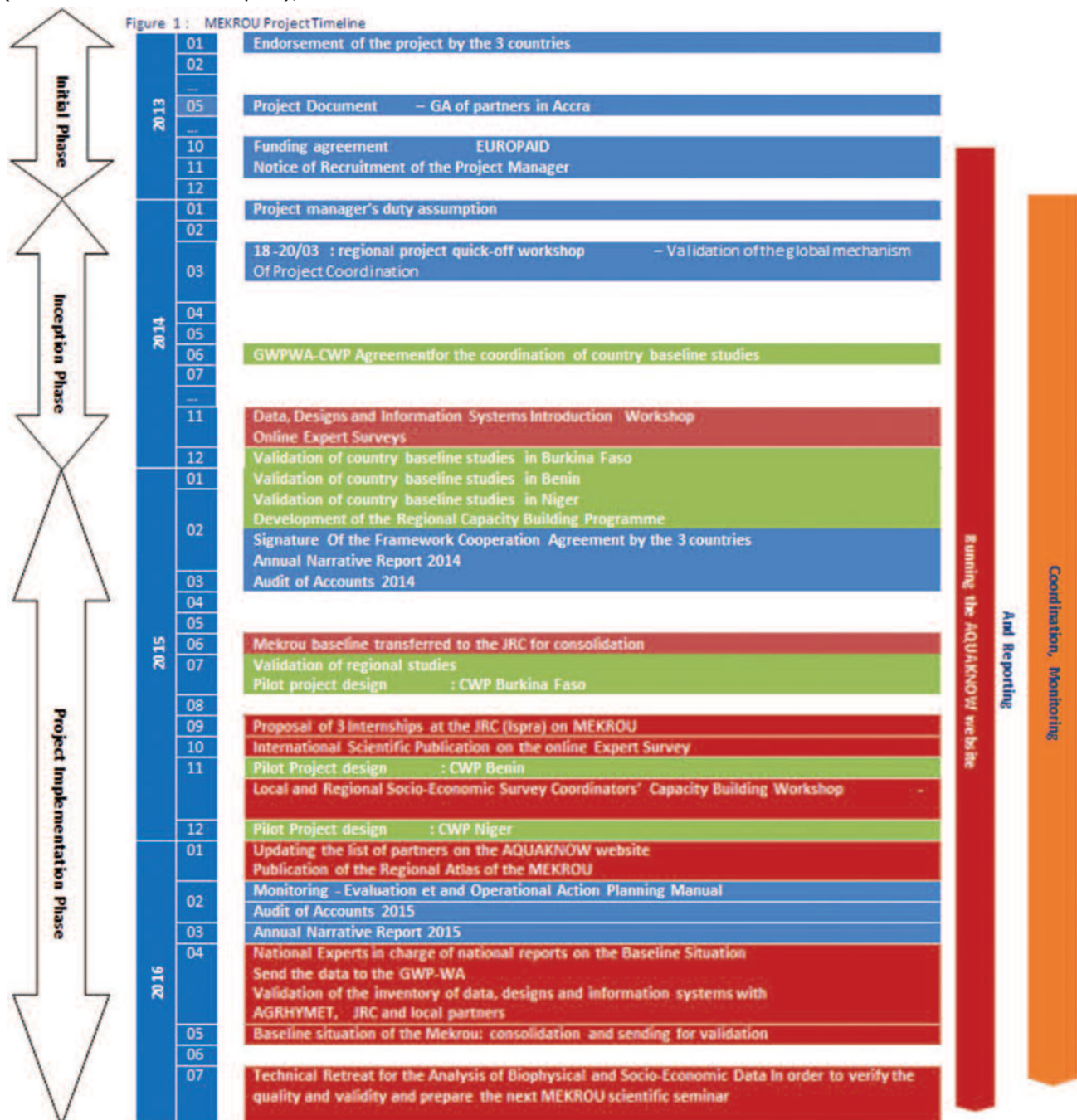
- Consequence: The delays in the preparation phase but also in the project implementation phase were significantly mitigated for the institutional component but remain significant for the technical component.

At the level of the institutional component (led by GWPO, GWP-WA)

- The study completion rates are good and as follows:
 - Component 1.1: defining the cooperation framework :100% except for the capacity-building program document implemented at 90% (non-consolidated final report);
 - Component 2.1: The baseline

framework is developed: 70% to 100% in 2015;

- Component 3: Pilot projects development: Design of pilot projects, 66.66% in 2015;
- Component 4: Coordination of the project implementation
 - Audits 2014 and 2015 conducted at 100%;
 - Monthly and annual reports regularly submitted;
 - Financial and accounting management approved by the audits;
 - Mid-term review conducted in consistency with the programming.
- At the technical component level (by JRC)





Some members of the Committee

In general, the delays encountered mainly in this component raised concerns for many stakeholders. These delays and concerns are partially due to the results of the national baseline studies deemed insufficient by JRC and the non-relevance of communication mechanisms between the latter and the said stakeholders. However, it should be noted that the JRC is confident as for catching up these delays (considering the anticipations done).

In general, the assessments of stakeholders consulted about the effectiveness of actions are deemed satisfactory for the institutional component and worrying for the technical aspects.

3. The efficiency of actions carried out by the project: To what extent do the resources provided to the project match with the expected outcomes in terms of equipment, human and financial resources deployed, the utilization of such resources, the costs and quality of services provided, the level of achievement of results (financial realization rate against the realization rate of the actions carried out)?

- ♦ One of the project weaknesses is the inadequate financial amounts and the objectives, and the ambitions behind stakeholder engagement.
- ♦ It is not obvious that the FCFA 32 million financial package for the pilot projects can have significant transboundary impacts since «studies», «work», «implementation monitoring and control» must be taken into account;
- ♦ However, it should be noted that despite these weaknesses, the management of the allocated funding (initiatives, restriction of certain expenses ...) enabled to reach high rates of achievement in the studies

NB: This efficiency remains somewhat

undermined by the quality of the studies that could have been better if the financial packages were more substantial and enabled to not only hire specialists with significant timelines but also conduct support missions (contact taking, information and discussion mainly with the final project beneficiaries) in the field.

4. Partial or predictable effects/ impacts of the actions performed by the project: To what extent have the actions directly or indirectly, intentionally or not generated positive or negative, primary and secondary effects in terms of capacity building of final beneficiaries, operationalization of IWRM, harmonization of instruments to support IWRM dialogue between policy makers, managers, and scientists.

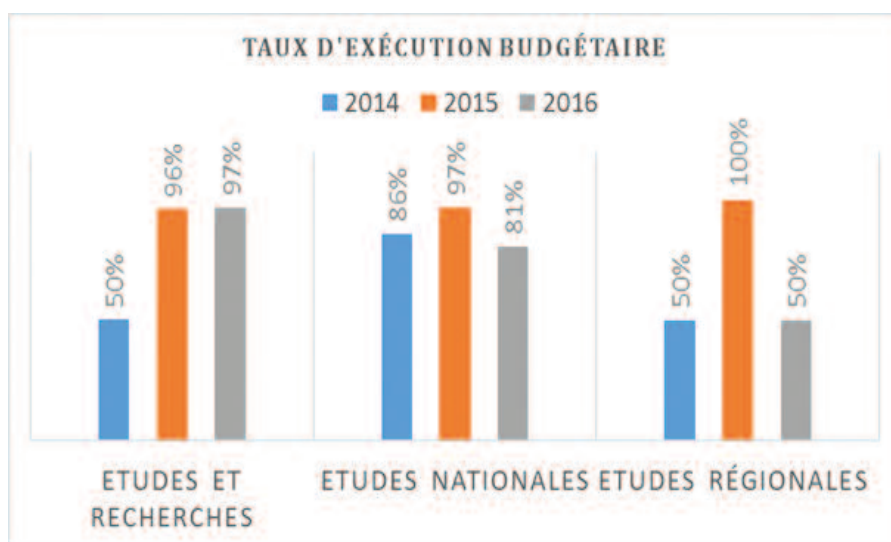
► Main Causes

- ♦ Poor capacity of States to support the operations of public technical services;
- ♦ Poor level of computerization of technical services, administrative and technical documents, and information management;
- ♦ Organizations poorly equipped for the monitoring of water resources;
- ♦ Poor financial capacity of most Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and research institutions;
- ♦ Skills poorly (partially or not) transferred to the decentralized communities
- ♦ Poor prevalence of the spirit of the Paris agreements (see Ouagadougou validation workshop)

► Secondary causes

- ♦ Poor financial package compared to the large number of stakeholders involved in the Project
- ♦ Poor support measures for the collection of scientific and technical data

► Effects and/or impacts related to the poor financial resources





- ♦ Reluctance or refusal of certain institutions to positively respond to the various project demands;
- ♦ Resentment of some institutional stakeholders (public administrations ...) to just attend orientation/monitoring/ study validation meetings without being central to the project implementation;
- ♦ Poor legibility and visibility of the project at the level of end beneficiaries, namely the people living in the Mekrou Basin;

► **Effects and/or impacts due to the themes developed and the forecasted actions**

- ♦ Positive Impacts foreseen at the level of certain stakeholders in terms of:
 - Cooperation, dialogue and of water governance;
 - Development of decision-support tools;
 - Excitement for the suitable implementation of this type of project in other transboundary tributaries of the Niger River;
 - Sharing of experience and knowledge between stakeholders;
 - Better knowledge of the realities of the transboundary Mekrou basin;
 - Contribution to the national dialogue in the development process of the IWRM Plan in Niger ...
 - on the other side, there is no significant impact in capacity building and IWRM operationalization.

► **Effects and/or impacts due to delays in the implementation of the actions**

- ♦ The observed delays will not have a major impact on the project timeline if efforts are made to:
 - Trigger the implementation of the framework cooperation agreement;
 - Implement pilot projects;

5. The sustainability of the actions implemented by the project: «To what extent the actions performed can generate or are likely to generate activities and/or organization likely to continue and expand, after the end of the intervention» institutionally? Technically? Financially?



The sustainability cannot be seen at this stage of the project implementation. However, the signing of the framework cooperation agreement between the three Mekrou Basin countries is a good experience and a strong policy and legal action in the management of the Niger River transboundary tributaries and its successful implementation would be a factor of sustainability.

« **"We are satisfy with the institutional aspects and expecting the development of decision making tools" ».**



Manuel Fuchiron of GWPO, speaking



Findings and Recommendations of the consultant

The observations are made from the analysis of the Project implementation performance.

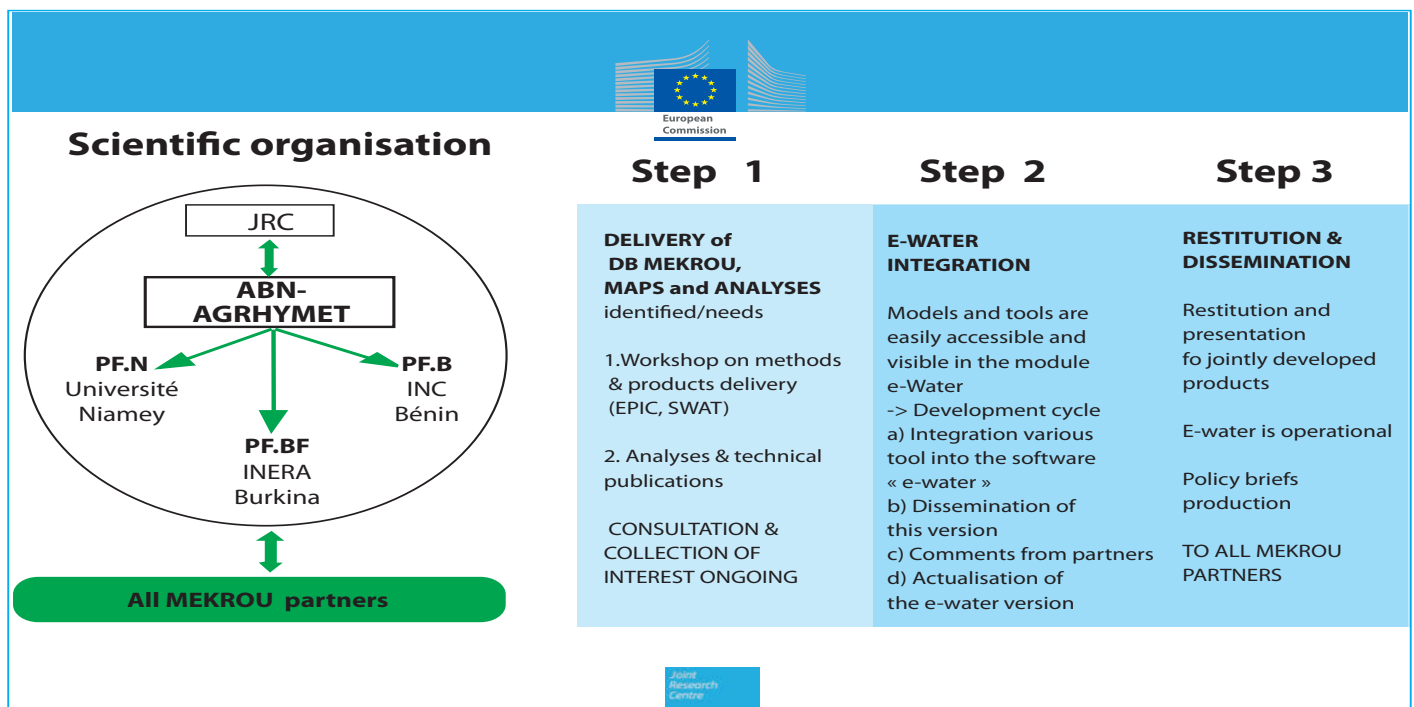
The recommendations are answers to the difficulties and constraints identified on the one hand, and to expectations of project stakeholders, and questions for solutions for which the three states signed a framework cooperation agreement, on the other hand.

| OBSERVATIONS | RECOMMENDATIONS | LEAD STAKEHOLDERS |
|---|---|---|
| Cross-border issues not sufficiently highlighted in the studies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidate the summaries of national studies to develop an inventory of water resources of the basin and their management emphasizing notably the trans-boundary issues and problems to be resolve to foster better cooperation and governance of water across this tributary of the Niger river | GWP/WA, Project Management Unit, NBA (Validation through the normal project procedures) |
| Discrepancy between stakeholder expectations and the initial spirit of the project; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize a workshop convening key country stakeholders to agree on the selection of one or two types of transboundary pilot development projects affecting the three countries; Assess the need for additional financing; Agree with the relevant governments on the implementation arrangements for such projects. Conduct a lobbying to the water ministers in the 3 countries and to the EU for additional substantial financing to the benefit of the implementation of the Framework Cooperation Agreement and pilot project development. | GWP, GWP/WA, JRC, NBA, NBA Focal Organizations, representatives of ministerial cabinets of the 3 countries. |
| Misunderstanding in the management of partnership agreements between CWP and GWP/WA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convene an information and discussion meeting on the realities of the budgets allocated to studies and research; Agree on a secure allocation considering the availability of funds while increasing financial support to the CWP coordination actions. | CWP GWP/WA |
| Lack of financial support or other means to the government organizations and to the NBA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek possible ways and means to channel resources towards capacity building of country structures and partners (training / tools, etc.). | CWP GWP /AO NBA and its focal points |
| Information platform not used enough by governments and the end beneficiaries Poor project visibility to the final beneficiaries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use best-fit and accessible information tools (hard copies, CD, email, information meetings ...) for the dissemination of outputs and other information about the project. | JRC and GWP / WA |



| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Need of a light coordination team within the Executive Secretariat of the NBA for a closer monitoring with the Project Management Unit within GWP / WA on the one hand, and for the sharing of information with the other six NBA member States on the other hand</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Develop a document on the basic arguments for negotiations; □ Negotiate the feasibility and financing with the European Commission. | <p>NBA GWPO, GWP / WA</p> |
| <p>Slow start in the implementation of the Cooperation Framework Agreement</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Organize the establishment of the Mekrou basin bodies □ Identify and agree on the arrangements for the implementation and operationalization of the Advisory Committee and the Technical Committee of Experts (mode of operation, methods of decision making, appointment ...) □ Establish these bodies; □ Help the Republic of Niger and the Republic of Benin to establish a local water resources management body covering their national portions of the Mekrou (like the local Mekrou water committee in Burkina Faso but to be adapted); □ Develop a priority action plan to be implemented; □ Assess the cost of the implementation of all actions; □ Develop a roadmap for the implementation of the Framework Agreement □ Conduct fundraising , □ Establish the bodies, □ Support measures, □ Implement the actions. | <p>NBA, CWP, GWP / WA, Project Management Unit for the support</p> <p>Pilot cooperation framework management organization</p> |

► Remaining Steps of the Scientific component





Pilot Projects



Supporting the ecological restoration of the Mekrou headwaters (PAREN)

In Benin, the pilot project is entitled «**Supporting the ecological restoration of the Mekrou headwaters (PAREN)**». It will be implemented in the village of Yakabissi, Kouandé municipality, in the Atacora department with an estimated cost of CFA Forty-nine million seven hundred and forty-four thousand three hundred CFA francs (CFAF49,744,300).

The objective of this project is to contribute to the ecological restoration of the headwaters of the Mekrou River basin through improved knowledge of the resource and the promotion of local climate change mitigation initiatives. The project will benefit the population of the districts of Birni and Orou Kayo and all users of the resources of the Mekrou basin headwaters.

As implementing partner, the CWP identified the commune of Kouandé, the forestry inspection (RCEPN-Kouandé), the Departmental Directorate of Energy and Water (DDEE), the Local Water Partnership (LWP) in Atacora-Donga, the CWP Benin, and the CENAGREF of ACU Kouandé.

Many sustainability factors are noted throughout the project activities including **Financial, Environmental, Institutional, Social and Technological** factors.

Actions dealing with reforestation, awareness, promotion of improved fireboxes will help restore the ecosystem of the headwaters and ensure the **Environmental Sustainability**. The participatory nature of the PAREN approach engaging multiple existing stakeholders' organizations/ groups/ and functional associations in the implementation of the project, provides some **institutional sustainability** to the project.

Upgrading locally used three-stone fireplaces into economic fireboxes on the one hand; and enhancing the women's health against risks of inhaling smoke on the other hand, contributes to **Social sustainability**.

The use of local materials by beneficiaries reduces the cost of construction of economic fireboxes and this contributes to **financial sustainability**.

This project has transboundary effects since developing the head of the source to preserve the resource from the degradation that is occurring, will, in the medium and long term, ensure an optimum quantity and quality downstream.



Head source of the Mékrou basin in Benin



In Niger, the «**Project for the rehabilitation of water points in the Niger W Park Biosphere Reserve**».

Following the gradual drying climate underway since the 70s, the wildlife populations of the Regional W Park (PRW) are currently limited to approximately 1 to 2 animals/km² by the ecological carrying capacity to useful wildlife areas towards the end of the dry season. These areas cover about 78.5 km² within a 5-km radius around each permanent waterhole, the aggregate usable areas of which being approximately 12% of the PRW.

The observations confirm that the animals are concentrated in well-defined areas and that the trails between concentration areas rarely provide the vision of animals. The scarcity of the animals in these areas is mainly due to the lack of water during the dry season. Based



Developing transboundary transhumance trails in the Gourma province

In Burkina, the title pilot project is «**Developing transboundary transhumance trails in Gourma province**» and will cover areas including Gabondi (*Matiacoali* Commune); Tassiéri- piega (with a rest area) Datougou - Kouyargou -Boadéni- Nassougou-Bambambou- Kodjini (in the *Tapoa* province on the corridor 2 of ECOWAS in the Tapoa) over 125km.

Among other findings, the depopulation of Burkina livestock moving to coastal countries (Togo, Ghana, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire...) does not make their socio-economic and cultural integration easy. The occupation of grazing areas, transhumance trails and corridor are identified and insecure.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to reducing conflicts related to sharing natural resources and free transhumance in the development of a transboundary transhumance corridor, rest areas and other related facilities over 125 km identified between Gabondi (*Matiacoali* Commune) and Nassougou.

The implementing partners include the CWP-BF, the High Commission of the Gourma province, the Decentralized Technical Services in charge of Agriculture, Animal Resources, Water, Environment, and Security, the civil Society Organizations (Association), the technical and financial partners working in the pastoral facility and infrastructure, and the population.

The project should lead to a decree recognizing the grazing trail and other infrastructure by local authorities, the establishment and training of management committees in addition to actions of identification and planned implementation of pastoral resource restoration and rational use.

The rural pathways thus developed will facilitate the transit of animals between the states sharing the Park W. They will thus participate in the protection of wildlife and biodiversity in general, but also in the prevention of conflicts between populations of different nationalities. And especially between breeders and farmers.



Project for the rehabilitation of water points in the Niger W Park Biosphere Reserve



on these considerations, it was suggested to prioritize initial interventions along preferential tourist trails. The priority interventions on tourist routes

respond to the logic of biodiversity conservation and enhancement, and are the first phase of development of the relevant blocks.

These developments will restore wetlands and promote the redeployment of wildlife populations, whose numbers are currently very low.

The aggregate useful wildlife areas for the fauna –including with those of natural water points and water points already developed- at the end of proposed developments will increase the useful wildlife area from 12% to 40% of the PRW. If burns are properly monitored and managed, there is no doubt that the wildlife populations will reach at least an acceptable level.

The regional nature of this pilot project is explained by the cross-border character of Park W and its economic and tourist value for all riparian populations. This action will be a modest contribution to the efforts of countries and other organizations for the preservation of biodiversity, and demonstrates to those who would doubt the merits of the project for all the resources of the zone.



Signing the Framework Agreement

Promoting the political dialogue for the joint management of the natural resources of the Mékrou Basin

The ministers in charge of water of Benin, Burkina and Niger have signed on 22 December 2015 in Cotonou, Benin the framework agreement of cooperation for the promotion of political dialogue and sustainable development of the Mékrou basin, an affluent of the Niger River shared by the three countries.

This action was possible with the coordination of the project "water for growth and poverty reduction in the transboundary Mekrou River Basin" implemented by Global Water Partnership West Africa (GWP-WA), the Joint Research Center (JRC) of the European Union in collaboration with the Niger Absin Authority (NBA), services and institutions of the public and civil society in the three countries.

What is the nature of the Agreement?

The Cooperation Framework Agreement, as envisioned, is political in nature, meant for promoting political dialogue for the sustainable management of natural resources of the Mékrou Transboundary sub-basin. In this respect, it is similar in nature to the Paris Declaration or the Shared Vision, which are also political documents but applicable to the entire Niger Basin. The Agreement has no normative character; the normative framework is already essentially made of the revised Convention on the creation of the NBA of 1987 and the Niger Basin Water Charter.

What is the Agreement aiming at?



High table at the official ceremony of the NBA Ministerial meeting in Cotonou

The general objective of this Cooperation Framework Agreement is to promote political dialogue and sustainable development of the three states in order to facilitate good governance in the planning and the integrated and sustainable management of the natural resources of the Mekrou Transboundary sub-basin, taking into account socio-economic needs, food security, poverty reduction through the preservation, the conservation of ecosystems and the improvement of the living conditions of local communities.

The Cooperation Framework Agreement aims specifically to:

- Create the conditions of a joint, bal-

anced and sustainable management of water resources;

- Create the conditions for an inclusive dialogue around the water and environment issues in the Transboundary sub-basin of the Mekrou at all levels of management;

- Create the conditions of an economic growth that is socially adapted and respectful to the environment at all levels of management;

- Promote a short, mid and long term planning process;

- Undertake concrete development actions for the improvement of the living conditions of local communities;

- Take into account climate change in water resources management;

- Take into account specific concerns related to gender, health, governance, transparency, human rights and prevention of conflicts.

Domains and basic principles of the Agreement

This Cooperation Framework Agreement applies to all initiatives undertaken by all the stakeholders in the Transboundary sub-basin of the Mekrou in the management of shared water resources and the environment.



Mrs. Christine GBEDJI VYAO, Minister of water of Benin



Mr. Atahirou KARBO, Secretary General of the Ministry of Water of Niger

The agreement is based on the fundamental principles of good environmental governance, complementarity, cooperation, equity, catchment basin management, Gender, information and participation, partnership, prevention, drawer-pays and polluter-pays, costs and benefits sharing, precautionary, accountability, responsibility, solidarity, subsidiarity and transparency.

It clearly states that “*States shall prefer cooperation, consultation and negotiation for all issues of common interests for the sustainable management of the Transboundary sub-basin of the Mekrou*”.

Who are the main stakeholders?

The agreement identifies the stakeholders to be the regional integration or cooperation organizations, the Niger Basin Authority, The States,

Local authorities, Basin or sub-basin water management structures within each state, Water users, the private sector, Civil society and community based-organizations, Technical and financial partners.

For the use of resources and protection of environment, article 17 states that “the states in consultation with the other stakeholders shall develop and implement a water resources management strategy for green growth in the context of the green economy in the Transboundary sub-basin of the Mekrou”.

What responsibilities for whom?

The states agree to “*cooperate closely for the prevention, control and reduction of pollution in the Transboundary sub-Basin of the Mekrou*”. And to do so “*They shall in particular take the necessary steps to*

inform as soon as possible, the other sub-basin States of possible accidental pollution and/or any changes in the physico-chemical or biological characteristics of the Transboundary sub-basin of the Mekrou, or surface or groundwater of its catchment basin located in their national territory, which have already occurred, are occurring or may occur, as a result of natural or human induced-phenomena”.

the Framework Agreement calls on states to adopt a Development and Water Management Master Plan (SDAGE) as well as an investment plan of the Mekrou Transboundary sub-basin.

States agree to build the capacity of stakeholders and support civil society organizations.

How will it be implemented?

The Framework Agreement establishes the cooperation bodies for the sustainable management of the Transboundary sub-Basin of the Mékrou. The choice of these bodies and their methods of operation are driven by the concern of maintaining synergy with the NBA, but also to rationalize their operation. This is to take advantage of existing bodies of the NBA to limit the costs of their operation and thus, ensure their institutional and financial sustainability.

An Advisory Committee will be established to guide, supervise and coordinate the implementation of the Cooperation Framework Agreement.



Mr. Ali TRAORE, at the time Secretary General of the Ministry of Water of Burkina Faso

Sidi COULIBALY



What do the various stakeholders think of the Mekrou project and its mid-term results?

Interviews conducted by Sidi COULIBALY

Alassoun SORI,

Secretary General of the Ministry of Water and Sanitation of Burkina Faso

«The Framework Agreement is a commitment document of the countries»



«The Project started in 2014; we are now halfway through its implementation and there are many achievements. It is true that it is a poverty reduction project focusing on understanding the water resources, agriculture, and food security in the study area. We have already validated many studies conducted under this project. This consisted to know the development challenges of the area, prioritize the development efforts in a first phase and then we shall start the development of the facilities because that is what matters to

the beneficiary populations. In Burkina Faso, the project area in the Eastern Region is one of the poorest in the country; hence the populations are expecting a lot from this project.

For the Framework Agreement, whose signature is a big progress, my understanding is that this is a document of commitment of the three countries in relation to the development of this Niger River Sub-Basin. This indicates that whatever action the project begins will be supported by the countries.»

Atahirou KARBO IBRAHIM,

Secretary General of the Ministry of Water and Sanitation of the Republic of Niger

«The project will help understand what is happening in the basin»

«The Mekrou Project is an important project for the three implementing countries. It is a research project and most of the studies were conducted. The review and validation of these documents will lead to the development of an action plan to be used for negotiations with the financial partners of the project namely the European Union to fight against poverty in the basin as stated by the project title through the implementation of actions. This will enable to initiate development activities to improve the livelihoods of the people living in the basin.

I know the Project Coordinator well; he strived to engage stakeholders and we want a strong collaboration with research institutes in the scientific component managed by JRC. The project will enable to understand what is happening in the basin. Many data were already collected and will be analyzed and interpreted for benchmarking with satellite data. But as a most impor-

tant part -like in any IWRM project- we will set up local instruments for managing the resource including farmers, pastoralists, fishermen, women, etc. since the basin is shared between several stakeholders, and communes across three countries. All these stakeholders will share with each other for the joint and efficient management of the resources. Since the Mekrou is in the Niger basin, all these actions will be under the leadership of the Niger Basin Authority.

The signing of the Framework Agreement is one of the most significant results we have achieved to date. The countries agreed to set up something in common, the mechanism of which is provided for under the Framework Agreement, in consistency with the NBA. To avoid having too many institutions whose funding can be a problem, I think we will have a committee that will meet in the framework of the NBA statutory meetings to capitalize at the same



time the results as part of the Authority's action-plan. The three countries will always convene to discuss the actions to be carried out in the basin.»



Dr. Boguena Toupta, Executive Secretary of the NBA,

«An important additional tool to strengthen and/or boost cross-border cooperation for the NBA»

The signing of the Framework Agreement was made possible thanks to the coordination of the Niger Basin Authority (NBA) that is committed to support and guide the implementation. Running Water met the Executive Secretary of the NBA, Dr. Boguena Toupta.

Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger have signed the Framework Cooperation Agreement on 21st December, 2015 for the promotion of political dialogue in the Mekrou basin. What are your feelings after this signature?

I feel joy and a reward for a job well done. The Executive Secretariat is delighted and takes this opportunity to thank GWP/WA and its technical and financial partners for the formalization of this agreement that should promote the coordinated implementation of this project welcomed by the NBA.

To what extent will the signing of such an agreement contribute to achieving the objectives of the NBA and enhance governance of water resources in the Niger Basin in general?

The effective implementation of this Agreement will contribute to improving the livelihoods of the basin inhabitants through sustainable management of water resources and associat-

ed ecosystems in the Niger River basin. It will thus help strengthen the existing cooperation across the three Member States involved in the project, as well as with the six (6) other NBA states with the principle of sharing of information and experiences and regarding the benefits set forth by the Water Charter and its annexes including Annex 3 dealing with the Instruction of planned measures in States drained by the Niger River and its tributaries including the Mekrou river.

Furthermore, the Framework Agreement contributes to establishing a permanent dialogue between the three countries of the Mekrou basin and the establishment of the Mekrou sub-basin commission.

Don't you feel that you have just signed another document that will have no effect on the transboundary cooperation and more specifically in the water resource sector, knowing that water does not know the geographical /

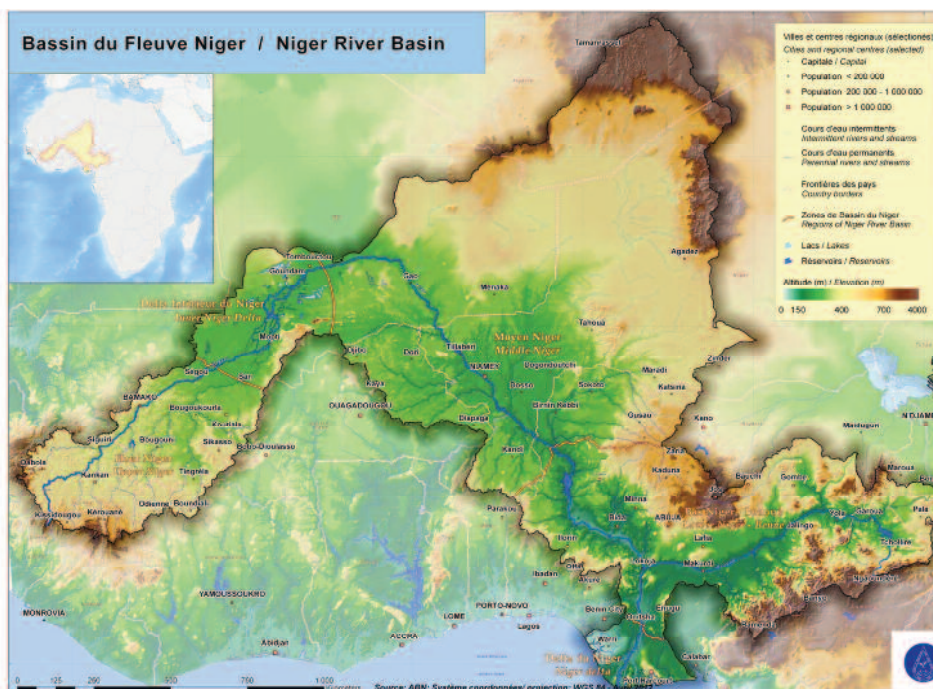


administrative boundaries of our respective countries?

This Agreement is signed and remains for the NBA, an important complementary tool to strengthen and/or boost transboundary cooperation as desired by the founding fathers of the Niger Basin Authority in November 1980. The Executive Secretariat has been trying to translate this desire into reality through the planning and implementation of transboundary or regional projects and programs between two or three countries.

How do you plan to help implement it during and after the Mekrou project?

NBA's mandate is to "promote cooperation between member countries and ensure integrated development in the Niger basin...", and with its strong involvement in the implementation of this project, obviously remains the best-fit organization to sustain the achievements of this agreement by ensuring its implementation during and after the project, and continuing to improve the living conditions of the Mekrou basin populations by providing it with transboundary facilities that will impact the use water resources.





Adamou Boureima

WOROU WARA,

Director General of the Water Resources in Benin



«The signing of the Framework Cooperation Agreement provides an enabling framework for the implementation of IWRM»

«The results can be ranked on two lines: the institutional line and the scientific and technical line. Institutionally, the countries that share the basin -Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger- are further reinforced in their organization in the basin. Technically, models are being developed and considering that in Africa the basins usually suffer due to hesitation on the models to be used, the data to be collected, it is happiness that this Niger sub-basin can provide the baseline for this study. We fairly appreciate these progress points.

The signing of the Framework Cooperation Agreement is a major progress providing an enabling environment for the implementation of IWRM. This agreement seeks to set the ground for synergetic implementation of actions among the various countries in the basin.

We deem the defining of the framework of actions of the application for each type of stakeholders in the basin and the prior introduction of the pilot projects already as a start of application of this Framework Agreement.»

jets pilotes présentés sont déjà pour nous un début d'application de cet Accord-cadre ».

GUINDO Yacouba, Vice-President of CRU/BN, chair of CNU/BF

«We are going to support the implementation of the Framework Agreement with our presence»

What are, to you, the main outcomes of Mekrou Project, to date?

The main outcomes we have today are technical. This is a new research project and hopefully with this year left to us, we can have concrete actions in the field. There are discussions about a second phase and we hope that the people's expectations and needs are considered to achieve things on the field.

For four years, people have been hearing about the Mekrou Project and the farmers, gardeners, pastoralists and fishermen have been expecting concrete actions in the field but the scientists and technicians have been the ones working so far.

Improving the overall framework is a key thing and we got in December 2015 the signing



of the cooperation agreement for the promotion of political dialogue in the transboundary Mekrou basin between the three countries. What does the signing of this document mean to you?

⇒ 19

Luca Busetto, European Commission

«A pilot project whose results could be extended throughout and beyond the basin»



It is true that the project has experienced some implementation challenges at the beginning but there a serious commitment of various stakeholders in the implementation. This is a pilot project which requires us to explore different possibilities in line with its ambitions that lead us to collaboratively engage over 200 partners. This is not an easy management task either for the project nor for all those involved in the action. The minor delays that were identified last year have been caught up and the issue of validation of the various reports will be addressed with the convening of the Regional Advisory Committee meeting.

As of now, we cannot talk about final outcomes, since we are at the critical implementation phase of the project. I

am optimistic about the future, given the large involvement of all stakeholders. The European Commission pays great attention to this type of project because it is a pilot one whose findings could be used to expand actions in the Mekrou basin and extend activities to other basins.



⇒ 18

It's a good thing for us rural stakeholders who consider this as a progress. This indicates to us that the policy makers take into account who we are and what we are doing.

Our contribution to the implementation of this document is primarily physical. We are and will be there to support the implementation and remind partners of our existence with the specific needs of the populations .

I wish to thank all the stakeholders, not only in the Mekrou basin but in the Niger basin for the support they provide to the population. I would like to also remind that climate hazards and change has increased poverty on the field. I therefore appeal to rescue and save this population that is fighting every day to get by.

Vice President of CRU/BN, chair of
National Coordination
of Burkina Faso



Cesar Carmona-Moreno,
the EU's Joint Research Centre

«Today we have a more accurate understanding of the needs of the people living in the basin. Understanding the environment, dietary habits, the quality and quantity of water in the basin, enable us to develop decision-support tools to make a planning responsive to the concrete needs of the populations of the basin.

KORA ZAKI Mariame,

President of Benin National User Association (NUA)

«I appeal to the people to support the project partners»

Can a representative of the users like you talk about concrete results of the project?

Yes, but I hesitate a bit. Based on the project title dealing with the fight against poverty in the transboundary Mekrou basin, we expected to see, for example, trails laid out to enable a farmer to transport their crops from the field /hamlet to the market place. We wished to see the people in this area enjoy safe water, empowered to undertake income-generating activities in their area. Now, we have been told that one cannot build a house without starting with the foundation, which is the first phase of the project -the project basement- that people are currently doing. Framework documents have been developed, studies have been conducted, and the consultants have gone to the field to interview people to identify priorities in each commune. Our hope is therefore based on a second phase of this project to help the populations find a way out of poverty.

It is true that we already have one pilot project per country. If I take the Benin portion of the basin, the pilot project takes the Mekrou headwa-



ters into account in the upstream. The populations of the downstream communes will feel abandoned without realizing that the work being done upstream will benefit all waterways and the basin, by extension. So, these are important concerns to be considered and which require awareness and diversification of interventions in the basin, if needed. I therefore appeal to the populations to get ready to assist the partners coming to support them.

«The Mekrou project is a gem with strong prospects that must be treated well»

Encouragingly in this project, stakeholders are very motivated to take part in the various phases of the project, especially in the concrete actions that will impact the lives of people locally. As it is also a pilot project, the stakeholders are interested in having findings whose application will give a regional impetus to this project. This is a key asset of this Mekrou Project.

This is a pilot project, the tools and methodologies of which could be replicated in other Niger sub basins or in the West African region, and by extension, to Africa. This is why this project a gem with strong prospects to take care of.

The signing of the Framework Agreement is a major asset that will be presented at the end of this project as a major outcome. This demonstrates the interest of the three signatory countries to this transboundary basin.

For the European Commission and the Joint Research Centre, the Mekrou project is a great opportunity to share with the different African institutions, to work together to better understand the basin biophysical phenomena to meet the concrete needs of populations in the Mekrou basin.»



Tanor Meïssa DIENG, SITWA Project Manager

«Promoting cooperation for a better use of the resource»

The management of this project is exemplary in the way it addresses the issue of the water resource in the Mekrou basin and that comes out clearly in all the project documents.

It perfectly fits within the framework of the activities of the project for Strengthening the Institutions of Transboundary Water management bodies in Africa (SITWA) since it is intended to organize all Mekrou basin water management stakeholders. This is the mission of the SITWA project and enables to work to promote a better use of the resource by the countries sharing these water resources. As part of the Mekrou basin for example, the three relevant countries Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger are engaged in a good prospect for the better management and sharing of the costs and benefits related to the basin resource.

The Mekrou project deals with the institutional aspects and the African Network of Basin Organizations is ready to support all basin organizations including the NBA to enhance both the institutional framework but the legal and regulatory ones. That is how we can aspire to the peaceful management of the resource between the countries. There are indeed some countries in Africa having challenges related to sharing some rivers but there are also many examples where countries are doing well together through an institutional framework and a suitable legislative framework enabling the resource management body to be as responsible and independ-



ent as possible, and enable all States to benefit from the resource.

The ten-year plan of the ANBO also provides for capacity building of stakeholders as similarly provided for in the Mekrou draft action-plan. The information system component is also key for understanding and ensuring efficient use of the resources. The Mekrou project includes the development of a resource database in the basin, which is an action line included in the ANBO Ten Year (2015-2025) Plan.

ENAW Judith, CICOS Secretary General and ANBO Chair

«Transforming waterways into development tool»



I'm happy and proud of our NBA member hosting this project in one of its sub-basins. I realized that the project affects many people. The Member States involved in the project area are very engaged in all project phases including the identification of pilot projects, the implementation, the monitoring and this gives me confidence that this project will be successful. I also noted the commitment and high interest of donor who closely follow the work, the civil society stakeholders including a lady representative of the people of the basin. The project brings together both project stakeholders and beneficiaries.

ANBO works for the populations, the States that have water areas to be developed to promote the integration of peoples, the economic life, social cohesion and a project like this falls in line in the ambitions of our network. Our goal is to transform the various waterways -rivers, lakes, ponds- into genuine development toll for the integration of people and the cooperation for peace. Looking at the project document and listening to all stakeholders, this is what comes out, and this is in line with the objectives of ANBO and fits well with the continental policy of the use of water resources in Africa.

Let's discover ...

The Water Museum :

A sanctuary for the development of the water resource

Introduction

The Water Museum, as it is named, is a museum, i.e. an "an institution devoted to the procurement, care, study, and display of objects of lasting interest or value; also : a place where objects are exhibited¹". In our case the objects have a direct link with the water resource. The Museum was set up in may 2010 to fill in a need to revisit the habits of research, access, uses of water from several cultures in West Africa and elsewhere.

Conscious of the social and cultural importance of water, resource persons working in the field of drinking water, hygiene and sanitation have developed and set up the concept of the Museum of Water as a space for the discovery of water-related objects, values, virtues and symbols.

The Water Museum is in the Nioko I neighborhood, at the northern exit of the city of Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso). Despite its relatively young age, the Museum of Water is ambitioning to be a framework of learning, transmission of knowledge, societal values on the habits of populations through their relations to water.



A woman drawing water from the well inside the museum

An ambition commensurate with the importance of the resource

The ambition of the initiators of the Museum of Water is to enhance water by making visitors discover the socio-cultural dimension of the water resource which is a scarce commodity during a part of the year for several populations of the Sahel. The museum wants to contribute to the valorisation and protection of water resources in desert countries such as Burkina Faso and many other African countries.

As a framework for training, information, education and awareness-raising for all generations, the Water Museum is an innovative and unique concept in the world. Its goal is to achieve a collective commitment to the protection, preservation and respect of water, the precious capital of humanity, which is undoubtedly the source of all life, «Water is life».

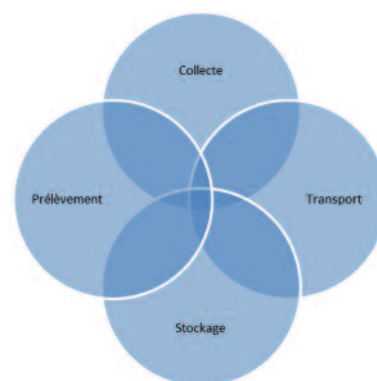
Better understanding water in a Museum

In its current phase, the Water Museum gathers more than three



thousand (3,000) objects, materials and various supports having some link with the water resource. These objects were collected from populations in several countries of the world considering the four (4) stages of the water supply chain.

Water, from source to consumption



Water collection stage

Here, we find tools related to the research techniques of water (underground and surface) of some populations (wells, boreholes, rivers, ponds ...), means of access including tools for digging, etc. up to the tools of access to this water. These are the

lures (made of calabash, inner tube of vehicles, recycled cans of oil among others), calabashes, pumps (manual, pedestrian, wind, electric...).

Water Transportation Stage

Populations, per their residential areas, have or have set up a multitude of tools to transport water from its source to their homes, fields, in a word, to the places where the resource is used. These tools include buckets (plastic, metal, wood), metal and plastic basins, jars, canaries, water rickshaws, leather bottles ...

Water Storage Stage

After transportation, water must be put in tools for storage. Thus, most populations in West Africa have directly taken from the natural environment the tools at their disposal or by adapting them. Containers such as drinking bottles, earthenware water jugs, drinking water points, filter cans, jars and canaries, carafes, bottles (glass, plastic) are recorded. Some tools can be used both for transportation and storage depending on the size of the tool.

Stage of water sampling and consumption (drinking)

At this level are kept goblets, ladles, glasses, calabashes ... In the field, some populations use leaves of some trees.

In addition to these objects, the Museum makes of the immaterial one of the substrates through the valorisation of audio-visual supports (CD, Films, Posters, cartoons, ...).

Subdivisions and Cultural Valorisation / Water in Cultures

The Museum of Water is subdivided into several showcases.



The Water Showcase and History of Water Courses and Points

The Museum has listed dozens of stories and sayings in several cultures on water. This showcase allows visitors to familiarize themselves with the fabulous legendary stories of rivers. A mapping of the important sacred rivers will soon be available at the museum.

The Water Showcase and Geography of Water Courses

There is much to learn about the routes of rivers and other important water ways and lakes. This showcase also highlights the negative influences of Man on these rivers (anarchic occupation of the banks, disappearance of fish species because of Humans ...) and identifies the names of some large cities linked to the Water resources around the world.

The Showcase Water and Water Professions

All stakeholders in the water sector are represented including drilling workshops, mineral water companies, water fountains and vendors, ice-making industries, peoples and ethnic groups, water masters and owners as the Bozo and Somonon tribes (ethnic groups in Mali, Burkina Faso and found in several West African countries), the Ebrié (Côte d'Ivoire), the Kotocolis (Togo), hydrologists, plumbers, National water companies ...

The Showcase Water and Literature

This showcase presents stories, poems, rites and customs, anecdotes, proverbs, maxims and plays on the importance of water.

The Showcase Water and Hygiene / Sanitation

In its approach, the Water Museum has gathered a set of daily tools related to hygiene and sanitation. Here you can find everything that relates to traditional latrines, different types of toilets, showers, kettles, traditional soaps, incense and detergents, ashes, toothpicks, brooms ...

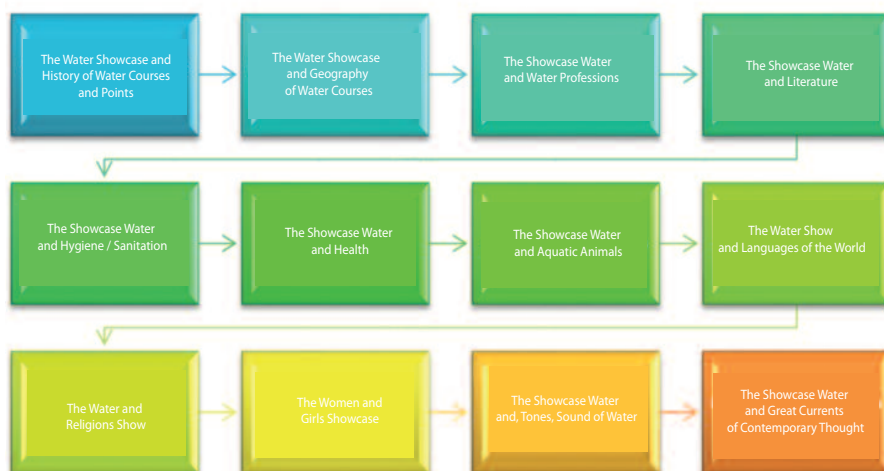
The Showcase Water and Health

In the developing countries, there are many water-borne diseases. For this reason, the Water Museum has collected and / or produced several educational materials (boxes, posters, roll-ups) on Information, Education and Communication (IEC) on water and its importance for Health and the local knowledge and the knowledge of traditional healers based on water.

The Showcase Water and Aquatic Animals

Water is a natural environment for several animal species. In this showcase are personalized aquatic animals (toads, alligators, fish, hippopotamus ...). The satirical critique of socio-political facts and events is the form chosen by the museum to challenge society on some of its behaviours (non-respect of the resource, pollution, waste, refusal to share water ...).

The 12 main Shows of the Water Museum



The WASH Chain Tools collected by The Museum



The Water Show and Languages of the World

Water being life, it goes without saying that language, the vehicle of communication between humans contain many references to the source of life. The Water Museum has identified and established sociolinguistics in all the languages of the world of the expression «Water is life».

The Water and Religions Show

Valorising water in the main religions (Catholic, Muslim, traditional ...) and making illustrations / painting on canvases to present to the museum, helps to understand the values and functions of Water in religions.

The Women and Girls Showcase

This presents the utensils and containers that women use for domestic needs: baths (pears, pebbles, sponges ...) and kitchen (bowls, pots,

sieves, filters ...). It is a true area of valorisation of the couple (Women and Water).

The Showcase Water and, Tones, Sound of Water

It is the sounds, tones and sounds of water that are the language and the vehicle of water that are collected and recorded to better understand their message, for, as an author says «**water, if we know how to hear it, if one learns its language, will open all knowledge of beings and things.**»² « The sounds and sound effects of the rains, torrents, showers, runoff, boiling water ... carry messages and speeches that the visitor will discover in the Museum of Water. An auditorium of the Museum under construction will allow all listeners to listen to all the decrypted messages of the water as if to say that water is speaking to us.

The Showcase Water and Great Currents of Contemporary Thought

The Water Museum is also a forum for exchanges on the major problems of water. It deals with:

- transboundary water management and potential conflicts;
- the consequences of water scarcity in the world;
- Water and Democracy;
- Water and Gender;
- Free water in the world: mirage or reality;
- will water cause the third world war?
- statistical data on water.



Accessibility of the Water Museum

The Water Museum is open to all those who value water, hence the sign at the entrance «No one enters this museum unless S/he drinks water». It is a universe for discovery and education for teachers, pupils, students and researchers while at the same time inspiring artists and musicians, the Museum of Water is also a center of attraction and tourist discoveries. Political and administrative authorities as well as diplomats will find socio-cultural motivations for greater engagement in the fight against poverty. Civil society actors, NGOs and other associations, visiting the museum, will discover wonders to inspire them in their struggles and advocacy for water. Religious and customary actors will appreciate the important role of water in the pacification and mediation of conflicts in religions and customs.

The Water Museum is also a space for exchanges and enrichment of knowledge about water for people in the media and communication. It aims to raise awareness on the urgent need to safeguard and preserve the water resource for all visitors.

Bringing out the Water Museum

The Water Museum carries out several outreach and training activities that are held on-demand outside the Museum's premises.

These activities include the Itinerant Museum Exhibitions consisting of relocating / deporting the Museum with some of its pieces in a school, hence the concept of «School Museum». Concept advocated and popularized by UNESCO with the Ministries of Education of the countries of the world. It is about helping students



Well at the Museum with various tools for drawing water

and their supervisors to be more in contact with the tangible and intangible heritage in its content, methodology and pedagogy.

The Water Museum in collaboration with the Water Project in the High Comoé-PEHC- and the NGOs (OXFAM / One Drop) organized the itinerant museum exhibitions in the primary and secondary schools in the West of Burkina in the communes of Banfora, Moussodougou, Bérégadougou, Peni and Toussiana. These traveling museum exhibitions touched fifty (50) primary schools and ten (10) secondary schools.

Contents and Impacts of Itinerant Museum Exhibitions in Primary and Secondary Schools

The itinerant museum exhibitions in primary and secondary schools deals with the following themes:

- Knowledge and definition of water, the word water in local languages;
- Traditional or endogenous techniques of investigation of water with exercise of demonstration of the rod of the dower, the pendulum ...
- A commented exhibition of utensils, containers, objects for collection, transportation, storage and taking of water;
- A commented exhibition on hygiene and sanitation technologies;
- A commentary on the figures of the gaps on the access of populations to drinking water and sanitation in Burkina Faso;
- Water and Gender;
- The place and functions of water in literature, tales, proverbs, myths,

stories, legends ... through practical exercises in the «Water Workbook of the School»;

- Reminding some important dates related to water and the environment, such as 22 March (World Water Day), 5 June (World Environment Day), 15 October (World Hand Washing Day), etc. ;
- The commitment of of pupils and their supervisors for the preservation of water and the promotion of hygiene and sanitation ...;
- The elaboration of the Roadmaps.

Achievements and lessons learned from itinerant museum exhibitions

Many achievements have been capitalized and good lessons learned during the itinerant museum exhibitions of which the most relevant to remember are:

- Student enthusiasm to make hand washing at school systematic;
- The cleaning of the school space is included in the students' schedules;
- Hygiene and Sanitation Clubs are established in primary schools and function well;
- The content of the teachers' courses considers the pedagogical content of the traveling museum exhibitions.
- Students commemorate some important dates such as World Handwashing Day and World Water Day.

Supporting the Water Museum concept

The Water Museum is still in full edification and needs the support and

Enhancing the visibility of the Water Museum

GWP-WA supported the creation of 25 written symbolic which are very emblematic for the Water Museum completing the already available symbols. Visitors the Water Museum have a good appreciation of these new written symbolic.

The GWP support also aimed to enable the Museum to have an operational website offering a worldwide presence on the Internet.

The design and printing of 1,500 leaflets allow the Museum to offer them to visitors, tourists and diplomats. Many pupils and students visiting the Water Museum have benefited from these leaflets.

The support of the GWP allowed the silkscreen printing on thirty (30) T-Shirt for the Water Museum. During the traveling museum exhibitions, the Water Museum workers dress with these T-shirts reinforcing the visibility of the institution.

contribution of everyone. The museum needs:

- Individual visits, in professional groups, in family ...
- Intellectual contributions (innovative and revolutionary ideas);
- Material contributions (provision of objects, tools, visual and audio tools ...);
- Financial contributions for drilling on the site, construction of huts, purchase of computer equipment, audio-visual media for the equipment of the auditorium ...

GWP West Africa believes in this concept and its importance in promoting good governance of water resources. Therefore, it has chosen to accompany the Water Museum since some years in its activities of communication and visibility. This report is part of this support which must be continued in other forms so that the ultimate objectives of the Museum that fits well with those of the GWP network and the ECOWAS Regional Water Resources Policy are reached.

Contact :

Alassane SAMOURA,

Director of the Water Museum, Sociologist and Anthropologist

Email: musee_eau@yahoo.fr

09 BP 983 Ouagadougou 09

Tel + (00226) 70.23.98.37 and 25 46 07 40



A visitor showing two written signs