

Challenges for ILBM/Integrated Lake Basins Management implementation in West Africa

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Context

Discussions on lake systems, IWRM, ILBM, IILBM and wetland ecosystems were held and conducted considering the multiple crisis recorded in West Africa sub-region during the last decades, such as:

- ❑ Climate change and extreme events (floods and drought);
- ❑ Population growth;
- ❑ Cities expansion and sustainable provision of drinking water and sanitation infrastructures;
- ❑ Ecosystems degradation and low income of population;
- ❑ Pollution, ecosystems services deterioration, etc.....

These evolving conditions require research and scientific interventions while considering societal realities and activities in order to come up with options for sustainable management solutions.

Objectives

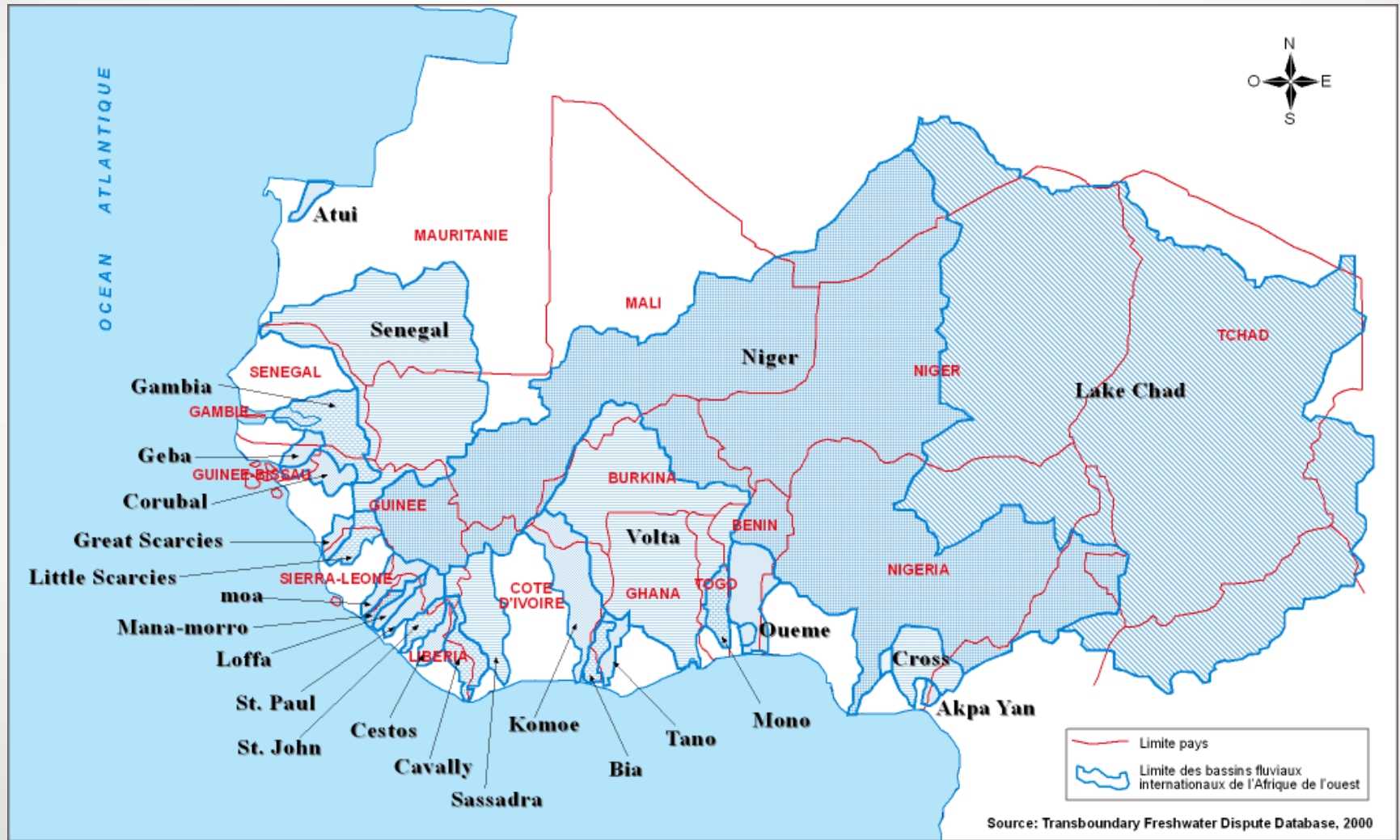
To develop knowledge and initiate research action especially focused on the area of the preservation and development of integrated lake basins management and other aquatic ecosystems.

The specific objectives are specifically to after we:

- describe the situation, the characteristics and the dynamics of lake systems in West Africa;
- To among others, conduct the analysis of policies concerning water resources management and the compliance with laws and regulations;
- To develop areas of cooperation between experts to adopt a common approach to common research in the area of lakes and watersheds and wetland ecosystems.

West Africa's International River and Lake Basins

West Africa region with a large number of rivers and lake basins systems



Key problems as identified during West Africa ILBM workshops

Multiple crisis have been recorded during the last decades in the sub-region

- Extreme events (floods or drought) observed in West African region for decades has strongly impacted the hydrological functioning of lake basins and water resources within West African countries.
- This situation has been exacerbated by high pressure generated by economic activities of populations such as, agriculture, fishing with the use of illegal fishing gear, wastewater discharges and other forms of pollution that altered characteristics and biogeochemical processes of water resources.


Phenomenon of the Akadjas

Overfishing



Challenges

Mostly focused on:

- Drinking water supply to large coastal cities populations, including addressing the Issue of Water Security and sanitation in Africa, one of the main themes of Dakar 2021 next WWF9 ;
 - Food self-sufficiency of lakeside villages and cities and the improvement of living conditions of populations living around lake basins.
 - An ecosystem approach in the context of improving environmental status and governance of lake basins, as largely discussed during various workshops in Dakar and in Abidjan.
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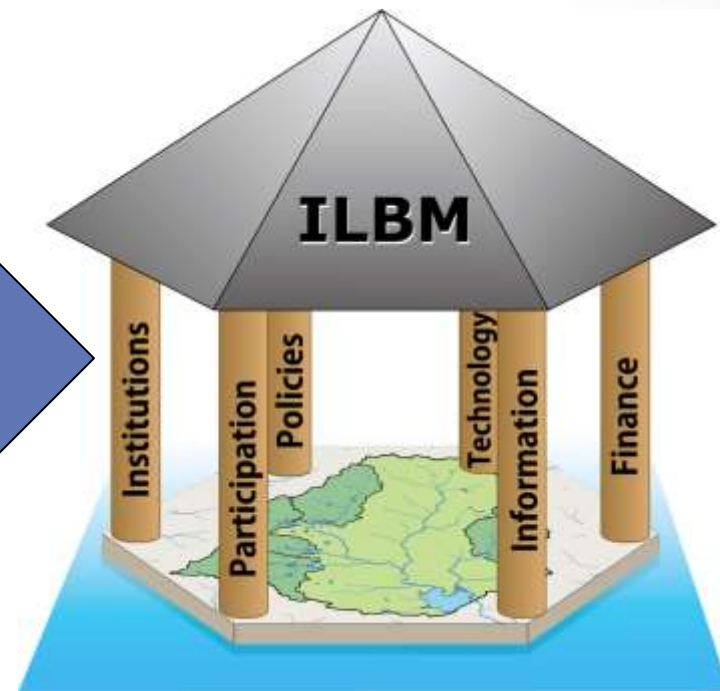
Challenges

- Importance of integrated lake basins management systems that takes into account the interface between the different pillars of ILBM process, as discussed in Dakar and in Abidjan while,
 - Reducing lakes basins and ecosystems stresses;
 - Restoring and maintaining lakes ecosystems services;
 - Providing sustainable ecosystems services in lake systems in equilibrium with their environments.
- What are those pillars?

ILBM Strategy programme using the 7 Pillars

- The Pillars (Seven, if we include cooperation)

Policies
Institutions
Public participation
Technologies
Knowledge & Information
Finance
Cooperation



Major Outcomes from West Africa workshops

- On the operational aspects for adaptation of production systems to climate change, ILBM and IWRM, as adopted by countries as well as management of forests and pastoral; planning and management of fisheries as well as support of local development initiatives; e.g. developments of value chains.

Major Outcomes from West Africa workshops

What are the opportunities for Ress. Mob. for action?

- Identify relevant funding windows Opp. for investments and map them out; e.g. African Dev. Bank;
- Build on Regional experiences such as on TB Waters, through multinational/Multilateral programmes; e.g. Examples of Lake Chad & NBA – Niger Basin Authority. *All this has been discussed in in Abidjan and contacts have been made with the AfDB;*

What next?

For the restoration and preservation of lake basins conditions and ecosystems in West Africa, it was agreed to move into the following directions:

- Improve existing overall management framework by considering the **full and widest range of ecosystem services** directly/indirectly related to human livelihoods, health and well-being , including provision of safe drinking water, energy and using lakes as buffers for flooding – indeed, a *Nexus Approach* ;
- Provide **due respect to legal and institutional framework** that govern lake basins and water ecosystems;
- Promote **training and capacity building on ILBM** as well as generating **scientific knowledge to underpin the integrated management of lakes** and the interactions between lakes and surrounding watersheds.
- These points are considered to be critical for the **sustainable management and development of lake basins systems in Africa in general**, West Africa in particular in the overall context of Climate Change.

Overall Water Security and Sanitation table of WWF9, as of Jan 2020

Table on WATER SECURITY AND SANITATION

A. Implement the Right to Water and Sanitation and provide access to safe water and sanitation in emergency situations
(6.1, 6.2, 1.4, 11.1)

B. Improve water quality and waste management
(6.3 11.6 12.4, 12.5)

C. Reduce water-related illness and deaths
(3.9, 3.3, 3.2)

D. Protect and restore ecosystems and forests, including coastal and marine impacts, and combat desertification
(6.6 14.1, 14.2, 15.1, 15.3)

E. Halt the loss of aquatic biodiversity and invasive species in water ecosystems
(15.5 15.8, 15.9)

F. Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change and natural disasters
(13.1, 11.5, 1.5, 11.B, 13.3)

9th World Water Forum Framework for Action

(with related SDG targets)

Water Security and Sanitation

- A. Implement the Right to Water and Sanitation and provide access to safe water and sanitation in emergency situations (6.1, 6.2, 1.4, 11.1)
- B. Improve water quality and waste management (6.3, 11.6, 12.4, 12.5)
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- D. Protect and restore ecosystems and forests, including coastal and marine impacts, and combat desertification (6.6, 14.1, 14.2, 15.1, 15.3)
- E. Halt the loss of aquatic biodiversity and invasive species in water ecosystems (15.5, 15.8, 15.9)
- F. Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change and natural disasters (13.1, 11.5, 1.5, 11.B, 13.3)

Thank you