



**ICA Water Platform Meeting
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**DEVELOPMENT OF
LARGE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS
IN THE ECOWAS REGION
CHALLENGES & PERSPECTIVES**

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. Overview of transboundary water resource management in West Africa
2. Primary challenges in the development of large water infrastructure projects in the ECOWAS region
3. ECOWAS perspectives on promotion and management of water infrastructure in West Africa.



1. Overview

Transboundary Water Resource Management in West Africa

West Africa is a region filled with transboundary river basins.

Covering less than 1/4 of the African continent, West Africa alone contains 25 of the 60 transboundary river basins in Africa.

With the exception of Cape Verde, each West African country shares at least one river with one of its neighbors.

The issue of transboundary water resource management is at the heart of the regional process of integrated water resource management (IWRM) in which all governments and river basin organizations of the region have been engaged since 1998, under ECOWAS.



1. Overview

Transboundary Water Resource Management in West Africa (cont.)

This regional process has led to:

- ✓ adoption of [IWRM Regional Action Plan](#) - December 2000,
- ✓ establishment of [IWRM Permanent Framework for Coordination and Monitoring](#) (PFCM) in West Africa - December 2001, and
- ✓ adoption of [Water Resource Policy for West Africa](#) - December 2008.

Regional policy focuses on three strategic actions:

- ✓ promote investments in the water sector
- ✓ reform water governance
- ✓ promote cooperation and regional integration in water sector.



2. Challenges in development of large water infrastructure projects in the ECOWAS region

As part of the establishment of West African Water Resource Policy, the **ECOWAS Water Resources Coordination Centre** led regional consultation efforts in the development of large water infrastructure projects in the ECOWAS region (July 2009 – July 2011).

Regional consultation primarily included governments, river organizations and civil society organizations.



2. Challenges in development of large water infrastructure projects in the ECOWAS region (cont.)

Overall objective of regional cooperation efforts:

« to contribute to the harmonious development of the Member States and of regional integration, by establishing a dialogue on water sector infrastructure ».



2. Challenges in development of large water infrastructure projects in the ECOWAS region (cont.)

Major challenges and needs resulting from this regional consultations and dialogue:

a) Affirmation of the major role of river organizations in the development and valorization of transboundary projects, by reinforcing their institutional, technical and financial capacities;



2. Challenges in development of large water infrastructure projects in the ECOWAS region (cont.)

- Integration of the affected populations as actors, partners and project beneficiaries, through their effective participation in all stages of the decision-making process, including:
 - ✓ project development,
 - ✓ fair and advance compensation for damages caused by project development, and
 - ✓ benefit sharing (agriculture, electricity, potable water, pastures, fisheries, etc.);



2. Challenges in development of large water infrastructure projects in the ECOWAS region (cont.)

- Assessment and optimization of profitability for large hydraulic projects in West Africa, via sound engineering design and planning, and economically viable financing.

This includes the scaling up of multipurpose projects (combination of energy, agriculture, fish farming, etc.), consideration of issues linked to climate change, and the establishment of measures to encourage private sector involvement in project financing and operation.

2. Challenges in development of large water infrastructure projects in the ECOWAS region (cont.)



d) Capitalization and knowledge sharing, through free and easy access to information that can contribute to the design of new projects and help promote regional capacities in the development of water infrastructure projects;

e) Adoption of a regional framework for conducting social and environmental evaluations, by setting minimum regional standards for supervising social and environmental assessments, and establishing systematic monitoring for effective implementation of all associated projects.



3. Promotion & management of water infrastructure in ECOWAS. Outlook for West Africa

2012 agenda for ECOWAS Water Resources Coordination Centre includes:

- i. Production of a best practice guide for development of sustainable hydraulic infrastructure in West Africa.
- ii. Establishment of a directive framework for sustainable hydraulic infrastructure development in West Africa.
- iii. Production of a White Paper on priority infrastructure projects to submit to ECOWAS for the mobilization of financing.



Thank You