



# International Commission of the Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin « CICOS »

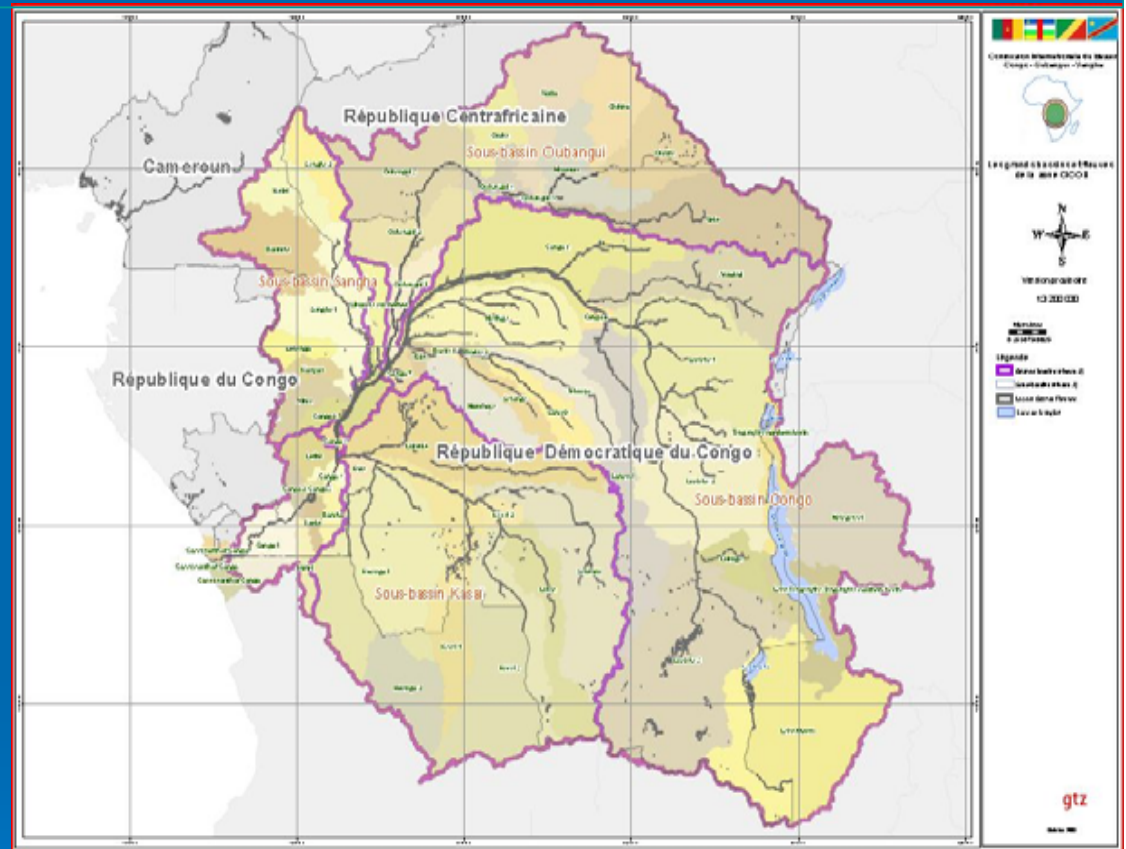
5th World Water Forum - Italian Side Event  
"the Po valley compares itself  
with big international basins"

## CONGO RIVER BASIN: challenges and current initiatives

*Benjamin NDALA  
General Secretary*

# Situation of the Congo River basin

- 1/3 of the basin in the northern hemisphere, 2/3 in the southern
- Area  
3 700 000 km<sup>2</sup>
- 9 countries
- 25 000 km of waterways



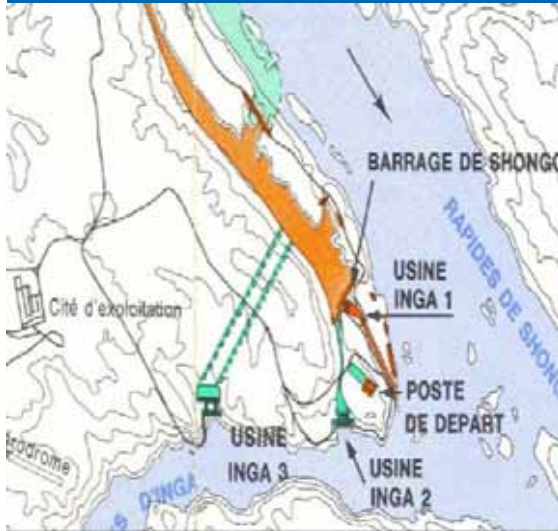
1st basin in Africa  
and 2nd in the world

# CICOS legal framework

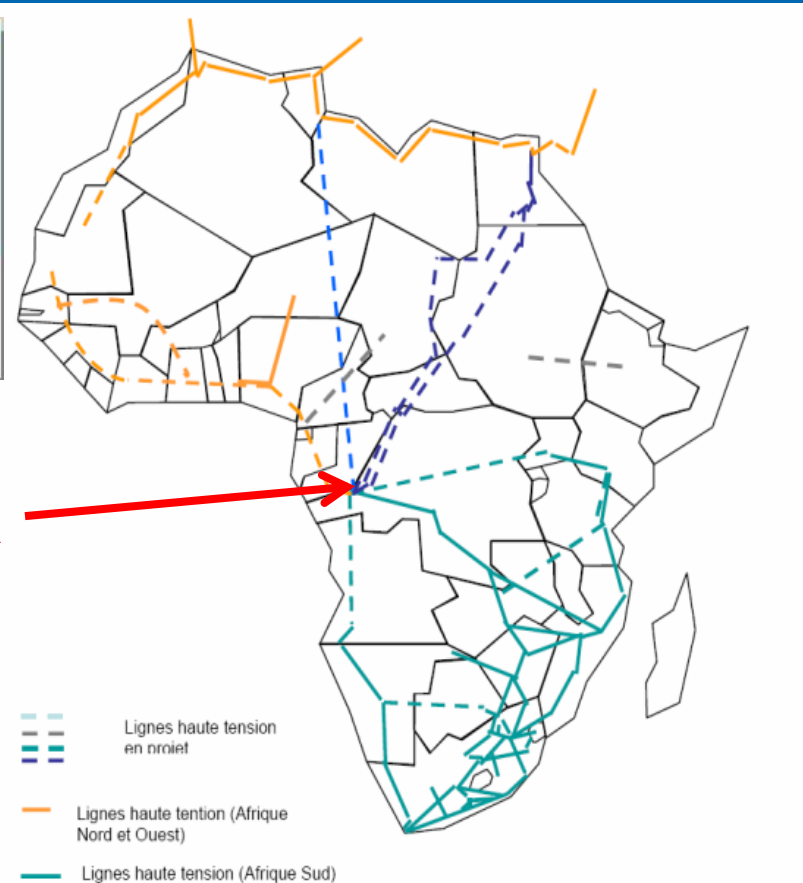
- The agreement establishing a Uniform framework for the river system and creating CICOS was signed on 6 November 1999 by the 4 Heads of State of **Cameroon, Central Africa, Congo and Democratic Republic of Congo** (Angola is now observer)
- An Addendum to the agreement extending the mandate of CICOS to **IWRM** was signed on 22 February 2007

# Major issue in the Congo river basin: Inga dam

Biggest hydropower potential in the world:  
**44 000 MW** - 225 km downstream Kinshasa  
Installed capacity: 351 MW + 1424 MW



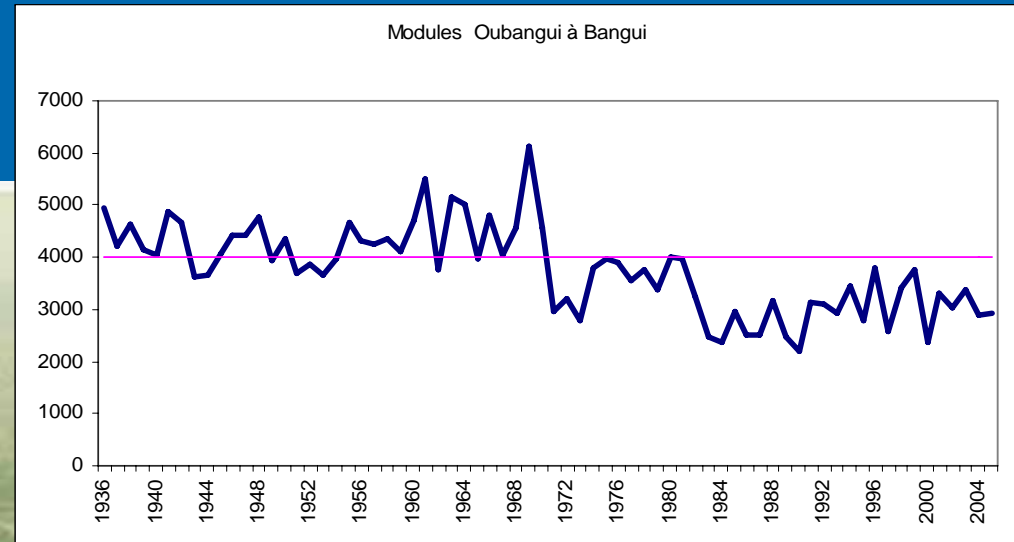
Inga



# PROBLEMATIC and PROJECTS

- Water transport promotion (GTZ, World Bank)
- Monitoring of water resources (Congo HYCOS, WMO)
- Strategic planification (AWF)
- Management of halieutic resources (FAO)
- Water infrastructures (hydropower...)

# Oubangui low water problems



The basin faces severe low-water, notably for its tributaries situated in the northern hemisphere, such as the Oubangui River

# Oubangui low water problems (continuation)

- Consequence: interruption of navigation on Oubangui river
  - 4 days per year from 1935 to 1971
  - 40 days per year from 1972 to 1982
  - 107 days per year from 1983 to 1989
  - **More than 200 days** per year since 2002
- Project of **transfer of Oubangui waters to Lake Chad**: environmental and social impacts must be seriously studied



# African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development Program

- African Union / European Union; CEMAC / CI COS
- Central Africa region Thema: **Management of Water Resources**
- Low waters alert system and water cycle modelling
- Training sessions, sensitisation of stakeholders and decision-makers



# Infrastructures simulation

- Agreement Addendum: “the projects likely to have significant impacts on shared waters, (...) must be object of the commission opinion and/or of a states consultation before their authorisation”
- Construction by CI COS of **decision making support tools** (prospective scenarios simulation)



Thank you for your attention

[WWW.CICOS.INFO](http://WWW.CICOS.INFO)