

## 4th WORLD WATER FORUM

**Session FT218: *Transboundary water management and regional integration in Africa***  
**March 18, 11.00 – 13.00**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The overall objective of the session is to share concrete African experiences in order to promote dialogue and co-operation in the management of transboundary waters. Cases should illustrate that cooperation on transboundary waters is an opportunity to implement IWRM policies and moreover, may also lead to regional integration and sustainable socio-economic growth.

### **CONVENERS**

The session is convened by the African Network of Basin Organizations- ANBO, on behalf of AMCOW.

Co- conveners include:

- Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- Global Water Partnership /Africa
- Centre for Environment & Development for the Arab Region & Europe (CEDARE)
- NEPAD Secretariat
- The Sahara and Sahel Observatory
- Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)
- UN WATER AFRICA

### **OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS**

The objective is to Share concrete ongoing experiences on management of transboundary water basins in Africa through cases ranging from the eldest and most advanced experience of OMVS to newer but very dynamic processes of the Nile Basin Initiative, Niger Basin Authority or KOBWA.

The Five sub-regions are presented, to illustrate that cooperation on transboundary waters is nowadays widely spread in Africa, that it works and that the region has something to share with the world. Meaning that awareness has been raised among riparian states to implement IWRM for an improved management of water resources in Africa and that the basin is recognized as the most appropriate level for that purpose.

The session should also demonstrate the constraints and impediments to implementation of transboundary management programs e.g. limited capacity of implementing institutions, lack of financial resources and need for support by cooperating partners, the need for legal frameworks and harmonized policies. The session should show how dialogue and cooperation in management of transboundary water basins for improved and integrated water resources management may also lead to regional integration, sustainable socio-economic growth and regional peace and security.

At a moment when initiatives towards the foundation or strengthening of reliable and efficient social and economic institutions in Africa (and the World) are multiplying, transboundary basin organizations represent a domain of cooperation adapted to economic development and poverty alleviation. The selected cases prove that water resources management at the basin level can work in Africa, and that it is possible to realise reliable socio-economic entities, based on the joint and cooperative management of transboundary basin.

Cooperation allows States sharing the same basin to jointly undertake investments needed for the realisation of infrastructures to meet the essential basic services supplies to reduce poverty (drinking water, health, energy...) and for which costs would be too high for each State to bear alone.

A compilation of local actions (provided by African basin organizations and collected by ANBO) will be published as an output of the session.

#### LOCAL ACTIONS TO BE PRESENTED

ID number	TITLE	PRESENTER
LA1582	OMVS : Water for a sustainable and solidarity based development	Mr Tamsir NDIAYE, Chief, OMVS Environment Observatory <a href="mailto:tamsir.ndiaye@omvs.org">tamsir.ndiaye@omvs.org</a>
LA0351	Role of river basin authorities in Economic development and Poverty alleviation	Mr Patrick KAHANGIRE, Excecutive Director, Nile Basin Initiative
LA1322	Institutional Roles in the management of the Komati River Basin	Mr Enoch DLAMINI, Manager, KOBWA <a href="mailto:enockobwa@mweb.co.za">enockobwa@mweb.co.za</a>
LA0640	Niger Basin Authority: 1 basin, 9 countries, 1 vision	Mr Robert DESSOUASSI, Coordinator, Niger Basin Observatory <a href="mailto:dessouassi@abn.ne">dessouassi@abn.ne</a>

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE CASES:

See annex

#### PROGRAMME OF THE SESSION

ACTIVITY	DURATION
Introduction by the chair	5 mn
Presentation of 4 Case Studies	40mn
Synthesis on the Status of transboundary water management in Africa	10 mn
Panel	20 mn
Discussion	35 mn
Conclusion-recommendations	10 mn

#### CHAIRPERSON FOR THE SESSION

Hon. Bujelwa Sonjica, South African Minister of Water

**Co chair:** Mohamed Salem MERZOUG, Senegal River Development Organization (OMVS), High Commissioner

#### PANELISTS

- Pr Albert WRIGHT , Co-chair Task Force on WS, UNDP
- Mrs Madeleine DE GRANDMAISON, Chairperson, International Network of basin organizations – INBO
- Marie Elise GBEDO, Women Network for development in Africa
- Raymond JOST, International Secretariat of Water

## **Annex: Description of selected cases**

### **A OMVS : Water for sustainable and solidarity based development.**

In 1972, the Organisation pour la Mise en Valeur du Fleuve Senegal (OMVS) was established by three of the riparian states of Mali, Mauritania and Senegal. Their common vision is based on valuable concepts such as dialogue, solidarity, equity for the sake of economic development and peace.

An integrated management plan for the river basin was prepared and partially implemented. These 33 years of cooperation have resulted in key achievements, making OMVS one of the most advanced experiences in transboundary water resources management in Africa.

The key achievements include: the construction of 2 dams and hydropower plant, the implementation of Environment Management Projects and the creation of the Observatory of the Environment, the adoption of the Senegal River Chart of Water, the Integration of the 4<sup>th</sup> riparian country, the Republic of Guinea, within OMVS.

The Organization's efficiency derives from the solidity of its Institutions and the availability of permanent consultation and dialogue frameworks, efficient decision-making instruments in relation to political or operational aspects, whatever the level of decision considered.

OMVS is implementing a mid to long term programme, with clearly defined steps for at least the 25 forthcoming years. The main commitments and targets are the following: To strengthen the infrastructure programme (mainly hydropower dams and the Navigation Project); to develop OMVS capacity in river basin management (by developing Water and Environment management tools and strengthening the participatory process); to achieve sustainable development at the local level, mainly by promoting community-based development throughout the basin.

The real originality of OMVS' experience lies in a detailed and sound implementation of solidarity, equity and consultations principles, on which member States' cooperation is grounded. As a result strategic and innovative solutions like the elaboration of the Chart of Water (organising the allocation of the resource) or more recently the endorsement of the International Navigation Code on the Senegal River were implemented.

OMVS' experience proves that water resources management at the basin level can work in Africa, and that it is possible to realise reliable socio-economic entities, based on the joint and cooperative management of transboundary basins.

## **B      NBI: Role of the River Basin Authorities in Economic Development and Poverty Alleviation**

The Nile is one of the world's great rivers. For millennia, this unique waterway has nourished varied livelihoods and a rich diversity of cultures. Although it is the world's longest river, its specific discharge is relatively small. The Nile River is shared by ten countries namely: Burundi, DR of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. Despite the extraordinary natural endowments of the Nile basin, its people face considerable challenges such as poverty, instability, rapid population growth, and environmental degradation. Although the Nile was supposed to be source of cooperation, it was for long source of conflict among its riparian countries. Therefore, there was a need for new mechanism to bring the countries together to agree on the water resources development of the Nile basin for the benefit of all its countries.

In 1999, after 30 years of cooperation between various subgroups in the Nile basin, the Council of Ministers of the Water Affairs in the Nile basin countries (Nile-COM) establish the Nile Basin Initiative to create a regional partnership to facilitate the common pursuit of sustainable development and management of Nile water. **The objective of this local action** is to share with the others how the Nile basin countries have moved from conflict to cooperation based on win-win scenario and how the new cooperative spirit in the basin lead to economic development and poverty reduction in the basin.

**The innovation** in the local action is mainly in developing Nile Basin Strategic Action Program which focuses on two complementary programs namely: Shared Vision Program (SVP) and Subsidiary action program (SAP). The purpose of the SVP is to create the enabling environment for cooperative management and development in the Nile basin through a limited but effective set of basin-wide activities and projects. The SVP project portfolio has seven thematic projects which address the major water-related sectors and crosscutting themes deemed critical by the Nile Basin countries to ensure integrated and comprehensive approach for water resources management and development. All these projects are now under implementation on the ground. In parallel the SAP is meant to cooperatively identify and implement investment projects that confer mutual benefits. The objective of this program is to translate the shared vision into action, realizing trans-boundary development opportunities with the agreed basin-wide framework. It is clear that the Nile Basin Strategic Action Program targets the win-win solutions, through benefit sharing, which leads to enhancing the economic development and poverty reduction in the riparian states. **There are other two innovative key issues** which should be highlighted in achieving these targets: the first is the stakeholders' involvement in the development process, through the crosscutting project on Confidence Building and Stakeholders Involvement. The second issue in the development process is based on socio-economic dimension and benefit sharing. To ensure the reflection of these items, the Socio-economic Development and Benefit Sharing project was started. **It is worthwhile to mention that there are a number of NGOs on the ground which are working to ensure the participation of the civil societies and local communities in the dialogue in the Nile basin such as Nile Basin society** which created e-conference between the interested parties. This kind of involvement reflects the key role of the civil societies in the process of the development in the Nile basin and the importance of the interaction between the official body responsible for the development process (Nile Basin Initiative) and civil societies.

No doubt, from regional perspective, the ongoing activities in the Nile basin now are good and valid example to be implemented in other river basins which might have the same circumstances. The issue of developing strategic action plan focus on creating the enabling environment as well as implementing the investment projects which lead to win-win solutions, the stakeholders (civil societies) involvement in the development process, and focus on both economic and social dimensions for the development process can be **replicated** in other basins and also could be **upgraded** for more benefits for the people of the basin.

## **C KOBWA: Institutional role and public participation in the management of komati river basin**

The Komati River Basin is a shared watercourse system between the independent southern African states of the Republic of South Africa, the Kingdom of Swaziland and the Republic of Mozambique. As a result of the typical rainfall and river flow patterns, water users were experiencing major water shortages during periods of low flow.

The Treaty on the Development and Utilization of the Water Resources of the Komati River Basin was signed between South Africa and Swaziland in 1992 and provides the legal basis for the Komati River Basin Development Project. It is effectively a comprehensive water sharing agreement between the two countries, thereby taking cognizance of Mozambique's requirements. Although Mozambique is not a signatory to the treaty it gave consent through the Pigg's Peak Agreement for South Africa and Swaziland to proceed with the Project. The Komati Basin Water Authority (KOBWA) was established through the treaty to implement the construction of the dams and related infrastructure as well as the responsibility for the overall management of the water resources of the Komati River Basin including the delivery of the agreed cross-border flow to Mozambique.

The project is a water resources development project aimed at reducing poverty and to create employment opportunities through commercial agricultural development, especially in rural communities, by increasing the surety of water supply. It contributed to the sustainable development of people of the Komati River Basin in the basin states. New emerging and former subsistence farmers are now participating actively in the mainstream economy by being involved in commercial agriculture.

Regular meetings are held at every level of decision making between the countries governments as well as between water users and water user sectors. The main aim was that of ensuring parity in the implementation of the project in both countries. This is possible because the implementing agency, KOBWA, is the same in both countries and cannot treat the subjects of one country differently from that of the other country. The policy stipulated that, "the effected people must be left better off than they were prior to project implementation". To achieve this goal, it was important to involve the effected people at all levels of decision-making during the development and implementation of the Comprehensive Mitigation Plan. External monitoring agents were appointed and provision made to involve stakeholders including community representatives. Monitoring reports are shared with all interested parties. A panel consisting of international recognized experts assisted to ensure compliance with international best practice.

The operating rules of the Komati River Basin were developed at basin level by a task group with representatives appointed by the three governments. They proposed the establishment of a monitoring network to provide essential river flow data to support the decision support systems. This included the necessary hydrologic data required for the system and also serves as an early warning system for floods, droughts, diseases and incidents of pollution (water quality).

The cornerstone of the management of the water resources of the Komati River Basin lies in the effective involvement of stakeholders through suitable institutional channels. Stakeholder participation is essential in guiding KOBWA with the operation of the system. Matters affecting policy are decided upon at the Joint Water Commission as advised by the KOBWA

Board of Directors. KOBWA Management decides upon operational and administrative matters as advised by the Komati Joint Operation Forum (KJOF). The KJOF is the engine of the institutional setup and comprises of representatives of the water users and officials from the Water Departments of the countries and is chaired by KOBWA. At present Mozambique is not participating regularly as the operational activities is mainly dealing with the water utilization in the two up stream countries. However this is likely to change with the implementation of the Interim Incomaputo Agreement.

The institutional setup for managing the Komati River Basin is central to solving water resources issues between the riparian states. An important component of the institutional setup is the water user stakeholders, which are involved in all stages of the decision-making process. This resulted in better information transfer on water resources data such as river flow as well as water quality data. The model provided by the Komati River Basin can go a long way in providing a solution to the global challenge for water. It is important to consider the establishment of institutions that are considered neutral in the process – such as KOBWA in the case of the Komati River basin. However, such an institution must truly be independent and neutral in its operation.

## **D Niger Basin Authority (NBA): 1 basin, 9 countries, 1 vision**

The Niger Basin Authority (ABN) is in the process of developing a vision shared by its nine member states which consists in an ideal of a comprehensive development of the potential of the basin, negotiated and accepted by all the member countries. It is an ideal of the most rational possible integrated development plan for the optimal development of all the resources in the River Niger basin with a view to generating the highest number of benefits for all the member States. The shared vision translates the political commitment of the member countries for a joint action program which defines the long term objectives (by the year 2025) and which provides the related strategic orientations so that the specific mechanisms and tools developed make it possible to reach those objectives.

The strategic objectives pursued by the Shared Vision consist of:

- development of the shared Vision for the development of the River Niger Basin
- comprehensive and integrated management of all the resources in the basin ;
- Reinforcement of cooperation and joint actions among the riparian countries
- Reinforcement of cooperation between NBA and the international community of development partners.

Detailed operational objectives have been established to enable NBA to achieve the strategic objectives. They include a Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP developed on a consensual and strategic basis, a legal and institutional framework propitious to dialogue and consultation for cooperative action among the riparian countries of the River Niger basin, development of water resources in a sustainable and equitable manner, and adoption of a pragmatic and consensus building approach in the development of the shared vision.

In order to ensure participation of stakeholders a dialogue is previewed in addition to the national workshops that would. The process also entails liaison with regional structures for verification of coherence with national and regional plans.

Members of the Niger Basin Authority are Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Chad.