

Establishing inter-municipal and cross-border governance on both banks of the Senegal River



Credits: en Haut l/Grdr



A project financed in the framework of a call for projects common to the six French water agencies

What is the inter-agency call for projects?

In 2021, the six French water agencies have released a budget of €2 million (including €150,000 for the Artois-Picardy Water Agency) to finance projects costing between €60,000 and €200,000. These projects must:

- Enhance Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM);
- Perpetuate "drinking water and sanitation" projects by relying on institutional agreements involving French bodies.

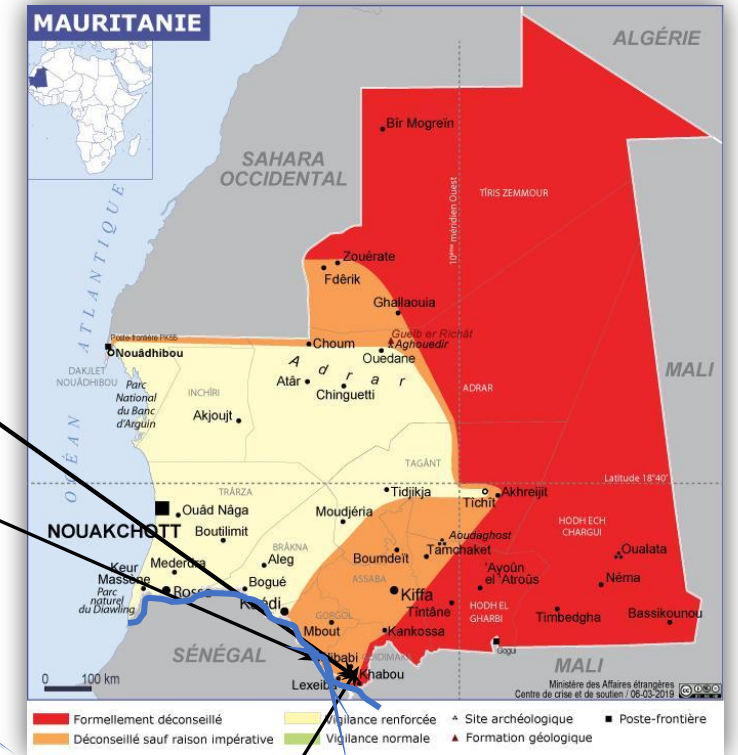
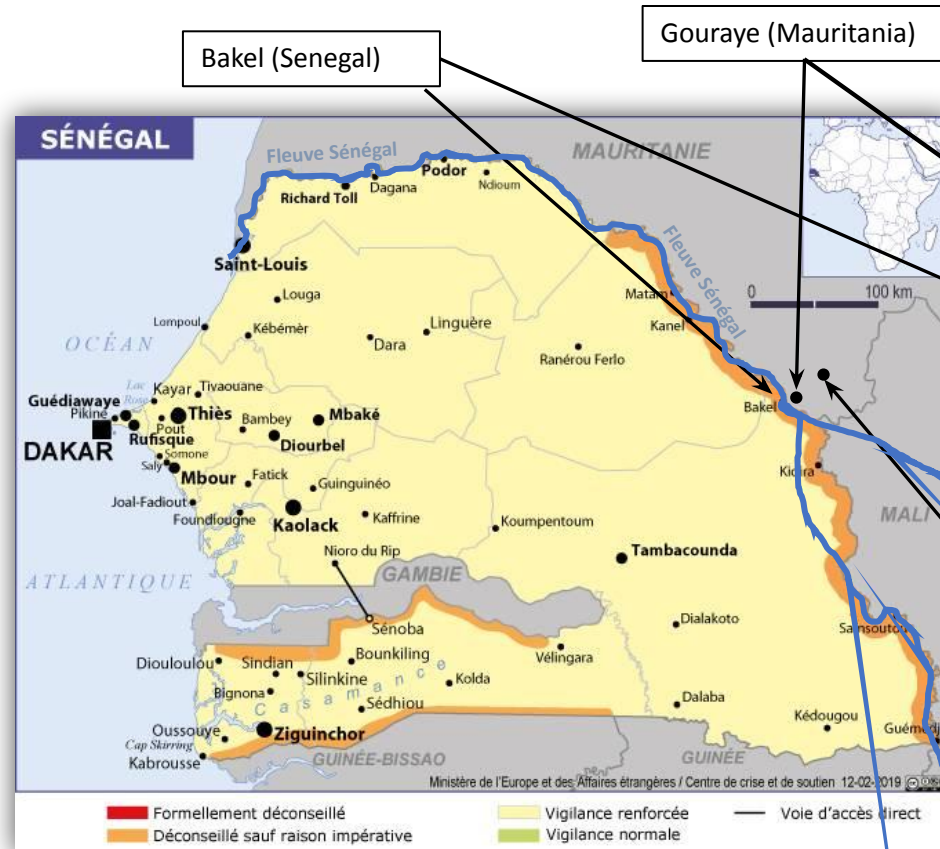
The Artois-Picardy Water Agency has chosen to finance a project presented by the Lille-based NGO Le Partenariat concerning the implementation of inter-municipal water governance on both banks of the Senegal River, in co-financing with the Adour-Garonne Water Agency. The project, launched in February 2022, is scheduled to last until August 2023.

This project is part of a more global cooperation that has existed since 2002 between the Adour-Garonne Water Agency and the Senegal River Development Organization (OMVS). Renewed every two years, this partnership aims to promote the sharing of experiences and best practices as well as to organize and support joint actions.

Co-financing	Amounts
Artois-Picardy Water Agency	€150,000
Adour-Garonne Water Agency	€26,015
French Development Agency (AFD)	€6,052
Foundations and private organizations	€63,331
Others	€18,052

Understanding the transboundary dimension of the Senegal River

The **Senegal River** is a 1,750 kilometers long West African river which originates in Guinea at an altitude of 750 meters. It then crosses Mali, Mauritania and Senegal, while serving as a border between these two countries, before flowing into the Atlantic Ocean in Saint-Louis.



The objectives of the project

To improve the quality of life of the populations living along the Senegal River and to contribute to the achievement of SDG 6 by:

- Supporting integrated water resource management at the inter-municipal and transboundary levels;
- Improving equitable and sustainable access to quality water for users on both banks.



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How to do it?

I – Community capacity building and training

- Organization of radio debates and community actions;
- Visits to 20 schools in the three municipalities.

II – Building technical capacity by constructing and rehabilitating water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure

- Standpipes, latrines, extension of the existing network.

III – Institutional capacity building through river basin IWRM development

- Development and greening of 120 hectares of riverbanks, installation of anti-erosion devices.



A strong impact, numerous beneficiaries

- Approximately 18,750 inhabitants of the three municipalities will directly benefit from improved access to drinking water and sanitation.
- 3,000 students will receive training in hygiene and health, as well as 75 elected officials. Up to 140,000 people will be reached through radio broadcasts.



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What lessons can be learned from this project?

- Thinking about the sustainability and long-term impact of a project must be systematic: working on access to drinking water and sanitation requires the installation of water governance and ambitious policies in the water sector.
- Developing the Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) model and using contractors with reliable contacts in the countries of operation are prerequisites for successful water, sanitation and hygiene projects.
- Remaining faithful to the three guiding principles of the French water agencies (consultation, water management as close as possible to the resource and application of the polluter-pay principle) allows for the inclusion of a maximum number of stakeholders and therefore favors the implementation of effective water governance.



Thank you for your
attention

Do you have any
questions?

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