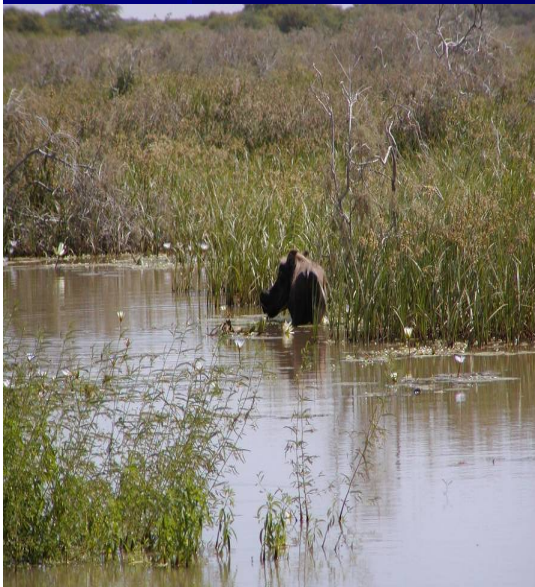




Shared Watercourse-Shared Challenges: 37 years of cooperation in managing the Senegal River Basin



Water Week, 2009



Key Features of the Senegal River Basin

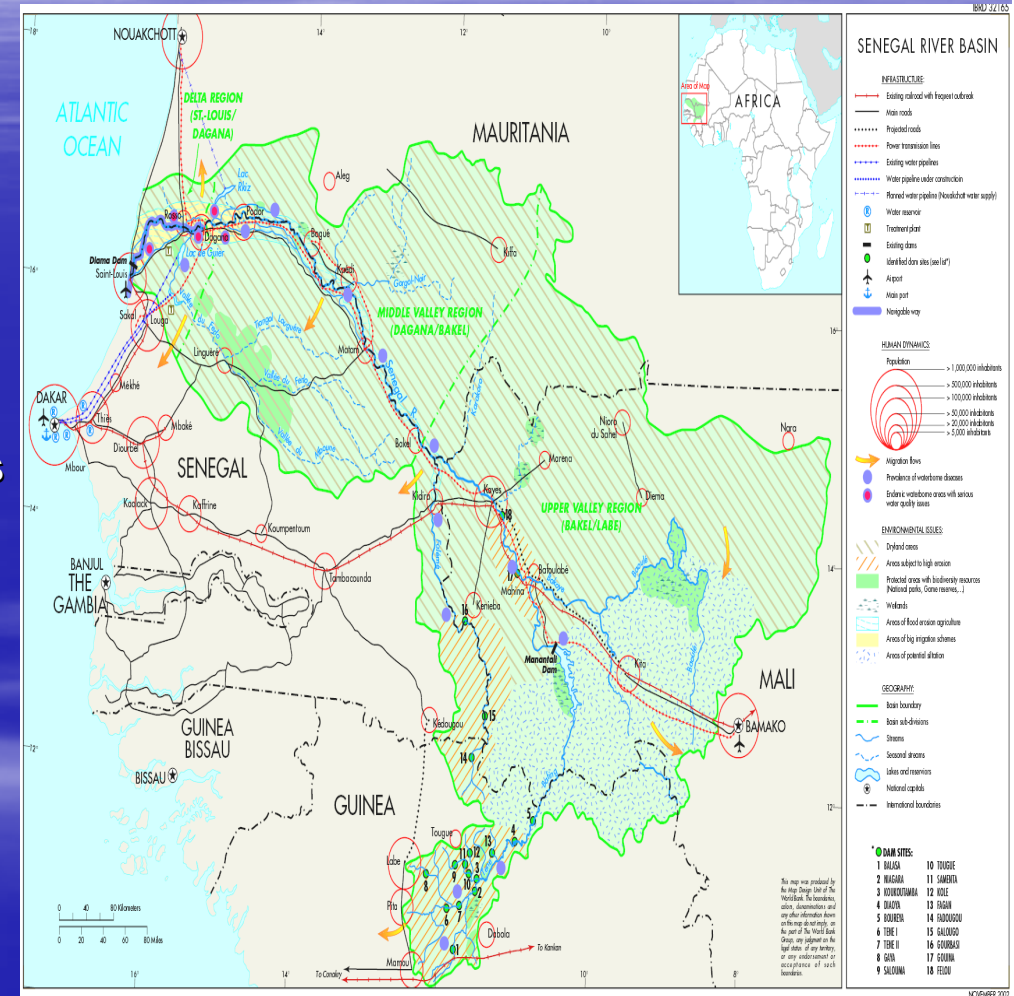


- One of the 34 river basins in West and Central Africa;
- River length is 1,800 km formed by rivers rising from the Futa Jallon in Guinea;
- River flows across four countries: Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal;
- Basin covers 300,000 km² (Upper Basin - Middle and Lower Valley and the Delta).
- 13 million inhabitants in the basin and 35 million across the four countries;
- Prior to construction of dams the Basin was the poorest area and subject to intense emigration.

Key Features of the Senegal River Basin

Allogeneous nature of the Senegal river explains its strategic importance:

- From Upper Basin to the Delta River flows vary from abundance to scarcity;
- River characterized by high variability and irregular flows from 1 to 10 depending on years;
- River flows into semi-arid and arid lands offer tremendous potential;
- Optimal development of this potential, make the Senegal river a strategic stake for the 4 riparian countries;
- The Stakes:
 - Guinea: (Energy, Watershed Mgt, Investments partners);
 - Mali (Energy and Navigation);
 - Mauritania and Senegal (food security, water supply and energy);



Lessons Learned

Golden Opportunity:

- Perennial river in regions marked by water scarcity and high variability;

Challenges:

- Development of water resources driven by different stakes across countries and within sectors;
- Frequent series of droughts; **can the crisis be turned to an opportunity?**

Multiple roles of the river:

- A shared space for development (if exploited rationally);
- A connecting link across countries (suitable for navigation to unlock large productive areas);
- Space for flow of goods and people;
- A potential vector for integration (no coal, no steel but only a shared river).

An innovative Governance Structure:

From Development concerns to structured and concerted actions

- Established in 1972, the Senegal River Basin Organization (OMVS) focuses on shared development, concerted governance and conflict management;
- OMVS mandate:
 - Promote socio-economic development of the Basin through rational, coordinated and integrated water resources management.
- OMVS is guided by four development objectives:
 - Reduce the vulnerability of riparian countries' economies to climate variability;
 - Secure and increase revenues of people living in the Basin;
 - Safeguard the Basin's environment by maintaining an ecological balance;
 - Accelerate economic development through intense regional cooperation.

These objectives can only be achieved through a **well articulated institutional framework, strong legitimacy** and **sustainable funding**.

An innovative Governance Structure: A well rooted institution

In establishing OMVS, member countries have clearly entrusted it with strong legitimacy and constituency:

- The institutional framework includes **4 types of organs** operating in synergy and complementing each other
 1. **Deliberating Organs :**
 - SHSG (define the vision and strategic directions);
 - Council of Ministers (translate the vision into actions);
 2. **Executive and operational organs:**
 - OMVS High Commission and
 - Dam operation & management Agencies ;
 3. **Planning, advisory and consultative organs:**
 - Permanent Water Commission;
 - Regional Planning Committee;
 - Donors Consultative Committee;
 4. **Participatory organs:**
 - Local Coordination Committees:

Broadly speaking, the overall institutional architecture reflects an imperative of highest **political commitment, stakeholders participation** and **accountability**.

Summit of Heads of State

Council of Ministers

OMVS High Commission

Consultative Organs

(Planning, Consultation & Regulation)

**National
Cells**

**OMVS
Guinea**

**OMVS
Mali**

**OMVS
Mauritania**

**OMVS
Senegal**

**Local
Coordination
Committees**

07 LCCs

14 LCCs

08 LCCs

09 LCCs

An Innovative Governance Structure: A unique legal framework

The legal framework articulated through conventions and resolutions signed by the Heads of State and ratified by national assemblies:

- **The Convention of 11 March 1972 confirms the international status of the River (Prior convention in 1963) ;**
- **The Convention of 11 March 1972 establishes OMVS and replaced OERS (1968 convention);**
- **The Convention of 21 December 1978 defines the legal status of Common Works and Jointly Owned Infrastructure ;**
- **The Convention of 12 May 1982 defines the mechanisms for indivisible and joint financing of Jointly Owned Infrastructure;**
- **The Convention of 7 January 1997 established the Diama and Manantali Dam Agencies (SOGED and SOGEM);**
- **The Water Charter of the Senegal River of 28 May 2002;**
- **The inclusive Framework of 17 March 2006 recorded the inclusion of Guinea as fourth OMVS member;**

An innovative Governance Structure: Meaning and Principles

- The international legal status of the Senegal river implies both ruling of national and shared sovereignty. It materializes «**a real community of interests and law**»;
- The notion of «**Jointly Owned Infrastructure**» eclipses national sovereignty with an emphasis on regional benefits and bundling;
- The notion of joint financing sets the principles of «**Solidarity and Equity**» for a basin wide management and benefits sharing;
- The establishment of dam agencies acknowledges the need for semi-autonomous institutions and **Public-Private Partnership** (Manantali HEP is operated by ESKOM-South Africa);
- «**The Water Charter of the Senegal River**» defines the strategic options for water use and allocation among sectors - clarifies the principles of water as an economic good - monitors the annual artificial floods and minimum Env. flows and details management scenarios and operating rules for the dams.

Fundamentals from planning to implementation

The management of the Senegal River is a long maturation of combined planning and political will in implementation.

- The most studied River Basin in West Africa;
- Planning framework and decision making tools associate modern technology and consultations:
 - Realtime data on water flows;
 - Demand/needs multi-criteria water analysis modeling;
 - Environmental surveys through the observatory of environment;
 - Water allocation based on sectors and not countries quota;
 - Planning strategy oriented towards benefits-sharing with an evolving burden sharing formula;
- Political will in implementation reflected through **solidarity**, **equity** and **governance**:
 - **Solidarity** refers to:
 - Common works and jointly owned infrastructure (1978 convention);
 - Indivisible financing of joint infrastructures and Joint guarantees (1982 convention)
 - **Equity** deals with:
 - Optimized exploitation of water resources;
 - Fair allocation of water resources among sectors
 - **Governance** means:
 - Sound financing of institutions (countries contributions- royalties through water and energy pricing);
 - Compliance with the rules set by the water charter.

Fundamentals from planning to implementation

OMVS planning framework is based on four main complementary building blocks:

- 1. *Multi-purpose water infrastructure development mirroring the macroeconomic needs of member states;***
- 2. *Environmental preservation and promotion of ecological balance;***
- 3. *Water resources development at local level and improvement of social conditions;***
- 4. *Institutional modernization and capacity building;***

Lessons learned from the governance structure

- Critical to OMVS existence is a clear articulation between political leadership and sound institutions;
- Existence of organs for consensual decisions and advisory roles, fosters strong legitimacy and constituency;
- Strong binding legal framework enables unique arrangements where solidarity, equity and benefits sharing supersede national sovereignty;
- Modern tools for planning are at the heart of concerted decisions making and actions.
- Consensus and compromise cannot prevail over the conduct of concrete actions;
- Diversified funding has ensured thus far, financial sustainability of institutions and performance on results.

Claiming OMVS achievements in the Senegal River Basin

■ Completion Regional water infrastructure:

1. Manantali Dam and its reservoir provide:

- 300 m³ of regular flow over the year;
- 800Gwh/year of energy;
- 1500 km power grid network connecting Mali-Mauritania and Senegal;
- 30,200 simultaneous communications through the optic fiber combined with the power grid.
- 900 km of river length suitable for navigation;
- 255,000 ha of potential irrigation;

2. Diama Dam designed to:

- Block the sea water intrusion into arable lands;
- Irrigate a potential 120,000 ha;
- Guarantee domestic water supply;
- Restore wetlands (Djoudji and Diawling national parks);
- Recharge groundwater aquifers.



Claiming OMVS achievements in the Senegal River Basin

Progress on Environment preservation and promotion of ecological balance:

- Adjustments from water resources development to management;
- Better consideration and compliance with environmental standards through the Water charter;
- Preparation and adoption of additional planning instruments (TDA and SAP);

Water resources development at local level and improvement of social conditions:

- Promotion of multipurpose water resources development at local level (irrigation, watershed mgt, fisheries...);
- Mitigation of environmental health through reduction of waterborne disease.

Institutional modernization and Capacity building through:

- Progressive upgrade of OMVS planning and communication tools;
- Consolidation of the cooperative framework with Guinea (March 2006).



Financing Mechanism of the OMVS

There are basically four types of financing sources:

- annual contribution of Member States in equal shares;
- Revenue from the sale of energy at Manantali;
- Revenue from fees paid by water users;
- Loans and Grants from Donors;
- Grants from technical and financial partners

Allocation of funds

■ **contribution of member states:**

- Operating budget (salaries, meetings, workshops, transport, electricity, telephone, maintenance of premises, etc.).
- Financing of local development projects (water supply, sanitation, rural electricity, roads, sanitation, schools, etc..);
- Facilities, equipment;
- Capacity building of the OMVS' staff
- Etc.

■ **Loans and Grants from Donors:**

- Hydropower infrastructure - education and achievement;
- Hydro-agricultural development;
- Development of the navigable channel and associated works (dredging, ports of call, etc.);
- Protection and Management of the Environment (invasive aquatic plants and river banks);
- Fight against waterborne diseases

Difficulties in mobilizing financing

- Revenue from sales of Kwh and m3 of water are too low due to low pricing - difficult to clearly set the prices;
- Poor collection of fees from water users (problem of billing and warranty from the States in replacement of the users);
- Late payment of electricity bills by Water Companies;
- Delays in the mobilization of the states' contribution in funding projects

LESSONS LEARNED

- Ensure good communication with users to raise their awareness to pay for access to water, electricity, etc..;
- Capacity building for provision of billing and collection services;
- Meet all commitments vis-à-vis financial partners to create and maintain trust;
- Ensure a transparent and optimal management of provided funds;
- Set a legal and institutional framework able to develop good water governance;
- Develop a capacity to use up the funding received in time for contractors to remain credible vis-à-vis partners;

Pour plus d'informations

**Merci de consulter notre
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