

**AUTORITE DU BASSIN DE LA VOLTA**  
**VOLTA BASIN AUTHORITY**



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Bénin- Burkina- Côte d'Ivoire- Ghana- Mali- Togo

**REPORT ON VBA PROGRAMMING WORKSHOP**

**OUAGADOUGOU 10-12 August 2009**

**FINAL REPORT**

**September 2009**

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

Abbreviation	Definition
BFP	Basin Focal Project
DRE	Direction des Ressources en Eau
ECOWAS	Economic Community Of West African States
EU	European Union
FFEM	Fond Français pour l'Environnement Mondial
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GCLME	Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem
GLOWA	Global Change in the Hydrological Cycle
GWP-WAWP	Global Water Partnership- West Africa Water Partnership
HYCOS	Hydrological Cycle Observing System
IRB	International River Basin
IRD	Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (France)
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
PAGEV	Projet d'Amélioration de la Gouvernance de l'Eau dans le bassin de la Volta
PMU	Project Management Unit
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RPC	Regional Project Coordinator
SAP	Strategic Action Program
SIAAP	Syndicat Interdépartemental pour l'Assainissement de l'Agglomération de Paris
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
TDA	Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis
UCC	UNEP Collaborating Centre
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UNEP/DGEF	United Nations Environment Program/ Division of GEF Coordination
UNEP/GEF	United Nations Environment Program/ Global Environment Facility
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
VBA	Volta Basin Authority
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

As part of the assistance of the UNEP GEF Volta Project to VBA, the latter is being assisted to undertake programming of its activities. The possibility of combining the programming with the review of the VBA Strategic Plan was explored and agreed upon with UNEP GEF Volta Project. Therefore the current VBA Programming Workshop is expected to also cover a review of the VBA's Strategic Plan which was prepared by a consultant.

### **1.1 Background**

### **1.2 Objectives of Workshop**

The general objectives of the programming workshop is to support VBA in its programming and assist it in completing the Strategic Plan for VBA which had been prepared by a consultant and reviewed at the Validation and Coordination Workshop held in March 2009. The Strategic Plan was not sufficiently completed by the consultant in line with the comments made at the validation workshop.

### **1.3 Participation**

The workshop was held at the Palm Beach Hotel in Ouagadougou from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> August 2009. It was attended by 17 participants. The two consultants who acted as facilitators to the workshop were Dr. Lekan OYEBANDE and Mr. Jacques De La ROCQUE. The consultants/facilitators were assisted by Dr. Kelly WEST of UNEP/DGEF. The National Focal Points from all the six Volta basin countries namely: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Togo were represented. The following institutions, organizations and projects were represented at the meeting:

- i. VBA
- ii. UNEP GEF Volta Project
- iii. Volta-HYCOS /VBA Observatory
- iv. EU Volta IWRM Project
- v. IUCN/PAGEV

The full list of the participants and their contact details are presented in Annex 1.

## **2.0 OPENING CEREMONY**

In his remarks the Ag. Executive Director of VBA, Dr. Charles BINEY, welcomed all the participants to the meeting and thanked all for making time to participate in this Programming Workshop. He gave the background leading to the organization of this Programming Workshop and called on participants to ensure healthy discussions that will be useful to the objectives of the workshop.

The official opening of the Workshop was by Madame Sandrine SANKARA-BASSONON, representative of the Director General of the Directorate General for Water and Hydraulic Resources (DGRE). In her speech, she welcomed all the participants to the Workshop and thanked them for accepting to assist in putting in place the VBA. She stressed the pertinence to know the projects currently being implemented within the Volta basin for a better planning in order to sustainably manage the use of water resources in the basin for a better socio-economic development of the population therein. She called on the participants to have fruitful discussions to help achieve the objectives of the Workshop. She then declared the workshop duly opened.

### **3.0 WORKING SESSION**

The working session started with the establishment of the meeting secretariat which was followed by self-introduction of participants.

#### **3.1 Meeting Secretariat**

Following proposals, it was agreed that the Workshop Secretariat should be made up of:

Co-Chairmen: Representatives of Ghana and Togo (Mr. Ben Ampomah (Ghana) and Mr. Aharé M'BATA (Togo)

Rapporteurs: VBA Secretariat: Dr. Jacob Tumbulto  
UNEP/GEF Volta: Mr. Olumide Akinsola,

#### **3.2 Agenda**

The Ghana Co-Chairman presented the draft agenda for participants' consideration. Following few comments on the issues of how to organise the group work and the programming framework to be developed etc, the agenda was adopted. The adopted agenda is presented in Annex 2.

### **4.0 SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS**

The following presentations were made followed by short discussions.

#### **4.1 Presentation on Volta Basin Authority (VBA)**

The Acting Executive Director, Dr. Charles BINEY made a presentation on VBA. He gave the background to the formation of the Authority, the current status of ratification of the VBA convention and the status of the deposition of the ratification instruments by the countries.

He noted that VBA currently has no legal status and that hopefully after 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2009, a month after the deposition of the ratification documents by the fourth country, the VBA convention would come into force.

He indicated that financial support for the running of VBA has been from Sida/IUCN, France, and the ECOWAS Water Resources Coordination Centre. He gratefully acknowledged the financial contribution of Burkina Faso and Mali towards the running of VBA in 2008. He informed the meeting that Burkina Faso had paid in full its contribution for 2009 towards the running of the Authority. He noted that Mali has also sent a letter to the effect that it is in the process of effecting payment of its contribution for 2009.

He outlined the critical activities being undertaken by VBA to include the recruitment of permanent staff for the Authority and the creation of awareness and called on the remaining four countries to emulate the good example of Burkina Faso and Mali with respect to their contributions toward the operations of the VBA.

#### **4.2 Presentation on GEF Volta Project**

The presentation on the GEF Volta Project "Addressing Transboundary Concerns in the Volta River Basin and its downstream coastal areas" was by the Project Coordinator, Dr. Hubert ONIBON.

The project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and executed by the United Nations Office for Project Support (UNOPS) has a long-term goal to enhance the ability of the countries to plan and manage the Volta basin within their territories and its aquatic resources and ecosystems on a sustainable basis. The project has three main components with associated

objectives identified by the root cause analysis carried out during the project preparation process and updated during the inception phase as follows:

- Specific Objective n° 1: Build capacity, improve knowledge, enhance stakeholders involvement to support the effective management of the Volta River Basin (VRB)
- Specific Objective n° 2: Develop river basin legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks and management instruments for addressing transboundary concerns in the Volta River Basin and its downstream coastal area
- Specific Objective n° 3: Demonstrate national and regional measures to combat transboundary environmental degradation in the Volta Basin

The presentation also outlined the project activities, the expected outputs and the linkages with ongoing projects in the basin. Key projects outputs were also highlighted.

The key links with ongoing initiatives presented include the following:

- IUCN/PAGEV Project
- EU Volta Project
- Volta HYCOS
- Collaboration framework with VBA

With respect to collaboration, the presenter stressed the need for harmonization and cost sharing, mutual exchanges of information, including reference documents and reciprocal invitations to key events.

#### **4.3 Presentation on Volta-HYCOS Project and VBA Observatory**

##### ***Presentation on Volta Hycos:***

The presentation made by the Volta Hycos Project Coordinator highlighted the project objectives, the project activities undertaken with the National Hydrological Services in the Volta basin countries, the project achievements to date and the current status as regards the transfer of the project to VBA. He said the Volta-HYCOS project aims at establishing a basin-wide water resources information system, fed with recent and quality information that is easily accessible to all types of users, especially through Internet technologies. The key project activities centred on improving the hydrometric network in the basin, development of national and regional hydrological data base and training and sensitisation.

Major achievements to date as presented include:

- i. Supporting countries financially to rehabilitate some hydrological networks
- ii. Acquisition of state-of-the-art hydrological measuring equipment for the National Hydrological Services (NHSs)
- iii. Hydrological data base set up at the Regional Project Centre from historic data
- iv. A Regional Hydrological Information System has been established.
- iv. Personnel trained in five (5) Training of Trainers' modules on hydrological data collection, use of data measuring equipment, data processing and integrated water resources management
  - Outstanding project activities presented included acquisition of supplementary hydrological equipment (from expected African Water Facility funding)
  - Installation of equipment in the field by the NHSs
  - Data collection, processing and transmission to VBA (Project Regional Centre for updating the database.
  - Organisation of training modules

The project has been transferred to the VBA. Challenges facing the project activities like possible vandalization of equipment to be installed and ways to address it were discussed among participants at the workshop.

### ***VBA Observatory***

The presentation highlighted the overall objective of the VBA Observatory as one of ensuring sustainable utilization and management of the water resources in the basin for improved socio-economic well-being of the population. The importance of the restoration and protection of the environment were also made clear.

The Observatory has been designed as an inter-state tool for information and communication and to support decision-making on management of water resources and associated ecosystems. The implementation of the project was to include the following:

- Assessment of the availability and demand of the water resources;
- Assessment of the state of the environment of the basin and
- Establishment of a sustainable management tool;

for:

- Managing the negative impacts of water resources management (observe, understand, correct and anticipate);
- Contributing to the definition of priorities and options for sustainable management of the basin.

In terms of strategy, technical solutions to be achieved include:

- building consensus on the problems and the mode of their evaluation;
- Agreement on the free exchange of data and interoperability between the sources of information (protocols of data exchange, common tools);
- A collaborative process for all the stages; definition of problems, indicators, collection and validation of data;
- Involvement of stakeholders concerned with water and related sectors such as health and agriculture.

The major problems associated with the implementation of the project include compatibility of data to be exchanged and prioritization of issues.

#### **4.4 Presentation by EU IWRM Volta Project:**

The overall goal of this project is to contribute to ensure that poverty, food insecurity and degradation of the environment in the basin are reduced.

The Specific Objective of the project is that the riparian states of the Volta basin (Benin, Burkina, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Togo) establish a basin organization to manage the water resources in a sustainable and equitable manner.

This project, initially planned over a period of 24 months had its duration reduced to 13 months at the time a consultant was recruited by the EU to execute it. The project duration was further reduced to 5 months as the first consultant became indisposed and the EU had to engage another consultant to continue the project execution.

The new project consultant submitted that with only five (5) months to present its report to EU, not all the project activities can be undertaken. He plans to work with the National Focal Points on key project activities.

On the issue of extending the project, the consultant reasoned that it is better to achieve some planned activities before requesting for an extension. The National Focal Points from the six member countries of the Volta basin were to discuss further with the consultant on this issue.

#### **4.5 Presentation on IUCN/PAGEV:**

The presentation made by the Project Coordinator, Mr. Kwame Odame Ababio, reminded participants about the past challenges and the actions undertaken to address these challenges by the IUCN-PAGEV Project at pilot areas located in Burkina Faso and Ghana and within the Volta basin. Suggestions for future intervention were also highlighted.

In response to the need for transboundary coordination and cooperation regarding the management of the water resources in the Volta basin, IUCN from mid-2004, initiated the three-year “Project for Improving Water Governance in the Volta Basin” (commonly referred to as PAGEV). The major implementation strategies are:

- Key decision-support knowledge base compiled and shared;
- Pilot IWRM interventions and livelihood alternatives identified;
- Policy and institutional frameworks are strengthened;
- Training and coordination are carried out efficiently.

PAGEV has recorded a number of results that have set benchmarks to guide future transboundary intervention in the Volta Basin. The key outputs include:

- i. Water resources problems and immediate needs of pilot communities identified and prioritized;
- ii. Knowledge on status and dynamics of water resources in the Volta compiled;
- iii. Base and thematic maps produced;
- iv. Committees for protection of river banks in eight pilot communities established;
- v. River banks of the pilot zone reforested with fruit trees and woodlots as alternatives for income generation and fuel wood;
- vi. Code of Conduct for the development and management of the shared water and other natural resources of the Volta Basin formulated;
- vii. Bilateral agreement between Burkina Faso and Ghana for a Joint Technical Committee on IWRM;

The second phase of the project began in January 2009. The long-term objective is the improvement of livelihood conditions of populations of the Volta basin, through the sustainable integrated and trans-boundary management of water resources of the basin within an improved institutional environment. Also, the experiences from PAGEV-1 will be scaled up to support VBA to effectively fulfil its transboundary IWRM coordination role. IUCN will collaborate with the new initiatives in the basin such as Volta Observatory, Volta HYCOS, UNEP/GEF-Volta project to ensure vertical integration into VBA strategies.

Lessons learnt in the implementation of PAGEV Phase 1 include the fact that local transboundary management activities are expensive and time-consuming, which necessitates a cautious approach. Institution of local trans-boundary fora for water resources management in the basin was great achievement. The challenge is how to make these fora operational after the project has ended.

#### **4.6 Report on Workshop on Validation of Studies and Coordination of Projects**

The VBA Executive Director presented the summary of the report on the workshop on validation of studies and coordination of projects held in March 2009. He noted that improved coordination of existing projects in the basin will harmonize actions and avoid duplication. It was recommended to VBA to carry out an inventory of all projects in the basin and assess their impacts. VBA was also advised to move from projects to programmes approach in managing the resources in the basin in the long-term. The co-chairman advised members to consult

the VBA half-yearly report for more details on the status of achievements on the other recommendations of the meeting.

#### **4.7 VBA Strategic Plan:**

While presenting the current situation on the VBA Strategic Plan, the Acting Executive Director noted that key concerns about the report were that the consultant should focus more on the internal environment of current and future developments at VBA; and that the linkages between the goals / objectives and the prepared SWOT analysis were not clear. Also the matrix prepared was not completed. He emphasized that a strategic plan for VBA and not action plan for the basin was requested for in the ToR. He noted that after the review, the consultant further failed to complete the draft and also did not take into consideration all the comments received during the review. The meeting noted that the agreed outline of the report that was discussed at the plenary session and given to the consultant was not used.

#### **4.8 Presentation by UNEP-DGEEF**

This presentation helped to give insight into what the programming framework for VBA would help to achieve, including its use in communicating, coordinating of actors and facilitating transition from project to programme approach of operation. Participants noted the need to use such examples presented and also similar examples close to the Volta basin, like the Niger Basin Authority (NBA).

### **5.5.0 ESTABLISHMENT OF VISION, MISSION AND CORE VALUES FOR VBA**

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Following the above presentation, the facilitators/consultants then led the participants through a series of discussions in order to agree on vision and mission statements for VBA. At the end of day one, the facilitators, the VBA secretariat and the rapporteurs were charged with presenting an acceptable vision and mission from the discussions held and the write-ups submitted by some participants for review the next day.

On the second day of the workshop, the previous day's discussions were summarised and presented at a plenary session, with comments from the meeting, leading to the final version of the vision and mission statement for VBA.

At the end of the discussions, the vision and mission statement agreed upon were respectively as following:

- **A basin shared by willing and cooperating partners managing water and related resources rationally and sustainably.**
- **To promote permanent consultation and sustainable development of the water and related resources of the basin for the distribution of benefit of the parties towards poverty alleviation and socio-economic integration.**

The core values agreed upon by the workshop participants, after extensive discussions, with inputs from the consultants were the following:

- Transparency,
- Teamwork,
- Mutual respect,
- Good governance,
- Gender and social equity,
- Efficiency

## **6.0 ESTABLISHMENT OF STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

The facilitators next led the discussion towards establishment of key objectives for the VBA. The discussions centred on what the VBA should look like within the next five years. Following the initial discussion at the plenary session of possible objectives for the VBA, a participative approach was used by the consultants to arrive at five key objects or strategic objectives for VBA as presented below:

- 1 Strengthen policy, legal and institutional framework;
- 2 Strengthen the knowledge base of VBA;
- 3 Coordinated planning and management ;
- 4 Communication and capacity building; and
- 5 Efficient and sustainable operation of VBA

## **7.0 DEVELOPMENT OF RESULTS/ACTIVITIES ON THE FIVE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

Three groups were formed to discuss the above five Strategic Objectives of VBA. Each group was to propose with the actions that are necessary to achieve the above Strategic Objectives within the next five years. The results of the group discussions were presented at the plenary session where other members contributed to the proposed activities or modified them all together.

Some of the comments on the presentation include the following:

### **Group 1:**

The West African Water Policy (not ECOWAS water policy) should only be adopted and used but not validated as the heads of states of the West African countries have already validated the policy document.

### **Group 2**

The comments on the presentation by group two included the following: addition of climate change and biodiversity to the actions; inclusion of socio-economic data and the development of a master plan for the basin.

### **Group 3**

It was noted that the participation plan was different from the communication plan and should be included in the activities.

Group discussions were further held on the development activities for the five specific objectives for the basin. The final discussion were then fine-tuned by the facilitators and shared with the participants on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day before closing of the workshop. The consultants were then mandated to incorporate these suggestions into the final VBA Programming Framework and Strategic Plan.

## **8.0 CLOSE OF WORKSHOP:**

The workshop ended with a vote of thanks at lunch time on Day 3.

## ANNEX 1

### ATELIER DE PROGRAMMATION DE L'ABV Ouagadougou, 10 – 12 Août 2009

	Institutions	Noms et Prénoms	Positions	Adresses (Tel-Mail-Fax)	Site Web	Emargement 10 août 09
1	GEF Project / UNEP	Kelly WEST <i>Ph.D</i>	Task Manager  UNEP / DGEF	UNEP/DGEF, Box 30552-00100, Nairobi Tél: +254 207 624 147 Mob: +254 736 773 377 Email : <a href="mailto:kelly.west@unep.org">kelly.west@unep.org</a>	<a href="http://www.unep.org">www.unep.org</a>	
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10	Benin Ministère de l'Energie et de l'Eau	Félix AZONSI	Directeur de l'Information sur l'Eau Direction générale de l'Eau <b>Point focal national</b>	01BP 385 Cotonou Tél : +229 21 31 32 98 / 34 87 Mob : +229 90 91 89 61 / 95 56 97 80 Fax : +229 21 31 08 90 Email : <a href="mailto:felixazonzi@gmail.com">felixazonzi@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:felyazonzi@yahoo.fr">felyazonzi@yahoo.fr</a>		
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12	Côte d'Ivoire Ministère de l'Environnement, des Eaux et Forêts	N'GUESAN Bi Tozan Michel, <i>Dr</i>	Directeur des Ressources en Eau <b>Point focal national</b>	20 BP 650 Abidjan 20 Bur. : + 225 20322441 / 20322936 Mob. : +225 05 78 04 45 Fax: +225 20 32 29 36 Email: <a href="mailto:michel_tozan@yahoo.fr">michel_tozan@yahoo.fr</a> <a href="mailto:mytozan@aviso.ci">mytozan@aviso.ci</a>		

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15	Togo Ministère de l'Eau, des Mines et de l'hydraulique villageoise	Jacques Aharé M'BATA	Directeur Général de l'Eau et de l'Assainissement, <b>Point focal national</b>	BP 335 Lomé Tél : +228 222 24 66 Mob : +228 904 21 72 / 861 40 44 Fax : +228 221 68 12 Mail : <a href="mailto:ahare_mbata@yahoo.fr">ahare_mbata@yahoo.fr</a> <a href="mailto:dgea@yahoo.fr">dgea@yahoo.fr</a>		
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## ANNEX 2

# AUTORITE DU BASSIN DE LA VOLTA VOLTA BASIN AUTHORITY



Bénin- Burkina- Côte d'Ivoire- Ghana- Mali- Togo

## VOLTA BASIN AUTHORITY PROGRAMMING WORKSHOP

PALM BEACH HOTEL, Ouagadougou, 10-12 August 2009

### APPROVED AGENDA

10 August 2009	
<b>Session 1</b>	
<b>OPENING</b>	
08.30-09.00 Hrs	Arrival and Registration of Participants
09 00-09.20 Hrs	Official Opening Ceremony
09.20-09.30 Hrs	Establishment of Meeting Secretariat Adoption of Proposed Agenda
<b>Session 2</b>	
<b>FAMILIARIZATION AND AWARENESS - VBA AND PARTNERS</b>	
09.30-10.00	Presentation on Volta Basin Authority
10.00-10.30 Hrs	Coffee Break
10.30-10.45 Hrs	Presentation – UNEP/GEF Volta River Basin Project
10.45-11.00 Hrs	Volta HYCOS and VBA Observatory
11.00-11.15 Hrs	EU Volta Basin IWRM Project
11.15-11.30 Hrs	IUCN/PAGEV Project
11.30-12.00 Hrs	Report on Workshop on Validation of Studies/Coordination of Projects
12.00-12.30 Hrs	VBA Strategic Plan
12.30 Hrs	End of Session and Lunch Break
<b>Session 3</b>	
<b>DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE VBA</b>	
14.00-14 30 Hrs	Background to Programming Framework by UNEP
14.30-15.30 Hrs	Vision; Goal; Purpose; Expected Results - Facilitation by Consultants

15.30-16.00 Hrs	Coffee Break
16.00-17.00 Hrs	Vision; Goal; Purpose; Expected Results; - Facilitation by Consultants
17.00-17.30 Hrs	Linking to VBA Strategic Plan – Facilitation by Consultants
17.30 Hrs	End of Session

<b>11 August 2009</b>	
<b>Session 4</b>	
<b>GROUP WORK - ELABORATION OF EXPECTED RESULTS / LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN</b>	
08.30-09.00 Hrs	Introduction by Facilitators
09.00-10.00 Hrs	Group Work
10.00-10.30 Hrs	Coffee Break
10.30-12.30Hrs	Group Work
12.30 Hrs	End of Session and Lunch Break
<b>Session 5</b>	
<b>GROUP PRESENTATIONS – ELABORATION OF EXPECTED RESULTS</b>	
14.00-15 30 Hrs	Group Presentations
15.30-16.00 Hrs	Coffee Break
16.00-17 00 Hrs	Group Presentations
17.00	End of Session
<b>12 August 2009</b>	
<b>Session 6</b>	
<b>CONSOLIDATION OF PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK AND STRATEGIC PLAN FOR VBA</b>	
08.30-10.00 Hrs	Consolidation of Framework and Strategic Plan - Facilitation by Consultants
10.00-10.30 Hrs	Coffee Break
10.30-12.30	Consolidation/Recommendations – Facilitation by Consultants
12.30	End of Meeting and Lunch

## ANNEX 4

## **Presentations**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title of Presentation</b>
1	Charles BINEY	VBA
2	Hubert ONIBON	GEF Volta
3	Jacob TUMBULTO	Volta-HYCOS and Observatory
4	Kwame ODAME- ABABIO	PAGEV
5	Jerome THIOMBIANO	EU IWRM project
6	Kelly WEST	UNEP GEF Volta