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**POLICY DOCUMENT**

**West Africa water resources policy**

October 2007

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## Acronyms

ADB	: African Development Bank
AMCOW	: Conseil des Ministres Africaines chargés de l'eau
CIDA	: Canadian International Development Agency
CILSS	: Comité permanent Inter états de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel
CSLP	: Cadre Stratégique de Lutte contre la Pauvreté
CPCS	: Cadre permanent de Coordination et de Suivi de la GIRE
EBID	: ECOWAS Bank of Investment and Development
ECOWAS	: Economic Community Of West African States
EDF	: European Development Fund
FAE	: Facilité Africaine de l'Eau
FAO	: Food and Alimentation Organization
GWP	: Global Water Partnership
IWRM	: Integrated Water Resources Management
MDG	: Millennium Development Goals
NEPAD	: New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	: Non Gouvernemental Organization
PARGIRE	: Plan d'Action Régional pour la Gestion Intégrée des Ressources en Eau
PDDAA	: Programme détaillé de développement de l'agriculture africaine
PFCM	: Permanent Framework for Coordination and Monitoring
RCCWR	: Regional Collaborative Council on Water Resources
SIDA	: Swedish International Development Agency
UEMOA	: Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine
UNDP	: United Nations Development Program
UNEP	: United Nations Environment Program
UNESCO	: United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
WADB	: West African Development Bank
WMO	: World Meteorological Organization
WRCU	: Water Resources Coordination Unit
WSSCC	: Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council

## General context

Poverty in all its forms is the major challenge facing West African countries. Indeed, the fifteen ECOWAS countries rank among the poorest in the world. To take up this challenge, the countries are implementing policies and strategies in order to accelerate growth and reduce poverty according to the ECOWAS vision and the West African vision for water, life and the environment for 2025.

Water is a key factor in socio economic development. Access to water and sanitation, increase in agricultural productivity, pollution control, integrated trans-boundary basin management and development of water infrastructure are indeed key factors in poverty alleviation campaign. West Africa has significant water resources, but suffers from chronic deficits, because of uneven distribution of rainfall and flows in time and space, low mobilization of potential resources and poor management of existing resources.

Water resources management covers various and complex issues such as responding to the people's fundamental needs, anticipating crises and protecting the resource, participation, cost recovery, rapid population growth, increase in environmental degradation and pollution, and threat of a reducing resource. These require the adoption of an integrated management approach, taking account of all the uses of water and involving all the actors concerned.

Interactions are complex between water policy and economic, sector-based, environmental policies, and all those policies are not necessarily consistent.

With the setting up of the Permanent Framework of Coordination and Monitoring of integrated water resources management, the ECOWAS, in collaboration with the UEMOA, and in consultation with all the stakeholders, intends to harmonize and integrate those various policies and to define a water policy framework in West Africa in order to reconcile economic rationality and social equity, economic development and environmental protection.

This regional policy document was prepared in a participatory way<sup>1</sup>: based on individual country water resources mapping and their management framework. A task force was set up to draft a preliminary document, with representatives of sub regional organizations involved in water resources management in West Africa (UEMOA, CILSS)<sup>2</sup>, resource persons recognized for their competence and their authority as regards water management and a team of the ECOWAS Water Resources Coordination Unit. This document was shared with the ECOWAS Regional Collaborative Council on water resources and was discussed in the member states. This process generated a document reflecting regional consensus to be laid before the ECOWAS Council of Ministers of water.

This document presents the vision, the challenges of a regional water policy, its objectives, guiding principles, main strategic areas of intervention, and the implementation details.

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<sup>1</sup>See Roadmap in Appendix 10.

<sup>2</sup> See appendix 4 : regional institutions

## **Part 1. To manage water efficiently: a strategic issue**

Reducing poverty in all its forms is the major challenge facing countries in West Africa. Indeed, the fifteen ECOWAS Member States rank among the poorest in the world. To take up this challenge, a great number of countries are already implementing national poverty reduction strategies aiming to accelerate growth and reduce poverty up the level of peoples' expectations. Governments in the region, aware of the limitations of national approaches, requested the ECOWAS and the UEMOA to propose an integrated approach with an action plan to deal more effectively with regional poverty.

Studies on the countries' progress towards the MDGS show that the projections in poverty alleviation remain unattainable, precarious and are still too far from what are needed to take up the challenge of the MDGS. Meaningful efforts were made since 1990 to improve access to drinking water, but 40% of the people still did not have access to drinking water in 2002. The situation is even more critical in the field of sanitation, since in 2002, 60% of the people still did not have access to a basic sanitation system.

Achievement of Millennium Development Goals to halve by 2015 the number of people without access to drinking water and sanitation systems will happen by a sustained effort as regards access to water and increased effort as regards sanitation. Efforts will also have to be made about maintenance and improvement of existing infrastructure management.

Progress towards achieving MDGS remains slow and if current trends prevail, some countries in West Africa could not be able to achieve these goals by 2015.

Improvement made to water resources management will contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals<sup>3</sup>, according to the ECOWAS vision and the West African vision for water, life and the environment for 2025, mainly through access to water and sanitation, increase in agricultural productivity, pollution control, and development of integrated trans-boundary basin management. Sustainable natural resources management and in particular access to drinking water are determining factors in poverty alleviation.

### **1.1. ECOWAS vision**

The ECOWAS vision<sup>4</sup> is to create:

- a sub region without borders where people have access to the huge resources and enjoy them, creating sustainable production opportunities and jobs, within equitable distribution systems,
- a space where people live in peace in a state of right, good governance and a wealthy environment,
- a space that belongs to the African continental space, in the context of a planetary village, where each human being lives with dignity, enjoying equitable exchanges, mutual solidarity, and guided by shared principles.

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<sup>3</sup>Appendix 7: Water and Millennium Development Goals.

<sup>4</sup>(ECOWAS, 2007).

ECOWAS aims at integration in the perspective of a democratic, stable, prosperous Africa who shows solidarity. Therefore, the regional building of West Africa contributes to the vision and objectives of African Union.

The ECOWAS vision consists in fulfilling the West Africa integration, not only at the markets' level, but also at the people and countries' level. It is a political and economic integration, aiming at the region's citizens interests.

## **1.2. West African 2025 Vision**

In 1998-1999, under the aegis of the West African Advisory Committee of GWP (GWP-WATAC), the region prepared its regional vision of water by 2025, in consultation with key stakeholders. The vision was presented and discussed at the World Water Forum at The Hague in 2000.

In March 2000, the ECOWAS Council of Ministers of water and environment adopted the "West African Vision of water, life and environment for 2025". It states:

*« In 2025, water resources are managed in an effective and practical way, in a sustainable way for the environment so that each person in the region can have access to safe drinking water for basic needs, waste disposal, food security; poverty is reduced, human health is protected, and biodiversities of terrestrial and aquatic systems are protected. »*

## **1.3. Strategic analysis of the West African context**

The water context in West Africa is presented in appendix 1. The strategic analysis presented below highlights some key issues of the West African water context.

*Table 1: Strategic analysis of the WA context.*

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strong political will to deal with water related problems at the highest level.</li> <li>2. Presence of many regional and international organizations in the water field.</li> <li>3. Experience related to the existence of relatively long -standing basin organizations.</li> <li>4. Experience related to reform processes in water management undertaken in several States.</li> <li>5. Institutional framework reforms due to a strong decentralisation policy in the States.</li> <li>6. Presence of research and capacity building institutions in the water sector</li> </ol>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Insufficient water infrastructure in all the countries in the region and lack of maintenance for existing infrastructure in disaster areas.</li> <li>2. Insufficient coordination of water resources management policies at the national, basin, regional levels.</li> <li>3. Hardly enabling conditions for water mobilization (Climate, relief).</li> <li>4. Degradation of water resources (invasive aquatic weeds, pollution, sand silting).</li> <li>5. Poverty; inadequate financial resources of the people and Governments (Dependence on international aid).</li> <li>6. Insufficient skilled human capacities.</li> <li>7. Insufficient data and information on water resources</li> <li>8. Difficulties to implement the legislative and regulatory texts.</li> <li>9. Institutions instability</li> </ol>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Value adding potential of water resources recognized (e.g. irrigation).</li> <li>2. Consensus on a new method of water management among donors and Governments.</li> <li>3. Synergies created by the policy of integration of regional organizations, in particular of the ECOWAS.</li> <li>4. MDGs related Investments.</li> <li>5. Good local water management practices valorisation.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Shocks generated by Global economic environment (fragility of rural economies).</li> <li>2. Climate change and variability.</li> <li>3. Pressure on natural resources resulting from rapid demographic growth (e.g. high increase in water demand; pollution; migrations).</li> <li>4. Non-sustainable methods of natural resources exploitation (forests, coastal zones, fishery resources).</li> <li>5. Political instability.</li> </ol>

West Africa has significant water resources, but suffers from chronic deficits, because of uneven distribution of rainfall and flows in time and space, insufficient knowledge about water resources, low allocation of potential resources and poor resource management.

Water infrastructure is still hardly developed in West Africa. In order to meet the needs of the people as regards access to water and sanitation, improvement of food security, energy supply and environmental protection, infrastructure need to be developed in a collaborative framework. New approaches need to be developed to allow participation of stakeholders.

## **1.4. Challenges**

It arises from the strategic analysis that the key challenges in water resources management in order to meet the regional socioeconomic development goals in a sound environment are as follows:

- better knowledge of surface and underground water resources,
- efficient use of water to support socioeconomic development in the region,
- anticipation of crises the preservation of water resources and related ecosystems,
- implementation of participatory management mechanisms for a better water governance,
- ensure financial sustainability in the water sector.

#### **1.4.1. Better knowledge of surface and underground water resources**

It is important that countries can control the data collection and have data in sufficient quantity and good quality for a better planning and a sustainable management of water resources. This will allow a saving of money in water mobilization investments by building adapted equipments.

#### **1.4.2. Efficient use of water to support socioeconomic development in the region**

In a context of rapid demographic growth, increasing urbanization and standards of living, the management of water resources must:

- meet the fundamental needs of the people as regards access to drinking water and sanitation in order to reduce the water-related diseases,
- improve food security,
- meet the water requirements of industry, energy, transport, tourism, recreation, mining ...
- meet the environmental needs.

At national, basin and sub-regional levels, there is a need to improve and expand water infrastructure to improve living standards in general.

#### **1.4.3. Anticipation of crises and preservation of water resources and related ecosystems**

Observations made in West Africa since the last decades show continuous degradation of water resources, both on the quantitative and qualitative levels. This degradation results in the following symptoms:

- Changes in the hydrological system
- Drying up of water sources
- Increase in the turbidity of rivers
- Siltation/sand silting of river beds and water bodies
- Reduction in ground water reserves and progression of salted intrusions in coastal zones
- Deterioration of the physical, chemical and biological quality of surface water
- Degradation of land due to soil erosion and decrease in soil fertility
- Ecosystems and aquatic biodiversity degradation

A regional water policy should allow :

- to sustainably manage water resources and prevent pollutions,
- to alleviate the environment degradation, the erosion,
- to prevent and manage natural disaster (flooding, drought),
- to anticipate impacts of climate change and variability,
- to prevent and manage conflicts on shared water resources,
- to reinforce cooperation between riparian countries.



#### **1.4.4. Implementation of participatory management mechanisms for a better water governance**

In the past, Governments took responsibility for the overall management of their water resources without consulting stakeholders. This resulted in a vicious circle of unsustainable projects, which are unable to meet the needs of the people, insufficient knowledge of the economic value of water, and people refusal to pay for the water.

Communities are central to the effective and efficient water resources management practices and a regional policy must promote the participation of all the stakeholders, and in particular the civil society, in the needs identification, conception and implementation of solutions and management mechanisms, especially for conflicts monitoring and resolution.

#### **1.4.5. Ensure financial sustainability of the water sector**

The absence of transparency and in particular the lack of accountability for the financial performances in the production and allocation of water resources is often at the root of faulty operations, inappropriate maintenance, financial losses and unreliable service provision. All this lead to substantial subsidies of water services in all the user sectors.

In order to provide hydro agricultural infrastructures, drinking water and sustainable sanitation services, cost recovery is a key factor which must be taken into account.

### **1.5. *Taking up the challenges by regional integration***

West African regional integration institutions have developed various sector-wide policies and strategies (agriculture, energy, environment, mines, industry...). These policies are presented in appendix 5.

It is essential for the water policy and the various regional sector wide policies and strategies to be harmonized and implemented in a consistent manner and this is one of the roles of the regional integration institutions ECOWAS and UEMOA.

Perspectives offered by regional integration can be packaged at three levels as follows<sup>5</sup>:

- Socio-economic planning

Regional socio-economic development goals are formulated to reconcile economic growth, social equity, in particular gender aspect, and environmental sustainability. Country development policies<sup>6</sup> take into account value addition of the water resource.

Management of the overall socio economic development must take into account the water sector. In particular, land and water relations are to be considered together and especially the implication of land pressure on the degradation of water resources.

Regional development takes into account shared water resources.

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<sup>5</sup> See appendix 2 : IWRM and water sector definition

<sup>6</sup>Consider PRSPs at least.

Public laws and policies that are related to water resources, must take into account all the water-related goods and services as well as all the actors concerned, and must be consistent.

- Water resources development

Water resources are developed through the building of needed infrastructure. They are managed in a participatory way, that takes into account the various sectors valorisation and is informed in terms of evaluation, management and planning.

- User Sectors

Management of value adding sectors must be participatory and informed, by taking into account the water resource.

The sectors are:

- Drinking water supply and sanitation,
- Agriculture including biofuels, livestock and fishing,
- Industries, mines and energy, biofuels,
- Environment, biodiversity,
- Tourism, craft industry,
- Navigation – Transport.

## **Part 2. Main directions of the West Africa Regional Water Policy**

### **2.1 General objective**

The general objective of the regional water policy is to contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development by advising the Community and its Member States on water resources management, reconciling economic development, social equity and environmental protection.

### **2.2 Specific objectives**

The specific objectives of this policy are:

- to foster the development of Community guidelines in terms of water management,
- to support the harmonization and integration of national and regional water related policies,
- to encourage Governments to develop frameworks for water management nationally and in trans-boundary basins in West Africa by taking into account economic development, social equity and environmental protection.

### **2.3 Guiding principles**

Since the conference of Mar del Plata in 1977, various international meetings have taken place to build consensus on the general principles of water resources management, in particular in Dublin and Rio in 1992<sup>7</sup>.

To achieve equitable, efficient and sustainable water resources management by taking into account national and international experiences, the regional policy adopts the following guiding principles:

- **equitable and reasonable sharing of international surface and underground water resources**, a principle according to which each country is entitled to an equitable and reasonable share of water resources to achieve the greatest benefit with the least disadvantages to the other countries ;
- **precaution**, a principle according to which the absence of scientific proof should not lead a decision maker to defer the adoption of measures aimed at preventing a potential health or environmental risk ;
- **prevention**, a principle according to which preventive measures must be taken in all human activities, because the presence of a minor risk or damage to the environment should not be allowed.

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<sup>7</sup> See appendix 3 : Dublin and Rio principles

- **information** and **notice of intent**, a principle according to which all activities likely to generate damage to human and animal health and on the environment must be notified to the government and brought to the attention of the public ;
- **repair** or **polluter – pays** principle, a principle according to which anybody or institution responsible for an incidence of pollution must pay for or repair the damage caused or likely to be caused to the environment ;
- **user-pays** principle, a principle according to which users and recipients participate in the funding of the water sector ;
- **effective governance in water resources management**, a principle according to which all the actors must be involved and empowered in the development and implementation of water resources for balanced management ;
- **gender equality** : the interests and contributions of women, men and vulnerable people in the society are taken into account in the formulation of policies, capacity development, planning, and implementation of programmes and overall investments in the water sector ;
- **subsidiarity**, a principle according to which the Community, shall deal with issues and programmes that cannot be treated more effectively at the trans-boundary basin, national or local levels ;
- **supplementarity**, which aims, from the perspective of regional integration, at best to exploit the complementarities of economies of Member States based on the current or potential comparative advantages ;
- **solidarity**, which aims to ensure the political and social cohesion, within the Community through support to the most disadvantaged people and areas, in order to remove disparities;
- **progressiveness** in the implementation of measures, to take into account the situation and specific interests of each State.
- **partnership**, which aims to finding complementarities and synergies with national or intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and associations working in the field of water resources.
- **cooperation**, which aims at developing relationship between states, basins organizations, and regional organizations, in order to ensure an integrated and peaceful water resources management.
- **hydrographic basins or aquifers systems management**, a principle according to which the basin or the aquifer is the appropriate framework for planning, developing, managing and protecting water resources.

## **2.4 Strategic areas of intervention**

To achieve the general objective of the regional policy, the following strategic areas of intervention are proposed:

- to reform water governance,
- to promote investments in the water sector,
- to promote regional co-operation and integration in the water sector.

### **2.4.1 To reform water governance**

Water governance refers to the system of rules and institutions which govern the management and use of water resources.

Reform of water governance aims at the development of the current system founded on a sector-wide approach towards an integrated management system that takes into account all the relevant factors and associating all the actors concerned for an equitable sharing and a balanced, ecologically rational and sustainable use of water resources.

The implementation of this intervention area centres around the following lines of intervention: set up an enabling legal and institutional framework, build instruments of economic governance, promote the participation of the private sector, develop water information and knowledge, promote research and capacity building, and support of environmental management programmes.

#### ***2.4.1.1 To set up an enabling legal and institutional framework***

The objective is to promote gradual development of Community legislation on water in West Africa and undertake legal and institutional reforms in countries and basins organizations.

As part of this, the Community shall:

- prepare water related regulatory community texts,
- prepare regional norms and standards,
- support the processes of legal and institutional reforms as regards water resources management at the country level,
- support the processes of integrated water resources management in countries,
- support the popularization and implementation of water related texts .

#### ***2.4.1.2 To build instruments of economic governance***

Effective water governance implies that users are accountable for the use and deterioration of water according to the polluter-pays and user pays approach.

When the user pays principle (“full cost recovery” or “full cost pricing”) is applied, water is sold without subsidises and users pay all the production, distribution and sanitation costs. Implementation of this principle by the majority of users is desirable to support an effective resource management but this should come only if special provisions are made to protect the minority of users who cannot afford the considerable increase in water prices that the implementation of user-pays principle involves.

The Community recommends the application of the polluter-pays and user-pays principle and the development of economic tools such as royalties for water use.

#### ***2.4.1.3 To promote the participation of the private sector***

The Community recommends the creation of an enabling environment for the participation of the private sector, to allow initiatives of the private sector, NGOs and civil society organizations, to supplement the efforts of governments in order to achieve a better service delivery to all the users in the water sector.

#### ***2.4.1.4 To develop water information and knowledge***

We need to improve knowledge about surface and groundwater resources as well as the different water sectors demands. The data gathering networks are deteriorating and this affects the quality and availability of data.

There is a great quantity and diversity of data, information, knowledge and expertise directly or indirectly connected to water and aquatic ecosystems in West Africa. These data are generated by various governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders. The scattered nature of the data does not support their availability, nor their use. It is thus necessary to gather and make the information and data accessible to all the water users. This availability of information is essential within the context of integrated water resources management.

To implement this line of intervention, the Community:

- encourage countries to develop and maintain water data gathering networks and to maintain them,
- set up a regional water observatory in West Africa in order to promote experience and information sharing,
- support the establishment or strengthening of national water information management systems.

#### ***2.4.1.5 To foster research and build capacities***

Applied research and technology development to provide sufficient knowledge on water related issues are necessary to help decision-making.

To make IWRM a success and to implement sustainable and participatory strategies for water resources management, capacities will have to be built within the stakeholders' groups including women. This should include training at the technical and managerial levels.

The Community shall elaborate a regional IWRM capacity building strategy and support research efforts and capacity building in West Africa.

#### ***2.4.1.6 To ensure consideration of environmental dimension***

Aquatic and riparian ecosystems as well as wetlands are recognised for their ecological richness and productivity, their biodiversity and their purification properties. They are subjected to multiple forms of economic exploitation and pleasure activities, which sometimes generate significant stress on these environments.

For a perennial use of rivers and water bodies taking into account the different water uses and in order to guaranty the health of aquatic ecosystems, the environment capacity must be respected. Moreover, actions must be taken in order to protect or restore littoral, rivers and water bodies, their floodplains, and in general the wetlands.

The Community recommends the protection of aquatic ecosystems.

Water quality is of essential concern in West Africa particularly for public health issues and aquatic ecosystems preservation. Waste water disposal without treatment in the seas, rivers and water bodies, have a negative impact on aquatic life and the whole ecosystem. This calls to the respect of norms by all the users.

The Community shall elaborate standards about surface and groundwater quality, liquid disposals, and recommends the development of protection areas for waterholes, rivers and water bodies.

#### **2.4.2 To promote investments in the water sector**

Poverty reduction and the promotion of socioeconomic development in the region require investments in water infrastructure, which need enormous appropriations of funds to meet the demands of the various sectors.

To meet the needs of the many users requires strong coordination and close linkages with all the policies and strategies of the sectors in order to develop as much as possible multipurpose infrastructure. Impact studies of water infrastructure should be systematically undertaken and the relevant recommendations implemented.

The Community will see to the realization of impact studies and monitor their recommendations.

The Community will foster a close collaboration between and among all the sectors, in particular water supply, rural development, energy, health and environment.

Community action in the various sectors is proposed as follows:

- Drinking water and sanitation: The Community makes sure that countries draw up objectives in relation to the Millennium Development Goals and progress towards achieving these objectives. It supports countries in their search for financing to realise the infrastructure needed to improve people access to drinking water and sanitation.
- Water and food security: The Community identifies centres of production for irrigated agriculture and contributes to the development of these centres; Infrastructure programmes are developed in connection with agricultural policies at the regional and national level. The Community will encourage private investments in support of

countries to create, maintain and renew storage and irrigation infrastructure. The Community will also support the building of hydraulic infrastructure for fishing and breeding activities development.

- Hydro-electricity: Hydroelectricity is a clean and renewable energy source. The Community will promote the development of multi-purpose works (hydroelectricity generation, agricultural water, water supply and sanitation) especially those that are common to several States. The Community will identify sites to be developed at the regional level in the energy sector consistent with the energy and environment policies at the regional and national levels.
- River transport - tourism: The Community shall identify rivers and lakes with a high potential for transport and tourism and support countries to ensure their development.
- Mitigation of environmental risks (floods, droughts, pollution, degradation of ecosystems, sand silting). The Community shall support the construction of protection infrastructure and the implementation of risk mitigation measures. It supports the States in the management of invasive aquatic weeds.

### **2.4.3 To promote regional co-operation and integration**

The objective in this area is to build good relations between countries, basin organisations and regional organisations in order to ensure a collaborative, integrated, sustainable and peaceful water resources management system in West Africa

Thus the Community shall create an enabling environment, to promote collaborative trans-boundary water resources management, to promote co-operation and resource mobilization, to promote crisis and conflicts resolution and prevention mechanisms, to ensure monitoring of international commitments and to promote building and operation of common infrastructure.

#### ***2.4.3.1 To promote collaborative trans-boundary water management***

Shared water resources can be at the root of conflicts among several countries. In this regard, it is always difficult for countries to reconcile demands of national sovereignty with those of solidarity especially for strategic natural resources. On the contrary however, shared water resources can be a factor of co-operation and peace if they are managed collaboratively by the various countries. Indeed, reasonable and equitable use of shared water resources by each country preserves the legitimate right of other users and therefore peace at the regional level. More so, common exploitation of shared water resources contributes to the optimization of resources and reinforces solidarity between countries depending on the same resource.

The Community recommends the establishment of trans-boundary basin organizations that will deal with underground water by developing dialogues.

Existing basin organizations should improve and expand their institutional arrangements to include effective management of groundwater resources



It recommends the development of common projects and activities that integrate social, economic and environmental considerations.

#### ***2.4.3.2 To promote conflict and crisis prevention and resolution mechanisms***

The Community sets up conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms with respect to the use of shared water resources.

It recommends the integration of water issues in the prevention of humanitarian crisis, in particular:

- establishment of water reserves to avoid crisis,
- development of crisis management plans,
- definition and monitoring indicators (early warning).

#### ***2.4.3.3 To ensure monitoring of international commitments***

The Community supports the ratification and implementation of water related Conventions, Treaties, Agreements and Protocols.

It recommends the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses.

It reinforces the participation of West Africa in international debates on water:

- support for the participation of countries,
- setting up a mechanism to promote regional consensus building,
- taking joint positions,
- building capacities on international agreements.

## **Part 3. Details of implementation**

The regional policy shall be implemented through:

- an institutional arrangement to be set up,
- the mobilization of public and private financial resources,
- a monitoring and evaluation mechanism to be set up collaboratively with ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS.

### ***3.1 Institutional mechanism***

The institutions and actors involved in the implementation of the regional policy are as follows:

- ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS,
- National and local governments,
- Trans-boundary basin organizations,
- Public (intergovernmental organizations), and private partners, NGOs, training and research organizations,
- Technical and financial partners,
- Users (users associations, producers' organizations).

**The institutional framework of elaboration, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the regional policy shall be based on an ECOWAS – UEMOA-CILSS coordination. ECOWAS will be the process leader.**

National and local governments shall ensure implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the policy at national and local levels.

Trans-boundary basin organizations shall ensure implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the policy in their respective basins.

Public and private partners, NGOs, training and research organizations shall take part within their respective competences in the implementation of the policy.

Technical and financial partners shall support the region in the implementation of the policy.

Users shall be consulted and involved through suitable mechanisms in the implementation of the policy.

### ***The Permanent Framework for Coordination and Monitoring***

The ECOWAS Permanent Framework of Coordination and Monitoring (PFCM) of water resources management has a role of promoting, coordinating and ensuring the implementation of the Community policy as regards water resources management in West Africa. Its bodies are:

- The Ministerial follow-up Committee composed of the ministers in charge of water resources in ECOWAS Member States. It is the PFCM decision-making and guidance body;

- The Technical Experts Committee, composed of the focal points that are experts of water resources representing on the one hand the Member States and on the other hand, basin organizations in West Africa. It assists the Ministerial Follow up Committee in its role of PFCM guidance and steering;
- The Regional Collaborative Council on Water Resources (RCCWR), an advisory body, composed of 45 members, representing governments, basin organizations, local governments, partners and the civil society including the private sector.
- The Water Resources Coordination Unit (WRCU), the PFCM executive body.

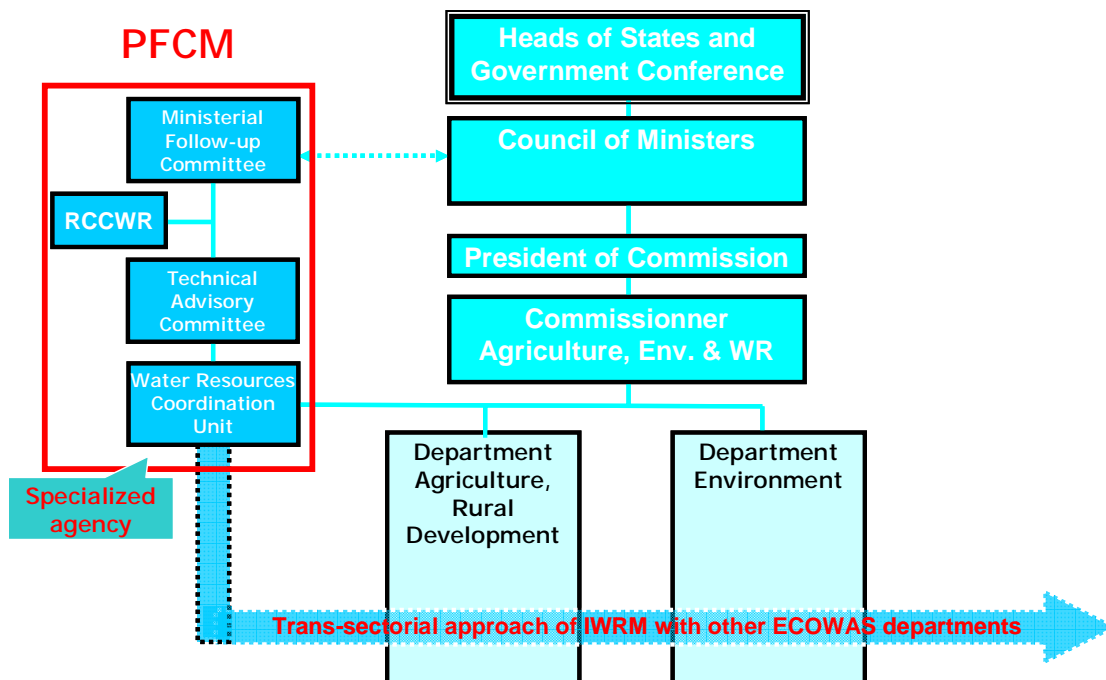


Figure 1: PFCM organization chart

PFCM is the coordination and monitoring body of the regional water policy in collaboration with the Member States and stakeholders. Specific working committees and task forces shall be set up to deal with the multiple themes of regional integration in the field of water management. Recommendations from those committees will be made to the Commission for approval and application in the various sectors.

### 3.2 Financing Instruments

The identification of the challenges to the regional water policy must enable member countries to mobilize political will and the financial resources needed for its implementation. Public and private financing will be coordinated for project and implementation.

The main funding sources are as follows:

- **Resources of the ECOWAS - UEMOA-CILSS and member countries.**

Institutions in charge of the policy implementation shall use their own resources for their operations.

The ECOWAS shall liaise with member countries to allocate financial resources for water in their national budgets, in particular by associating with Members of Parliament.

The ECOWAS shall encourage countries to authorize basin agencies to contract loans directly and to guarantee these loans, in particular through the ECOWAS Bank of Investment and Development (EBID), the West African Development Bank (WADB).

Funding mechanisms set up as part of regional and subregional cooperation will be mobilized, in particular facilities offered by the African Water Facility of the African Development Bank (ADB) and the West African Development Bank (WADB); under consideration as part of implementation of the New partnership for Africa's development (NEPAD).

A Water Facility could be set up inside the EBID.

- **Foreign resources**

ECOWAS, in collaboration with UEMOA and CILSS, shall support countries in external fundraising and funds mobilization.

The Community shall build the capacities of studies and project formulation that could have support from:

- International donor agencies,
- UN agencies.

- **Private sector and civil society**

The ECOWAS, in collaboration with the UEMOA and the CILSS, shall create an enabling environment to foster the participation of the private sector.

- **Users**

The ECOWAS, in collaboration with UEMOA and CILSS, shall encourage the implementation of the user-pays, polluter-pays principle, water cost recovery, and the consideration of costs of maintenance for water infrastructure.

### ***3.3 Monitoring and evaluation mechanism***

ECOWAS, in collaboration with UEMOA and CILSS shall set up tools for monitoring and evaluation for the implementation of the regional water policy through the bodies of the Permanent framework of coordination and monitoring.

Monitoring and evaluation is a key element of the implementation and identification of reforms to the regional water policy. The Commission of the ECOWAS shall ensure the coordination of monitoring and evaluation through the Water Resources Coordination Unit in collaboration with the UEMOA and the CILSS. This will be supervised by the PFCM Ministerial Follow-up Committee, which meets periodically to review progress made in the implementation of the regional policy and institute necessary reforms.

The monitoring and evaluation process contributes to the DSRP and MDGs mechanisms at regional level by ensuring that water related indicators are taken into account.

The Commission shall support a joint programme ( ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS) for defining a shortlist of indicators to be used for monitoring the implementation of the regional water policy.

In parallel, ECOWAS in collaboration with UEMOA and CILSS will undertake monitoring of the technical and financial implementation of the Community programmes and projects in the field of water in collaboration with the departments concerned within countries and basin agencies.

Finally, impact studies in specific fields will be carried out in order to make sure that actions taken as part of the regional water policy have a meaningful impact for the people and regional integration.

### ***3.4 Action plan***

ECOWAS, with UEMOA and CILSS, defines an action plan for the implementation of this policy, in particular through the updating of the Regional Action Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management.