



RAOB/ANBO

**AFRICAN NETWORK FOR BASINS
ORGANIZATION/RESEAU AFRICAÎN DES ORGANISMES
DES BASSINS**

**STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONS FOR TRANSBOUNDARY WATER
MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA (SITWA)/ RENFORCEMENT DES INSTITUTIONS DE
GESTION DES EAUX TRANSFRONTALIÈRES EN AFRIQUE**

**REPORT OF THE SITWA LAUNCHING MEETING HELD IN DAKAR, SENEGAL
ON 13TH-14TH, 2012**

DECEMBER 2012



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AMCOW	African Ministers' Council on Water
ANBO	African Network of Basin Organizations
CICOS	Commission Internationale pour le bassin Congo-Oubangui-Sanga
CIWA	Cooperation in International Waters in Africa
GWP	GWP Country Water Partnership
EU	European Union
GWP	Global Water Partnership
GWPO	Global Water Partnership Organization
INBO	International Network of Basin Organizations
KOBWA	Komati Basin Water Authority
LVBC	Lake Victoria Basin Commission
NBA	Niger River Basin
OMVS	L'Organisation pour la mise en valeur du Fleuve Sénégal
PMT	Project Management Team
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RBO	River Basin Organization
RECs	Regional Economic Commissions
RWP	GWP Regional Water Partnership
SITWA	Strengthening the Institutions for Transboundary Water Management in Africa
TOR	Terms of Reference
WP	Work Package

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1. Introduction

On the 13th-14th December, 2012 the African Network of Basin Organization (ANBO) Coordination bureau represented by Mr. Reginald Tekateka, the ANBO chair; Dr. Siphos V. Nkambule from KOBWA; Dr. Canisius Kanangire from LVBC; Eng. Blaise Léandre Tondo from CICOS and Dr. Enoumba Henri Claude from NBA; the Regional Water Partners (RWPs) from five African regions, the Global Water Partnership Office (GWPO), the International Network of Basin Organization (INBO), the African Ministers Council of Water (AMCOW) and the World Bank (WB) representatives met in Dakar, at the OMVS headquarters, and discussed about the Strengthening the Institutions for Transboundary Water Management in Africa (SITWA) Project's work plan for 2012-2013 and other issues related to the SITWA and ANBO. The list of attendance and the agenda of the meeting are attached to this report.

The main objective of the workshop was to discuss about and validate the work plan for project's first year (October 2012-October 2013) and provide inputs to the work packages of the work plan.

SITWA Project is aimed at Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Development of African Transboundary Waters and it is financed by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and the ANBO technical secretariat, which is under OMVS.

Day one: Thursday December 13th, 2012

2. Opening Remarks

2.1 The OMVS High Commissioner :

The OMVS High Commissioner (HC), Mr. Mohamed Salem MERZOUG, wished a warm welcome to all the participants and presented the excuses on behalf of the OMVS Ministers Council representative, who was not able to attend the opening of the meeting due to his busy schedule. He thanked the Netherlands' Ambassador to Senegal, the INBO permanent secretary, the ANBO president and all the participants for their attendance despite their very busy schedules. He recalled that ANBO was born out of common sense for strengthening the institutions and enabling environment for the African transboundary water resources management. He noted that ANBO will play its role as a center for experience and information exchange and dissemination thanks to the help from all the participants to the meeting. The OMVS High Commissioner thanked the Senegalese Government for having accepted to host the ANBO, the development partners for their financial support and

reiterated the OMVS full support to make the ANBO and the SITWA project a success. The detailed speech is attached as Annex I.

2.2 The ANBO Chair

The ANBO chair, Mr. Reginald TEKATEKA, thanked the OMVS for a very warm welcome witnessed by all the participants from the beginning of the meeting. He noted that the OMVS had become a very dependable and solid partner for ANBO support. He congratulated the GWP for its remarkable role in helping establish SITWA and informed the meeting that the representation of the GWP in all African regions matched with the AMCOW understanding of having its activities implemented in the regions, facilitated by stakeholders. The ANBO chair reminded the meeting that ground water was part and parcel of ANBO's objectives and needed to be taken on board from the beginning. He concluded his remarks by expressing his gratitude to the Government of Senegal for hosting ANBO and the GWP for its efforts in SITWA project implementation.

2.3 The GWPO representative and Co-Chair

The ANBO Co-Chair and GWP representative in the meeting, John METZGER, thanked the OMVS and all the participants who spared some time from their very busy schedules to attend the meeting. He noted that the SITWA launching meeting held in Dakar was extraordinary because the launching had taken place in Cairo, in May 2012. He stated that it was very important to have a meeting after the SITWA project manager was hired and that is why the GWPO sponsored the meeting. He thanked the OMVS for hosting SITWA and for its efforts in preparation of the launching meeting. He reiterated the GWPO commitment and full support to ANBO/SITWA project.

3. Presentations

3.1 INBO's Activities :

Mr. Jean Francois Donzier, the INBO permanent secretary, presented the overview of the INBO objectives and activities around the globe. He described the objectives of INBO as follows: (i) to develop relations between organizations interested in comprehensive water resource management at the river basin level; (ii) to favor exchanges of experiences and expertise among them; (iii) to promote the principles and means of sound water management in cooperation programs; (iv) to facilitate the implementation of tools suitable for institutional and financial management, (v) programming, organization of data banks, and for models adapted to the needs; (vi) to promote information and training programs for the different stakeholders involved in water management as well as for the executives and staff of the member basin organizations and; (vii) to evaluate ongoing actions and disseminate their results. Mr. Donzier informed the meeting about the INBO activities around the globe, its initiatives and the plan of activities. In his presentation he mentioned important projects that

had been initiated by INBO, which could be continued by ANBO/SITWA and reach quick but important results during the project's inception phase. The detailed presentation is attached as Annex II.

3.1.1 Discussions

Discussions focused on how ANBO/SITWA can benefit from INBO's work and experience. In order to avoid reinvent the wheel and loss of past efforts put in projects implemented by INBO, OMVS and other regional bodies in data and information management as well as capacity building, it was emphasized that SITWA should look at the work done and find a way of upgrading it with a pan-Africanist perspective. Among other projects suggested to be undertaken by SITWA during the inception phase are African Water Information System (AWIS); capacity building activities currently underway by CICOS and Volta basin that can be used for capacity building in other basins. The experience accumulated over the years by INBO as global network was also mentioned as an important element to be taken into account as phase one of the SITWA project was being developed.

3.2 SITWA Work Plan

The Project Manager presented the work plan for October 2012-October 2013. He covered the (i) the structure of the report divided into six chapters; (ii) the background of SITWA project; (iii) the objectives of the project; (iv) the components of the project and ; (v) the milestones of the project and the challenges and constraints of the project. The meeting noted that the project had good but ambitious objectives and in order to reach tangible results, the project had to avoid re-invent the wheel and supplement or update the existing projects whenever feasible. The detailed presentation is attached as Annex III.

3.2.1 Discussions on SITWA work plan and INBO presentations

The meeting suggested that the Project Management Team should consider to combine work packages that had similarities. The participants also provided information on the existing studies related to the six work packages and underlined the packages where they would help during the implementation period. The following recommendations emerged out of the discussions of the two presentations: (i) Other sources of funds can be sought to facilitate the implementation of the project; (ii) Work packages can be combined where possible to facilitate the achievement of quick but useful results; (iii) SITWA should not reinvent the wheel; work done by INBO and other stakeholders related to the work packages should be gathered and be used for the implementation of the project. These include the ongoing capacity building activities undertaken with CICOS and Volata; Key Performance Indicators (KPI) project; African Water Information System (AWIS) and the source book, which can be upgraded to cover a larger portion of Africa during the first year of the project; (iv) The existing network of organizations working in the TWR should be taken into account during the implementation of SITWA. It was also underlined that SITWA should work closely with

CIWA and benefit from CIWA's work done on RBOs legal framework data and other planned projects on transboundary water management.

3.3 Findings from Southern African regional consultations: presentation and discussion

The presentation was done by Dr. Sipho Nkambule, the Executive Secretary of KOBWA. The presentation covered the following main points: (i) The context of RBOs in SADC; (ii) Transboundary RBOs in SADC: status and challenges; (iii) SITWA value addition to SADC on going initiatives; (iv) SITWA implementation strategy in the SADC region; (v) SITWA progress in the region, key lessons learnt from SADC consultations and the next steps. It was noted that SITWA implementation was going on well and the adopted strategies were appropriate because SITWA activities were aligned with SADC strategic plan. The presentation also included the lessons learnt during southern African consultations: (i) Separate Briefing from Solicitation of Feedback/Way Forward; (ii) Avoid Presenting a desired situation and Rather invite Ideas on Way Forward; (iii) Use Recognized Role Player(s) in Region to Foster Ownership and Identity; (iv) In Soliciting Way Forward Avoid as much as possible mixing RBO Management and their Principals in the Same Group. The approach adopted by Southern African ANBO region is strengthening synergies and build on the existing transboundary activities and plans. It was also noted that the ANBO/SITWA objectives were in line with the activities and plans of the 15 RBOs found in the SADC region. The Southern African experience will help during SITWA implementation especially the role of SADC as a REC in transboundary water resources management and the process of mainstreaming water resources management into RECs' agendas.

3.4 Presentation and discussions on Terms of Reference (ToRs) work packages

The SITWA Project Manager presented all the work packages of the project and these are:

- (i) Work Package 1 (INSTIT) ANBO institutional design;
- (ii) Work Package 2 (EUWI) Learning review of EUWI transboundary projects experience;
- (iii) Work Package 3 (LAW) RBOs legal frameworks;
- (iv) Work Package 4 (CAP) Capacity building needs;
- (v) Work Package 5 (KNOW) Knowledge management needs;
- (vi) Work Package 6 (FIN) Sustainable financing of RBOs;
- (vii) Work Package 7 (PLAN) Work on IWRM planning;
- (viii) Work Package 8 (WCDP connect) Work on linkages with climate & development agendas;
- (ix) Work Package 9 (WRINFO) Work on data and information and;

- (x) Work Package 10 (INFRA) infrastructure Work Packages/ development (link with climate change and adaptability).

The participants were then divided into three discussion groups and worked on the following themes: group one dealt with institutional design and legal framework (work packages 1 and 3); group two focused on capacity building and knowledge management (work packages 4 and 5). Group three dealt with RBOs financing (work package 6). The groups had the whole afternoon of day one and presentations and discussions took place in the morning of day two. The detailed presentation is attached as Annex VI.

Day two: Thursday December 14th , 2012

3.5 Presentation on Cooperation for International Waters In Africa (CIWA)

Mr. Marcus Wishart from the World Bank made his presentation on the following main points: (i) Defining International Waters; (ii) Strategic Overview of Opportunities; (iii) Political Economy of Cooperation; (iv) Enabling Instruments; (v) Enabling Institutions; (vi) Forward Collaboration. CIWA is a multi-donor trust fund managed by the World Bank to support cooperative management and development of transboundary river basins, lakes and aquifers in sub-Saharan Africa. The program focuses on climate-resilient growth and supports activities at various levels, in different sectors aligned with overall objectives. The presentation included also possible areas of cooperation with ANBO/SITWA. The entire presentation is attached as Annex V.

Discussion

Discussions focused on possible areas of collaboration. CIWA has collected data on African River Basin Organizations (RBO) legal and institutional documents. ANBO/SITWA could collaborate with CIWA and use the available data for SITWA work package 3 related to RBOs cooperative framework agreements. It was agreed that a meeting between ANBO/GWPO and CIWA would be organized for further discussions about areas of collaboration.

3.6 Presentations from work groups

On day two in the morning, the three discussion groups made their presentations followed by discussions.

3.6.1 Group one: institutional design and legal framework (work packages 1 and 3)

The ToRs of reference for institutional design cover everything that ANBO was designed to accomplish as found in the Tekateka report's recommendations and the updated ANBO statutes. The project management team will have to look at those reports and with a help from an international specialist in network of basins organization, prepare suitable institutional

design that fits the ANBO objectives. It was also suggested that the team should look at other network basins organizations' institutional design in working on work package 1. With regards to work package 3 related to RBOs legal framework. It was recommended that the team updates the existing study on comparative analysis of basins organization that was undertaken by a consultant hired by OMVS, use the CIWA data, expand the analysis to include other African RBOs and work closely with CIWA for the validation of the study.

The particularity of the North African region where there is neither RBOs nor transboundary water resources was discussed. It was made clear that ANBO covers the whole continent and that the national North African river basins participate in ANBO general assembly and therefore, during the inception phase, the Northern African region will have to be approached differently in order to be able to build an ANBO that is inclusive based on African Union spirit.

3.6.2 Group two: capacity building and knowledge management (work packages 4 and 5)

There are capacity building initiatives already with CICOS and Volta basin that can be expanded to other regions. There is a disconnection between the academia and the policy makers in WRM and therefore there is a need to formalize relations between ANBO and research institutions and centers of excellence to facilitate a dialogue between researchers and policy makers. Experience from Lake Victoria Basin has shown that even when there are forums for exchange between academia and politicians, the two groups may not be at the same level of understanding. It is suggested that there was a need for capacity building so that the academicians can be able to prepare policy briefs using the language that is easily accessible by the general public and policy makers.

3.6.3 Group three: capacity building and knowledge management (work packages 6)

The group made a link between the nature of the RBO and the way funds are mobilized and underlined that the legal mandate of RBO dictates how funds can be leveraged. The group also reviewed the types of financing namely: country contribution and donor support. It was cautioned that strong donor support has to go with the RBOs priorities and partnership and integration need to be encouraged. The projects that are dealing with transboundary waters such as CIWA need to be identified and synergies created and strengthened. The financing work package will have to also look into RBOs legal framework agreements, the RECs and other sub-regional projects that may link up with transboundary water resources management projects.

4. Conclusion

The two day SITWA launching workshop was an important step for the project. The main stakeholders of the project were able to discuss the work plan for 2012-2013 and provide with inputs to the main themes/work packages of the project. The areas of collaboration and synergies with other institutions were identified and will be worked on during the inception phase of the project. The challenges facing the project were also discussed and it was suggested that the project management team will need inputs from sub-regions in order to be able to deliver meaningful outputs.