



**African Network of Basin  
Organisations**

## **IWRM KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR AFRICAN TRANSBOUNDARY RIVER BASINS.**

### ***Project Synthesis note***

December 2010

#### **Project overview**

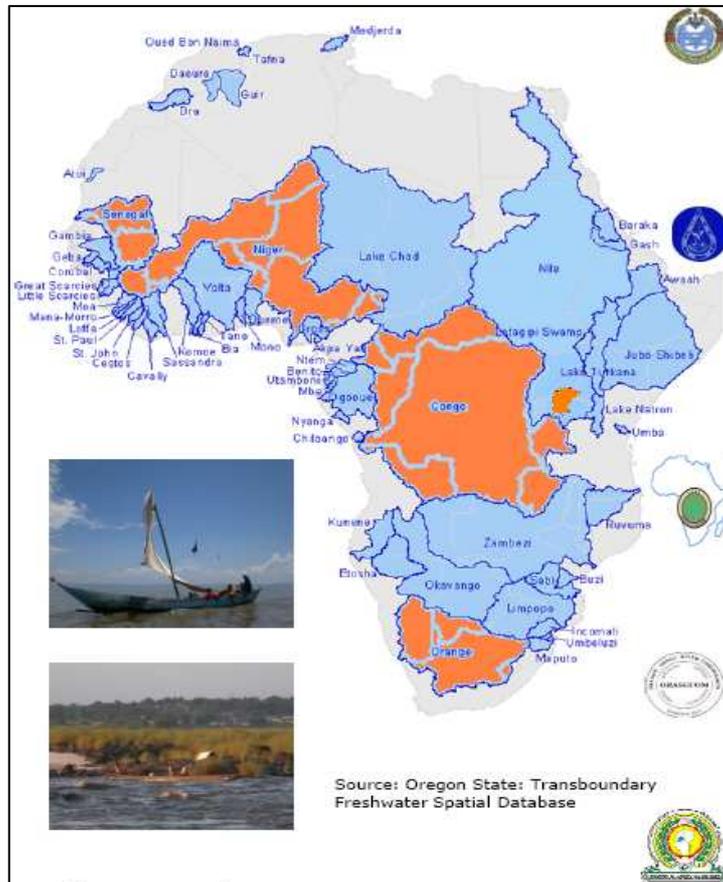
International Office for Water (Oieau, as Secretariat of the International Network of Basin Organisations), the African Network of Basin Organisations (ANBO), Ecologic and various African transboundary basins have developed, from 2007 to 2010, performance indicators related to transboundary basin organisations.

The main objective is to assess the progresses of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) policies and programmes at transboundary level.

This project was funded by The European Commission, Cooperation Office EuropeAid, in the frame of its **ACP-EU Water Facility programme** and the **French Ministry of Foreign Affairs**.

The performance indicators have been progressively defined, tested and refined on several African transboundary basins. During a first stage this has been performed in cooperation with the following river Basin organisations: Senegal (OMVS), Niger (ABN), Congo (CICOS) and Volta (ABV). The process has been later on shared and extended to Orange (ORASECOM), Gambia (OMVG), Lake Victoria (LVBC) and Lake Chad (CBLT).

Those tests have allowed to validate the feasibility of using indicators and to demonstrate their usefulness thanks to important appropriation from basin organisation employees. Specific project meetings have been organised in Ouagadougou (November 2007), Kinshasa (October 2008), Istanbul (during the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in March 2009) and Dakar (January 2010).



## Some tested and validated performance indicators

The elaborated performance indicators are tackling both the assessment of **governance** within the basin organisation and the assessment of on field **results from the implementation** of IWRM policies and programmes.

As assessment tools of progress encountered in the frame of IWRM implementation, indicators are performed by operations units of basin organisations. But they also provide an important communication and management tool for statutory bodies of the Basin organisations, executives, local partners, stakeholders and donors...

The pragmatic approach developed through the project, based on involvement of various basin organisations has allowed proposing an evolutionary process, adapted to the various levels of maturity of basin organisations and data availability.

A final version (but still evolutive) of performance indicators has been elaborated in July 2010.

For governance, 20 indicators have finally been selected and regrouped among 7 IWRM principles:

**PRINCIPLE 1 : POLITICAL PROCESS**

- G1 Political connection
- G2 Benefit sharing

**PRINCIPLE 2 : FINANCIAL MECHANISMS**

- G3 Ongoing financing
- G4 Financing consistent with targets
- G5 Efficiency
- G6 Application of user-payer and polluter-payer principles
- G7 Donor coordination

**PRINCIPLE 3 : REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION**

- G8 Representativeness
- G9 Water user participation

**PRINCIPLE 4 : LEGAL SYSTEM**

- G10 Legislation at basin organisation level
- G11 Conformity between national and regional legislation

**PRINCIPLE 5 : PLANNING**

- G12 Planning process
- G13 Plan implementation
- G14 Decision-making process for infrastructures

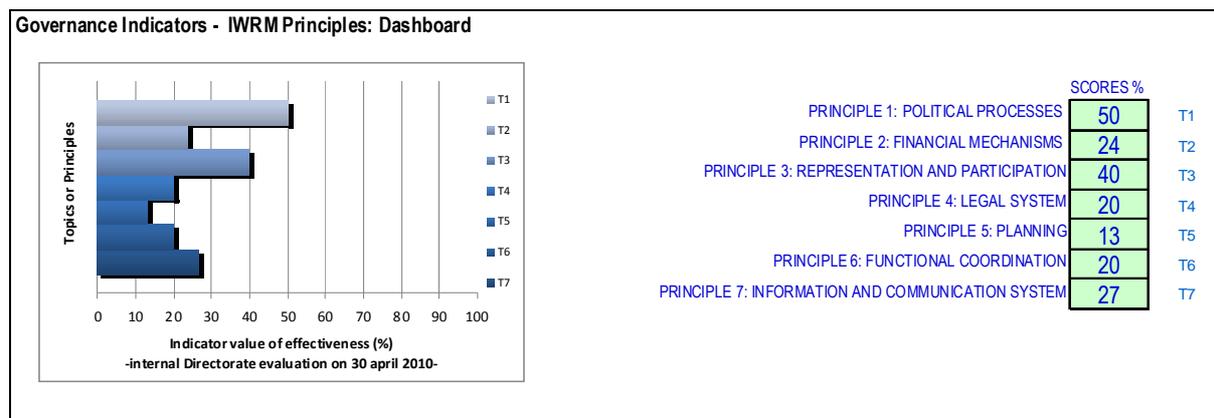
**PRINCIPLE 6 : FUNCTIONAL COORDINATION**

- G15 National / regional interface
- G16 Coordination tools
- G17 Overarching reporting mechanism

**PRINCIPLE 7 : INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

- G18 Information management system
- G19 Information management protocol
- G20 Communication

The following figure provides an example of governance indicators results on a particular basin :



As for the indicators (technical, social, economical, environmental...) devoted to assessing **results from the implementation** of IWRM, 15 were defined at the end of the process of selection. One should note however that the easiness of filling them is highly dependant from the state of implementation of IWRM in the basin organisation. In particular, the existence of information or observatory systems at basin level is easing a lot the use of this category of indicators.

In order to detail the indicators but also to provide support for their use among basin organisations, a handbook has been released in May 2010.

### Perspectives and follow-up

Basin organisations involved in the project are now able to fill-in performance indicators, with a frequency adapted to their needs (for example on a yearly basis). The involvement of basin organisation representatives all along the project, the learning by doing approach and the testing of indicators on full basin scale is now a guarantee of autonomous use by project beneficiaries.

However, in order to promote a wider use of performance indicators for basin organisations, it is proposed to ease the diffusion under a structured approach that allows broadening the number of basins involved through a collaborative process thanks to the user community.

In addition the presentation of project results during international events in 2010 (Yellow river international Forum in China, World Water week in Stockholm, General Assembly of African Network of Basin Organisations in Dakar) has underlined a strong level of interest from other organisations. But it has also clearly advocated for a need in terms of support and experience feedback.

A second phase of the project is consequently « under preparation » with main objectives of providing potential users with a set of indicators tools; validated, free and evolutive while ensuring a dynamic process of exchange between users.

For more information, please visit the project's website at : <http://www.aquacoope.org/PITB>