



GEF IW: LEARN
1st Pan-Africa Structured Learning Workshop
(Nairobi, KENYA 30 Oct - 2 Nov 2006)



**Transboundary Water Resources Management
in West Africa**

Case Presentation on Niger River Basin

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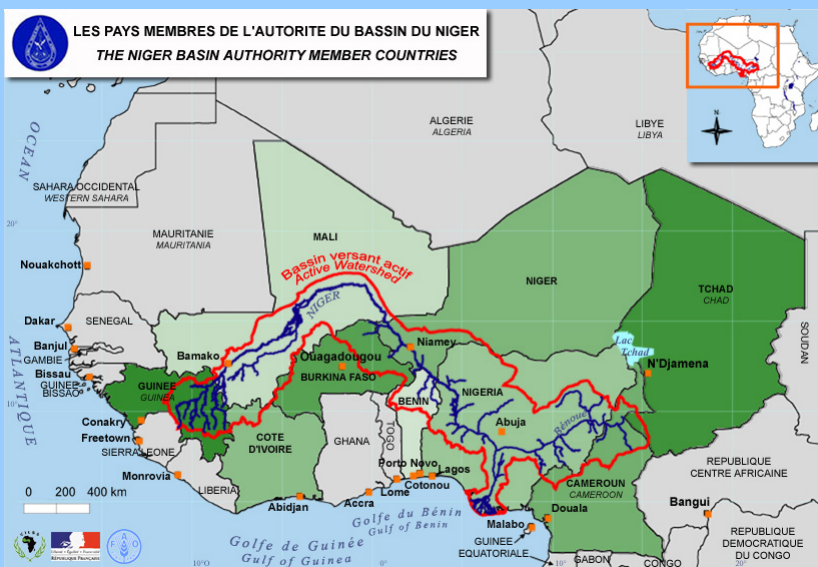
Content of the Presentation

- 1. Niger River Basin: Background Information**
- 2. Approach of TWRM in NRB**
- 3. Challenges & Responses**
- 4. The GEF Project**
- 5. Lessons learned**

Shared Water Resources Management in Niger Basin



1. Niger River Basin: Background Information



Shared Water Resources Management in Niger Basin



1. Niger River Basin: Background Information

□ Main features:

- ✗ In the heart of West Africa, a common crucial asset;
- ✗ The 3rd longest river in Africa (4,200 km), the 14th in the World;
- ✗ The 9th in the world, in terms of surface area (2,2 millions km²), a link between West and Central Africa;
- ✗ A vital link between nine countries, ranked among the poorest in the World: *Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria* ;
- ✗ Human Population growth: 107 millions of people (2000) (42% of the West African population) with a growth rate of 3.2%.



Shared Water Resources Management in Niger Basin



1. Niger River Basin: Background Information

- ☐ **Natural Environment under Pressure**
 - Human population growth
 - Unsustainable resource use & development
 - Decrease in river flow , Deforestation & Desertification
 - Decline in the ability of the river's ecosystems to supply crucially needed natural resources to the people
 - Waterborne diseases have increased
 - Invasive aquatic species have spread, choking river channels
- ☐ **Development opportunities**
 - ... directly related to water: power, irrigation, navigation, etc.
 - ... “beyond the river”: increase in trade, communication investments, enhanced labor flows, etc.

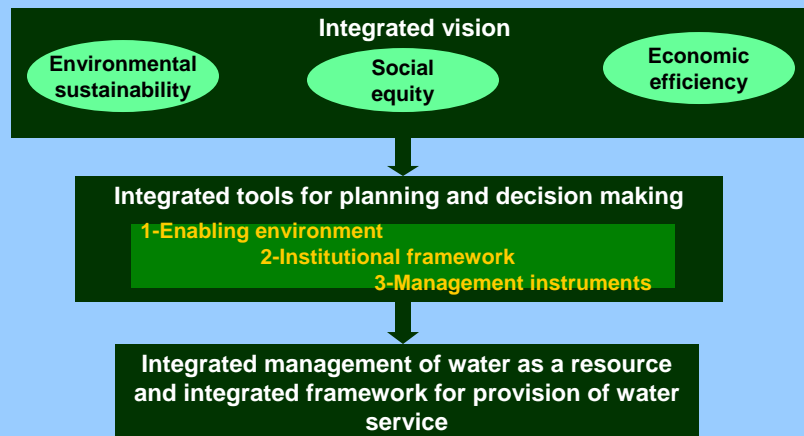
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2. TWRM Approach used in NRB

The Strategic Approach:
IWRM Principles

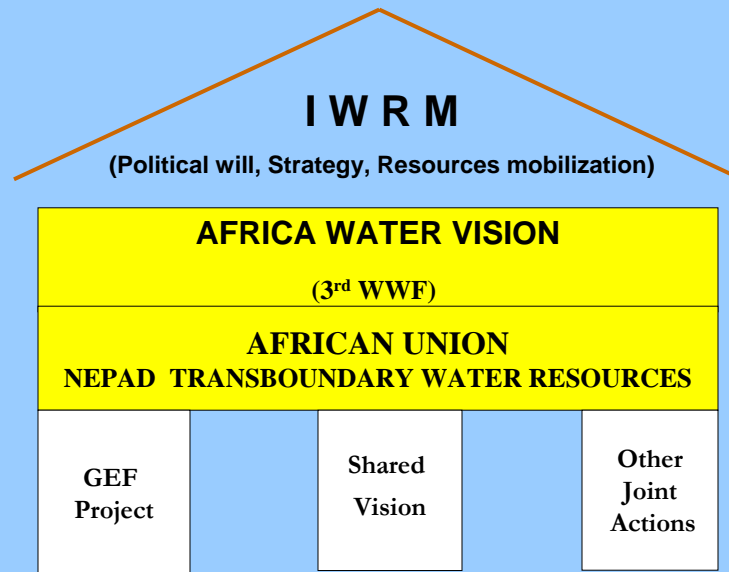
The “three pillars” of IWRM



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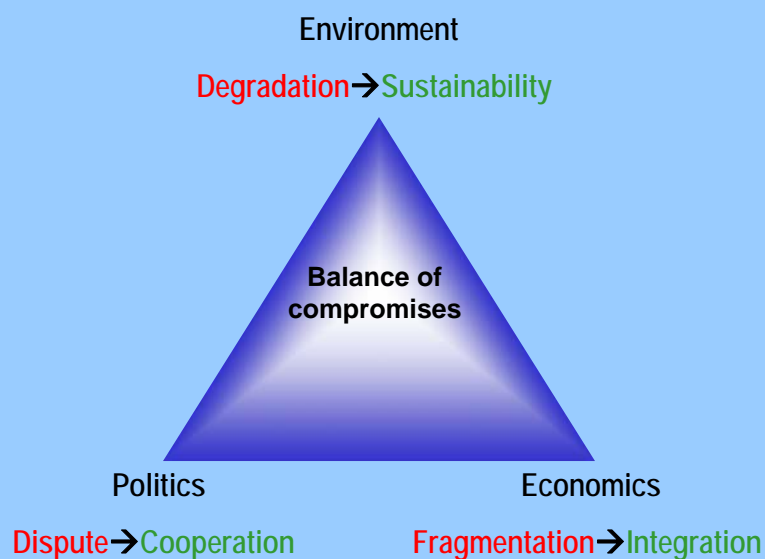
2. TWRM in Niger Basin: The strategic framework



Shared Water Resources Management in Niger Basin



2. The Shared vision & Sustainable Development Action Program





3. Challenges & Responses

☐ Challenges

- Promoting development & Poverty reduction
- People & the Environment: A focus of cooperation
- From unilateral to Cooperative development
- Laying a solid institutional foundation & an enabling environment for cooperation

☐ Responses are Joint Actions

- Shared Vision: a participatory phased approach
- Actions to reverse environmental degradation: The GEF Project, Silting control Program, Niger HYCOS, etc.
- Decision making tools
- Joint Infrastructure development, a primary source of benefits



4. The GEF Project

Reversing land and water degradation trends in the Niger River Basin

Project environmental objective:

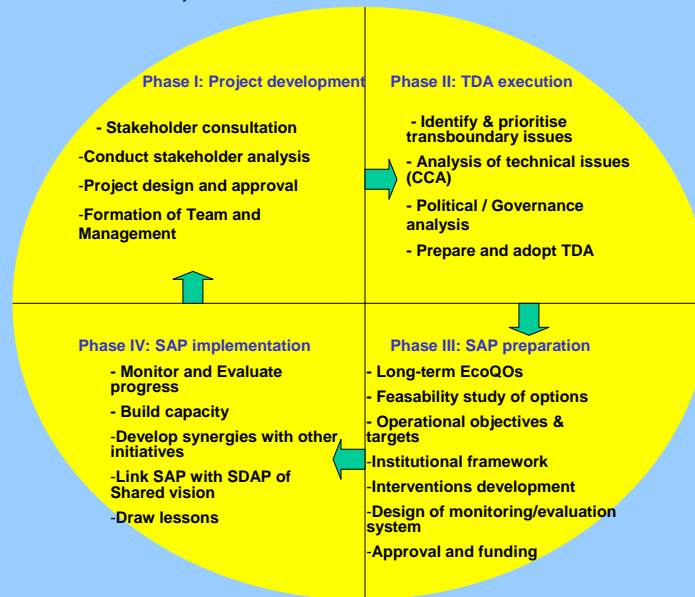
To reduce and prevent transboundary water related environmental degradation through cooperative integrated management of the basin, while enhancing public involvement

Project development objective:

To provide the riparians an opportunity to define a transboundary framework for the sustainable development: Strengthened capacity & Better understanding of land and water resources of the basin.



4. The GEF Project: Where we are?



4. The Lessons learned for a TWS Development & Management

1. IWRM principles applied in a TWS is complex due to the high level of decision making, the large number of actors involved with more heterogeneity in interests
2. The problems are more institutional, that is **GOVERNANCE**, rather than technical. There is a crucial need for dialogue, trust, confidence building & a long-term vision
3. Moving from a river basin master plan (common approach) toward a more dynamic shared vision process (more pragmatic, participatory & attainable)
4. Shared Vision process must have 3 major objectives: (1) **POLITICAL**, to formulate a vision statement; (2) **OPERATIONAL**, to prepare a SDAP; (3) **FINANCIAL**, to mobilize resources from both member countries & international donor partners
5. Development partners commit to their side of the compact by putting aside any individual preference for national investments, in an effort to optimal regional solutions



4. The Lessons learned

6. GEF IW Projects contribute to Shared Vision & Sustainable development through TDA/SAP Process:

- ✓ TDA/SAP Process shows the way to build commitment to reforms and to actions through: political will, awareness, multi-stakeholder dialogue and finance identification.
- ✓ The execution of TDA gives opportunity to establish status and overall goals & to define long- term Ecological Quality Objectives in a interactive & participatory manner.
- ✓ The TDA/SAP process of the GEF Niger basin Project focuses on enabling environment, institutional roles, management instruments, monitoring progress and links to national policies. Direct active stakeholder involvement will enhance ownership and facilitate subsequent implementation.



END



THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION !

