

A decade of participatory and innovative transboundary approach

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Some information on the OMVS

- ❑ Founded in 1972, the Senegal River Development Organization (OMVS) is an intergovernmental agency covering the four riparian states that are Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal;
- ❑ The OMVS is a basin organization with the mandate of reducing the riparian countries' economies vulnerability to climate change and variability and of improving livelihood for the inhabitants of the river basin;
- ❑ Total Area: 300000 km²
- ❑ Length of Senegal River: 1800 km;
- ❑ Basin Population: 12 million inhabitants with more than 75% living in rural areas.

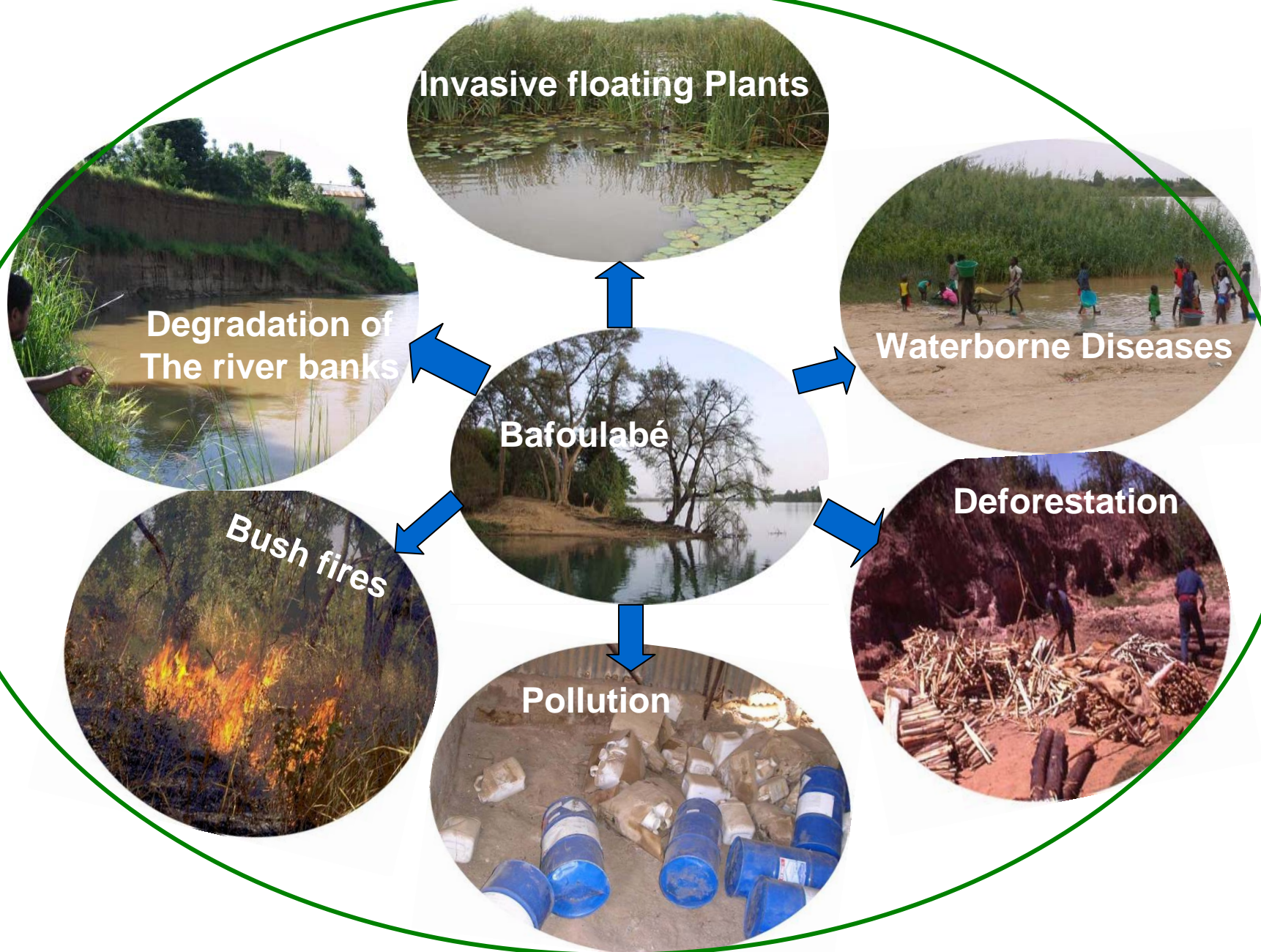
OMVS' Operational Sectors



Management of Senegal River Basin: a complex dynamics

- ❑ Combining rational environment management and social progress includes:
 - meeting the Challenges in an integrated and participatory manner by integrating actors in the decision-making process and management for sustainable actions;
 - Developing water management infrastructure for the purpose of multiple use (access to water, energy, navigation, fisheries...);
 - Promoting income-generating activities for the local populations and get them involved in the decision-making process and the concerted management of the basin as well;
 - The aim is to make all stakeholders key players in the choice, decision-making and management of the basin issues.

Environment Challenges



GEF/OMVS Project & PGIRE*

□ Two complementary programs, underpinned by an approach well-structured to meet the management needs of the OMVS:

- **GEF Project:** promote transboundary environmental and participatory management of the Senegal River for a sustainable development.

- **PGIRE *** significantly improve livelihood for the basin's inhabitants, enhance regional planning and strengthen the institutional and legal framework development of the basin at local, national and regional levels.

* Program of Integrated Water Resources Management and Development of Multi-purpose Uses

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The foundations of the OMVS ten-year participatory approach

- ❑ Reach out to the communities to benefit from the positive impacts brought about by the establishment of infrastructure such as the Diama Dam and the Manantali Dam hydropower station;
- ❑ Develop a concerted management strategy to cope with the negative implications of major infrastructure;
- ❑ Consider the Global Challenges on Environmental and Natural Resources Management including the MDGs
- ❑ Sustain the attainments gained in terms of Public Participation and initiated in 1997 with the Environmental Impact Mitigation and Monitoring Program (PASIE);
- ❑ Decentralize decision-making and encourage involvement of all stakeholders in the issue of managing the basin resources.

Methodology

A methodology of participation based on six major themes:

- ☐ Identify and organize the actors;
- ☐ facilitate access to and exchange of information;
- ☐ Identify and position target groups priorities;
- ☐ Prioritize the principle of contract signing;
- ☐ Promote appropriation;
- ☐ Promote constant self-assessment.

Actors identification and organization (1)

❑ **At the regional level:** the Permanent Water Commission (CPE)

■ High place of participation, the CPE is a consultative body of the Council of Ministers of the OMVS.

■ It composed of representatives from the four Member States.

Role: it proposes to the Council of Ministers an annual work program management and advises on any program related to the management of the resource.

Status of observers:

- ❑ Users,
- ❑ Local and regional authorities,
- ❑ NGOs,
- ❑ Committees of decentralized management

Actors identification and organization (2)

❑ **At the national level:** National Coordination Committees (NCC)

Four National Coordination Committees (CNC) established in each of the four states by ministerial decree from the trust department of the OMVS which is ensuring the Presidency.

Composition:

- Ministerial departments concerned;
- Scientific community;
- National NGOs operating in the basin;
- Other agencies operating in the Senegal River Basin;
- Implementation Agencies (SAED, SONADER, etc.).

Actors identification and organization (3)

☐ At the local level: Local Coordination Committees (CLC)

- 28 Local Coordination Committees (CLC) have been established in all departments of the Senegal River.
- The presidency of the CLC is ensured by the local administrative authority, the prefect or the Hakem in Mauritania.

Composition:

- Civil society: NGOs and Community Base Organizations (women's groups, youth, farmers, foresters, fishermen, etc.).
- Local authorities (mayors, presidents of Rural Councils, etc.)
- State devolved Technical Services (agriculture, fisheries...).

Role of the Local Coordination Committees

□ The CLC, a space for communication and active participation:

- Facilitate policy dialogue with the people
- Mobilize stakeholders and federate decisions;
- Facilitate the implementation of the OMVS programs in the basin.

The CNC focal area for local, national and sub-regional endeavours:

Facilitate policy dialogue at the national level and interface with the sub regional level;

Ensure good relationship between the local and national priorities and ownership needed at all levels;

Monitor the CLC activities.

Examples of programs implemented by Local Coordination Committees (CLC)



Natural Regeneration



Defence Project



Composting



Tools for stakeholders' mobilization and outreach

- ☐ Promotion of dialogue with and between all stakeholders with a role of NGOs (CODESEN sub-regional oriented);
- ☐ Basic principles of resource management enacted in the Water Charter of the Senegal River;
- ☐ Contract signing with implementation AGENCIES (OCB and National Companies);
- ☐ Capacity-building in social mobilization, local planning and project management;
- ☐ Media campaigns with rural radios;
- ☐ Preparation of communication medium: leaflets and newsletters.

From CLC to UIVDD*

- ❑ From the CLC who are responsible for facilitating dialogue and implementation of projects, OMVS goes to Inter villages Units for Sustainable Development (UIVDD).
- ❑ The UIVDDs are designed to stimulate an integrated development by providing the CLCs with major structuring activities (e.g. small hydropower, fisheries, irrigation, agro-forestry) to improve livelihood for people in the basin;
- ❑ From a support mission, communities thus pass to a mission of master builder for their own development with UIVDD.

* **UIVDD: Inter-villages Units for Sustainable Development.**

Some lessons and experiences

- ❑ Formalization of the framework and the context of actors participation (CLC / CNC);
- ❑ Development of a clear methodology with appropriate tools;
- ❑ Clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the various actors and their involvement in the decision-making process;
- ❑ Simultaneous conduct of the participation process and action in the field (environment-related micro projects);
- ❑ Successful application of the Principle of Contract Signing.

Conclusion

- ☐ The participatory approach is a long-term task. Nothing is ever a foregone conclusion. Provided that the method is clear and the tools are appropriate;
- ☐ Difficulties arise still hence the need is to be flexible and able to anticipate;
- ☐ Public participation deserves to be given clear and relevant tools;
- ☐ A continuing process which must be constantly reinforced.

Images of the participation process



*«Let us join our actions
for an overall success»*

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR ATTENTION**