

First Coordination meeting of the Sahel Project “Sustainable Management of Water Resources in the Sahel Region” - 5- 8th May 2014, Vienna, Austria



NIGER BASIN AUTHORITY: *LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS, ONGOING PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES AND COOPERATION*

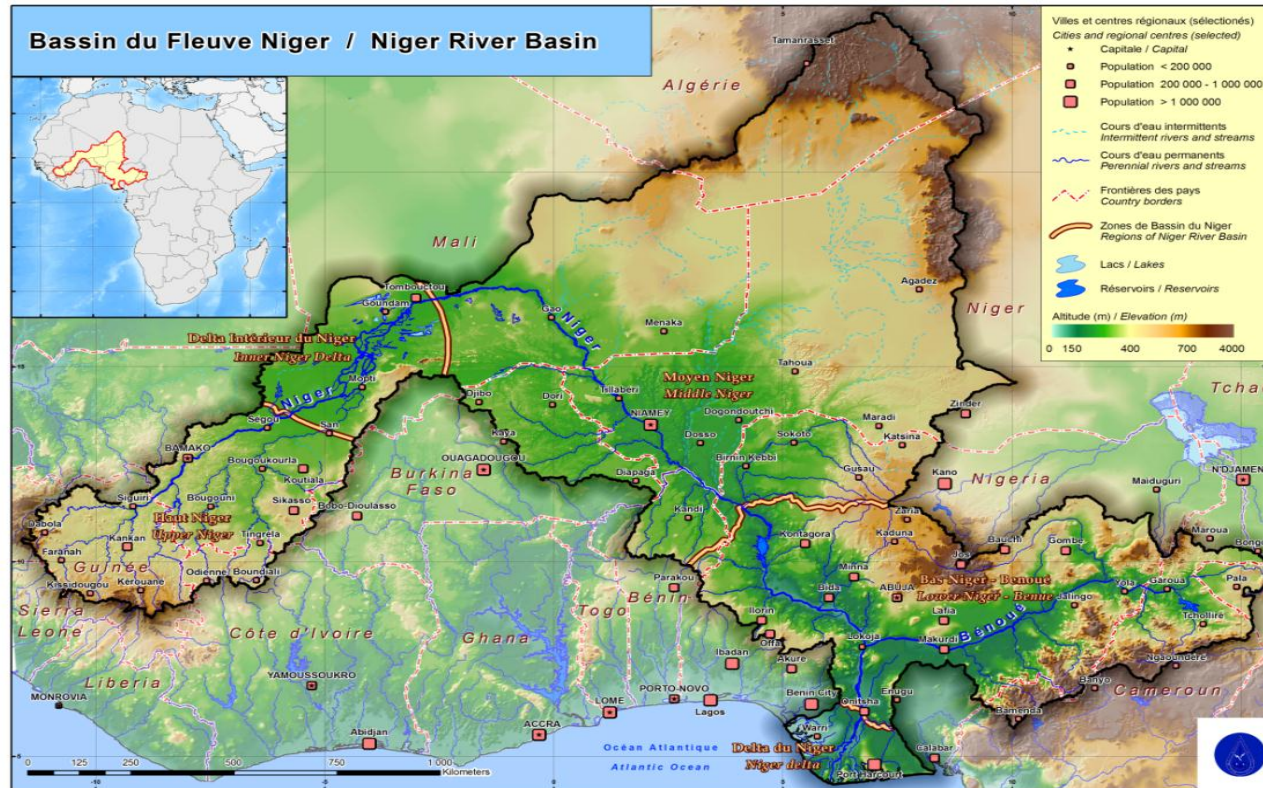


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OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION

- I. Overall context
- II. Political framework and governance body
- III. Legal and institutional framework
- IV. Ongoing projects and Initiatives
- V. conclusion

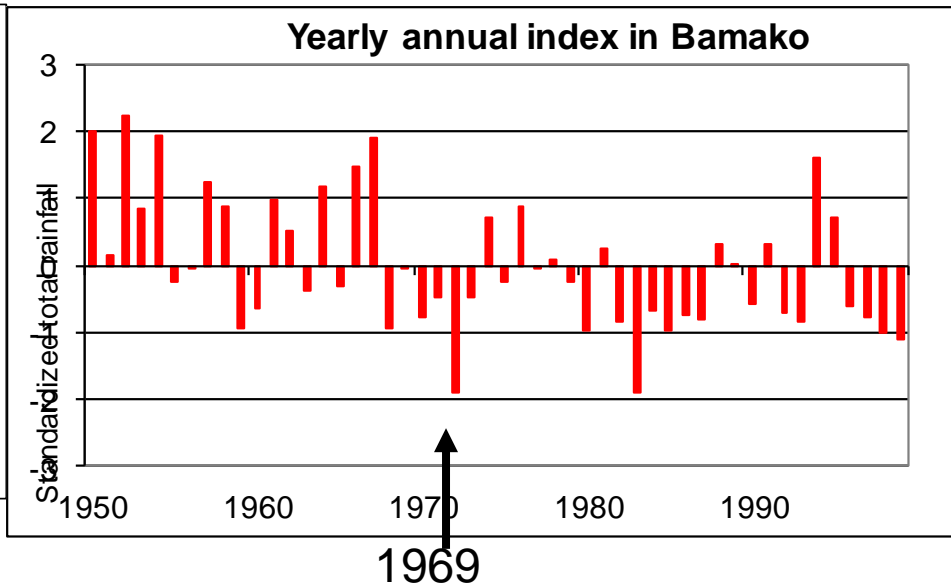
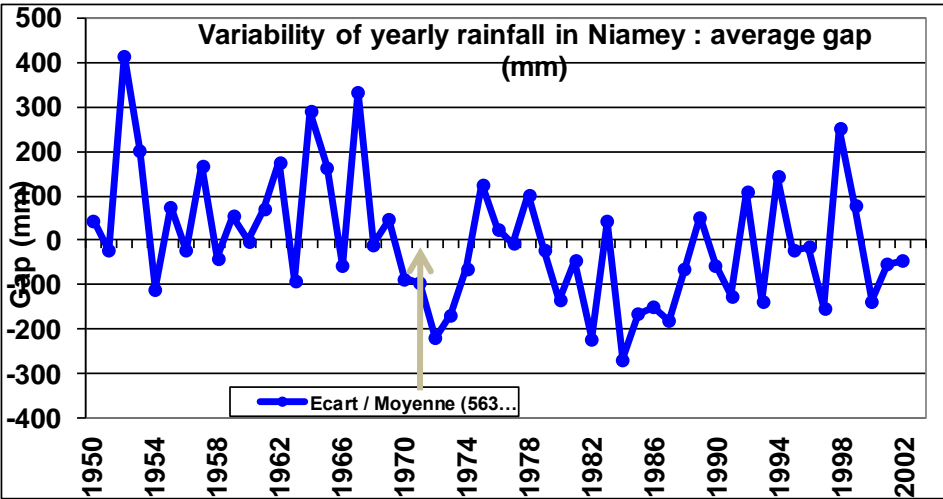
1 – OVERALL CONTEXT OF THE NIGER BASSIN



👉 River Niger is the 3rd longest river in Africa and the 9th worldwide, with a length of 4200 km and its tributaries include the river Benue (1200 km).

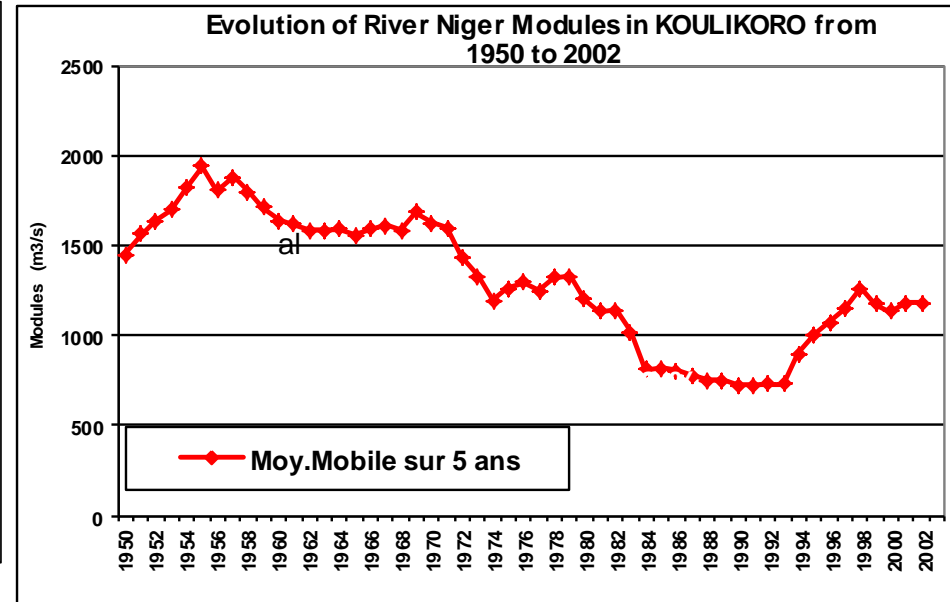
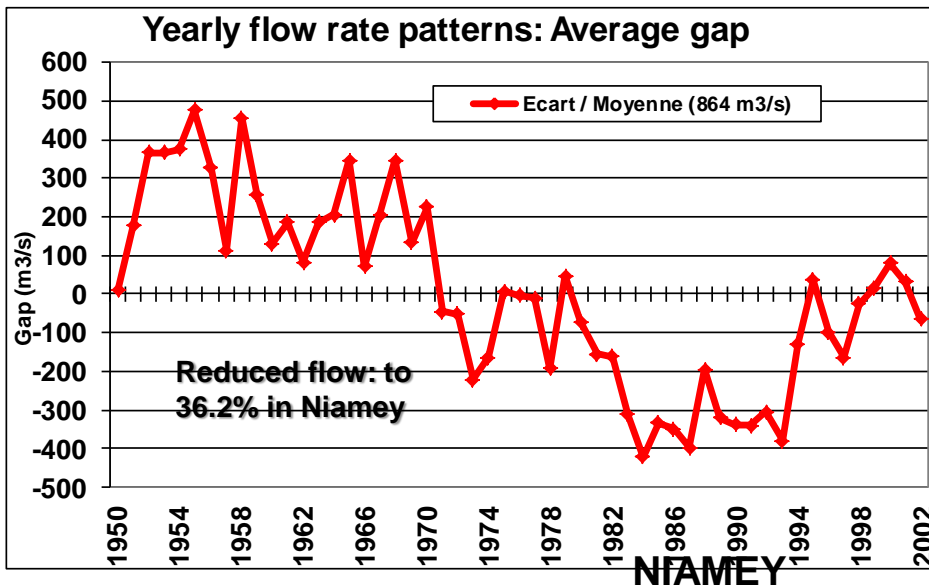
👉 The active part of the basin covers an area of 1.5 million square kilometers, with a population of about 130 million inhabitants (2012 estimates).

👉 Average yearly rainfall patterns in NIAMEY and BAMAKO



👉 20 to 30% rainfall deficit

Reduced surface flow of 20 to 55% depending on the locations at the detriment of humid areas

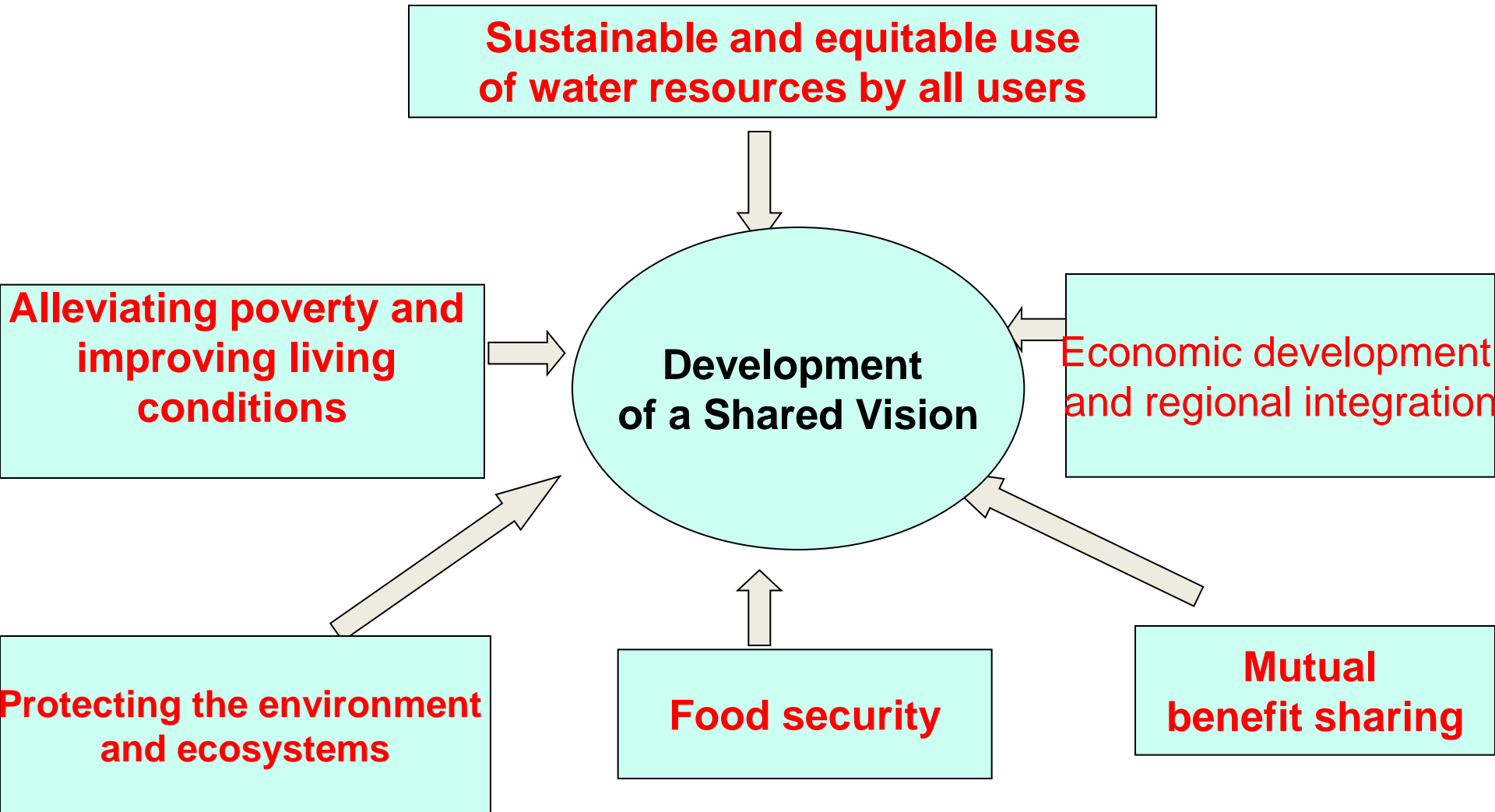


Erosion and silting in the Niger Basin



Photo du 02 mai 2003

WHAT CHALLENGES ?



2.- POLITICAL FRAMEWORK AND GOVERNANCE BODY

➡ The organization started as the River Niger Commission, which was created on 25th November 1964, and was then renamed the Niger Basin Authority on 21st November 1980 by the countries sharing the basin : Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Chad.

➡ **The NBA Mission** : Promoting **cooperation** among member countries and ensuring the **integrated development** of the basin, especially in the areas of hydraulics, energy, agriculture, animal rearing, fishing and fish farming, forest exploitation, industry, transportation and communications.

2.- POLITICAL FRAMEWORK AND GOVERNANCE BODY (2)

Permanent bodies (Art. 5, 6, 7, 8 et 9 of the Revised Convention) :

- ❑ **Summit of Heads of State and Government:** Supreme Orientation and Decision body;
- ❑ **Council of Ministers:** Controls and monitors the activities of the Executive Secretariat;
- ❑ **Technical Committee of Experts :** Prepares the sessions of the Council of Ministers, presents reports and makes recommendations to the CM;
- ❑ **Executive Secretariat:** Implementation and administration body of the Authority;
- ❑ **NBA National Focal Structures:** Assure the relay in countries.

3. EVOLUTION OF THE LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

A. Legal framework

Many legal and regulatory documents to regulate cooperation and integrated development in the Niger Basin:

1. **The Niamey Act** on navigation and economic cooperation among the countries of the Niger Basin, taken in Niamey on 26th October 1963;
2. **The Niamey Agreement** dated 25th November 1964, on the River Niger Commission (RNC), Navigation and transportation, whose goal was to “encourage, promote and coordinate the studies and programmes relating to valuing the resources of the basin,;”
3. The Convention of **21st November 1980**, on the establishment of the Niger Basin Authority (NBA) replacing the RNC.

3. EVOLUTION OF THE LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK (2)

A. Legal framework (2)

The Legal and institutional frameworks of NBA were improved during the Shared Vision Process started since 2002.

The objectives of the Shared Vision are: **(i)** strengthening the existing legal and institutional frameworks; **(ii)** developing water resources in a sustainable and equitable manner with a view to promoting prosperity, security and peace in the basin; **(iii)** developing and implementing a strategic framework for the basin's development (the Sustainable Development Action Plan).

Main results of the Shared Vision process



After six (06) years of: **(i)** many studies and analyses, of the legal framework for environmental protection in NBA Member countries; and **(ii)** dialogue, consultation and negotiation among Member Countries, technical and financial partners and civil society, the process of the Shared Vision led to the following main results :

👉 **Legal Framework for water resources management**

1. Adoption in April 2004, of **The Paris Declaration** by the Heads of State and Government defining 9 Management Principles and Good Governance for a sustainable development of the Niger Basin;
2. Adoption in April 2004, of a **Cooperation Framework** by the Niger Basin Authority Partners to support the Paris Declaration;
3. Adoption in April 2008 of the **Niger Basin Water Charter** by the Heads of State and Government of the NBA. The Charter aims at promoting cooperation based on solidarity and reciprocity for sustainable, equitable and coordinated water resources management of the Niger Basin. It entered into force on 19th July, 2010;

➡ The Legal Framework for environment protection

4. The annexes of the Charter, including those relating to **environmental protection** (adopted on 1st October 2011 by the Council of Ministers) and the **coordinated management of major dams** will empower users on the "polluter pays" and "user pays" principles to reconcile the imperatives of economic and social development and to determine the rules and procedures of coordination of structural dams in the light of the other uses of the water resources of the basin.

B. Institutional Framework

In addition to political bodies, other water management institutions are provided by the water Charter to conduct or supervise consultations and negotiations needed for a consensual planning of the basin's development.

These include:

- (i) The Technical Standing Committee** responsible for monitoring the sound management of the water of the Niger basin;
- (ii) The Regional Advisory Group** meant to establish consensus on the design and implementation of the structuring development in the basin;
- (iii) The Expert Panel** responsible for providing advice and guidance on specific technical issues related to infrastructure development in the basin and;
- (iv) Sub-basin commissions** responsible for proposing how to use water resources in each sub-watershed.

C. Water resources management tools

To assist in decisions-making on development planning and management of extreme hydrological events in the basin, water allocation and management models and a hydrological forecast model have been developed.

These models help to: **(i)** optimize the management of water resources; **(ii)** analyze the impacts of projected water facilities; **(iii)** coordinate the management of dams and; **(iv)** to alert people in case of emergency.

D. Water resources development

1. Adoption of the Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP) of the basin by the Council of Ministers of the NBA in July 2007;
2. Adoption of the Investment Programme (2008 - 2027), associated with the SDAP, by the Heads of State and Government of the NBA in April 2008;

4. ONGOING PROJECTS AND COOPERATION

Ongoing projects

- 1. “Hydrological Data Collection, Treatment and Modelling process for an efficient management of water resources in the Niger Basin”, financed by the French Development Agency for Euro 3.4 million;**
- 2. The WRDSEM Programme financed by the World Bank for a total amount of US\$ 444 million, started in December 2008;**
- 3. The Silting Control Project financed by WAEMU for an amount of FCFA 2.6 billion;**
- 4. Satellite Based Water Monitoring and Flow Forecasting System In the Niger Basin starting in May 2014 with the Assistance of ORIO EVD NL International Agency and UNESCO IHP for a total amount of Euro 6.83 million;**

4. ONGOING PROJECTS AND COOPERATION (2)

5. The “Support to the NBA for Groundwater Management in the Niger Basin” project, financed by Germany for an amount of Euro 2.5 million;
6. The “Support to the NBA - Phase III” project, financed by Germany for an amount of Euro 3 million;
7. The “Programme for Rehabilitating Public Irrigated Schemes in Niger, financed by Germany for an amount of Euro 11 million;
8. The “River Niger Bank Protection Project” in Mali, financed by Germany for an amount of Euro 10 million;

4. ONGOING PROJECTS AND COOPERATION (3)

Project under preparation

1. Integrated Development and Adaptation to Climate Change Programme in the Niger Basin under preparation with AfDB, KFW, AWF, WAEMU, WADB, and other partners for an amount of USD 300 million;
2. The Development of the Operational Plan (2014-2023) and the three-year plan (2014-2016) of the NBA Strategic Plan;
3. “Improving IWRM Knowledge based Management and Governance of the Niger Basin and the Iullemeden- Taoudeni – Tanezrouf Aquifer System (ITTAS)” under preparation with GEF, UNDP, SSO, UNEP for an Amount of USD 14.63 million;
4. The “Niger Basin Authority Capacity Building for Risks and Disaster Management” project in the Basin under preparation with the World Bank in the framework of the Sahel Disaster Resilience Project.

CONCLUSION

The NBA legal and institutional framework favours cooperation and solidarity among member countries.

That favourable framework has gained the adherence of Technical Financial Partners to the development initiatives of the Niger Basin as illustrated by ongoing projects.

NBA would like to thank IAEA for having initiated the “Sustainable Management of Water Resources in the Sahel Region” Project and wishes to have an important role to play in this project.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

