

An Action Plan for Water Management in Mali

Attributable impact

- 2.6 billion F CFA (approx. 4 million euros) to support the implementation of the AP-IWRM from the Swedish and Danish governments¹
- 1.32 billion F CFA (approx. 2 million euros) from the African Water Facility of the African Development Bank (AfDB) to support the implementation of four components of the AP-IWRM²
- 305 million F CFA (approx. 465,000 euros) from the national budget of Mali for the implementation of actions within the AP-IWRM³

Summary

There is a significant global investment deficit in the field of water resources management and drinking water and sanitation – the UN estimates that the investment required to achieve water security is \$198 billion annually until 2030. To deliver the institutional frameworks to promote water security, it is necessary to unlock investment.

In Mali, GWP led the technical preparation of the country's Integrated Water Resources Management Plan and acted as an "honest broker" to lead national and local dialogue. The dialogue included parliamentarians and representatives from the private sector, who helped to identify the water security priorities. GWP organised a donor roundtable to mobilise financial support for the implementation of the plan, which successfully unlocked funds of about 6.5 million euro from the Danish and Swedish governments, the African Development Bank and the national budget.

Background

In 2002 the World Bank published a diagnosis study of the Mali water sector, which identified a lack of institutional coordination, limited capacity, inadequate funding mechanisms and insufficient data collection as key issues affecting access to water and sanitation, national food security and vulnerability to climate change. The conclusions prompted the Malian government to develop an Action Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management (AP-IWRM) under the leadership of the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water (MMEW).

The planning process was initiated in the context of ongoing complementary governance reforms, including administrative decentralisation, harmonisation of laws and regulations, and increased stakeholder engagement. It was also a direct response to a new National Water Code, passed in 2002, which issued new legislation for the water sector, defined institutional responsibilities and stipulated catchment scale management of water resources. Beyond the water sector, the AP-IWRM process was embedded within the National Strategic Framework for Growth and Poverty Reduction, in which water was a priority sector. Finally, at the international level, the plan fulfilled Mali's pledge to develop an IWRM Action Plan according to commitments made at the West Africa Conference on IWRM (1998) and the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002).

¹ Rapport Annuel D'activites Au Titre De L'annee 2014, Jan 2015, Ministère de l'Énergie et de l'Eau, Pg 27

² Appui De La Fae A La Mise En Oeuvre Du Plan D'action De Gestion Integree Des Ressources En Eau Du Mali, Dec 2009, Africa Water Facility, Pg 17

³ Rapport Annuel D'activites Au Titre De L'annee 2014, Jan 2015, Ministère de l'Énergie et de l'Eau, Pg 27

GWP contribution

In 2003 GWP initiated the Partnership for Africa's Water Development (PAWD) programme to support the development of IWRM plans in developing countries. Within the PAWD framework, GWP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the MMEW in December 2003, which formally mandated the National Directorate for Hydraulics (NDH) to facilitate the development of the AP-IWRM in collaboration with GWP.

The development process took place between 2004 and 2007 and followed the steps set out in the PAWD management cycle (Figure 1), which in Mali included:

- *Initiation* – Definition of the participatory approach for plan development, along with the management structure and steering framework
- *Commitment* – Establishment of a steering committee to oversee the plan development, consisting of representatives of ministerial departments and civil society organisations
- *Situation analysis* – Production of thematic studies and organisation of subnational stakeholder workshops. The aim was to compile data and produce a water resources management status report with the main problems and priority issues identified
- *Choice of strategies* – Organisation of multi-stakeholder engagement workshops, to identify appropriate water resources management strategies and priority actions based on the situational analysis for inclusion in the AP-IWRM
- *Action plan development* – Preparation and budgeting of the plan of action, including the establishment of a reference group of international experts who had input in the finalisation.

Throughout the process, GWP played a key role in creating ownership of the IWRM concept, by publishing training materials, organising capacity building workshops and mobilising actors and partnerships around water management issues.

After the completion of the AP-IWRM, GWP organised a donor roundtable to mobilise financial support for the implementation of the plan.

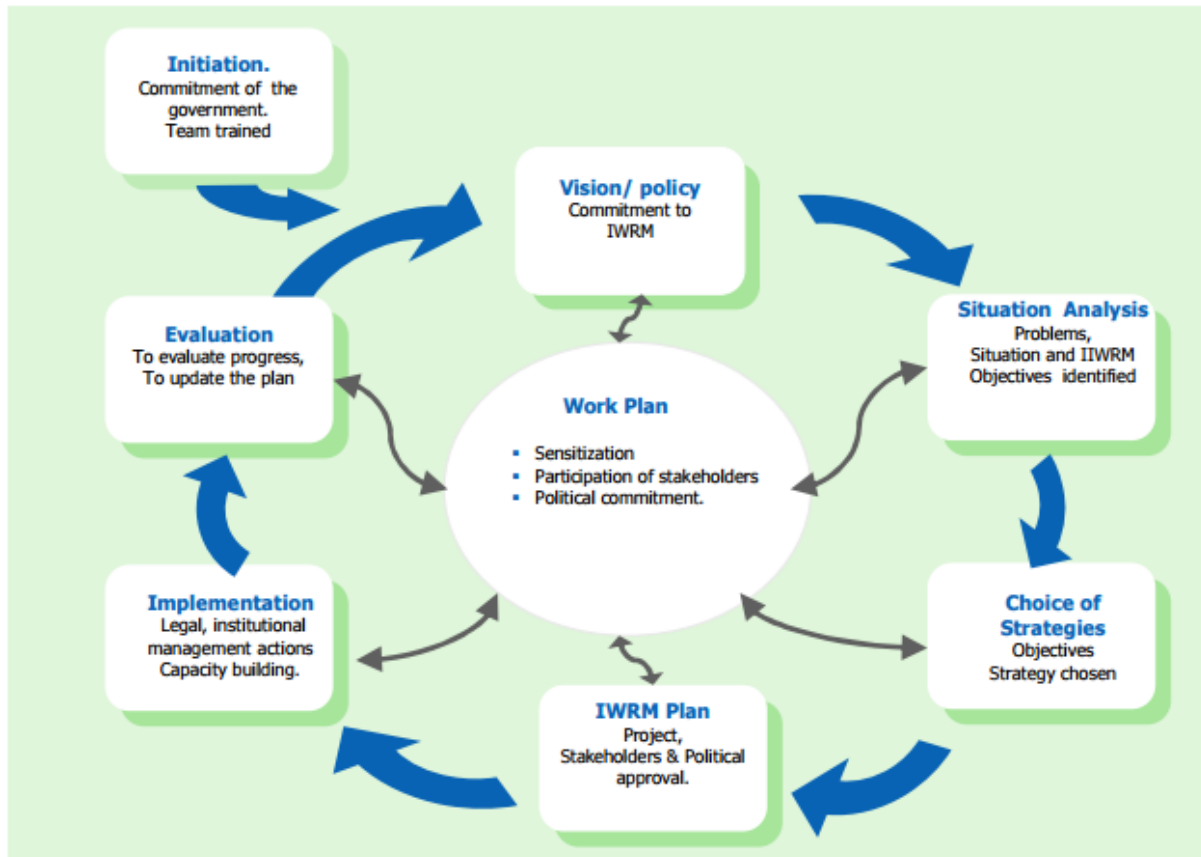
Results

The Mali national AP-IWRM was formally adopted by the Government of Mali in April 2008, including specific actions for plan implementation. The development of the AP-IWRM also influenced governance change processes, such as the adoption of a new water policy document in 2006, based on IWRM principles, and the revised Strategic Framework for Poverty Alleviation, also in 2006, which emphasised the sustainable management of water resources and incorporated new indicators on monitoring the Millennium Development Goals for the water sector. In addition, synergies were created with the National Strategy for Safe Drinking Water Supply and Development, and the Strategy for Water Resources Monitoring. The GWP donor roundtable resulted in commitments from both external donors and the Government of Mali:

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The AP-IWRM continues to form the basis for overseas development funding for water management in Mali. In December 2014 the Swedish Government committed a further 1.3 billion F CFA (approx. 1.9 million euros) for the implementation of a 3-year project to continue the development of the

national water information system with co-funding from the Mali Government of 170 million F CFA (approx. 260,000 euros). The Dutch Government also agreed to contribute 6 billion F CFA (approx. 9 million euros) for a project on IWRM and food security with co-funding from the Mali Government of 1 billion F CFA (approx. 1.5 million euros) and a further 4 billion F CFA (approx. 260,000 euros) coming from the Dutch NGO Wetlands International. Both programmes will be implemented jointly through the IWRM Unit at the NDH.



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