



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

2ie	International Institute for Water and Environmental Engineering
MBA	Mono Basin Authority
VBA	Volta Basin Authority
AMCOW	African Ministers' Council on Water
AWU	Association of Water Users
AfDB	African Development Bank
DAREN	Department of Agriculture Natural Resources
DGPPE	Directorate for Water Resources Management and Planning
DNH	National Directorate of Hydraulics
ENI-ABT	National School for Engineers Abdourahamane Baba Touré
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GCF	Green Climate Fund
IFM	Integrated flood management
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
GWP	Global Water Partnership
GWP-WA	Global Water Partnership in West Africa
MH/A	Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation
RBO	River Basin Organisation
REC	Regional Economic Commissions
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OSS	Sahara and Sahel Observatory
PAGIRE	Action Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management
PANGIRE	National Action Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management
NPA	National Adaptation Plan
CWP	Country Water Partnership
PREE	Regional Partnership for Water and Environment
IDMP-WA	Integrated Drought Management Project in West Africa
PTF	Technical and financial partner

ANBO	African Network of Basin Organisations
SAGE	Water Development and Management Plan
SDAGE	Master Plan for Water Development and Management
SDG PF	Programme to monitor the implementation of the SDGs
ISW	International Secretariat for Water
TFTC	TonFuturTonClimat Project / Your Futur Your Climate Project
EU	European Union
WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary Union
IUCN/PACO	International Union for Conservation of Nature/ Central and West Africa Programme
VFDM	Flood and drought management project in the Volta basin
WACDEP	Water, Climate and Development Programme
WASCAL	West African Scientific Services Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use
WRMC/ECOWAS	Water Resources Management Centre of the Economic Community of West African States
YVE	Young Volunteers for the Environment

ABOUT GWP IN WEST AFRICA

Global Water Partnership in West Africa (GWP-WA) is the West African regional branch of the Global Water Partnership (GWP). It was officially established in 2002, with its headquarters in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The GWP Network's vision is for a water-secure world, and its mission is to advance the governance and the management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development. To this end, GWP-WA is committed to building alliances and strengthening the institutional capacities of its members in order to foster and fortify networks of research, expertise and information on integrated water resources management (IWRM) for sustainable management of water resources.

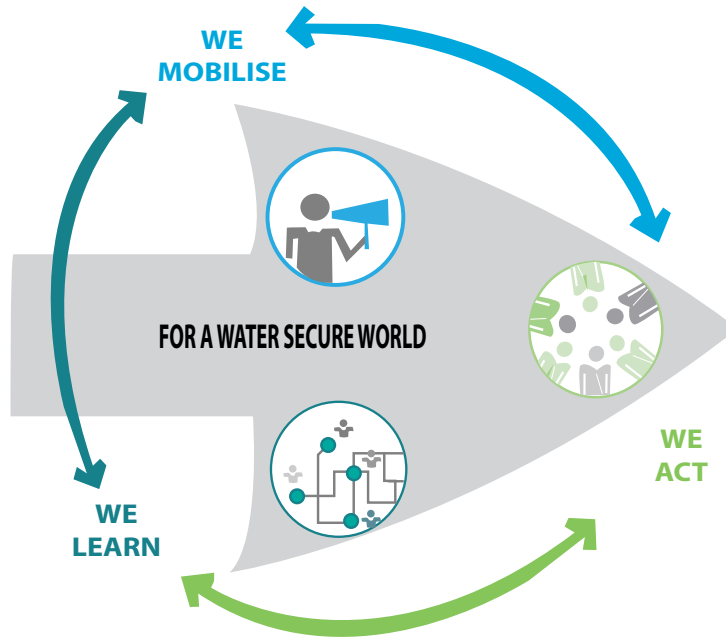
Like GWP, GWP-WA is a network open to all organizations committed to the principles of IWRM. It includes public national institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), regional and international organizations, basin organizations, private companies and offices, water users, service providers, etc.

GWP-WA, currently has thirteen (13) Country Water Partnerships (CWPs) in: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo. In the other two West African countries, Liberia and Sierra Leone, which do not yet have a CWP, the Network operates with the support of partners.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GWP-WA is grateful to the Global Water Partnership Organisation (GWPO) and partners for their financial support and in-kind contributions to help implementing its work plan, projects and programmes. The Regional Network would like to thank all those who contributed to this annual report.

A YEAR SUMMARISED ACCORDING TO GWP'S STRATEGIC ACTION AREAS



The GWP's three strategic areas for action are taken into account in our day-to-day work. .



WE MOBILISE

In 2023, our action enabled us to be in contact with and mobilise the States (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo), the Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS through the WRMC, WAEMU through the DAREN), regional organisations (IUCN, WaterAid), river basin organisations (MBA, NBA, VBA, OMVS, OMVG), civil society organisations (women's and youth groups and associations, NGOs), training institutes and universities (2IE, ENI ABT, etc.), the private sector (consultancy firms, etc.), the media, etc.

The mobilisation of young people and women in certain activities is a clear evidence of their involvement as agents of change at appropriate levels. Gender equity is an essential factor that we integrate into our philosophy of action and we try as much as possible to work towards achieving this. We take great care of our public relations and with media, which are essential for relaying information to the various target groups.



WE ACT

With all our partners, we have developed various initiatives under the framework of programs and projects that we are currently implementing or that we have submitted together in search of funding. As a result, in 2023 we completed the implementation of the Mékrou Phase 2 Niger project, financed by the European Union through its Delegation in Niger for 42 months. The TonFuturTonClimat phase 2 project was also completed during the year with our strategic partner, the International Secretariat for Water (ISW), with funding from the Government of Quebec, the Swiss Cooperation Agency, the Artois Picardie Water Agency and the Global Water Partnership.

In the Volta basin, the VFDM project continues and the REWarD project has been launched, financed respectively by the Adaptation Fund (AF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), with strategic partners such as WMO, VBA, IUCN, UNEP and DHI.

Efforts were stepped up to submit projects jointly with several partners for the Mono basin, WAEMU and ECOWAS, among others. These initiatives have been developed with strategic partners such as OSS and IUCN.

Major efforts have been deployed to prepare for adaptation to climate change, with commitments of several countries in the region including Ghana, Mali, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

2023 saw the mobilization of IWRM implementation stakeholders in the WAEMU region, through documenting best practices of successful IWRM implementation and the organization of a regional capitalization forum. Several strategic partners rallied around this WAEMU initiative, including the Netherlands Embassy in Burkina Faso, OXFAM Canada, Pôle Eau Dakar, UNEP DHI, the Secretariat of the United Nations Water Convention based in Geneva and others.



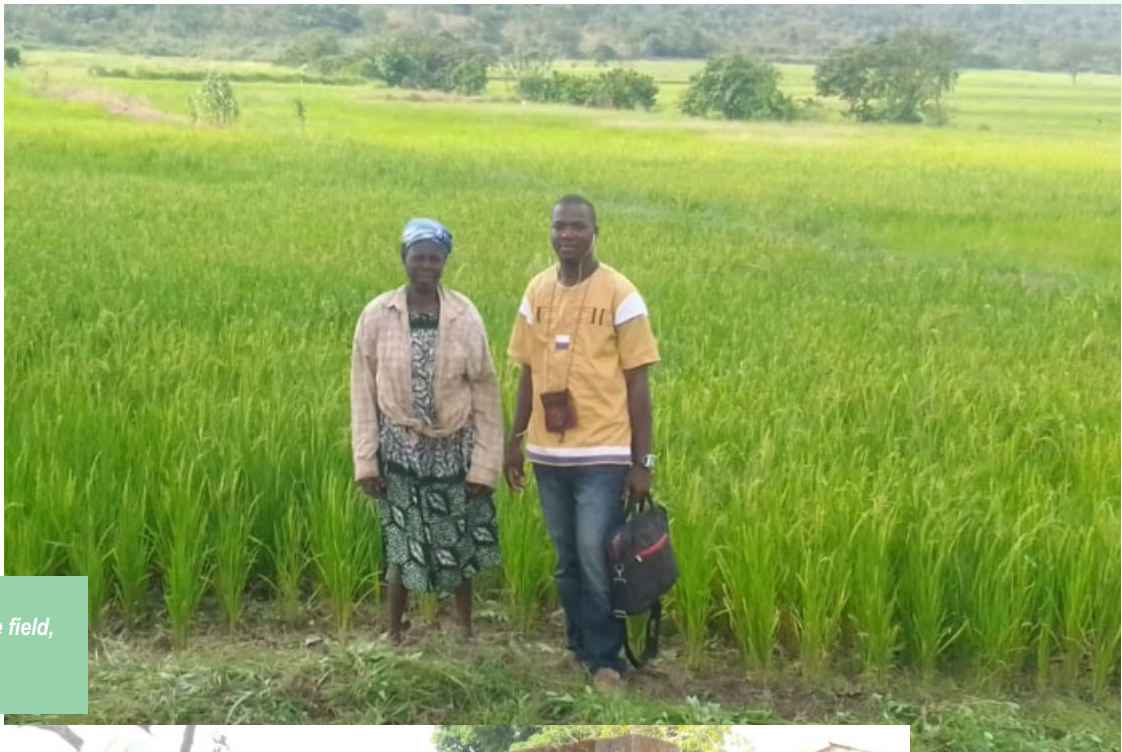
Groundnut field as part of the TFTC project in Togo



WE LEARN

In 2023, our alliance with resource centres such as Cap-Net enabled us to enhance technical capacity of planners in the Volta Basin countries. At the same time, we put together certain experiences from our practices in the form of knowledge products that we shared. Thus, films were produced as part of the Mékrou phase 2 Niger, VFDM and TFTC projects, recounting the results of the processes carried out under these projects.

Capitalization documents in the form of brochures were also produced as part of all the three projects, as well as information and outreach sheets on the flood and drought risk profile in the Volta basin.



Experimental rice field, TFTC 2



Manufacture of liquid fertiliser in Benin

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:



Abdoulaye SENE
Chair of GWP- WA

Ensuring GWP's leadership in promoting the governance of water resources

2023 was a special year for the GWP Network as a whole, and the West African region contributed to further spreading the flame of sustainable development focused on good governance of water resources and resilience to climate change.

As since we took over the lead of the direction of GWP-WA, we are working to continuously improve the governance of its bodies in line with GWP indicators, including multi-stakeholder, well-governed CWP's recognized as facilitators of IWRM processes in the 15 West African countries. We prioritise to strengthen GWP-WA's strategic positioning within the institutional landscape of the West African water sector. Over the past 4 years, GWP-WA developed and strengthened its role as a catalyst and a connector of the various institutions at regional level.

In 2023, the West Africa Region played an active role in the GWPO Network by taking part in reflections on managing the governance crisis within the GWPO Global Secretariat and the GWP Global Network, and on legal recognition and better positioning of GWP Regions in GWPO governance bodies. We work to provide leadership and support the Executive Secretariat in efforts to mobilize financial resources for the smooth continuation of the implementation of GWP Strategy 2020-2025 in West Africa.

Great efforts have been deployed, and we will stay the course for the new year 2024.

Abdoulaye SENE
Chair of GWP-WA

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:



K. Armand HOUANYE
GWP-WA
Executive Secretary

Building a robust Network of partners on a continuing basis

The GWP West Africa Network owes its performance to the commitment of all partners at all levels, and this is an important element for us that drives us every day and motivates our actions for the sustainable development of the region focused on water resources.

We have strengthened our collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities, regional institutions, basin organizations, States and all players who are working to improve the living conditions of people of our region at the various appropriate levels.

GWP was conceived as a Network of partners, and as such acts as a connector of partner organizations involved in sustainable development through the achievement of water security and adaptation to climate change. We are a Network of expertise that generates knowledge and know-how for the sustainable management of water resources to lead the world towards water security and adaptation to climate change.

GWP-WA Executive Secretariat is fully mobilized on all fronts to respond to the various demands in line with GWP's mandate. 2023 was a year in which we were particularly mobilized, and the pace will be maintained in 2024, which promises to be a year in which all levers will be brought to bear to make the most of the experience we have gained and to let the region and the world benefit from what we know how to do. We are counting on your continued support to help us set our region on the path to climate-resilient water security.

K. Armand HOUANYE
Executive Secretary GWP-WA

What do our partners think about our action?

Sunday IDOWU, IWRM Focal Point Nigeria



Sunday IDOWU

Over the years, GWP has provided support and advice to Nigeria on IWRM issues, and the Nigerian Country Water Partnership enjoys a good working relationship.

In 2023, collaboration focused on monitoring the indicator on the degree of implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) of MDG 6.5.1 in Nigeria through technical and financial support.

Bougounou K. DJERI-ALASSANI, D.I. CGRE/CEDEAO



Bougounou K.
DJERI-ALASSANI

GWP-WA plays an important role with many initiatives and specific contributions within the framework of its partnerships with the ECOWAS and WAEMU Commissions and other organizations. On a technical and strategic level, its action contributes to the implementation of the West African water resources policy adopted in 2008. I believe that beyond the cooperation agreements signed with GWP-WA, regional organizations should take a further step in formalizing this partnership operationally, with precise work programs.

In 2023, we worked together in particular on (i) the organization in Lomé from March 13 to 15 of the West African consultation meeting in preparation for the United Nations conference on water held in March 2023, and discussion of water-related cooperation issues in order to agree on priorities for West Africa, (ii) support to member States in the Africa Investment Programme (AIP) in water process of the African Union's High Level Panel, leading to the submission of their projects, (iii) contributions by GWP, WAEMU and the Secretariat of the Water Convention to the two regional meetings jointly organized by the WRMC and the ECOWAS Project Preparation Unit (PPDU) on : "the management of shared water resources in West Africa" on August 22 and 23, 2023 in Lomé and " the consultation on the implementation of the water component of the ECOWAS Regional Infrastructure Master Plan projects" on August 24 and 25, 2023 in Lomé, (iv) the joint preparation with WAEMU and GWP and submission to the AfDB of the full document for the Project to support the operationalization of IWRM to strengthen resilience to climate change in transboundary basins and urban agglomerations in West Africa (PA-GIREC-AO); (v) consultations with WAEMU, CILSS and GWP-WA for a regional initiative on Water Resource Resilience and Development in West Africa.

I would like to use this avenue to pay tribute to our colleague and friend, the late Clément Ouédraogo from CILSS, with whom we worked and who left us at the beginning of January 2024. Although already ill in December, he had the strength to excuse himself and take part in these exchanges when he could. May his soul rest in peace.

Dr. Youssouf SANDAO, SP/PANGIRE and Niger IWRM Focal Point, MHA



Dr. Youssouf SANDAO

During 2023, the partnership between GWP-WA and the Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation enabled the completion of field activities and the closure of the Mékrou 2 Niger Project, whose main objective was to operationalize the IWRM approach in the national portion of the Mékrou transboundary river sub-basin. This involved all stakeholders, namely the local authorities of Dosso and Tillabéry (the mayors and chairs of the Regional Councils), central, regional and departmental managers of technical services (hydraulics, agriculture, rural engineering, environment), the Country Water Partnership (CWP), and water users in the area concerned. We have also worked with GWP in running the process of reporting on the IWRM implementation in Niger (monitoring of indicator SDG 6.5.1). GWP-WA also provided support in the preparation and facilitation of the joint State-donor sector review for Water and Sanitation, and also facilitated Niger's participation in regional meetings as part of the capitalization of IWRM best practices in the WAEMU region.

The technical arm for promoting the IWRM approach, CWP Niger, which represents GWP-WA, was not fully operational, and this affected the enthusiasm of the SP/PANGIRE and other stakeholders for fundraising and the development of new initiatives in partnership with GWP-WA. Our wish is that in 2024, the CWP Niger will be fully operational to support the promotion of the approach in Niger.



Geese wading in the waters of the Sourou River, Mali

COMMITMENT 1 FOR 2023

GWP-WA will support efforts to achieve the Global water agenda in West Africa, including the 2030 Sustainable development agenda with the SDG6 and other water related objectives as well as the objectives of the Sendai Action Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and Paris Agreement on Climate in line with GWP's strategy. Under the implementation of the AIP, GWP-WA will support at least 2 countries to develop their national water investment programme. A support will be provided as well to ECOWAS and WAEMU to prepare a Regional Climate Resilient Water Investment Programme and a GCF Regional Water Sector Readiness Programme. Capacity building activities for key stakeholders including local authorities will be pursued. The programs and projects being implemented, including, AIP/WACDEP-G, TFTC, Mekrou 2 Niger, VFDM, in addition to new ones, REWarD-Volta River Basin, RIWE Mono and Bouclier Climat Mono will allow to address various themes/issues in collaboration with ECOWAS, WAEMU, other regional institutions, RBOs, and countries.

Achievements under commitment 1 in 2023

- Phase 2 of the Mekrou project in Niger for the operationalization of IWRM in the Mekrou sub-basin in Niger has been completed with positive results overall.
- The main results include (1) Finalization and validation of the SAGE by stakeholders in the Mekrou sub-basin, then its adoption by the Regional Councils of Dosso and Tillabéry in line with the SDAGE for the entire transboundary sub-basin; (2) Acquisition and installation of hydrometric and meteorological data collection and management equipment, including six (6) rain gauges, two (2) meteorological stations, two (2) sets of limnimetric scales, two (2) piezometers, four (4) GPS, one (1) hydrometric station in the project area; (3) Five (5) studies developed on water resources with the support of the project, marked by the elaboration and validation of the Report on the institutional diagnosis and management methods of water resources in the Mekrou sub-basin in Niger, the Report on the densification of the water resources monitoring network, the Report on the state of water resources in the sub-basin; (4) Establishment and operationalization of IWRM bodies that contribute to advancing the implementation of IWRM in the project area and in Niger, including twenty-one (21) local IWRM bodies including seventeen (17) WUAs, three (3) CLEs, one (1) CAE; (5) Integrated protection and development of natural resources for green growth, poverty reduction and development in the Mékrou sub-basin in Niger, including eighteen (18) ha equipped for rice cultivation in Boumba (550 beneficiaries), eight (8) ha equipped for market gardening, including two (2) ha in Bélandé (25 women beneficiaries), three (3) ha in Allambarré, three (3) ha in Séno Konkedji, two (2) autonomous water stations, one (1) simple mini drinking water supply and one (1) rehabilitated multi-villages drinking water supply serving around 12. 600 inhabitants.
- Implementation of the second phase of the TFTC project has been completed at regional and country level (Benin, Burkina Faso and Togo), with particular emphasis on addressing concerns related to youth, gender and resilience to climate change. This second phase of TFTC is funded by the Quebec government, GWPO, ISW and other partners. Three pilot projects have been implemented, one per beneficiary country (Benin, Burkina Faso and Togo) with CWP (Benin and Burkina Faso) and the NGOYVE (Togo). The projects achieved good results, structured around six (6) main areas of intervention. Axis 1: Young people as a lever for restoring ecosystems to ensure food security and adaptation to climate change for communities in Benin. Axis 2: From waste recovery

to the emergence of young green entrepreneurs_ players in the circular economy for the protection of the Tchoutchoubou basin in Benin. Axis 3: Sustainable management and improved productivity of arid lateritic lands for the economic inclusion of young people through financial empowerment and climate resilience of rural populations. Axis 4: Intergenerational collaboration to promote endogenous knowledge for the management and development of water resources and associated ecosystems. Axis 5: Promotion of agroecological transition by young people to strengthen the resilience of communities in Greater Kloto. Axis 6: Waste as a source of wealth to establish a replicable model for creating jobs for young people and improving agricultural productivity.

Building on the achievements of the two TFTC phases

- In Benin, the pilot project was implemented in synergy with the WACDEP-G demonstration project. The regional closing meeting was held in Lomé with all the implementing partners to take stock of the main achievements.
 - A third phase focusing on Benin was approved, financed and launched in the northern part of Benin.
 - Efforts will continue at regional and country levels to mobilise resources with active partners in order to enhance and extend the gains made and establish sustainable development in rural and semi-urban areas beyond the three countries throughout West Africa. All strategic partnerships are being explored, including joint mobilisation of financial resources.
- The third phase of TFTC focusing on the northern part of Benin, which has now been launched, on "Supporting the empowerment of women farmers to strengthen the climate resilience of local communities in the Tchoutchoubou hydrological unit in northern Benin" is financed by the Government of Quebec.
 - Implementation of the VFDM project financed by the Adaptation Fund (AF) continued. The content of e-learning courses on dissemination, decision support and response to early warnings of floods and droughts was further developed and finalized in French and English.



Banana plantation in Togo



TFTC 2 tree planting in Benin

with the participation of national meteorological and hydrological services (NMHS), as well as civil protection and water resources management national services of the six (6) VBA member countries. The main objective of the regional training workshop is to improve participants' practical knowledge and skills in end-to-end flood and drought forecasting and early warning processes.

- Three (3) e-learning modules were delivered with CapNet's technical support targeting civil servants and professional candidates (men, women and young people) from the Volta Basin countries, with very satisfactory results.
- In collaboration with the WMO, the VBA, the CIMA Foundation and Volta Basin stakeholders, a regional strategy for integrated flood and drought risk reduction and management has been developed and is now available in draft form.
- The VFDM project, through the holding of a regional workshop, contributed to the training on end-to-end forecasting and early warning processes for floods and droughts in the Volta basin organized with the participation of national meteorological and hydrological services (NMHS), as well as civil protection and water resources management national services of the six (6) VBA member countries. The main objective of the regional training workshop is to improve participants' practical knowledge and skills in end-to-end flood and drought forecasting and early warning processes.
- The Government of Togo has adopted a framework law on the environment. On December 18, 2023, the Council of Ministers examined and adopted the framework law on the environment. This is a major step forward for the government and all stakeholders in Togo. GWP-WA through WACDEP-G together with IUCN, under the joint implementation with other partners of the Regional Project on Water and Environment (PREE), technically and financially supported the process with the organization of four (4) stakeholder workshops in 2022, in Lomé, Kpalimé, Kara and Atakpamé.
- Implementation of the "Reversing Ecosystem and Water Degradation in the Volta River Basin (REWarD-Volta River Basin)" project has begun, following the signing of a Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) by GWP-WA and UNEP on October 17, 2022. GWP-WA, as one of the two Executing Agencies together with VBA, is in charge of managing a volume of activities worth just over two (2) million euros over five (5) years up to 2028. REWarD-Volta River Basin is a GEF-funded project with UNEP and IUCN as implementing agencies.
- GWP-WA mainly supports the implementation of the following activities: (i) developing a decision support system for the management of surface water resources and the Early Warning System (EWS) for droughts in the basin, (ii) capacity building of the VBA, (iii) facilitating dialogue between stakeholders by establishing and strengthening the capacities of national and regional coordinating bodies for users of the Volta basin's natural resources, (iv) assessing the environmental capital and ecosystem services of the Volta basin, (v) updating and implementing the VBA's communication strategy and plan.
- Under the framework of the IWRM support program for SDG 6, eleven (11) countries received funding and technical support to undertake the survey and monitoring and to produce reports on the status of IWRM implementation of SDG 6.5.1. The other 4 West African countries reported on their own.
- Implementation of WACDEP-Gender Equality (WACDEP-G) activities in Benin and at regional level continued, notably with capacity building for key water sector players (state structures, NGOs, users) in the Beninese parts of the Volta and Mono basins; gender mainstreaming of certain projects in Benin and at the scale of Mono and Volta cross-border and regional level with WAEMU and ECOWAS.

- Support for Togo continued with the development of a GCF investment project to strengthen the climate resilience of rural communities.
- For the RIWE initiative in the Mono Basin, developed in partnership with the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), IUCN and the Mono Basin Authority ((MBA), the detailed implementation document was finalized and submitted to the GEF that approved on December 15, 2023, the financing of 5 million USD for its implementation from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2027_ Regional Initiative for Water and Environment in the transboundary basin of the Mono River (RIWE-Mono) | GEF (thegef.org). IUCN is the implementing partner. Executing partners are GWP-WA, MBA and OSS.
- In collaboration with MBA and OSS, the full project document for the Climate Shield project is currently being finalized. The concept note and project brief were previously approved by the Adaptation Fund (AF).
- These projects focus respectively on: (i) strengthening the climate resilience of rural communities in the Mono basin and (ii) sustainable water and environmental management in the basin.
- Together with MBA, GWP-WA is working to mobilize other financial resources through the formulation of project proposals to be submitted to GEF and the African Water Facility for funding. These regional projects focus on strengthening the climate resilience of communities in the Mono Basin, sustainable water management and nature-based restoration of degraded ecosystems in the basin.
- Effective governance and sustainable management of shared aquifers articulated with transboundary surface water issues were addressed in training sessions and workshops organized in collaboration with the WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions and the Secretariat of the Water Convention.
- GWP-WA worked with the Secretariat of the Water Convention on the implementation process of the UN Water Convention in Togo, together with ECOWAS. The same applies to the accession and ratification processes of Burkina Faso, Niger and Guinea-Bissau.

Togo's framework law on the environment adopted

Togo's Framework Law on the Environment was adopted in December 2023, taking into account new concepts and completing the country's environmental management tools. This demonstrates the commitment of the country's stakeholders. The adoption of this framework law by the Government of Togo aims to "provide the country with texts consistency with the evolution of standards and improve the living environment of citizens, by significantly reducing the negative impact of socio-economic activities on the environment", [as reported in the communiqué of the Council of Ministers on 18 December 2023](#).

The support provided by GWP-WA and IUCN as part of the implementation of WACDEP-G and the PREE has enabled the integration of emerging themes "to better respond to the challenges of the government's 2025 roadmap for sustainable development and provide a springboard for strengthening people's resilience actions".

Key achievements of the Mekrou project

Mekrou 2 Niger Project

SAGE finalised and adopted

Acquisition and installation of equipment for collecting and managing hydrometric and meteorological data

5 studies developed on water resources

Establishment and operation of IWRM bodies

18 ha equipped for rice production in Boumba (550 people)

8 ha equipped for market gardening, including 2 ha at Bélandé (25 women)

3 ha at Allambarré, 3 ha at Séno Konkedji

2 autonomous water stations

1 single mini water supply and 1 multi-village water supply rehabilitated, approximately 12,600 inhabitants served



The Sourou River in Mali

Key achievements of the TonFuturTonClimat 2 project



Benin

Focus 1: Young people as a lever for restoring ecosystems to ensure food security and adaptation to climate change for communities in Benin

Focus 2: From waste recovery to the emergence of young green entrepreneurs: players in the circular economy for the protection of the Tchoutchoubou basin in Benin

Burkina Faso

Focus 3: Sustainable management and improved productivity of arid lateritic lands for the economic inclusion of young people through financial empowerment and climate resilience of rural populations.

Focus 4: Intergenerational collaboration to promote endogenous knowledge for the management and the development of water resources and associated ecosystems

Togo

Focus 5: Promotion of agro-ecological transition by young people to strengthen the resilience of communities in Greater Kloto.

Focus 6: Waste, a source of wealth for setting up a replicable model for creating jobs for young people and improving agricultural productivity.

COMMITMENT 2 FOR 2023

Collaboration with traditional strategic partners including RECs, RBO, States, local governments, NGOs, Youth, Women and expanding actions to engage with new partners including strongly the private sector working outside the water box will be continued. GWP-WA will engage new categories of partners in the implementation of water solutions in West Africa.



Flooded field in Baye, Sourou, Mali

Achievements under commitment 2 in 2023

- Collaboration has been maintained and strengthened with traditional partners, notably ECO-WAS/WRMC, IUCN, OSS, WAEMU/DAREN, VBA, NBA, MBA and the States.
- Regional workshops and training sessions on various themes including transboundary water governance, IWRM implementation best practices, etc. were organized in collaboration with WAEMU, ECOWAS, OSS, Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Water and national partner institutions.
- Under the framework of the Mékrou 2 Niger project, collaboration has been strengthened with the authorities in charge of water and climate in Niger, notably the Ministry of Water through the SP/PANGIRE, the Direction Générale de l'Hydraulique (DGH), the Direction de la Météorologie Nationale (DMN) of the Ministry of Transport, the communes (Tamou, Kirtachi and Falmey) in the project intervention zone, as well as key players in the IWRM process in Niger and the Direction Générale des Eaux et Forêts (DGEF).
- GWP-WA collaborates with various state structures in the six (6) countries of the Volta Basin (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Togo) on the management of risks linked to climate change, including droughts and floods in the basin.
- Collaboration with VBA is maintained at a very high level, notably through VFDM, WACDEP-G and REWarD Volta River Basin.
- The continued development of RIWE and Bouclier Climat/Mono project documents provided an opportunity for closer collaboration with ABM, OSS, IUCN and the governments of Benin and Togo.

- TFTC 2 provided an opportunity to work closely with local youth and women's organizations in Benin, Burkina Faso and Togo, as well as with local and traditional authorities.
- TFTC 2 maintained and strengthened collaboration with the International Secretariat for Water (ISW).
- The various projects have enabled us to work closely with government institutions at the appropriate levels, municipalities, youth and women's groups through Mekrou 2 Niger, WACDEP-G, VFDM, TFTC, REWarD-Volta River Bassin and future initiatives such as RIWE and Bouclier Climat/Mono, as well as with transboundary basin organizations, local stakeholders and civil society.
- GWP-WA supported Burkina Faso's Permanent Secretariat for IWRM in finalizing its communication strategy document.
- Efforts are still underway to engage new partners, mainly from the private sector.
- CWP Benin and CWP Mali held their Partners' Assemblies.

COMMITMENT 3 FOR 2023

Fundraising efforts will be continued in the region in 2023. GWP-WA will increase its focus on mobilizing financial resources to reach people and have an impact on the implementation of activities that can positively affect their life. GWP-WA will develop joint initiatives and develop project with key partner organizations including UNDP, UNICEF, OSS, IUCN and the CWPs. All avenues will be explored to work with funding partners including the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund and others.

Achievements under commitment 3 in 2023

- Efforts to mobilize financial resources and increase GWP-WA's capacity to implement activities at regional and national levels continued.
- Funding for the RIWE/Mono project was approved on December 15, 2023 by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as the Implementing Agency and MBA, OSS, GWP-WA and the Benin and Togo National Focal Points (MEEM and MEHV) as the Executing Agencies, for a total of five (5) million US dollars.
- The process of finalizing the detailed document for the Climate Shield/Mono project (Bouclier/Mono), to be submitted to the AF with OSS as Implementing Entity and MBA and GWP-WA as Executing Entities, has made significant progress.
- Numerous other project proposals have been drawn up in partnership with various strategic partners (ECOWAS, WAEMU, VBA, MBA, among others) and submitted to various funding windows, notably the African Water Facility and the AfDB.
- The sharing of information and opportunities with CWPs on the possibilities of submitting proposals to financial partners continues. The idea of a training session on project writing is being considered and will be implemented as soon as possible.



Flooding of the maize field

COMMITMENT 4 FOR 2023

Knowledge development and management efforts will continue, including identifying new initiatives to document and exploring new ways to work with the media. Partners will be encouraged, supported and invited to contribute to the GWP knowledge chain making a link to the revamped GWP TOOL-BOX.

Achievements under commitment 4 in 2023

- Films documenting the main results of the TFTC 2, VFDM and Mekrou 2 Niger projects were produced and distributed.
- Each of the three (3) countries implementing TFTC 2 produced a capitalization report; this made it possible to draw up a regional capitalization report for the project.
- A capitalization report was also produced on the main results of the Mekrou 2 Niger project, as well as a summary brochure.
- Three (3) documentation reports on technical procedures were produced on the implementation methodologies of the Mekrou 2 project in Niger.
- An awareness-raising film on the risk profile of floods and droughts in the Volta basin was distributed, along with seven (07) information sheets (one for each country in the basin and one for the basin as a whole).
- Collaboration with the media in the region is being closely monitored. The CWP's and the Regional Secretariat work with journalist networks, inviting them to activities and involving them in workshops and training sessions to improve their ability to produce good-quality articles.
- GWP-WA is a member of the jury for the media competition organized by Burkina Faso's Permanent Secretariat for IWRM. This is the second edition of the competition, launched in 2022. Since the first edition, GWP-WA has been represented as a jury member, bringing its experience in organizing media competitions since 2014.
- Efforts will continue with various projects implemented to document the results achieved. GWP documentation is shared with various partners at regional and national levels.

ANALYSIS OF PLANNED VERSUS ACHIEVED

2023 was the first year of implementation of the three-year regional work program 2023-2025 of GWP strategy 2020-2025. The year was marked by challenges for the GWP-WA network as a whole, which had to remain strong and resilient. Despite this context, with many projects coming to an end, GWP-WA achieved a series of results as planned.

Project activities, including the Mekrou 2 Niger project and the TFTC 2 project, were completed as scheduled. Much progress was consolidated throughout the year, and work continued on developing new project proposals and mobilizing financial resources.

The national closing workshop for the Mekrou Phase 2 Niger project took place on June 27, 2023 in Niamey; significant results were achieved with the finalization and adoption of the SAGE document by the two Regional Councils of Dosso and Tillabéri, the establishment and capacity-building of IWRM bodies, including the regional council of the Mekrou sub-basin water agency, local water committees (CLEs) and water user associations (AUEs), as well as the implementation of pilot actions and the purchase and installation of climate and water monitoring equipment in the sub-basin. The project was a major success in the implementation of Niger's PANGIRE in the Mékrou sub-basin. The experience constitutes a pioneering practice for the whole country.

As for the VDFM project, activities end in June 2024 with major achievements including the development of a flood and drought risk profile with recommendations to decision-makers in the Volta basin at regional and national levels. The VOLTALARM platform has been set up and the capacities of national and regional stakeholders have been strengthened to take ownership of it. In collaboration with IUCN, the VDFM project strengthened the capacities of national and regional stakeholders in nature-based solutions and the development of bankable projects. The development process involved national and regional stakeholders, technical staff and the project's implementing and executing partners.

TFTC phase 2, completed in May 2023, produced significant results in engaging and empowering young people, particularly in rural and peri-urban areas of Benin, Burkina Faso and Togo, for the sustainable development of their communities in a context of climate change. The project positively impacted the life of thousands of direct and indirect beneficiaries in the three (3) target countries. A third phase of the TFTC project, covering part of northern Benin, was launched in June 2023 and aims to consolidate the achievements of TFTC 2 and broaden the engagement and involvement of young people and women in sustainable development processes at the communal level.



Dyke separating rice and maize fields

Phase 2 of WACDEP-G has begun with the consolidation of progress made in the countries (Benin and Togo) and at the regional level (Volta Basin). The program is contributing to a better understanding of gender inequalities and the establishment of a comprehensive framework for action to tackle the social norms that weigh on gender balance, and to make the gender transformative approach (GTA) an accepted approach integrated into laws, strategies, plans and policies at regional and national levels. This has been done with the new framework law on the environment adopted in December 2023 by the Government of Togo.

The REWarD-Volta River Basin project has started. Several concept notes and terms of reference for the implementation of activities have been produced by GWP-WA and VBA involving stakeholders in the countries.

Regional Initiative for Water and the Environment in the Mono River Basin (RIWE/Mono)

To ensure the sustainable development and ecological resilience of the Mono river basin by strengthening governance and IWRM capacities, participatory planning by communities and strengthening cooperation between Togo and Benin.

Implementing agencies

International Union for Conservation of Nature

Executing agencies

Mono Basin Authority (ABM), Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), Global Water Partnership for West Africa (GWP-WA); National Focal Points (MEEM; MEHV)

Source of funding

GEF Trust Fund

GEF project grant

5,000,000

Project components

Component 1: Assessment and planning of the development of the Mono river basin - TDA/SAP, as well as several pre-identified pilot activities.

Component 2: Institutional and technical capacity building - training, resource mobilisation strategy, livelihoods.

Component 3: Knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation and communication

Duration: 4 years

Funding has been secured for the RIWE-Mono Basin project, which aims to ensure the sustainable development and ecological resilience of the Mono River Basin by strengthening governance and IWRM capacities, participatory planning by communities and strengthening cooperation between Togo and Benin. The detailed document for the Bouclier-Climat Mono project is at a very advanced stage of finalisation with a view to submission to the Adaptation Fund. The main objective of the Mono Climate Shield project is to improve the resilience of vulnerable communities in the Mono catchment area by developing their capacity to adapt to the risks of recurrent flooding and promoting the sustainable and equitable use and management of water resources and associated ecosystems.

GWP-WA is one of the executing partners for both projects. The other partners involved are MBA, OSS and IUCN, as well as the two countries - Benin and Togo. Efforts to mobilise additional financial resources were sustained during the year with the development and submission of new project proposals to funding windows and mechanisms.

GWP-WA Partners' Assembly was held, as well as two meetings of the Steering Committee, helping to strengthen the commitment to effective and accountable governance of the regional network. GWP-WA Chairman's two (02) year term of office was renewed for a second and final time.

During the year, the Chairman was appointed as Chair of the Chairs of the GWP's 13 Regional Partnerships. In this capacity, he sat on the GWPO Global Steering Committee.



Mixed fields of maize and rice

Challenges, lessons learned and recommendations

In 2023, the GWPO Network as a whole faced a governance crisis, which led to precautionary measures being taken that affected all the GWP's divisions, including the Regional Water Partnerships. To this end, the Chair of GWP-WA was mobilised and took an active part in discussions that aimed at finding the appropriate solutions required.

GWP-WA has been working for years in a difficult security context and political instability, which has increased in the region in 2023. The security challenge, which stretches from the Sahel to the coastal countries, deserves particular attention in the implementation of the various development programmes and projects at all levels; without endangering the life of the staff involved.

Working to preserve and strengthen the GWP network in West Africa through ongoing commitment, support and the building of new strategic avenues and alliances with active and functional CWP and committed partners at regional and national levels are key challenges. More time and resources will be needed, while the Regional Executive Secretariat and the CWPs are in critical need of additional technical staff.

The issue of the legal status of GWP-WA in Burkina Faso, the host country, remains a major concern.

GWP-WA will strengthen its collaboration with the States, in order to better take into account these various challenges for the happiness of the populations who are increasingly demanding actions with tangible results and impacts on the improvement of their living conditions and well-being.



A few key achievements in figures

Examples of a number of indicators (impact and results) with planned targets and results achieved in 2023 compared with 2022.

Logframe indicators	Achievement 2022	Forecast 2023	Achievement 2023
Number of people benefiting from improved governance and management of water resources	2,5 millions	4 millions	4,5 millions
Total value of water-related investments from government and private sources influenced	40 millions	40 millions	54 millions
Number of policies, plans, strategies and laws formally adopted and influenced that integrate water security at other levels	4	3	3
Number of arrangements / commitments / agreements on strengthening water security influenced at cross-border / regional level	1	3	3
Number of capacity-building and knowledge development initiatives that can be directly linked to tangible changes in governance	0	3	9
Number of formal multi-stakeholder participation processes facilitated on behalf of a mandated institution	11	08	25
Number of policies, plans, strategies and laws influenced that integrate gender inclusion	01	03	04
Number of management instruments officially used by water managers and decision-makers	2	1	1
Number of formal data-sharing agreements established	1	1	1
Number of approved investment plans and budget commitments associated with policies, plans and strategies that incorporate water security	1	3	3
Number of processes in place to raise local revenue from specific levies on water users at basin, aquifer or sub-national level.	0	3	4
Number of budgetary commitments from riparian countries to support agreed cross-border cooperation agreements	6	2	2
Number of mandated institutions supported in drawing up and implementing provisions relating to transboundary water management	2	10	8

Logframe indicators	Achievement 2022	Forecast 2023	Achievement 2023
Number of mandated national institutions supported in the development and implementation of IWRM-based policies, legal frameworks and/or plans	11	20	35
Number of mandated sub-national institutions supported in the development and implementation of IWRM-based policies, regulations and/or plans	5	30	22
Number of mandated national institutions supported in monitoring SDG 6	1	5	9
Number of demonstration projects undertaken where innovation has been demonstrated	18	7	11
Number of mandated national institutions supported in monitoring SDG 6	2	5	12
Number of beneficiaries supported in demonstration projects on water security and climate resilience	3,500	10 000	15 000



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Budget and expenditure in 2023

GWP FUNDS	Budget 2023 (€)	Expenditures as per 31 12 2023 (€)	Expenditures rate 31 12 2023
TOTAL CORE & WACDEP-G & LRF	1 133 602	724 463	64%
CORE	233 702	231 493	99%
WACDEP-G (REGION & BENIN)	225 223	93 663	42%
Locally Raised Funds	674 677	399 007	59%

