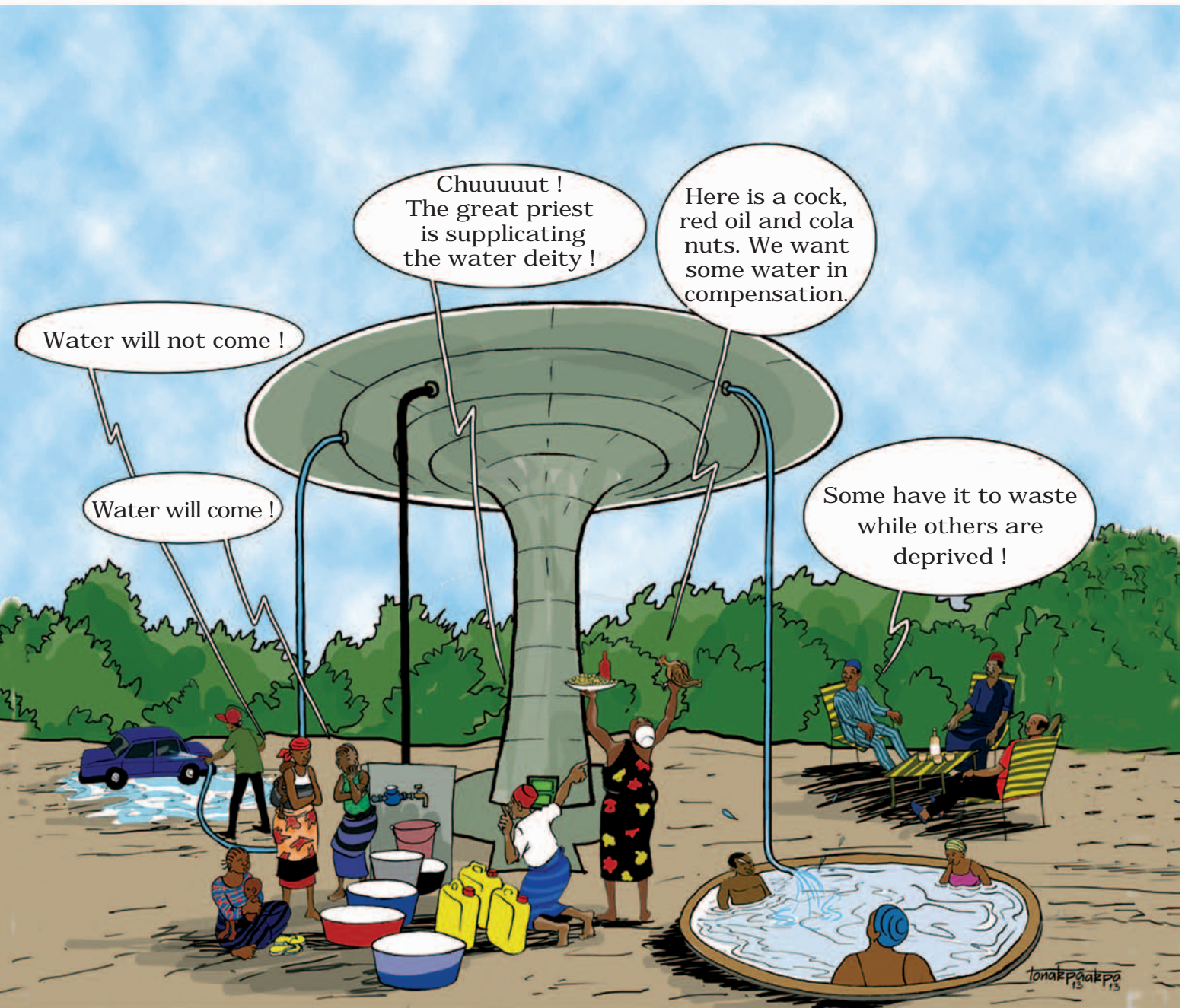


INF'O

Newsletter on water and environment



Financing water and protection of the resource in West Africa



CONTENTS

EDITORS' WORD Page 3
Lack of protection threatens the source of life for today and tomorrow!

WOKSHOP REPORT Pages 4 - 5
Journalists attend water financing workshop in Abidjan

WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION Pages 6 - 12
Cote d'Ivoire lacks necessary water protection - experts

Preserve water for future generations
Supplying water to all at any time and place to cover all uses: this is the challenge facing the actors of the sector

Maxime Somda, Coordinator of PREMI/IUCN:
"Innovative financing may help conserve and safeguard the water resource"

Interview with Zoko Baoua, regulatory head at water directorate

Protecting the Tinkisso Basin, one of the great tributaries of the Niger

Responsibility of the private sector

WATER FINANCING Pages 13 - 17
Cote d'Ivoire needs FCFA 645 billion to reach 82 % access to water

Ivorian gov't owes FCFA 24 bn in accumulated water bills

SODECLI, ONEP
A public/private partnership worth emulating

Fraud, lack of maintenance
The big equation of unaccounted for water

GOVERNANCE Pages 18 - 22
Water financing, resource protection challenge in West Africa

Water distribution
Cote d'Ivoire to employ IWRM, law enforcement to curtail wastage

Access to potable water in Côte d'Ivoire
The need for synergetic actions

Illegal Water Connections Cost Cote d'Ivoire FCFA 3bn

WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION Pages 23 - 24
Uncontrolled Urbanization
A Threat to Quantity and Quality of Water

ACCESS TO POTABLE WATER Pages 25 - 26
Scare water drops in makeshift communities

Illegal connections, a sad reality in Koumassi

Newsletter on water and environment

Managing Editors

Dam MOGBANTE (GWPWA)
Aimé J. NIANOGO (IUCN-PACO)

Editors'-in-chief

Sidi COULIBALY (GWPWA)
Marcello ROCCA (IUCN-PACO)

Editorial Staff

Sani ABOUBACAR (Niger)
Raphaël KAFANDO (Burkina)
Maryam COULIBALY (Côte d'Ivoire)
Jean Louis KOBRISSA (Côte d'Ivoire)
Idrissa SANÉ (Sénégal)
Mohamed Muhtarr JALLOW (*Gambia*)
Assane KONE (Mali)
Fanta DOSSO (Côte d'Ivoire)
Edmund Smith ASANTE (Ghana)
Alain TOSSOUNON (Benin)
Cheick B. SIGUE (Burkina)
Eden GADEGBEKU (Togo)
Toussain N'GOTTA (Côte d'Ivoire)
G. De GNAMIEN (Côte d'Ivoire)
Kayode ABOYEJI (Nigeria)
Germaine BONI (Côte d'Ivoire)
Emelia ENNIN ABBEY (Ghana)
Khalilou DIAGANA (Mauritania)
Jedna DEÏDA (Mauritania)
Anderson DIEDRI (Côte d'Ivoire)
Théodore KOUADIO (Côte d'Ivoire)
Célia Dédé D'ALMEDA (Mali)

Illustration

Constant TONAKPA (Benin)

Printing/PAO :

Studio Yipin Créations / Imprimerie
Tél.: +226 50 47 60 79 / 70 20 65 38
Burkina Faso

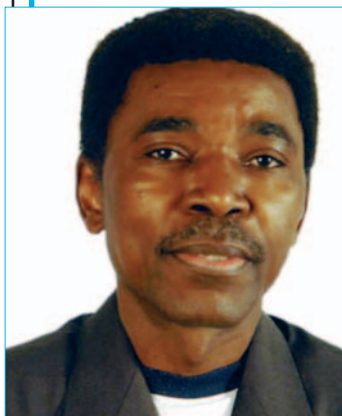
Opinions expressed in this publication
do not reflect the views
of GWP-WA or IUCN



August 2013

EDITORS' WORD

Lack of protection threatens the source of life for today and tomorrow!



Aimé NIANOGO
Regional Director, IUCN-PACO

Among natural resources, water remains the largest with a key role, including that of giving life. River systems help fuel our economy and nourish ecosystems sources of life. Food security, public health and economic opportunities all depend on natural and built infrastructure and the way we manage this shared resource. Our life itself is dependent on the access to drinking water.

The pressure of growing population and the competition between different users weigh on water resources. In this context, water is scarce, not because the quantity is diminishing, but because the needs are increasing,

the quality of the resource deteriorates and the expected effects of climate change may affect its availability. We know that this scarcity is due to several factors including lack of adequate infrastructure, but also poor coordination, bad governance, inappropriate legislation and inadequate funding of the water sector, all things that do not encourage enough to preserve the resource both qualitatively and quantitatively.

Scarcity and poor quality of the resource have a negative impact on the development of our countries and the efforts against poverty.

The international community has begun to realize the importance of better management of water resources in supporting Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) as an appropriate approach, but it is clear that a sustainable solution can be achieved only through better governance and more adequate funding of the water sector.

The effort to produce must be that of all the stakeholders with redoubled efforts including funding.

It is necessary to create a multi-stakeholder response to the financial needs of various activities in the water sector, with a view that water resources are used and managed in a fair and sustainable way to reduce poverty, socio-economic development, regional integration and environmental protection.

It is also important to use new approaches and new economic and financial tools, such as paying for environmental services, to help ensure the proper protection of the resource.

The action of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Global Water Partnership West Africa (GWP-WA) is to support our countries' development through a participatory process based on the right information to all stakeholders.

In the interest of multi-stakeholder research and new economic tools, the media, because of their potential of information and awareness raising, have the ability to educate and if necessary to mobilize public opinion on local, national and international levels.

This magazine is produced by journalists who took part in the regional media capacity building workshop on the theme: "Financing water and protection of the resource in West Africa" held in Abidjan from 1 to 5 July 2013. This is for IUCN and GWP-WA as a block to the building to be built by all stakeholders with the firm belief that significant funding is necessary to protect water resources and ensure its quality and spatial accessibility today and tomorrow for future generations.



Dam MOGBANTE
Executive Secretary, GWP/WA

Wokshop report

Journalists attend water financing workshop in Abidjan

By Edmund SMITH-ASANTE (*ghanabusinessnews.com / Ghana*) & Emelia ENNIN ABBEY (*Daily Guide / Ghana*)

A five-day workshop on water financing for thirty journalists from 11 West African countries and Mauritania opened in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire with an aim of empowering media professionals to facilitate sustainable practices and equitable sharing of benefits from the exploitation of water resources.

Countries that participated in the 7th sub regional capacity building workshop were Ghana, Togo, The Gambia, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Mauritania.

The workshop organised by the Global Water Partnership for West Africa (GWP-WA) in collaboration with the Central and West Africa Programme of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-PACO), was geared at building the capacity of the journalists and assist them understand the financial needs of different activities in water sector.

According to the organisers, the theme for the workshops "Water financing and protecting of the resource in West Africa", was informed by the fact that there is continuous population pressure on water resources in the sub-region in spite of recent efforts to deal with the challenge, while there are still regional deficiencies in coordination, governance, legislation and financing of the water sector.

They maintained that risks related to water, such as floods, droughts, conflicts, water-borne diseases and the like are not controlled, whereas the potential of water in

the West Africa region for hydropower, irrigation and ecotourism among others, is still under exploited.

"In addition, many countries in West Africa suffer from high rainfall variability and their infrastructures and management capabilities are insufficient to mitigate. This problem hampers their development and their efforts to fight against poverty," IUCN-PACO and GWP-WA said.

The two organisations indicated that there is the need to create a multi-stakeholder response to the financial needs of different activities in the water sector, so that water resources are used and managed in a fair and sustainable way to reduce poverty, promote socio-economic development, regional integration and environmental protection.

Acknowledging the media as a major stakeholder, IUCN-PACO and GWP-WA said it is because it has the potential of information and awareness-raising, and also the ability to educate and if necessary mobilise public opinion at local, national and international level, that the workshop was organised for the West Africa media.

"The organisation of the present workshop aims to empower the professionals of the sector so that they can



have the key knowledge to produce and broadcast articles and quality reports, capable of contributing to the necessary and desired mobilisation of the stakeholders," a concept note prepared by the organisers said.

One of the goals of the training was to provide support for the production of quality information that will lead to greater mobilisation of stakeholders around the financial needs of different activities in the water sector to reduce poverty, ensure socio-economic development, regional integration and environmental protection.

Expected outcomes of the training included a strengthened relationship between the media, experts and decision makers, through networking and the production of articles by the journalists attending the training for various media platforms, a brochure of press cuttings as well as a dissemination and awareness-raising magazine for the attention of actors on the theme of the workshop.

The workshop was organised in three parts – two days of immersion in the general concerns, marked by communication and exchanges between the journalists, environmental specialists, finance and industry stakeholders; a day's field trip with two days dedicated to writing articles and producing radio and television magazines.

Speaking at the opening of the workshop, N'dri Koffi, Chairman of Global Water Partnership, Cote d'Ivoire, noted that it is a known fact that water is life and that "protecting it is an individual and collective obligation."

He said water is a key resource in attaining development of any nation but in spite of the numerous efforts there are still deficiencies in governance and financing of the water sector at the regional level.

For his part, Maxime Somda, Regional Coordinator of Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management Initiative (PREMI) at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) stated that there is grow-

ing demand on the limited water resource.

He said some of the risks associated with water in the West Africa sub-region are too much rainfall which results in floods or less or no water at all which leads to droughts, conflicts over water, water borne diseases, exploitation of water for hydropower, irrigation or ecotourism among others.

He was of the opinion that a more adequate funding of water resources through the user-pays or polluter-pays principle is needed.

Citing the activities of mining companies and industries, he said "people who pollute water must pay a fine. There are companies who dump waste in water bodies or chemicals they use in their production activities end up in water resources and that deteriorates the quality of water and we sometimes see dead fishes."

Water, he said, 'is a public resource because it is for all of us but with the exception of domestic use if you take it and use it for any commercial purpose such as irrigation, building a dam for hydropower generation or for use by a mining company, for industrial use and for construction of buildings or roads among others, then you have to pay.'

He pointed out that the challenge of climate change has also been threatening the quality and quantity of water resources in recent times.

The approach for better governance of water resources he said, "needs to change" and that "integrated management of water resources is the best way to go."

Dr. Michel Tozan N'guessan, Director of the Cote D'Ivoire Ministry of Water Resources and Forestry disclosed his country is developing a national policy to ensure sustainable water management, saying, "Cote d'Ivoire is committed to contribute to the protection of water resources."

UN Watercourses Convention West Africa struggles for ratification

West Africa is a landscape marked with a significant number of international watercourses and therefore has a great potential for conflicts related to the management of shared water resources. States of the sub-region have become increasingly aware of this situation and are turning for collaborative management of the natural resources of the shared basins.

The 1997 *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses* (UN Watercourses Convention), while not yet in force, is the most authoritative statement of international law in its field. Its adoption by States of the sub-region would provide many benefits, including supporting regions where no or few transboundary treaties exist; providing an identifiable framework for addressing allocation and re-allocation issues; a global mechanism for implementing, enforcing and developing international law in the field, particularly through the sharing of knowledge and experiences between countries and continents; platform for strengthening existing arrangements for the management of transboundary waters within the West African region and pave the way for water protocol for the region, etc.

As expected, the implementation of the programme for the ratification of the UN Convention by West African countries is not an easy task. Since the regional workshop held in 2007 to raise awareness of the role and relevance of the Convention, many other actions were carried out by GWP/WA and its partners, ECOWAS Water Resources Coordinating Center and WWF with funding from Norway. Up to now, five countries (Guinea Bissau, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Benin and Niger) have ratified the Convention.

In The Gambia the on-going advocacy for the ratification has raised strong interest as the process is well on track and there is optimism for the achievement of the goal by the end of 2013.

Advocacy processes are on-going in Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and countries of OMVS such as Guinea, Mali and Senegal.

Water resource protection

Cote d'Ivoire lacks necessary water protection - ExpertsBy Alain TOSSOUNON (*Le Municipal / Benin*)

In Côte d'Ivoire as in most of the States in the West Africa sub-region, resource mobilization to ensure the protection of water is not on the agenda. While in some countries, some reforms have helped to set up an enabling institutional framework, compliance with the "large user pays or the polluter pays" principle is deteriorating.

There is no doubt that today Côte d'Ivoire unlike certain countries, is not going through a water stress. The country has adequate water resources but these are unevenly distributed across the territory. The discharge rate is not the same from one point to another. Thus, the estimated 3 billion cubic meters of water resources might be overused in the next few years.

Already, as stated by the Director of SODECI production in Abidjan, Mr. Olivier François Gosso, ground water in Abidjan is saturated in some places. For the head of the regulatory department at the water resource directorate, Mr. Zoko Baoua, this saturation obviously means that "the water table has been overused". This is due to the population pressure.

Indeed, the population of Abidjan has increased almost three-fold within ten years, thus exerting pressure on water resources. Adding to this is the high intake by the sugar industry, mining, building and public works, which are the biggest water consumers.

According to Zoko Baoua, with the relentlessly growing intake of water resource volumes, there is the need to "start sounding the alarm" just to avoid being taken aback.

But despite the stake that this resource represents to the development of the country and to future generations, water management is poorly done and water is used in an "uncontrolled" manner, confides Mr. Zoko.

More than a planning issue, Mr. Somda an expert from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) maintains that there is a real need for knowledge of the resource. "We cannot manage what we do not know", he stated.

Thus, he and other experts believe that water management depends indeed on knowing the existing potential or reserves. "Generally speaking, to use water, one needs to know this water in terms of both quantity and quality. One can then rigorously plan the use at basin level", he said.

The blame is on the institutional framework

The so much criticized absence of planning is due to the low level of financing according to actors. "We have no core resources for monitoring and planning the resource; the activities that we are implementing for the protection of river banks are carried out with the support of projects", regrets Mr. Zoko.

The two Funds namely the National Water Fund and the Water Development Fund which are in place do not provide for the protection of the resource for now. Actually, the lack



The Director of Abidjan Protection at SODECI, Mr. Olivier François Gosso warned that the implementation of the "user pay principle" could impact the water bill.

of funds is due to the inappropriate institutional framework, he asserts.

In fact, the Water Code which has provisions for earmarking funds for protection through the "large user pays" and "polluter pays" principles, is not fully complied with. This is because the enforcement decrees that should have facilitated the implementation of the principles are yet to be issued.

As a result, the major users with SODECI as a top user do not pay anything. "There are sugar plants that use up to 60 million m³; Construction and Public Works, 10 million m³; the mining industry does not pay anything", informed Mr. Zoko.

A shortfall for the State, as part of the contract between it and SODECI through ONEP, has not provided for any taxes. According to the Director of SODECI, Mr. Olivier Gosso, in every 1m³ of water, part is used to reimburse the loans taken from the National Water Fund, another share is transferred to the Water Development Fund to be invested, another share goes to the concession owner (SODECI) and the last share is for the Ministry of Finance.

Because of the absence of a financing mechanism for water resource protection, the authority in charge of the management of the resource does not have "a leeway to take action", Mr. Zoko reports, calling for the issuing of enforcement decrees.

Meanwhile, the Directorate of Water Resources is working

hard to raise awareness among all stakeholders including the industry and other large users. He is also involved in a study that will set an acceptable threshold of a user fee.

But, "this is a sensitive sector" warns Mr. Zoko. Any tax increase for water intake could lead to an increase in the water tariff. This was confirmed by the Director of SODECI who mentioned the possibility for the State to revise for

instance the tariff distribution for every cubic meter, in order to mobilize resources for financing the protection of the resource.

For the time being, SODECI just like other big industries continues to draw water free of charge, without any compensation that would be used to protect the resource.

Preserve water for future generations

Supplying water to all at any time and place to cover all uses: this is the challenge facing the actors of the sector

Célia Dédé D'ALMEIDA (*Journaldumali.com / Mali*)

The pressure on the resource is such that today protecting it has become a matter of urgency, if we are to ensure its sustainability and security for future generations.

West Africa is relatively well endowed with water resources with more than a thousand billion cubic meters of fresh water renewed every year through the normal hydrological cycle of the region.

So, there is water enough to cover all uses. In addition to drinking water, water for farming, livestock and industry, countries have reserves that can ensure the development of the sub-region. Yet, water-related conflicts are numerous and access to the resource remains difficult for tens of thousands of people.

The problem lies at the level of distribution of the resource, of its management and preservation.

To address this, "many initiatives have been taken to consider the issue and find avenues to solutions", said Mr. Maxime Somda of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

But, at the same time, "it should be noted that progress towards equity in water resource management and preservation is a long and thorny process", he acknowledged.

It is to take up the numerous challenges encountered in the daily management of water that water companies in Africa came together within an organization known as the African Water Association (AfWA).

Its mission is among other things, to facilitate the sharing of experiences among the various actors, training and research, ensuring good water governance and environmental protection in order to maintain the quantity and quality of water resources.

The latter mission is among the most critical ones and efforts have been focused on it for the past few years. This is because if nothing is done in this respect; there will be no sound source to provide water, both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Harnessing and treating scarce and polluted water sources will become even more expensive and this in turn will impact the cost of water. "Our children would then pay five times more than us for water", said Mr. Olivier

François Gosso, Production Director of the Côte d'Ivoire Water Company (SODECI), a member company of AfWA.

Water sources are endangered

Water is life. Yet this source of life is more than ever threatened. This is strikingly illustrated by the water resources in the Niger River basin.

Though it is the main source for various human needs, the Niger River is not less aggressed by its users' activities. Adding to the damages are the climate change effects like declining rainfall, land degradation, silting, etc.

The population using the Niger River water is estimated at 100 million persons exerting considerable pressure on the resource. In Guinea, the water tower of West Africa with more than ten water courses in its territory, the riparian communities of Tinkisso, the greatest tributary on the left bank of Niger River are dying of thirst.

This is a paradoxical situation owing to the fact that the water course suffers particularly from the rapid and deep degradation of the ecosystems in its basin. Its discharge rate has so declined that it can no longer cover even $\frac{1}{5}$ of the needs covered some few years back.

"At the level of retailer companies, our role goes from collection to the tap. We ensure the safety and quality of the water that we deliver to the consumer. It is incumbent to the State to preserve the resource, whether it is surface or ground water", argues the AfWA through its Secretary General, Mr. Sylvain Usher.

He is of the opinion that water companies are not listened to by policy-makers. At the SODECI, we believe we have "raised the alarm since fifteen years at least". "We have told the State of Côte d'Ivoire that it should take account of the protection of the resource and ensure its sustainability," said Mr. Gosso.

"Chemical pollution caused by industries, population pressure, natural drying -up of the water table" we discussed all these issues during that time. But we were not listened to and today we are responding to an emergency trying to cope with shortages whereas the data is known," he added.

Water resource protection

Maxime Somda, Coordinator of PREMI/IUCN

“Innovative financing may help conserve and safeguard the water resource”

On the occasion of the West Africa sub-regional media capacity building workshop held from July 1 to 5, 2013 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, Maxime Somda, Coordinator of the Regional Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management Initiative (PREMI) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), raised the alarm on the need to put in place instruments for water resource conservation and explained the challenge to potable water financing while highlighting the new alternatives for financing and protecting the resource. The following is an interview he granted INF'O – the newsletter on water and environment. The interviews were conducted by :

Anderson DIÉDRI (*Le Nouveau Courrier / Côte d'Ivoire*)
& Assane KONÉ (*Le Républicain / MALI*)

Inf'O: Is there any urgent need to protect water resources today?

Maxime Somda (M.S.): Protection is very important because life does not end today, tomorrow or day after tomorrow, in the next five or ten years. Life is continuous. So we need to have a management system for these resources for future generations.

Inf'O: Therefore, what role can the media play?

M.S.: The role of the media is to bring the information to those who are connected to the media, to raise their awareness on what is going on. So there are good relays to convey the message to the right audience.

Inf'O: According to you, what are the tools to be put in place for financing integrated water resource management?

M.S.: This is what is called in a generic manner, innovative financing. All these mechanisms are based on IWRM [Integrated Water Resource Management] principles which are built upon the “large user must pay” and the “polluter must pay” principles.

Inf'O: Does this model work in some countries already?

M.S.: Of course yes! It exists in Europe already. In France, it works very well. Water agencies function very well on the basis of the same “user must pay” and “polluter must pay” principles. They just take levies to help finance resource protection and preservation. In Africa, there are few cases such as Uganda and Burkina Faso where it also works very well.

Inf'O: How does this work in concrete terms in these countries?

M.S.: In Burkina Faso, it is a para-fiscal law that sets out the user-must-pay and polluter-must-pay principles. This law allows putting in place a tax referred to as the financial contribution to the water sector. Every quantity of water that is drawn bears a corresponding cost. In fact it is the big users that pay for drawing water, not the domestic users.

Inf'O: From your viewpoint, why is the principle not



working in other African countries? Is it due to the absence of a law?

M.S.: I believe that all ECOWAS member countries have adopted the IWRM approach and therefore the same principles that are being applied in Burkina Faso are also applicable in the other countries. Now countries are not moving at the same pace in providing instructions and frameworks. Otherwise, theoretically, we had very clear objectives: by year 2020, normally all countries should have reached that level.

Inf'O: Are there any initiatives in terms of innovative financing?

M.S.: Innovative financing such as PES [Payment for Environmental Services]. PES is a compensation system that can be a monetary one to ensure that the resources are preserved and to contribute to safeguarding these resources. Of course this type of payment does exist. It has been piloted in South America and India.

Inf'O: This year, ECOWAS has reduced by 80% its budget allocations for water resource management.



What would be the impact of this policy?

M.S.: Actually it is not ECOWAS; it is the Water Resource Coordination Center - a directorate of the ECOWAS Agriculture, Water and Environment Department- that cut down its budget. This budget reduction is due to the security emergency experienced by our countries as a result of the political crisis and other factors. So it is because of the emergency that the budgets have been drastically reduced.

Inf'O: But this necessarily has an impact ...

M.S.: Of course, it has an impact because a programme had been developed. They had planned some activities that they will no longer be able to implement this year, not even in the next two years because they have not even started yet. When will the budget be reinstated for programmes to start being implemented? No one knows.

Inf'O: You said that those who will pollute water resources will be suppressed or even made to pay taxes. Do you think that this is the right solution?

M.S.: There are two ways to go about water management. There is everything that relates to the "user must pay principle" and also the water policy side. The water policy consists of monitoring water use and water quality. And this is quite normal. When you set fire, you are given a contravention. It is exactly the same when it comes to water management. Water pirates and polluters should be submitted to the same penalty.

Inf'O: What are the main challenges today in making potable water available to the communities in West Africa?

M.S.: The challenges are of several types depending on

each country. To make potable water available to the population, one should first assess the availability of the resource in both quantitative and qualitative terms.

Yet, there are some countries in West Africa that are located in the Sahel region. Also some arrangements need to be made: building the infrastructure for water harnessing, treatment and distribution. So, there are three key stages: assessment of the resource, its harnessing, treatment and distribution.

In some instances, there is no water at all. In case water exists, funds are needed for the construction of water harnessing, treatment and distribution infrastructures. And, our States are often faced with great challenges and cannot use core funds for building the required

infrastructures which are often very costly.

To address the inadequacy in financing, countries call on donors but here again, the funds mobilization process is a very long one. As a result, the infrastructure for which the funds have been requested is outdated once it is completed.

Inf'O: In the face of all these challenges, do West African states have any alternatives?

M.S.: Given that concessional funds are difficult to raise, our countries should look into commercial funds within the framework of public private partnership for large structuring projects. In addition to being fast, this type of financing could greatly relieve our states which have so many priorities.

Also, for sustainable management of the resource, users should be made to financially contribute to the protection and conservation of the resource and to the functioning of the management structures.

Inf'O: Don't you think that African states often forget to make provisions for water resource protection as they are too busy harnessing the resource?

M.S.: In fact, it is not that they overlook the protection of the resource. They have always worked in emergency to make water available for the population. In such a context, investment for the harnessing, treatment and transportation of the resource becomes the priority.

Ideally, every country should have their own water resource protection plan that would make it mandatory for all users to contribute on the basis of two principles: polluter/payer and extractor/payer.

Water resource protection

Interview with Zoko Baoua, regulatory head at water directorate

Zoko Baoua, Head of the Regulatory Department at the directorate of water resources of the Côte d'Ivoire Ministry of Water and Forestry, explained in the interview below that the accelerated establishment of institutional mechanisms could help mobilize the required financial resources for the protection of water resources. "There is no way an ordinary enterprise can alone draw up to 50 million cubic meters of water," he said. The Interview was conducted by:

Inf'O: *What is the status of the legal framework of the water resource management policy in Côte d'Ivoire?*

Zoko Baoua (Z.B.): Côte d'Ivoire validated the national plan for integrated water resource management in June 2012 and the plan is in the process of being endorsed by the government. Already in 2010, the national water policy was validated.

Just like other ECOWAS countries, Côte d'Ivoire has adopted the Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) approach since 1998. Also, even though the law on the water code was passed in 1998 while the law on competency transfer to decentralized communities was passed in 2003 the enforcement decrees are yet to be passed.

In fact, the law on the water code provides for a financing mechanism for the sector. This is specifically embodied in article 01, which indicates that fees should be paid for drawing water both qualitatively and quantitatively and for the use of water. This obviously covers water consuming activities such as direct agricultural, livestock rearing, industrial, private extraction uses and also commercial uses of source water (mineral water production).

There are also activities that use water but do not consume it, e.g. fishing in continental and sea waters, fish farming, hydropower, leisure boat sailing, nautical sports, river-cum-

lagoon and maritime transport, mining and oil extraction. And finally, water resource polluting activities including all activities that directly or indirectly lead to adverse modification of the aquatic environment by introducing harmful substances.

So there are several sectors that use water and normally, in compliance with the water code, these sectors should pay fees in order to allow sustainable management of water resources. But we are a post-conflict country and therefore the Government cannot afford to finance



Mr. Zoko Baoua, Head of the regulatory department at the directorate of water resources, Ministry for Water and Forestry, Côte d'Ivoire: "Côte d'Ivoire validated a national Integrated Water Resource Management Plan in June 2012."

Anderson DIÉDRI (*Le Nouveau Courrier / Côte d'Ivoire*)

the water sector instead of other big works.

The issuing of a decree on the establishment of the Fund and of a national water resource management agency for integrated water resource management activities would have helped in addressing the shortcomings and all challenges relating to water management in Côte d'Ivoire.

Inf'O: *Are industries ready to pay for such fees?*

Z.B.: We have undertaken with the private sector a series of workshops to share views and agree on a minimum level of fees. We discussed with them to see how much they could contribute financially for using water resources. So, discussions and approaches are underway. The private sector has been involved at all levels. It is an extremely sensitive issue. The Government cannot apply a tax in a systematic manner. This should be done on a consensus basis with all stakeholders involved in the water sector. This is what we are currently doing. We have worked with the Côte d'Ivoire Union of Big Enterprises (UGECEI), the Côte d'Ivoire Union of Forest Enterprises (UNEMAF), NGOs and other actors.

A study has been commissioned from the National Bureau of Technical and Development Research (BNETD) to deepen the reflection on the issue so as to set thresholds based on the various sectors of activity. You will see for instance that in the Construction and Public Works sector, surface water is used for building infrastructure.

For road construction for example, crude water is taken from the Banco forest [in Abidjan, ndlr]. So, normally, companies should pay a tax to the Government if they were to comply with the water code. But today, this is not being enforced because the enforcement decree of the water code has not yet been issued.

Inf'O: *What is hindering the issuing of this decree?*

Z.B.: As I said earlier, the main barrier is that our approach is based on consensus because you know that there are big enterprises, so big stakes. If you take for instance the sugar company, sugar is a basic commodity. So, we cannot unilaterally require such enterprises to pay fees overnight. They could reflect this increase in production cost in the consumer price.

It is a sensitive issue, hence our discussions with the Company Grouping (UGECEI), with UNEMAF and other Confederations. It is the very reason why we have commissioned a study from BNETD to see in practical terms, how this could be objectively viable for the enterprises. How much are companies ready to pay for each cubic meter of water that they use?

Water resource protection

Protecting the Tinkisso Basin, one of the great tributaries of the Niger

By Raphaël KAFANDO (*Sidwaya / Burkina Faso*)

As part of the Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management Initiative (PREMI), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), is implementing a project on “Restoration and payment for environmental services in the Tinkisso Basin” (REPASE).

The aim is to promote integrated management of the Tinkisso catchment area, in order to reduce climate change effects and increase benefits for communities living down and upstream the Tinkisso dam.

Tinkisso is the largest tributary on the left bank of the Niger River. It suffered most the rapid and deep degradation of ecosystems in its basin. Like many rivers on the African continent, the Niger River flows from this place.

That is why the International Union for the Conservation of Nature through the Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management Initiative (IUCN/PREMI), has proactively undertaken to implement a project on “Restoration and payment for environmental services in the Tinkisso basin” (REPASE).

By testing a new approach to combined ecosystem biophysical restoration and payment for generated environmental services (PES), the REPASE project intends to explore the feasibility of sustainable management of its catchment area, a requirement for poverty reduction and mitigation of climate change effects.

As a matter of priority, the project also aims at restoring the reservoir zone of the Tinkisso dam and mitigating the

impact of the dam on neighboring flooded lowlands. The project uses participatory and educational approaches in its implementation so as to create awareness among the local communities, of the harmful effects of the degradation process of the resources they depend on for their survival.

New dynamics have also been created towards close collaboration among technical departments of conservation, water, agriculture and livestock development, which come together under the project.

The water flow in Tinkisso is highly variable in volume and duration and large sand deposits and marshlands obstruct the bottom of the dam, modifying the water flow in flood areas.

The status of the basin upstream the Tinkisso basin is illustrative of the degradation of the Niger River complex. In this section of the basin, the degradation of ecosystems is affecting the well-being of communities and increasing their vulnerability to climate change. More particularly, the degradation of the Tinkisso catchment area has resulted in the silting of the small Tinkisso dam which no longer produces much electricity but for few hours per day.



Tinkisso is the largest tributary on the left bank of Niger River.

Water resource protection

Responsibility of the private sector

By Raphaël KAFANDO (*Sidwaya / Burkina Faso*)

According to the United Nations Organization, water use by the industry will double by 2025 because of the relocation to and expansion of industries in developing countries.

In view of this, regions like West Africa should make further efforts to find the required funds for preservation of water resources, and to do this, one solution is to get the contribution of the private sector, one of the biggest water users.

Water is a limited natural resource that is required for life and ecological systems. It is essential for economic and social development. Unfortunately, water is increasingly threatened by the combination of rapid population growth and urbanization, which create an ever growing demand for water in regions like West Africa.

Also, ecosystems, productive and regenerating environments of the resource are threatened, polluted and even destroyed most often, hence the need for finding solutions to ensure the protection of the resource.

In Burkina, the orientation law on water resource management was passed in February 2001, thus formalizing management principles. "The provisions of the law contain a number of principles such as the 'extractor-payer' and 'polluter-payer' principle as indicated by the Regional Coordinator of the Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management Initiative (PREMI), Mr. Maxime Somda.

He informed that based on this provision, another law was passed with the title of "financial contribution to the water sector". This legal provision sets up a para-fiscal tax paid by big extractors of water resources to the water agencies (structures in charge of the sustainable management of the hydrographic basins of Burkina). He further indicated that the first decree issued relates to water uptake.

The decree helps to enforce the "extractor-payer" principle and includes not only water taking but all activities that cause a modification of water patterns.

According to this decree, a FCFA 1 fee should be paid for one cubic meter of water taken. The National Water and Sanitation Office (ONEP), which receives this tax pays FCFA 700 million in average to the Nakambe Water Agency that manages the basin from which ONEP takes water to supply the city of Ouagadougou.

Mr. Somda indicated that for Burkina to be able to set such a rate, a financial and economic study was conducted with the National Water and Sanitation Office (ONEP) to determine the rate that should be applied without any impact on the consumer bill. However, he stressed that for now, only ONEP pays the tax.

Other big users are being sensitized to make them pay the tax. "But to prevent any impact of the taxes on the unit cost of services delivered by the company, the Government is working with extractors to find suitable rates", testified the Regional Coordinator of PREMI, Mr. Maxime Somda.

He added that another decree has been issued to establish a police of water. Work is being done to enforce this decree. He went on revealing that reports on the police of water have been validated and will be submitted to the National Water Board which brings together all water stakeholders (state, private sector, NGOs etc.).



*The Regional Coordinator of PREMI/UICN, Mr. Maxime Somda :
"The law in Burkina provides for a number of principles such as the 'extractor-payer' and the 'polluter-payer' principle.*

In addition, the law provides that no tax should be paid for domestic water uses. The consumer can therefore use up to 2000 m3 of water per day without paying any tax. This means that the law has maintained the social nature of water.

The resistance of the private sector

Unlike Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire has not issued any enforcement decrees even though the legal framework has been developed. This delay is due to the political unrest in the country.

The Head of the Regulatory Department at the Directorate of Water Resources in Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Zoko Bawa said that the private sector was involved in a study that was aimed at knowing how ready these structures were to pay taxes for their water use.

"It is on the basis on these thresholds that we are going to set the rates. The main difficulty is that many companies believe that paying a tax will negatively affect their budget," he said.

This argument is confirmed by the Abidjan Production Director at the Côte d'Ivoire Water Company (SODECI), Mr. Olivier François Gosso.

"We do agree to the 'extractor-payer principle', but if there is any tax to be paid, this may be reflected in the water bill", he warned.

Mr. Gosso said that he is aware of the need to protect the resource for future generations but wished that all stakeholders would play their respective roles: the state, the consumer and the company.

He suggested that given the fact that it is the Ivorian State that defines the water policy and sets prices, the state should create the required legal environment for the enforcement of the law.

This means that political will is required in all countries in West Africa to compel every stakeholder to play his role in the protection of water resources.

Water financing

Cote d'Ivoire needs FCFA 645 billion to reach 82 % access to water

By Mohamed Muhtar JALLOW (*Gambia Now / The Gambia*)

The state of Cote d'Ivoire will need up to FCFA 645 billion to enable it reach 82 per cent access to safe clean water for its population by 2015. This was disclosed by Mr. N'dri Koffi chairperson of the Global Water Partnership (GWP) Cote d'Ivoire country programme in Abidjan.

He pointed out that it is most likely that only very few countries can reach the 2015 millennium development goal (MDG) target and it could even worsen in Cote d'Ivoire because of the crisis, saying the Government might ever ask the international community to extend the dead line to 2020.

Mr. N'dri Koffi disclosed this while presenting a paper on funds invested and its benefit in the case of Cote d'Ivoire on behalf of the country's Ministry of Water Resources and Forestry.

Mr. N'dri Koffi further pointed out that a lot of investment has been made in the water sector over the past few years, stating that while Cote d'Ivoire has since 1973 registered some significant achievements in improving the village as well as urban hydraulic systems, the country has suffered some serious setbacks as a result of the civil war crisis.

He explained that the criteria for the village water supply system is to have between 100 to 600 inhabitants provided with covered hand pump wells; from 1000 to 4000 inhabitants provided with an electrified system drilling water type and water distribution systems while inhabitants numbering 4,000 inhabitants in places with electricity are given distribution systems managed by SODECI (the national water company responsible for the distribution of urban water in Cote d'Ivoire).

He explained further that village water committees were

established, area mechanics trained and spare parts shops opened for the communities, adding that by the end of 2012 about 618 million people had gained access to safe clean drinking water in the rural areas.

"The less favoured regions now are the basin and the Northern regions", the GWP, Cote d'Ivoire chairperson added.

Head of the Ivorian government's expenses departments, Mr. Seydou Dembelé also confirmed that total coverage in the water sector in Cote d'Ivoire is about 66 percent in the rural areas and 76 per cent for urban, while their plan is to reach 82 per cent by 2016.

He said access to water is a priority concern for the government and efforts were being made in Abidjan to resolve the problems in water distribution.

"Meanwhile the President's Emergency Programme has agreed to commit FCFA 40 billion, which is 100 % government funded to the water sector for rehabilitation of projects in Abidjan and FCFA 20 billion towards financing the rehabilitation of pipes, sinking of new boreholes to the rural area," he disclosed.

However during a field visit on Wednesday, July 3, 2013 some of communities at Koumassi lamented the shortages or inadequate water supplies in the suburbs of Abidjan, particularly in Koumassi area.

They complained that not only settlers without taps are suffering but even yard owners who have taps in their homes are also feeling the pinch.

"SODECI has fixed its meters outside our homes and people who are in desperate need of water are coming around vandalizing the meters to collect water for their own consumption and others for commercial purposes, the community members said.

The first deputy mayor of Koumassi district disclosed that his municipality does not have the capacity to provide water to communities but instead SODECI is mandated by government to provide such facilities to the communities.

He reiterated that central Government is responsible for the distribution of water to the communities through SODECI.

At the Djibi water treatment plant, the SODECI director of production in Abidjan, Mr. Olivier François Gosso explained that the company has put in place quality control measures to ensure the water supplied is not contaminated.

City Houphouet Boigny : women no longer sleep beside their husbands !



Water financing

Ivorian gov't owes FCFA 24 bn in accumulated water bills

By Edmund SMITH-ASANTE (*ghanabusinessnews.com / Ghana*)

The Ivorian government as at 2010 owed the country's water company, SODECI (La Societe de Distribution d'eau de Cote d'Ivoire), CFA 40 billion (US\$79,207,804.60) in unpaid water bills alone.

This amount comprised unpaid bills from schools, hospitals and government establishments over many years.

But although the Ivorian government has since that year began paying up the debt it owes the privately owned utility company, there still remains a huge chunk of the money to be paid.

Revealing this, Mr Seydou Dembele, Head, Government Expenses, Water Resources Department, Cote d'Ivoire, said "Government has now paid a big part of the money and it remains now FCFA 24 billion [US\$ 47,512,183.55]."

Explaining how government accumulated a debt of FCFA 40 billion, he said in 2009 a total debt of FCFA 11 billion was incurred, which reduced to FCFA 10 billion in 2010, then further to FCFA 9 billion in 2011 and then FCFA 10 billion in 2012, all adding up to FCFA 40 billion.

The Ivorian government official however added that some of the huge debts have been incurred as a result of wastage and illegal connections.

Speaking on the topic "Funding mechanisms of water: the different scenarios", Mr Dembele disclosed that as a result of illegal connections, about FCFA 3 billion is lost to the state annually, while 100 km of pipes are destroyed.

He lamented that when people are arrested for doing illegal connections they are not prosecuted but just left to go because there are no laws to punish them. For the illegal connections that people make there are no metres, hence the inability of the service providers to determine the volume of water used and bill them, he said.

In an interview on July 2, 2013, he divulged that in order to stop the stockpiling of the debt again, government has begun paying FCFA 600 million as its water bill every month to the utility company.

Touching on the population without access to water, he said the country is currently experiencing a 30% deficit.

Mr Dembele said to deal with the deficit; government has received funding from the Islamic Development Bank, Arabic Development Bank and World Bank, but all that is not enough to meet the needs of Abidjan residents, adding that FCFA 48 billion is needed to supply everyone in just the capital with water.

Speaking on the investments made by government in the water sector, he said all pumps are bought by the state, while the various communities making up the population



Seydou Dembele (on the right), Head, Government Expenses, Water Resources Department, Cote d'Ivoire

pay 10% of the cost of producing potable water.

In spite of the debt owed by government to the water company, Mr Francois Olivier Gosso, Director of Production, SODECI, Abidjan, indicated during a tour of the company's Djibi water treatment plant that they have never experienced any stoppage in production.

Adding to this, the agreement with government is that the state takes charge of investment in the company, while the company takes care of water supply to the nation.

Whereas in 2008 water coverage in Cote d'Ivoire was 61%, it is currently at 66% and the MDG target it hopes to achieve by 2015 for its estimated population of 20 million, is 82.5%.

SODECI has provided over 30 years of service in water supply to Cote d'Ivoire's urban community, starting with a lease contract which lasted for approximately 25 years. This was converted into a concession in 1987. The World Bank and other international financial establishments have also been working in partnership with the water agency through financing of investments in water supply.

Cote d'Ivoire's rural population is served by ONEP (the National Office of Drinking Water) a state owned institution which is also in charge of investments in the water sector, although SODECI was in charge of water pumps before 1987.

Water financing

SODECI, ONEP

A public/private partnership worth emulating

By Edmund SMITH-ASANTE (ghanabusinessnews.com / Ghana)

For a first timer to the Djibi water treatment plant located in the north eastern part of Abidjan, capital of Cote d'Ivoire, it is only the very huge and imposing concrete overhead tank shaped like a funnel that gives it away as a water facility.

Otherwise from the outside, it does not look like the conventional treatment plant with very huge circular containments filled with dirty foul water drawn from rivers awaiting purification for distribution to piped communities.

This is because the water that is treated at the plant for use is taken from 80 metres deep underground and not from surface water sources like rivers or streams that are easily polluted.

Covering a moderate area, the automated ultra-modern Djibi water treatment facility rather has a number of blue-painted metal tanks placed high off the ground amidst different sizes of interconnected metal pipes that will require climbing before seeing the contents.

Interestingly though, this compact assemblage of metals cost about CFA 20 billion to set up and also supplies an average of 340,000m³ of water to the people of Abidjan daily.

Indeed, facilities like these are responsible for putting Côte d'Ivoire in the limelight as far as water and sanitation are concerned. Currently the country is regarded as offering the best water and sanitation services for urban areas in Sub-Saharan Africa, while available figures say overall, 63 per cent of the urban population received piped water in 2006 as against 39 per cent in 1988, with 90 per cent of households having access to safe water other than the 65 per cent in 1988.

Profitable Business

This huge investment that commenced operation on September 22, 2012, has been made possible as a result of a very successful partnership between a private company SODECI (La Societe de Distribution d'eau de Cote d'Ivoire) and the Ivorian government through its agency ONEP (Office National De L'eau Potable) under the Ministry of Infrastructure and Economy that has existed for over 30 years.

It all began when a lease awarded to Bouygues' SAUR in 1959 to supply water to Abidjan, was handed over to Société de Distribution d'Eau de la Côte d'Ivoire (SODECI) after independence in 1960, with a total of 4,000 customers. SAUR in turn became SODECI's major shareholder till today and in 1961, the contract was extended to five other municipalities.

SAUR as at 2009 held 47% of the company's shares, with 8% held by the Government and staff, and 45% by private investors. Meanwhile, the lease contract which evolved to cover sewerage services was in 1987 converted into a full concession with an operating life of 20 years, which was renegotiated in 2007.



According to a 2009 World Bank report, although the lease contract appears to have ensured a basic level of service, it did not give SAUR sufficient leverage to manage the company on commercial lines and so for the first three decades SODECI had to depend on government subsidies.

As a result of this, the report titled "Partnering for water in Côte d'Ivoire - Lessons from 50 years of successful private operation" says the World Bank supported the refinancing of SODECI on the basis that the lease contract was upgraded into a full concession so as to optimise SAUR's management control. This was carried out as an additional part of the World Bank's structural adjustment programme for the country.

SODECI now receives no operating subsidies from the state and self-finances all agreed capital expenditure.

Throughout the life of the lease and concession contracts however, SODECI's scope and customer base has continued to expand and by 1973, the company served 40,071 customers in 38 communities, which expanded to 345,000 customers in 409 communities by 1997, while by 2001; SODECI had 500,000 connections, growing to 554,000 by 2006.

By the year 2000, SODECI also managed more than 300 piped water supply systems across the country, with the number of individual connections increasing by 5 per cent to 6 per cent a year, with the company serving 70 per cent of the nation's seven million urban residents at that time, including two million in Abidjan, and the rest in settlements ranging from 5,000 to 400,000 people.

Facility Visit

During a tour of SODECI's Djibi water treatment facility Wednesday, July 3, 2013, Mr. Francois Olivier Gosso, Director of Production, SODECI, Abidjan, operator of the plant said in 2012 alone, the company was able to produce 140 million m³ of water for the people of Cote d'Ivoire.

He disclosed that although Abidjan has a need of 500,000m³ of water daily, the plant only produces from its nine high capacity production centres and four small capacity centres, 340,000 m³ of water daily on the average, which is however an improvement over the 320,000m³ it produced during the first stages.

Government's Commitment

"This means there is a deficit of $\frac{1}{3}$ or 160,000m³ of the city's water need but after the civil war crisis government has put in some measures to reduce the cost of production, which enabled 400,000m³ of water yesterday," he disclosed, referring to the day before the visit.

Mr. Olivier Gosso expressed optimism that by 2015 the deficit in supply will be covered due to the number of investments that are being made by government, which has so far catered for 30 per cent of the deficit.

"We hope to balance production cost with demand at the start of 2016," he said.

According to him, another role of government in the partnership is to ensure SODECI respects the contract signed with the state through its agency, ONEP, while the amount charged for the water drawn from underground is contained in the company's agreement with government.

ONEP is also in charge of implementing the country's water policy and charging of taxes which are invariably paid by consumers through the tariffs they pay for the treated water.

Speaking on how government is able to invest he said after selling one cubic metre of water, part of the proceeds go to

the state, another to the Ministry of Infrastructure and Economy and the other part invested.

Touching on the siting of the plant at Djibi, he said the plant which takes care of 65 per cent of the total production of the company and 62 per cent of its subscribers is located at the northern part of the city because there is no salinity there, whereas there is salinity in the water at the southern part of Abidjan due to its closeness of the sea.

"Pumping of water is done from the northern part of the city. Northern Abidjan is higher, which makes supply of the water to other parts of the city easier through gravity," he added.

Challenges

But like any human endeavour, the plant as well as the partnership is not without some challenges. The gravest which bothers Mr. Francois Gosso is encroachment around the company's facilities.

He intimated to the visiting journalists that wells of the plant, which are supposed to be protected have now been encroached on by people so anytime it rains they are affected. "So in areas where the hygiene protection is not well done, the sewerage is not well done, we have high risk of pollution, which represents dangers," he stated.

"Also you have some factories that come over there and set up next to the wells. And sometimes we reject some water from the system because it is polluted. So this is a production process endangered by all these risks," SODECI's production manager said.

He added that "If nothing is done right now, the water may end up being very expensive and our children may end up paying ten times or five times what is paid right now. So if we love our children I think the measures should be taken right now." "Every water can be treated but it is the cost that matters and which will prevent any form of treatment," Gosso stressed.

He disclosed too that during the first and second phases of the project it was realised much of the water was acidic, which caused damage to the pipes and machines. "When the project began about 12 per cent of treated water was rejected because it was not fit for human consumption but now only 2 per cent of the water is rejected," he stated.

However, a solution seems to have been found to that challenge. He said one of the major treatments done is to balance the acidic water while unlike previously; they now discharge only treated waste water into the environment.

SODECI has also had to look elsewhere for groundwater and has indeed constructed another groundwater facility at Bonua because recharge of the water table at Djibi goes down at certain times and reduces the drawing power.

Adding to this, although since 1980, unaccounted for water has been kept below 15-17 per cent and payment of bills has exceeded 97 per cent for private customers, collecting money from government departments has remained problematic and currently the Cote d'Ivoire government owes SODECI FCFA 24 billion in unpaid bills.



Water financing

Fraud, lack of maintenance

The big equation of unaccounted for water

By Khalilou DIAGANA (cridem.org/ Mauritania)
& Jedna DEIDA (*Le Quotidien de Nouakchott / Mauritania*)

Non-invoiced or unaccounted for water is an equation with several unknown variables for African water supply companies. This varies from company to company and is an important factor which needs addressing, to ensure that millions of Africans gain access to this resource.



The representatives of the Municipality of Koumassi also mentioned the high water bills.

"I have a meter. I am a subscriber, but no drop is flowing from my tap," Hammar Cissé, the head of a community in Koumassi, a municipality in Abidjan of about 500,000 residents said on Wednesday July 3rd, 2013.

The elderly head of the community indicated that to have water, he calls on "those who have parallel systems" (legally connected pipelines from the Water Company and personally sourced water).

"At different levels, all African potable water production and distribution companies are affected by this situation", said François Gosso, president of the Task Force that is working on the issue at the African Water Association (AfWA).

He indicated that the proportion of non- invoiced water in Africa, ranges from 15 to 70%, while the average proportion is estimated at 40 to 50%.

Non invoiced or non- accounted for water is caused by "direct illegal connections and leakages among others. This water represents the "balance between the amount of water that enters in the supply system and the amount that is invoiced to subscribers."

For now, 40% to 50% of loss is a real wastage that the AfWA wants to combat with the support of USAID. "Before making new investments, we should first reduce losses. We will first take stock of what we are producing, what we are distributing and then look into how to reduce losses," said Gosso.

The AfWA, which brings together 80 members from thirty countries, has initiated the auditing of water distribution companies by sending them questionnaires. But although the auditing exercise is still in process, Mr. Gosso says an initial classification has been made.

This comprises the companies that have no approach to address the issue of non- invoiced water, those that have plans but no resources to implement them and finally, the companies that have a deep understanding of the non-invoiced water problem.

During the visit to Koumassi, the head of one community in the municipality mentioned the high cost of the meter, while the representatives of the Koumassi municipality also raised the issue of high water bills.

Meanwhile, those who live in area and are yet to be connected to the water supply system are also complaining.

In response to the residents of his municipality, the first deputy mayor of Koumassi, Mr. Kouassi Aboua blamed the situation on the Government: "It is the Ivorian Government that is the competent water provider, but decentralization is not yet being implemented," he said.

Mauritania, the «Gazra » (fraud) extends to the potable water supply system!

The rapid population growth in Nouakchott where a third of the Mauritanian population lives – about three million inhabitants- has lead to a two-fold increase in the water needs of the city. Despite the efforts made by the country as well as bilateral and multilateral partnerships to finance the water sector, the commodity is often stolen by the surrounding populations to meet their drinking and market – gardening needs.

In the absence of official statistics on losses registered by the National Water Company (SNDE), it is agreed that non recovered fees are the main cause of the deficit suffered by the company. To prevent this pilfering of water, the SNDE conducts from time to time, sensitization campaigns directed to the general public on the risks of prosecution taken by non – complying individuals. But so far, the SNDE seems to be preaching in the desert. The poor are lending a death ear to such awareness raising campaigns. The high invoices and the backward mind set constitute a barrier to the enforcement of the legislation.

Governance

Water financing, resource protection challenge in West Africa

By Kayode ABOYEJI (*News Watch / Nigeria*)

As the clock ticks towards 2015 when United Nations member states are expected to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), there are still regional deficiencies in coordination, governance, legislation and financing of the water sector.

This is due to the pressure of population growth that weighs on the resource, in spite of recent efforts by some of the countries within the West Africa sub-region to increase access to water.

One of the key areas that had been identified at the outset that would assist countries in the area of water management and resource protection, particularly in the West Africa sub-region, was the development of an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) system both at national and regional levels.

IWRM is a process which promotes the co-ordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.

Although some of the countries in the region are well advanced in the IWRM initiative, some are still lagging behind, particularly in meeting up with the MDG target. In some of the countries where the initiative has been developed, there is still the challenge of how to finance water and protect the resource.

Regional Scenario

At the moment, some of the countries are already on the track to meet the MDG target on water and sanitation while some are completely off track.

For instance, Ghana at the moment is said to be 82 per cent in terms of water supply, a level which is slightly above the MDG target for the country. Similarly, Ivory Coast, according to government officials is currently at 66 per cent even as it strives to reach 82 per cent by 2016 going by the current investment in the sector.

In Senegal, water supply at the urban centres is said to be adequate while the rural areas were said to be facing some challenges. Mauritania, on the other hand is said to be far at the moment from the target while Burkina Faso is also close to the target.

The Case of Nigeria

In Nigeria, water and sanitation coverage is presently among the lowest in the world. According to the 2008 World Health Organisation (WHO/UNICEF) /JMP report, Nigeria is in the bottom 25 lowest worldwide in terms of water and sanitation coverage.

According to the World Bank, in 2011 water production facilities in Nigeria were rarely operated to capacity due to breakdown in equipment or lack of power or fuel for pumping.

At current rates of progress, Nigeria is predicted to meet the MDG target in 27 years but may meet the sanitation MDG target in 124 years.

Although the country has made 26 commitments at four high level meetings between 2000-2012, specifically at the World Summit in Johannesburg in 2000; the United Nations General Assembly, New York in 2010; African Sanitation and Hygiene Conference, eThekweni in 2011 and the sanitation and water for all High Level Meeting in Washington in 2012 among others, the realization of all the commitments requires huge public expenditures and expertise.

The annual investment in water and sanitation projects at the federal level in Nigeria was ₦71 billion or \$455 million in 2012 and ₦113 billion or \$724 million based on the 2013 proposed budget. This leaves a funding gap of ₦319 billion or \$2.04 billion based on the MDG estimates or N554 billion or ₦356 billion based on the AMCOW estimates for the year 2012, while the funding gap for 2013 based on the proposed budget would be ₦277 billion.

Nigeria's MDG national targets in water and sanitation are 82 per cent for water and 65 per cent for sanitation. Estimated investment required to meet the MDG target in water and sanitation ranges from \$2.5 billion to \$4 billion annually according to the MDG office.

Out of the required amount, only about \$550 million is being injected by the government due to limited resources and competing needs, leaving a huge investment gap to achieve the targets.

In most of these countries however, while governments and donor bodies pay much attention to finance provision of clean potable water, little or no attention is being paid to the management of the resource for future use. Human activities, to a large extent for example, have contributed to pollution of most the water resource.

Experts' view

At the opening ceremony of the five-day workshop, Mr. Ndri Koffi, Global Water Partnership, Ivory Coast, stressed that good water management necessitates fund-

ing and resource management.

He explained that water is very important in life for its various uses which requires that everybody must be responsible for its protection. "If water is life, protecting it is a responsibility for everyone".

Ndri added that the theme of the workshop was apt, particularly when most of the countries in the region are financing water through the IWRM.

In his view, coordinator, Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management Initiative (PREMI) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Mr. Maxime Somda, posited that natural resources play important role in the economy of West Africa.

Somda noted that among all the resources, water plays an important part in the lives of the people but the resource is being affected by pressure of population, human action and the climate change phenomenon.

He stated further that water as a social resource needs to be protected, saying that stakeholders should realise the economic importance of water so as to protect it. "This is why we need to use need approach to pay for it".

Prof. A. B Goula, a lecturer on Hydrology at the University of Abidjan, explained that water has resource and use. According to him, the use is everything related to the clean water, while the resource is the natural resource everybody can go and use.

Prof. Goula added that no country in the region has been paying much attention to the protection of water resources.

Communication officer, GWP/ WA, Mr. Sidi Coulibaly, also stressed that in the last five years the organisation has been helping countries in the region to develop their national IWRM, which he said, some have completed while other have not.

He added that it is clear that some of the countries may not meet up with the MDG target on water supply in their countries.

IUCN/PACO representative, Mr. Marcelo Rocca, explained that there is a lot of financing need in water management but not enough for protection of water

What place for water in the agenda of priorities?



resources. "If we do not protect water, it will be impossible to get it in the future," he said.

He explained that this why IUCN felt it was important to pay attention to water resource management.

Water Finance and Management

Experts opined that water should finance water. They hinged their position on the principle of Payment for Environment Services (PES) which stipulates that users of environmental services should pay for it.

This principle which excludes domestic consumption of water but includes the polluter pays principle, targets people who use water for irrigational purposes, dam construction, mining activities and construction work among others

Governance

Water distribution

Cote d'Ivoire to employ IWRM, law enforcement to curtail wastage

BY TOUSSAINT N'GOTTA (*Le Temps / Côte d'Ivoire*),
Fanta DOSSO (*AFP / Côte d'Ivoire*)
and G. DE GNAMIEN (*L'inter / Côte d'Ivoire*)

Côte d'Ivoire may have to use an integrated water resources management (IWRM) approach to counter the loss of nearly FCFA 9 billion every year in household potable water supply due to excessive wastage in the country's public institutions.



It is to address this situation that the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Regional Water Partnership for West Africa (GWP/WA) are using “awareness creation as a strong weapon to wipe the phenomenon out”.

However, “there is still a long way to go” to achieve the target set, experts have acknowledged. As for now, the only alternative to uproot the phenomenon, according to experts who were panelists at a discussion on the theme: “Water financing and protection of the resource in West Africa” held in Abidjan in July 2013, is “enhanced governance and more adequate financing of the water sector and the promotion of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM).

This may also be supported by the enforcement of Côte d'Ivoire's law Nb 98-755 of December 23, 1998 on the water code, article 45, which stipulates that “Any waste of water is prohibited. The Government may use a regulation to set the obligations of individuals, public and private networks and facilities in order to prevent this wastage”.

Article 120 also states that “Any waste of water is punishable by law with a sentence of one (1) to six (6) months in jail and a fine ranging between FCFA three hundred and sixty thousand (360,000) to FCFA ten (10) million or either of these two penalties only”.

Any water wastage is punishable by law with a sentence of one (1) to six (6) months in jail and a fine of FCFA three hundred and sixty thousand (360.000) to FCFA ten (10) million or either of these two penalties only.

Yet, such mechanisms according to the experts who were drawn from various municipalities, Water Ministry, development partners and Africa Water Association, have some limitations. The absence of a sound institutional framework in the water sector prevents the enforcement of this law.

It is therefore obvious that a sustainable solution is dependent upon improved governance and more adequate funding for the water sector and the promotion of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM).

Disclosing the level of wastage incurred annually in water distribution, Olivier François Gosso, Production Director of the Côte d'Ivoire Water Distribution Company (SODECI) for Abidjan, stated that public institutions and departments, notably Government universities, military camps were the worse offenders, emphasizing that the situation constituted a genuine hindrance to the protection of water resources.

“The water wastage rate has reached a level estimated at 60%”, which costs billions of FCFA to the Government, Mr. Gosso declared.

Governance

Access to potable water in Côte d'Ivoire The need for synergetic actions

By Germaine BONI (*Fraternité Matin / Côte d'Ivoire*)

From July 1 to 5, a workshop co-organized in abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire by the Global Water Partnership, West Africa section (GWP/WA) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) discussed among other issues, the multiple institutions in charge of water management.

Carrying bowls, buckets and other containers on their heads, women with their children, stormed the premises of the Côte d'Ivoire Water Company. (SODECI). ...to shout out « enough is enough »: « *We have no water for many days now, we do not wash ourselves, we do not drink, but still, we receive bills that we are asked to pay ... We are fed up with all this. We want water, we want water!* ».

Such scenes are recurrent in certain neighborhoods of the municipalities of Abobo, Yopougon, Koumassi, Cocody Extension where the lack of water is an acute problem. The reflex of people is to go straight to SODECI which has the monopoly of potable water supply across the national territory. Actually, there are many stakeholders involved in the water sector, but the population is not aware of their respective roles, which leads to demonstrations with the kind of scene described earlier when taps are dry. « *We are concession owners and as such, we do not make capital expenditures. We use the infrastructure made available to us by the State. In case of any problem on these infrastructures with disruption of the water supply system, we inform the State*», answered the SODECI Production Director for Abidjan, Mr. Olivier Gosso.

In regulatory terms, the Water Code adopted in 1998 is hindered by the absence of enforcement decrees. The management of water governance is thus being carried out at the wimps of the actor or user without any genuine control.

At the institutional level, the water issue being a cross-cutting one, it is handled by several line ministries in Côte d'Ivoire, namely the Ministry of Economic Infrastructures. One may remember of many programmes led by this Ministry headed by Mr. Partick Achi, through the Village Hydraulics Development and Establishment (VH) and Improved Village Hydraulics (IVH). The Ministries of Water and Forestry and the Ministry of Environment, Urban Hygiene and Sustainable Development have each a Directorate of Water. These directorates are responsible for water management and protection as a natural resource that needs to be protected. But to centralize its actions and facilitate access to potable water, the Ivorian Government has deemed it useful to put in place an institution called National Office of Potable Water (Onep) in 2006. The goal of ONEP is to give the State and decentralized communities assistance to ensure access to potable water for the entire population as well as the management of the public and private heritage in the potable water sector.

It has multiple missions, the main one being the planning of potable water supply and demand. The control and monitoring of the various out-sourced services, accounts and financial management of investments in the potable water sector, the control, protection and surveillance of water resources that are likely to be used for potable water production also fall under the responsibility of the State through ONEP.

Despite these noble missions, ONEP remains unknown to Ivorians. This is the reason why Mr. Marcello Rocca, Project Manager at IUCN recommends that a dialogue be established among the various water stakeholders (State, private sector and civil society) in order to better protect the resource.



Participants of the workshop recommended that synergy be built among the actions of all stakeholders involved in water resources

Governance

Illegal Water Connections Cost Cote d'Ivoire FCFA 3bn

By **Emelia ENNIN ABBEY** (*Daily Guide / Ghana*)

The widespread illegal water connection by residents in most urban areas in Cote d'Ivoire costs the Ivorian economy FCFA 3 billion (US\$59,610,4334) annually.

According to SODECI, the main water company responsible for the supply of water to the urban parts of Cote d'Ivoire, about a quarter of the water it produces is lost to the illicit practice.

Francois Olivier Gosso, director of production at SODECI, in an interview with journalists who attended the 7th capacity building workshop for media professionals from 11 African countries and Mauritania in July 2013, revealed 25 per cent of water produced is lost through illegal connections which costs the company FCFA 3 billion each year.

During the five-day training the participants considered the need to create a multi-stakeholder response to the financial needs of different activities in the water sector, with a view that water resources are used and managed in a fair and sustainable way to reduce poverty, ensure socio-economic development and regional integration and environmental protection.

Speaking on the threat of illegal connections to the water company and government, Mr. Gosso explained that because such users are not metered it is impossible to make them pay

for the water they use, which cost a lot of money to treat and transmit to consumers.

To clamp down on the activities of residents engaged in illegal water connection, a task force has been put in place, which goes round and disconnects such water users.

Addressing the challenge of illegal water connections in the country has not been effective despite the efforts and Seyduo Dembele, Head of the Ivorian Government's Water Related Expenditure Department hinted that proper regulation is the best approach.

"There is no law on illegal water connections," he said.

He explained that as a result of the absence of laws banning the practice of tapping water from pipes laid by the water company or that of legal consumers and prosecuting the culprits, it has become impossible to arrest offenders.

"The fact is that you cannot prosecute the people who are caught tapping water illegally, which means all the efforts we are putting in place cannot yield the expected results," he lamented.

For now, Mr Dembele said "all we do is just disconnect such illegal connections and confiscate the pipes they used."



Water resource protection

Uncontrolled Urbanization A Threat to Quantity and Quality of Water

By Théodore KOUADIO and Maryam COULIBALY (*Fraternité Matin and AIP / Côte d'Ivoire*)

In most countries on the continent, from West Africa to the Great Lakes, going through Central Africa, uncontrolled urbanization of capital cities is a threat to the water table that supply cities with potable water. Abidjan, the economic capital of Côte d'Ivoire is not spared the effects of this phenomenon.

How do uncontrolled settlements threaten the water table? In other words, how can uncontrolled urbanization set the roots for ground water reduction and pollution?

Urbanization and human activity in new neighborhoods have an impact on the water cycle. One huge change that can happen is the increased extraction of water from the water table.

Thus, uncontrolled urbanization creates a growing need for

the precious commodity in such a way that water is pumped from ground waters for various uses. "Very often, the water drawn is more than the recharge capacity," explains Dr Kouadio Ernest, an Ivorian expert of ground water. He indicated that this leads to a decline in the water table levels.

All the more so that with the non-compliant constructions, roads, waterproof roofs among others, the runoff after rainfall increases and little water is absorbed by way of siltation.

As a result, the water table is less frequently recharged. In addition, constructions disrupt and modify the runoff channels. With the continuous reduction in ground water reserves, pumping results into a higher risk of aquifer pollution at the local level.

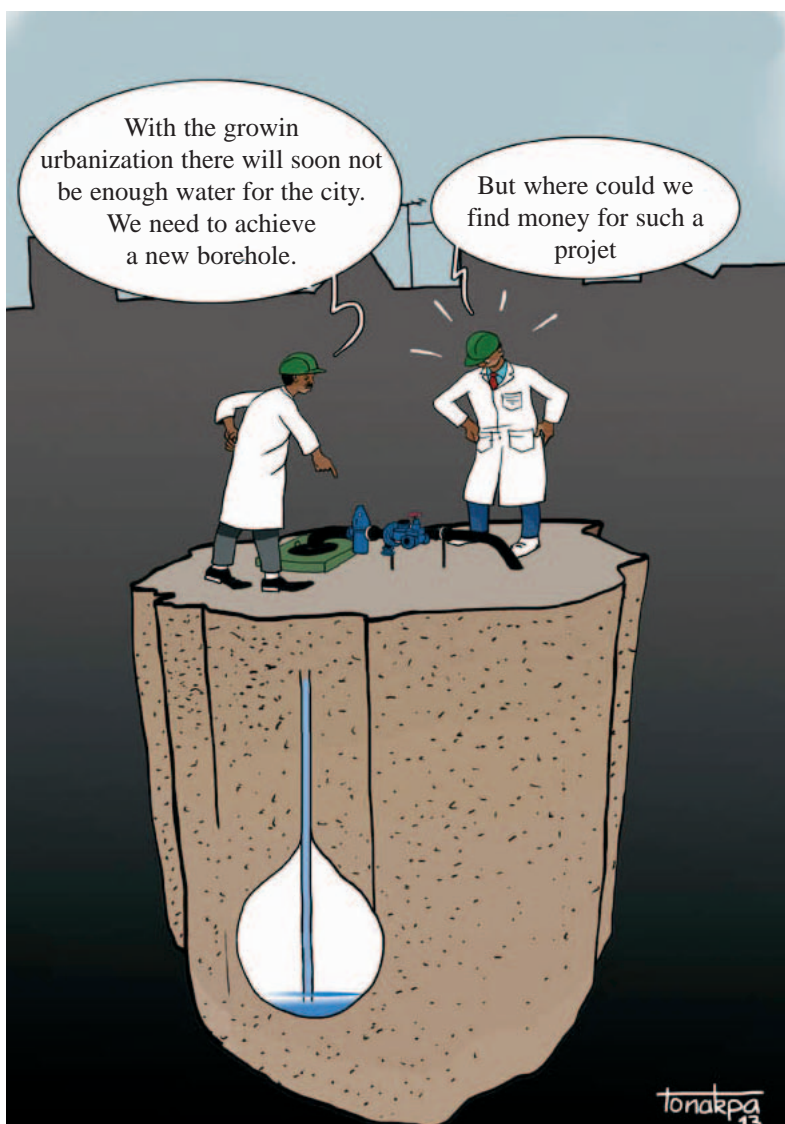
In these new types of settlements, stand pipes are not well protected and therefore the water is exposed to pollution by nitrate, a chemical contained in toxic waste that was disposed of in large quantities in several locations in the city of Abidjan in August 2007. This is a real threat looming on the quality of the ground reserves of the precious commodity.

The specific case of the Ivorian capital, Abidjan, which hosts more than 20% of the population according to the 1998 general census, is quite worrisome. Indeed, water supply for treatment plants is done from a sedimentary basin that lies from west to east of the country i.e. from Sassandra to the border with Ghana.

The basin covers a surface area of about 9,700 km² and includes an aquifer that is commonly known as the "Abidjan water table". This water table has been the main resource for potable water supply to the city and peripheral urban centers for more than 30 years.

Pr. Jean Patrice Jourda, a lecturer and scientist in water and environmental sciences and techniques at the University of Abidjan, also believes that uncontrolled urbanization makes the water table thick, preventing it from being recharged.

He explained that soils that are stripped by houses do not facilitate good filtering of waste water



and runoff before their absorption by the water table.

He also emphasized that the deterioration of the plant cover composed notably by forests, shrubs and grass, undermines the natural capacity of land to retain water and facilitate evaporation under the heat.

At the water cycle level, such modifications lead to increased runoff at the expense of other parameters namely evaporation and silting. This phenomenon is one of the causes of the numerous floods registered in the various precarious communities in Abidjan in the rainy season. They are characterized by uncontrolled and haphazard urbanization, he suggests.

To address the issue of water table preservation in Africa, Dr. J. Biemi, an expert in ground water recommends some development measures to maintain the balance in aquifer reserves. And this by expanding the potential for ground water recharge with non-polluted water.

This means that waste and runoff water should be treated so that they can penetrate less polluted soils. Also green areas should be created and a canal system developed for waste and rain water collection.

Some specialists are even asking that the communities be relocated in other urban areas. When the places are free from settlements, then they can be rehabilitated through the creation of a plant cover i.e. parks with trees, etc.

In terms of ground water quality, surveillance will consist of controlling on a regular basis, the quality of rain water that would be harvested and used to recharge the water table.

In addition to affecting the quantity of water, uncontrolled urbanization can have an adverse impact on the quality of water, experts say.

In the beginning, water production infrastructures were located far from houses with a plant cover protecting boreholes from runoff water and silting of waste water.

“15 years ago, one could have access to the Niangon-North (Yopougon, West Abidjan) catchment zone by car. We used to come for work and go back without any problem. The plant cover was wide. Today the road is broken. We have to go round before we can access the site when we are to intervene on the production site”, lamented Yao Abdoulaye, an electro-mechanic in charge of the automation of the factories of the Côte d’Ivoire water distribution company (SODECI).

According to a mail sent by the Director General of SODECI, Mr. Eba Basile, to the respective departments in charge of water in Côte d’Ivoire, it is back in 1996 that his company started raising the alarm.

To respond to this concern, the state of cote d’Ivoire undertook to develop a water code in 1998; a Code that was meant to protect the water resources of the country in principle and more specifically to delineate the protective area of water harnessing fields.



One of the SODECI water harnessing zones located in the Abidjan production house that was visited by journalists on July 3, 2013.

“By existing standards, a 3km radius is required”, revealed Mr. François Olivier Gosso, Head of SODECI production for Abidjan.

The problem is that this law was not complemented by an enforcement decree. As a result, it cannot be enforced in the field. In the municipalities, land planning does not take account of the water infrastructures most often.

According to experts, this situation may result in the pollution of the ground water that supplies the Ivorian economic capital. Therefore, half of the Abidjan population estimated at 2.5 million persons at least, might be deprived of the source of life. Communities like Yopougon, Koumassi, Port-Bouët, Marcory, etc. are most at risk.

“Private property: no trespassing by outsiders”. This is the warning on a signpost at the entrance of ground water harnessing field of the Côte d’Ivoire Water Company, located on the former road to Dabou at the Banco forest (Yopougon, West Abidjan).

Here, four boreholes are used to supply the water treatment plant of Andokoi. The first was drilled in 1967 and continues to work normally. The precious liquid produced from this area supplies part of Yopougon, the largest municipality of Côte d’Ivoire as well as many other neighborhoods in the city of Abidjan.

Despite the prohibition message which is clearly visible for all passersby, the site is aggressed by human activities. In fact, two makeshift garages have “sandwiched” the pumps for many years now with risks of engine oil infiltration into the water table.

On site, houses are mushrooming. Warnings by the Ministry of Construction, Urban Development and Housing do not seem to impress the owners of these houses.

Access to potable water

Scare water drops in makeshift communities

By Idrissa SANE (*Le Soleil / Senegal*)**Behind the busy traffic in Koumassi, lies a vital issue : water is not flowing in all communities.**

The sky is heavily cloudy above our heads, just after 02 PM, this Wednesday July 3, 2013, at the Koumassi Municipality. The main roads are busy as usual.

Diverse activities are spread alongside the streets. Small shops, hairdressing saloons, welding workshops with zinc roofed houses and overhanging story buildings in the backdrop. Koumassi has a contrasting landscape: structured areas combined with makeshift settlements. Like a peninsula, separated in the North from the Municipality of Cocody by the lagoon, in the south by Port Bouët and west by Macory, Koumassi has long been a relocation site for communities that have been moved from other neighborhoods in Abidjan. *«There was space in the swampy zone of Koumassi. When communities are moved from elsewhere, they are sent to Koumassi to resettle in these swamps. Makeshift neighborhoods are born from this practice»*, said the first deputy to the mayor of Koumassi, Mr. Kouadio Aboua.

Taking the floor, the customary chief, in traditional woven attire with golden design leaving his left shoulder bare, in his wisdom as an African, tried to calm down the discussion saying *«We thank the Mayor for all he has been doing for us. The situation has improved. We are asking for your support for the Mayor to continue assisting us. Some days, things get just worse. Our women are sleepless. They have to get up at late hours to fetch water»*, testifies the customary chief, Mr. Apiakha.

The representatives of the communities readily express their feelings now. Koffi Kouassi Ernest, took from his pocket, the maintenance bills bearing payments from December 2010 to 2012. *« 90 % of subscribers in the promotional discount period do not have meters. The water supply company of Côte d'Ivoire (SODECI) should bring our meters back. I paid CFA F 2,000 for meter maintenance cost from 2010 to 2012 without having any water. It is only after some months that the company stopped bringing me bills »*, lamented Koffi Kouassi Ernest. Seated in the last but one row and well dressed in



The traditional leader, Apiakha: "Some days, things just become worse. Our women are sleepless. They have to get up at late hours to fetch water"

a large boubou, Hamma Cissé, a member of the Guinean community blows out his disappointment. *«Every month we pay for maintenance cost while we do not have water. At the beginning, we used to have water late in the night but now we receive no water at all»*, said the old man.

Next to him, another person spoke out. Staring at the podium, a retired man, a former subscriber, is trying hard to subscribe anew. He cannot afford to pay for a new meter. *« We want you to be our spokesman to the government. We do not have access to water because we do not have meters due to outstanding bills. SODECI is asking me to pay for a new meter. But how can I manage to get a new subscription if I cannot afford to pay my arrears»*, acknowledged the retired man.

The victims of misurbanization

The suburbs «Remblai 1», «Remblai 2», « Grand Campement», just like any peripheral areas of big cities, are going through the effects of poorly organized settlements. These are areas that suffer from misurbanization. No excuses are valid for specialists. For reasons of equity and social justice, the residents of these unplanned areas have the same right of access to water than the people living in developed neighborhoods. *«Companies generally make the link between the investment cost and operational cost. If there is a gap between the two, they will try to go to the zones where they would make more profit. These companies often feel that suburbs are poor settlements where residents will have difficulty in paying their water bills. But to ensure social equity they too should benefit »*, argues the Coordinator of the Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management Initiative at IUCN, Mr. Maxime Somda.

Access to potable water

Access to safe drinking water

Illegal connections, a sad reality in Koumassi

Sani ABOUBACAR (L'Evènement / Niger)

In some communities in Koumassi, water is a scarce commodity. Yet some residents just use the resource illegally.

Water is the main natural resource that is indispensable to any kind of life on earth. This resource is however threatened by human actions. This is the case in the Koumassi municipality where, instead of being connected to the potable pipe water system, some people hide to draw water from pipes. An illegal act which has an impact on the quantity and quality of water resources. The Koumassi municipality is characterized by the existence of under-developed neighborhoods with poor drinking water infrastructures, the so-called « makeshift settlements».

The visible underground users

Clandestine use of water is now a reality in this municipality and the first deputy Mayor, Kouadio Aboa acknowledged this fact straight away: *«this can be observed in certain neighborhoods. By the side of the people who are legally connected, other persons make illegal connections to have access to water»*, he explained.

Old Cissé Hama, the head of Malian citizens at the Houphouët Boigny neighborhood, popularly referred to as “Grand Campement” shares the view of the deputy mayor. *«These underground users are visible. They are not hiding*

and have installed equipments to illegally draw water and sell it. At the start, the 20 liter jerrican was sold at CFA F 25, today it costs CFA F 50 to 100», he bitterly lamented.

This Malian citizen who has been living for long now in this area of Koumassi where « underground users» dictate their law, is among the many other subscribers of the Côte d'Ivoire Water Company who hardly and seldom benefit from the resource. *«We never have water. These people divert water and therefore, it never reaches our place. To have access to water, you have to stay awake until late in the night. Sometimes, we spend three or four days without a drop of water coming from our taps»*, complained Cissé Hama. The Koumassi municipality is the third most densely populated area in Abidjan. It hosts over 500, 000 souls today. Population pressure seems to be the primary cause of this challenging access to safe drinking water. *«In the past, people were not many here. We used to have water»*, said Toui Bi Seye René, a customary chief at “Grand Campement”. He explained that *«the population has inflated»* and because meters are installed outside compounds, dishonest persons take advantage of that to make illegal connections. The first deputy mayor acknowledged the uncontrolled spread of certain neighborhood in his municipality, to the extent that even unplanned areas are occupied.

As a result, an illegal pipe water business developed at the expense of duly connected consumers. This is the case of Cissé Hama who believes that clandestine water highjackers are diverting their water. To him, there is no doubt that SODECI is sharing the responsibility for this situation. *«When I complained about this practice to SODECI, one of their workers answered saying that “if you can afford to have your own engine, then get it”*, he remembered.



One of the « makeshift settlements » in Koumassi where access to safe drinking water is a challenge.



Water, Climate and Development Programme in Africa (WACDEP)



The Water, Climate and Development Programme in Africa (WACDEP) aims to promote water security as a key element of sustainable regional and national development and to contribute to climate change resilience for economic growth and human security. This five (5) year programme has been developed by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) in collaboration with the Council of African Ministers of Water (AMCOW) to support the implementation of the commitments expressed by African Heads of State in the Sharm-el Sheikh Declaration in Egypt of 2008.

WACDEP in West Africa will be implemented in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Volta Basin.

The WACDEP is designed to be implemented through four (4) components with eight (8) work packages which are:

↪ **Component 1: Investments in regional and national development**

- Work Package 1: Regional and Transboundary Cooperation
- Work Package 2: National development and Sector Plans
- Work Package 3: "No/low regrets" Investments
- Work Package 4: Project Preparation and Financing

↪ **Component 2: Innovative Green Solutions**

- Work Package 5: Demonstration Projects

↪ **Component 3: Knowledge and capacity development**

- Work Package 6: Capacity Development
- Work Package 7: Knowledge and awareness

↪ **Component 4: Partnership and Sustainability**

- Work Package 8: Partnerships and Sustainability

For more information: www.gwp.org/wacdep



Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management Initiative (PREMI)



The Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management Initiative – PREMI - seeks to promote integrated natural resource management to reduce poverty and adapt to climate change in West Africa.

It aims at greater consistency in a wide range of activities developed by IUCN and its partners at local, national, and regional levels in West Africa. Through this programme, IUCN intends to strengthen the capacity of the region, demonstrate the importance of taking into account the value of ecosystem goods and services in regional development plans, policies and strategies to reduce poverty and adapt to climate change in a bid to improve wealth creation and economic growth.

The programme includes, among others, support for multi-actor dialogue on some important regional development issues for the years to come. He puts environmental concerns and climate change at the centre of decision-making processes at national and regional level for sustainable development.

The IUCN Central and West Africa Programme (PACO) has received funding from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) to implement the PREMI over a period of four years (December 2008 - December 2012).

For more information: www.iucn.org/premi