GAMBIA RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION (OMVG)

JOINT MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COURSES: THE OMVG EXPERIENCE

Entebbe (Uganda) - 8 to 10 August 2016
## I. INTRODUCTION

### CREATION OF THE OMVG: A PROCESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Start of development activities with the establishment of a joint Commission between Senegal and the Gambia with the assistance of UNDP and FAO.</td>
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<td>1967</td>
<td>In accordance with the Senegalo-Gambian Treaty signed in 1967, the 1st work programme was implemented in the basin with UNDP funding.</td>
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<td>1983</td>
<td>Membership of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau which is not a part of the Gambia River basin but shares the basins of Rivers Kayanga/Geba and Koliba/Corubal with the other States.</td>
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<td>1987</td>
<td>Extension of the OMVG mandate to Rivers Kayanga/Geba and Koliba/Corubal.</td>
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PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTIC OF THE OMVG BASINS

3 BASINS and 4 Countries:
GAMBIA, GUINEA, GUINEA BISSAU, SENEGAL

Gambia: 78 000 km²
Kayanga/Geba: 15 000 km²
Koliba/Corubal: 25 000 km²

LONGUEUR
1150 KM

SOURCE
Fouta Djallon (Guinée)
## II. OMVG MISSIONS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Mission</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rational and harmonious exploitation of the common resources of basins of Rivers Gambia, Kayanga-Géba and Koliba-Corubal</td>
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<td>Achieve food self-sufficiency for the populations of the Bassins</td>
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<td>Reduce the vulnerability of the economies of OMVG Member States to climate-related hazards</td>
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<td>Accelerate the economic development of Member States;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintain the ecosystem balance in the sub-region and, more particularly, in the Basins</td>
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<td>Secure and improve the incomes of populations of the Basins</td>
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### CONVENTIONS

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<th>Basic conventions</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>Establishment of the OMVG</strong> (30 June 1978)</td>
<td>Defines the missions, competence and organs of the OMVG</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Legal status of the River Gambia</strong> (30 June 1978)</td>
<td>The RG and its tributaries are granted the status of “international water course”</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Legal status of common structures</strong> (29 January 1985)</td>
<td>Guarantees freedom of navigation and equality in all forms of river water use.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Creation SOGESART</strong> (29 January 2016)</td>
<td>Fixes the legal status of common structures; Define the rights and obligations of co-owner States</td>
<td></td>
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**All these texts are signed by the Heads of State**

- **Adoption by the CM of conventions on the legal status of Rivers Kayanga/Geba and Koliba/Corubal** (2 August 2008)
  - Guarantee freedom of navigation and equality in all forms of use of waters of Rivers Kayanga/Geba and Koliba/Corubal.
IV. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Consultative Organs

Conference of Heads of State and Government

COUNTR Y
OMVG Unit
CNC
LOCAL
CLC

Consultative Organs

CPE
CC

COUNTR Y
OMVG Unit
CNC
LOCAL
CLC

Council of Ministers

High Commission

SOGESART
Secretary General

Administration
Finance
Env & Sustainable Dev.
Studies Planning & Regional Infrastructure
V. PROJECTS

1st GENERATION ENERGY PROJECT

Sambangalou
- 128 MW
- 402 GWh
- 332 M€

Interconnection
- 1677 km of 225 Kv
- 15 stations HT/MT
- Dispatching
- 494 M€

PROGRESS STATUS:
Funding fully mobilized: Start of works November 2016.

Interconnection Transit capacity of 800 MW that facilitate the transmission of energy in the OMVG region and in West Africa.
This project was implemented between 2005 and 2012. It sustainably improved the living conditions of the populations in the project zone by constructing the basic infrastructure:

- Rural tracks
- Village water supplies
- Pastoral water
- Establishment of self-managed credit systems for the most needy populations.
Integrated Water Resource Management Project in the basin of the river Kayanga/Geba (PGIRE KG)

Implementation of the Plan for the integrated management of water resources (IWRM) of the river Kayanga/Geba basin and the conduct of studies in Guinea-Bissau up to the detailed design and tender document phase of a dam and hydro-agricultural facilities downstream including cross-border IWRM actions (reclaiming lowland areas, shorelines and source protection) in Guinea and in Senegal.

A round table conference will be organized in 2017 to finance the planned investments.
The High commission supports the technical capacities of Member States through (I) the acquisition, (II) installation of rainfall and piezometric measurement equipment, (III) training of technicians/hydrologists of the States in new technologies, (iv) data collection and processing and dissemination of information.

Data exchange protocols are signed between the High-Commission and hydrological services of Member States.
VII. PROSPECTS

PROJECTS BEING PREPARED BY THE OMVG

About 250 MW Expected

2nd Generation Energy Programme:
• Digan Hydroelectric Facilities/Guinea
• Fello-Sounga/Guinea
• Saltinho/Guinea-Bissau
• a 500 km line.


Relaunching the Road Infrastructure and Agricultural Development Programme.
VII. MANAGEMENT INSTRUMENTS AND TOOLS

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PERMANENT WATER COMMITTEE (CPE).

SETTING UP THE NATIONAL MONITORING COMMITTEES (CNS) AND LOCAL COORDINATION AND MONITORING COMMITTEES (CLCS) TO MONITOR AND IMPLEMENT THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (PGES) AND THE RESETTLEMENT PLAN (RAP).

INSTALLATION OF PLATFORMS FOR DIALOGUE (GUINEA, GUINEA-BISSAU AND SENEGAL).

EXISTENCE OF PERMANENT RESOURCE TRACKING MECHANISM.

PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT WATER CHARTER.
VIII. LESSONS LEARNED

- Firm political commitment of States: + 40 years of Co-operation

- Common desire to exploit together and share the potentials of the basins: Guinea-Bissau does not share the Gambia basin but benefits from the Sambangalou Hydroelectric Facility spin-offs.

- Solid legal framework - Signed by the Heads of State of Member States.

- Institutional framework involving the highest authorities.

- Co-operation between four countries with three languages (English, French and Portuguese) for a joint management of three transborder basins.

- Permanent dialogue and involvement of the populations at the grassroots

- Support and commitment of development partners.
Thank you for your attention.

OMVG BP 2353, Dakar R.P. Sénégal
Tel: (221) 33 889.51.00
Fax: (221) 33 822.59.26

Web site: www.omvg.org
Email: omvg@omvg.sn