
1. Short description of the project/activities
The SDAGE provides the operational plan of CICOS in the water sector. It sets the guidelines, the objectives and the measures to be implemented to support development and sustainable management of water resources at basin level. As inclusive document of IWRM in the Congo Basin, the scope of the SDAGE goes beyond the mere aspect of environmental protection. It has a wider thematic application scope than SDAGE conducted in other basins that primarily focus on achieving environmental goals.

The development and implementation of the SDAGE are designed based on a participatory approach, through the implementation of National and Regional Dialogue Platforms (PCN and PCR).

PCN and PCR form the mechanics of the participative approach in the Congo basin. They constitute the primary mean for CICOS to inform, consult and involve stakeholders into the SDAGE development process.

The development of the SDAGE has been possible thanks to funding from German cooperation through GIZ under the GETRACO project which is led by the German consulting firm GFA from 18 August 2014 to 31 March 2016.

2. Which climate change impacts are you already experiencing or expecting, such as floods, droughts, impacts on water quality etc.?
Main sectoral challenges resulting from the assessment:

- Increase coverage rates (supply and sanitation): Climate change will have little impact on drinking water and sanitation sector;
- Increase hydroelectric production: it is expected that impacts of climate change will reduce river flows during the next century. This impact may indeed bring down the production potential, but facing other challenges to address in the next decades, it can be considered minor. It will probably take a very long time before the impacts of climate change constitute a real obstacle to the continuation of the hydroelectric development of the basin;
- Irrigation development: impacts of climate change will have relatively limited effects on irrigation sector and agriculture sector as a whole;
- Improve inland waterway transport capacity: from all of the water sub-sectors, navigation is undoubtedly the one that will suffer most from impacts of climate change, and this has already began with a loss of navigability on the Oubangui and Sangha rivers. The challenge for this sector will be to assess at best infrastructures sizing and type and required investments to restore and sustainably preserve navigability conditions taking into account the most likely evolution according to climate models;
- Sustainable use of fish resources: climate change may have effects on aquatic wildlife because of river flow decreases and temperature variations. The potential magnitude of these effects is still very poorly perceived, but it is not expected that drastic changes will occur in the next decades for this production sector;
- Pollutant control in the industrial sector: given the low need of industries and mines in relation to available resources, impacts of climate change will not have significant influence on activities from a water resources perspective;
- Wetlands protection: for the environment, instability and unpredictability resulting from climate change, with the increase of extreme or violent events, can submit sensitive areas to threats such as landslides caused by erosion. However, from a more positive point of view wetlands and forests, peatlands, may provide significant carbon sinks, which could be long-lasting valued on the carbon market related to climate change.

3. Which concrete results did you achieve in 2014-2015 with regards to climate change adaptation?
Establishment of National Dialogue Platforms (PCN), in each CICOS Member State and creation of a Regional Dialogue Platforms (PCR) which includes representatives from the PCN;
- Development of assessments of the water sector in the CICOS area having identified key sectoral challenges;
- Formulation of a Shared vision of the development of the water sector in the CICOS area by 2035, and its structuring into strategic objectives;
- Formulation of an Action Program (PdM) 2016 – 2020 aiming at making water an actual sustainable development and growth factor for all in the basin.

4. Which major challenges did you face in this work? How did you overcome them?
The most significant challenges:
- Collection, use, and dissemination of information on water,
- Operating procedures of National and Regional Dialogue Platforms (PCN / PCR),
- Increase in hydroelectric production,
- Improvement of inland waterway transport capacity.

All these challenges are taken into account in the formulation of the Action Program (PdM) 2016 – 2020.

5. Which lessons learned would you like to share with other basins?
Below are some lessons learned:
- Importance of participation of the various levels of actors (global, regional, basin, local)
- Importance of links between assessment, Shared vision, objectives, PdM, and activities....
- PdM activities will be implemented through the PCN in order to strengthen national capacities for transboundary water management;
- PdM activities must be associated with global and interregional initiatives developed based on national programs;
- Development issues in the different sectors will be addressed, by complementing and supporting national and multilateral development initiatives.

6. How do you finance your climate change activities within the basin? How do you plan to finance implementation of measures?
Potential funding sources are:
- Contributions of CICOS member States and regional institutions;
- Support of Financial and Technical Partners (PTF), under different forms;
- German cooperation has already expressed its interest to continue supporting CICOS for the implementation of the PdM.

7. How did you link transboundary climate change adaptation to adaptation activities at other levels, such as the national level?
In the adaptation to climate change process, CICOS has to take a role of advisor, facilitator and mediator towards its member States. National adaptation plans (NAPs) developed by States do not sufficiently address aspects related to water, according to the transboundary perspective represented by CICOS. In order to identify better impacts of climate change at the Congo basin level, concerted joint actions should be identified and implemented, as a complement to those already planned in the NAPs.

8. How did you link transboundary climate change adaptation to adaptation activities of sectors such as adaptation in energy, in agriculture, in transportation or urbanisation?
CICOS aims at achieving a Transboundary adaptation plan to climate change (PTACC) in order to assess impacts of climate change on water resources according to different IPCC scenarios, and to provide adequate adaptation strategies and measures. The PTACC will provide a basis for further implementation of identified measures.
9. Future planned activities

- Fundraising for the Implementation of the Action Program (PdM). The amount to be found in order to implement the PdM is USD 34 579 565;
- Implementation of the project "Strengthening of the hydrological monitoring of the Congo for an IWRM taking into account adaptation to climate change" under the CZZ2054 Funding agreement, signed between AFD and CICOS on 2 December 2015 at COP21 in Paris.

10. Contact details

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