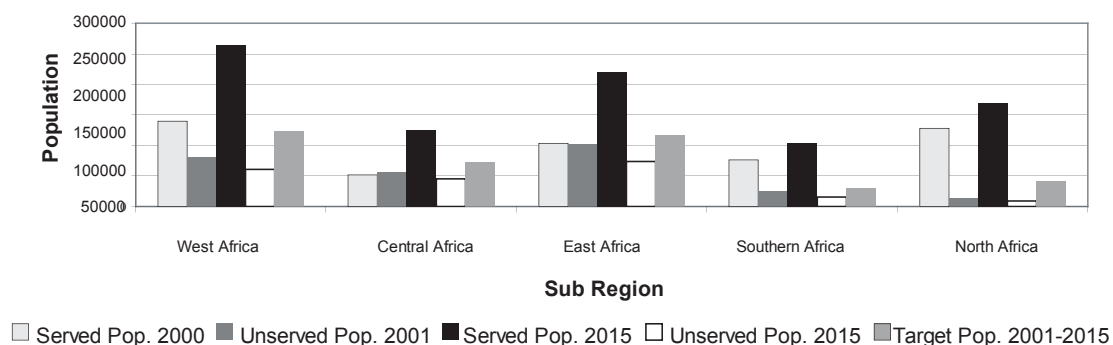


Chapter 15:

Implementing the Africa Water Vision and the Millennium Development Goals: Sub Regional Water Portfolios

African countries are now, more than ever, forging ahead with determination in confronting issues of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and meeting the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), both at national and sub regional levels, and also through partnerships at the international level, by placing water and sanitation at the centre of their strategies for socio-economic development. This was demonstrated during the Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water, convened by the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) and the UN-Water/Africa which was held at UNCC in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from December 8-13, 2003. The Conference attracted over 1000 delegates and 45 Ministers in charge of water, environment and housing. The participants included national delegates, key stakeholders, intergovernmental organizations, cooperation development partners and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Figure 15.1: Improved Water Supply Target in Africa by 2015



Data Source: UNEP, 2003

The Conference provided a platform for African countries, the international community and UN agencies to reaffirm their commitment to solving Africa's water crisis and to collectively implement the actions envisaged in the Africa Water Vision 2025, the Water Agenda of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) targets and the MDGs on water (IISD, 2003). These targets include halving the proportion of

people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and without access to basic sanitation by 2015 and IWRM and water efficiency plans by 2005. The estimated targets for water supply and sanitation access are shown in Figures 15.1 and 15.2 (UNEP, 2003)

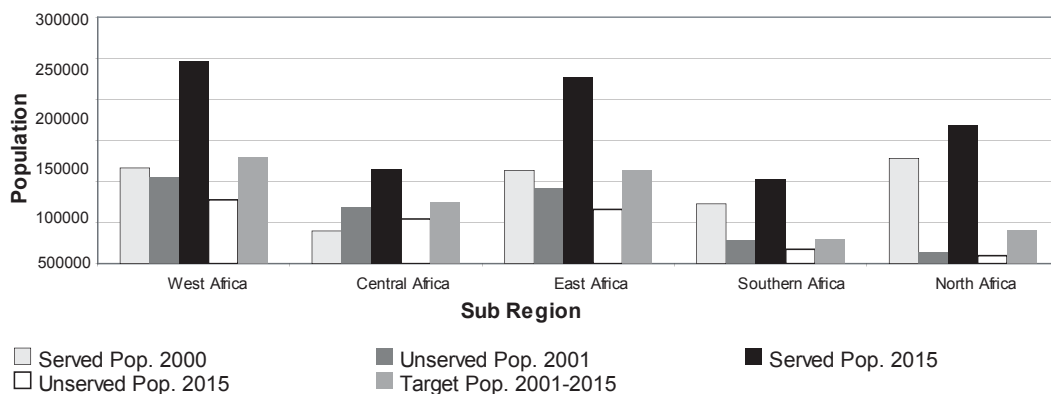
The thematic sessions were dedicated to the challenge areas, including: water, sanitation and human settlements; water and food security; protecting ecosystems and livelihoods; water and climate; financing water infrastructure; IWRM; water allocation; water wisdom; and water governance. Each session came out with recommendations, which were discussed at a joint ministerial and stakeholders plenary session. One of the main outcomes of the Conference was the presentation and adoption of sub regional project portfolios to the ministerial segment. These projects have been prepared through national and sub regional consultations and meetings, addressing the implication of the outcomes of the WSSD on regional water initiatives and setting up a concrete agenda in implementing the targets of the Africa Water Vision and the MDGs, with special emphasis on water supply and sanitation and the strategic application of IWRM (IISD, 2003).

The Conference endorsed a portfolio of key water initiatives submitted by each of the five sub regions, i.e. southern Africa, Central Africa, eastern Africa, North Africa and western Africa. This is the first consolidated portfolio of priority water initiatives from the sub regional to regional levels and provides a stronger basis for supporting the NEPAD objectives (PANAFCON, 2003a).

Sub Regional Project Portfolios

The sub regional priority projects were evolved on concrete water resources issues pertinent to the prevailing climatic conditions and the status of water resources development. The most important part of the process was the patronage of AMCOW, both at sub regional and regional levels. The specifics of these processes are given below (PANAFCON, 2003b).

Figure 15.2: Improved Sanitation Targets in Africa by 2015



Source: UNEP, 2003

Southern African Sub Region

The sub regional programme referred to as the Regional Strategic Action Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management and Development – (RSAP/IWRMD), was developed through a highly consultative process that enjoyed the inputs of all member States in its design, formulation and adoption, and largely belong to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) members. The Programme comprises over 32 intervention areas addressing 6 strategic priorities in the sub regional water sector. This framework for action is based on extensive analysis and review of constraints within the region and identification of logical actions to overcome these constraints. These actions were organized into a systematic collection of strategic objectives and associated intermediate objectives that relate directly to the major types of constraints identified. This framework provided a course of action that can be implemented based on future decisions and directions from representatives of the SADC member States, knowing that a full technical analysis has been used as its foundation.

The sub regional programme was developed under the following seven strategic objectives:

- Improve the legal and regulatory framework at the national and regional level;
- Improve national and transboundary river basin management, planning and coordination;
- Strengthen linkages among macro-economic, social and environmental policies;
- Improve information acquisition, management and dissemination;
- Support awareness building, education and training;
- Promote public participation; and
- Invest in infrastructure.

The projects were classified into six groups, as below, in line with their thematic relationships in order to enhance synergies that can be gained for closer implementation:

- Legislation, Policy and Strategic Planning
- Capacity Building and Training
- Awareness Creation, Consultation and Public Participation
- Information Collection, Analysis, Management and Dissemination
- Infrastructure Investment
- Stand Alone (Special Priority Areas)

The projects are largely envisaged as soft infrastructure, meant to create an enabling environment in the sub region to facilitate further development of real hard infrastructure projects. The total estimated cost of the Programme is \$ US 138,276, 000, 21 % of which has been secured (about \$ US 28, 372, 855); the financing gap therefore is \$ US 109,903,145.

West African Sub Region

The approach pursued by the West African sub region was directed at creating an action plan for Integrated Water Resources Management, code-named WARAP-IWRM. The projects under the action plan were agreed upon through national and sub regional conferences on IWRM. Some of the priority areas identified include:

- (a) Implement a process of IWRM based on National Water Plans in each country of the sub region;
- (b) Create a framework for regional cooperation on IWRM, for harmonization of policies and legislation on water issues and for exchange of experience;
- (c) Create or revisit the consultative framework between Riparian countries for joint management of shared basins; and
- (d) Elaborate national and sub regional strategies for mobilization of financial resources required for Integrated Water Resources Management.

The final project formulations were based on the conclusions of the first and second National Focal Points workshops and further put into a Regional Synthesis Report, covering the following thematic programme areas:

- Support to National Plans of IWRM;
- Specific support to countries damaged by civil wars in the reconstruction of the water sector;
- Capacity building;
- Regional coordination of IWRM and WARAP;
- Create or revisit the concerted framework for Riparian countries for joint management of shared water basins;
- Finance the water sector.

The total cost of the identified projects amounts to about \$ US 24 million and the projects are envisaged to last from one to three years.

East African Sub Region

The process of identifying portfolio projects in the East African sub region was carried out under the auspices and direction of the AMCOW-EA Technical Committee, while the responsibility for national reports was shared by appointed national focal persons in each of the countries.

Each country prepared the following:

- National Report on the Implementation of Chapter 18 (Agenda 21 and other WSSD water goals and MDG targets).
- Portfolio of water-related projects/programmes for inclusion in the East African sub region portfolio.

The AMCOW-EA Secretariat was mandated to synthesize the above National Reports into AMCOW-EA Sub Regional Reports and Portfolio of Projects to be presented to AMCOW under the following recommendations:

- There should be a good mix of projects addressing all key areas, i.e. Water Supply and Sanitation, Water Resources Management, Water for Production.
- There should be a clear linkage between the MDGs, WSSD targets and National Strategies to ensure consistency.
- Project scopes should be broadened to capture cross-cutting issues, which may otherwise be missed, e.g. projects on groundwater and surface water mapping should also include aspects of water resources assessment and valuation and development of management tools as stipulated in the MDGs.
- Emphasis should also be given to projects on water for production as this directly relates to food security, rural industrialization, increased exports and poverty eradication.
- Care should be taken to avoid “stand-alone projects”. The projects prepared should be linked to ongoing projects and programmes and should be viewed as filling existing gaps rather than being portrayed as completely new initiatives.
- Efforts should be made to capture the transboundary aspects in all the proposed projects to bring in some regional dimension since AWCOW is a regional initiative.
- Countries should avoid the temptation of coming up with long lists of projects and should instead concentrate on a few (maximum 5) but comprehensive projects.

The final portfolio of 14 projects was proposed by four countries: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda,

Ethiopia, and Sudan. The total financial requirement for the fourteen projects is estimated to be \$ US 2,661,650,000.

Central African Sub Region

The central African AMCOW presided over the process of creating an action plan by identifying priority projects in the sub region as a response to the WSSD and to meet the targets set out under the MDGs. The objective of the action plan is to improve the socio-economic situation in the sub region through improved water resources management.

The portfolio projects under the action plan were formulated under the following specific objectives or strategies:

- Managing water resources in a responsible manner and with wisdom;
- Mitigating water-related disasters and risks;
- Creating an appropriate framework for the management, development and operation of water resources systems;
- Improving hydrological information management;
- Improving the access to appropriate water supply and sanitation services; and
- Developing the necessary infrastructure to valorise water resources.

The portfolio of projects consists of 34 projects distributed among the countries of the sub region with a financial requirement of about \$ US 5.8 billion.

North African Sub Region

The process for the identification and formulation of portfolio projects in the North African sub region was not indicated in their presentation. The priority projects seem therefore to be more country-specific than on sub regional basis.

African regional synthesis of portfolio projects

The sub regional portfolio projects for the implementation of the African Water Vision, the WSSD and the MDG targets, harmonized with respect to the strategic application of IWRM and to the challenge areas would give a regional framework for Africa as a whole. The priority projects have therefore been distributed alongside the various programme areas with their estimated costs and the financial needs, as shown in Table 15.1. From the Table it can be seen that the emphasis on challenges varies among the sub regions and the financial needs are high, with only the southern sub region indicating amounts of financial resources already mobilized, and to a lesser extent, the East African sub region. The process of harmonization and prioritization of the sub regional projects into an African regional portfolio project is yet to be effectuated under the auspices of AMCOW. It is only when this stage is complete that AMCOW can use its offices to mobilize funds from donors and partners to cover the envisaged funding gaps.

Prospects for implementation

The Conference forged new partnerships on water in Africa in the context of which a number of significant initiatives were launched, including the following (PANAFCON, 2003a):

- (a) The signing of the joint declaration by the Chair of AMCOW and Director General for Cooperation of the European Commission on the implementation of the African-European Union Strategic Partnership on Water Affairs and Sanitation.
- (b) The African Water Facility, with a targeted funding of over \$ US 600 million for medium-term projects on water and sanitation. The Ministers appealed for the support of the development partners for the enlargement of the resources. The African Development Bank will manage the facility under the policy direction of the Ministers on the AMCOW Executive Committee.
- (c) The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative supported by the ADB.
- (d) The Water and Sanitation for African Cities (Phase II), with initial substantial funding from the Government of Canada. The Ministers appealed for expanded support from other development partners for the newly established UN-HABITAT Trust Fund.
- (e) The G8 Action Plan on Water for Africa, within the framework of which an understanding was reached, that support will be extended to a number of river and lake basin management plans. The Ministers noted with gratitude the commitment of the EU to continue support for Integrated Water Resources Management in Africa.
- (f) The African Water Journal was launched to provide an outlet to consolidate and disseminate knowledge, enhance capacity of professionals and practitioners and facilitate the documentation and sharing of African experiences. Ministers called for financial support for sustaining and expanding the publication.

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