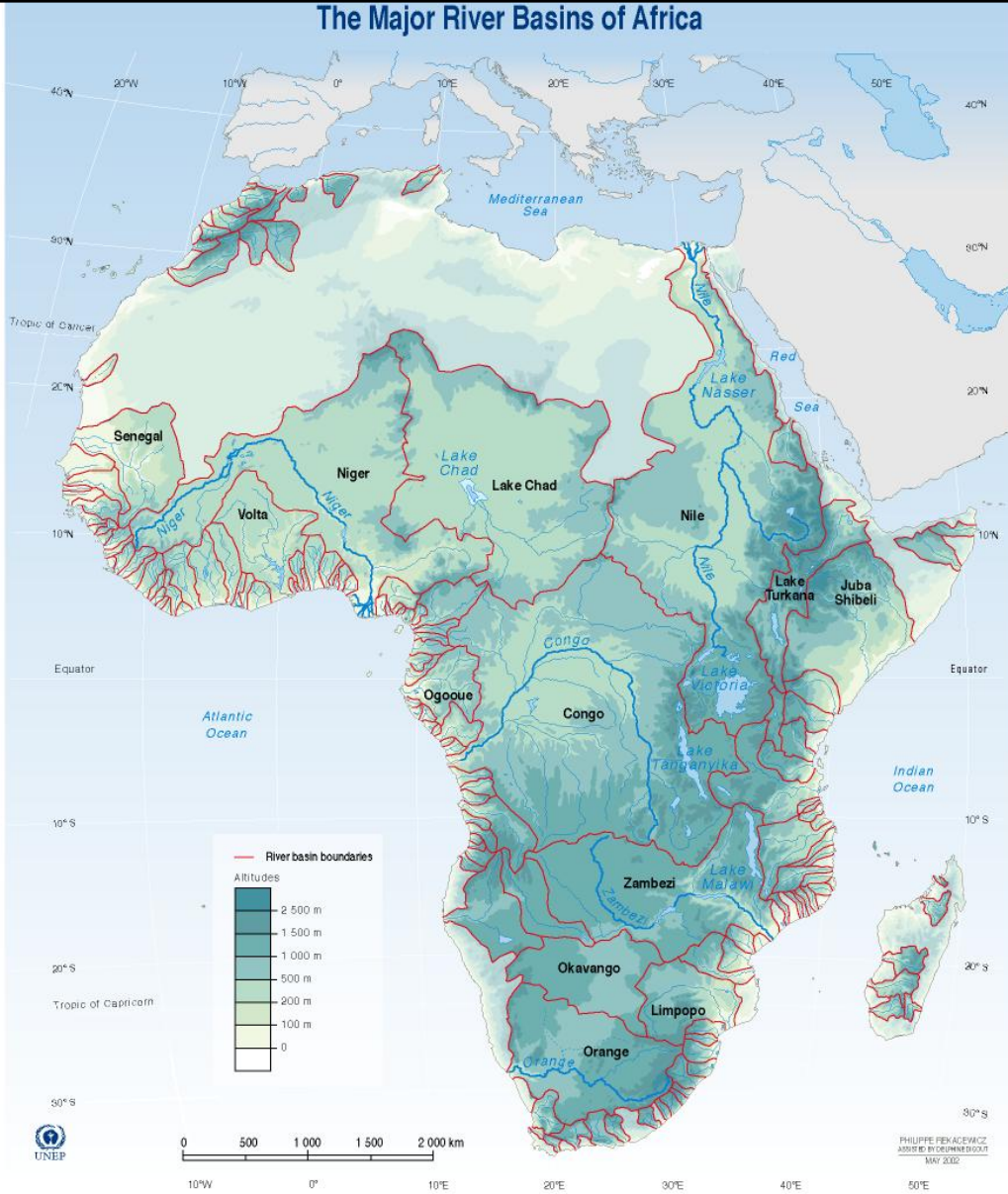


**DEVELOPING GUIDELINES FOR INTER-BASIN WATER TRANSFERS
FOR POLICY MAKERS IN AFRICA**
La Palm Royal Beach Hotel, Accra, Ghana
25-29 September 2006



Source: Aaron T. Wolf et al., 1999; Revenga et al., *Watersheds of the World*, World Resources Institute (WRI), Washington DC, 1998; Philippe Rekacewicz, *Atlas de poche*, Librairie de poche, Librairie générale française, Paris, 1998 (revised in 2001)



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1. Steering Committee of the Workshop

The Workshop is the result of longstanding consultations among many stakeholders in Africa. The following Organizations and individuals currently form the Steering Committee to guide the planning and execution of the Workshop.

1. Chairman- Eng. Muhammad Sani Adamu, Executive Secretary, Lake Chad Basin Commission.
2. Dr. Ahmadu Babagana, Director, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union.
3. Dr. Omar Salem, Director General, General Water Authority, Libya.
4. Dr. Charles Biney, Executive Secretary, Ghana Water Resources Commission and Acting Executive Director, Volta Basin Authority
5. Mr. Reatile, Mochebelele, Head, Water Unit, NEPAD Secretariat.
6. Dr. Henry Ntale, Chairman, Technical Advisory Committee, African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) – to be confirmed.
7. Dr. Mehmood UI Hassan, Head, West Africa Office, International Water Management Institute.
8. Mr. Phera Ramoeli, Head, Water Unit. Southern African Development Conference (SADC)
9. Mr. Mike Muller, Member, Global Water Partnership (GWP-TEC)
10. Organizing Secretary -Dr Stephen Maxwell Donkor, UN Water/Africa Secretariat, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

2. Background of the Conference

Africa is a continent characterized by complex patterns and paradoxes in the availability and distribution of water resources. There is an abundance of water in the Equatorial zone in contrast to a total lack in the Sahara to the north and the Kalahari deserts to the south. This scarcity of water and its highly uneven distribution provides the physical state of the continent, which calls for evaluating the feasibility of Inter-Basin Water Transfers (IBWT).

The existence of over 54 transboundary river and lake basins form natural linkages and inter-dependence as most African countries are riparian to one or more river and lake basins with fourteen countries having their entire landmass falling within the boundaries of international river/lake/basins. Over 70 percent of the land area of Africa is within the basins of transboundary rivers/lakes and groundwater aquifers.

Inter-basin water transfer in Africa is an area of water resources management, which could provide a new dimension to correcting the spatial and temporal imbalances of water distribution in the region. The conception of water transfer has a long history as a means of addressing the critical problems of water resources by transferring water from areas where it is relatively abundant to those water-scarce regions. It will provide a driving force to enhance regional economic integration and development so that both donor and recipient countries become beneficiaries.

3. Objectives of the Workshop

The overall objective of the project is to assist and support African countries in formulating cooperative arrangements for meeting the challenges of water scarcity and associated problems on regional basis. Inter-Basin Water Transfer (IBWT) includes the removal of water from one major surface water drainage system either within same country across political boundaries which is referred to as "transboundary" water transfer or diversion.

The workshop is intended to provide:

1. A forum for an in-depth understanding and perception about inter-basin water transfer
2. Sharing experiences through discussion on the various aspects pertaining to Inter-basin water transfer (IBWT) within the African context.
3. Consolidate the principle of equitable sharing of benefits in IBWT among originating and recipient countries.

4. Clear guidelines to assist Africa Policy Makers in making informed and comprehensive choices from the political, economic, social, environmental and technical perspectives of IBWT.

The workshop will have case studies on IBWT and thematic presentations that would give an insight into problems and prospects that are relevant to the African context. The agenda of the workshop will focus on issues that are pertinent from the perspective of developing countries. It will assess all aspects of water transfer as a viable water management alternative for addressing imbalances in water supply and demand for sustainable development on a regional scale.

These Guidelines will serve to contribute to the elements of the Sirte Declaration of the African Unions Extraordinary Summit on Agriculture and Water in 2004.

4. Conference Information

Attendance at the Workshop is by invitation only. All logistical details related to the Workshop are presented below:

a) Venue

La-Palm Royal Beach Hotel
Accra, Ghana
TEL: + 233 21 771666
FAX: + 233 21 771717
EMAIL: lapalm@gbhghana.com

b) Accommodation

All participants are booked at La Palm Royal Beach Hotel. Please refer above for the address.

c) Transportation

Transportation to and from the airport and La Palm Royal Beach Hotel will be provided by the hotel. Please look for the La Palm Royal Beach Hotel bus.

d) Languages of the Workshop

The workshop will be provided in French as well as in English. For most of the sessions simultaneous interpretation will be provided. The documentation will be issued in French and English.

e) Currency Exchange

Official Currency– CEDI
US\$ 1.00 = CEDI 9,100.00
EUR 1.00 = CEDI 11,700.00

f) Visas and Health

All participants who require visas to enter Ghana need to contact the Ghanaian High Commission / Embassy in their country. If you require a letter please contact Ms. Temnit Tadesse, temnitt@uneca.org . Please state in your request: Your passport number, date of issue, place of issue, expiry date. Do not forget to include your fax number (that works) in order to receive the letter of invitation.

All people entering Ghana MUST have a yellow fever certificate with them. This will be checked before passport control on arrival. Visitors are advised to contact their doctor for advice about malaria prophylaxis and other necessary vaccinations.

Please note that participants are responsible for their own medical and accidental insurance and cost coverage.

For information about health issues related to your stay in Ghana you can obtain information via the WHO website: <http://www.who.int/ith/>

5. Who to Contact

A. Technical and Policy Issues

Dr. Stephen Maxwell Donkor

Senior Regional Advisor

UN-Water/Africa

Sustainable Development Division

UN Economic Commission for Africa

P.O.Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel: +251 11 544 34 22

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B. General Information about the Workshop

Ms. Aster Gebremariam

UN-Water/Africa

Sustainable Development Division

UN Economic Commission for Africa

P.O.Box 3001, Tel: +251 11 544 32 31

Fax: +251 11 551 44 16

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Email: agebremariam@uneca.org

C. For Travel Arrangements and air ticket

Ms. Temnit Tadesse

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UN Economic Commission for Africa
P.O.Box 3001, Tel: +251 11 544 53 91
Fax: +251 11 551 44 16
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Email: temnitt@uneca.org

D. For Local Information

For more local information regarding local arrangements including venue of the Workshop, arrival in Accra, hotel accommodation, transportation to and from the hotel and other logistical details, you may contact

Ms. Marigold Mingle

La Palm Royal Beach Hotel
Location: No 1 Bypass - Accra
Post: P.O. Box OS 3000
Osu - Accra - GHANA
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Fax: +233 21 771717
Email: lapalm@gbhghana.com
Web: www.la-palm.com, Web: www.gbhghana.com

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Ms. Yayra Akpetey

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WORKSHOP PARTNERS



LIBYA GENERAL WATER AUTHORITY