



AU-REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOUTA DJALLON HIGHLANDS (RPID-FDH)

**1st International Environment Forum of Basin Organizations
26-28 November 2014, Nairobi-Kenya
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INTRODUCTION 1

- In response to the drought of 1970s, the OAU decided in 1979 to include the issue of the Fouta Djallon Highlands as a major priority in its **Action Plan to Combat Desertification, Drought and Other Catastrophes in Africa**
- The Fouta Djallon Highlands (FDH) home to some 8000 springs feeding into 15 rivers
- 7 major international rivers source from the FDH: Niger, Senegal, Gambia, Great scarcies, Little Scarcies, Koliba-Corubal, and Kayenga-Géba



INTRODUCTION 2

Current threats and problems :

- Reduction of vegetation cover
- Acceleration of soil erosion
- Modification of soil characteristics and declines in fertility
- Reduction of flora, fauna, fish species
- Increased siltation and sedimentation of water courses
- Drying up of springs
- Invasive aquatic weeds in the watercourses



The core area with its extensions (reaching parts of Guinea- Bissau, Mali, Senegal and Sierra Leone) is 325 000 km²

**Map of Fouta Djallon
(mountain range),
Guinea**



ROLE OF AU-COORDINATION OFFICE

- Coordination of Member States and other actors for the preservation of the FDH natural resources
- Harmonization of policies among Member States for natural resources management
- Advocacy for the promotion of the strategic international character of the Fouta Djallon Highlands (declaration 2004)
- Facilitation for resource mobilization
- Monitoring of FDH natural resources



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- The GEF-funded **Fouta Djallon Highlands Integrated Natural Resources Management Project:**

The Project has been launched on 01 July 2009 (8 countries, in collaboration with FAO and UNEP):

- **Regional cooperation**
- **Integrated management of natural resources,**
- **Capacity building of stakeholders**
- **Monitoring, evaluation and information exchange**

- **Field activities in pilot sites:** reforestation, integrated watershed management practices; trainings, etc.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS ctd

- **Setting up the Regional Observatory of the FDH: Observatory Action Plan, Observatory Monitoring indicators;**
- **Studies on Climate Change and Trends in the hydrology of watersheds in the Highlands**
- **Framework Convention**
- **Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation between AU/FDH Programme, River Basin Organizations (MRU, NBA, OMVG, OMVS), and ECOWAS**



CHALLENGES

- **Growing concerns of degradation of the Highlands**, affecting all ecosystems (water, forests, lands) and all biotic resources
- **Getting harmonized policies, laws, regulations on trans-boundary natural resources**
- **Signature/Ratification of the framework convention** among States riparian to rivers originating in the Fouta Djallon Highlands
- **Financial resources limitation**



INVOLVEMENT OF BASIN ORGANISATIONS

- Signature/Ratification of the Framework Convention
- Encouraging Member States at high political level to co-finance the activities
- Diversifying the partnership for mobilizing financial resources
- Information exchange platform/network



THANK YOU
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