

ANBO TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

INTRODUCTION

These last two years, the Permanent Technical Secretariat of the African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO) has endeavoured to consolidate the assets of Dakar (General Assembly of November 2004) and to implement the recommendations resulting from the ANBO bureau meeting.

As a reminder, **168 delegates** from basin organizations, governmental administrations in charge of water resource management and international organizations coming from **34 countries**, took part in the General Assembly, held in Dakar. On that occasion, 13 new members and 9 observers requested to join the Network

The Assembly made the principle recommendations, as follows:

- Maintain the contact with new members / partners present in Dakar;
- Undertake promotional tours of the Network;
- Elaborate and submit funding requests to the partners, in order to initiate the implementation of the ANBO programme of activities;
- Undertake the necessary procedures so that ANBO be recognized by the regional political institutions, especially AMCOW, the African Union and NEPAD.

These recommendations have been used as a 'way-bill' since 2004 by ANBOs governing body.

1-promoting ANBO

The Secretariat and the Presidency have undertaken several activities aimed at promoting the network with the actors and stakeholders of the region.

A) MISSIONS

In April 2005, the secretariat carried out a mission in Uganda, meetings were held with the Secretariat of the Nile Initiative but also with the Ugandan authorities (Hon. Maria Muta Gamba, the Minister of State, the Minister for Water Resources, the President of AMCOW). This mission allowed to record the adhesion of the Environmental Management Programme of Lake Victoria, -which has recently become the Lake Victoria Commission- and of GWP/Eastern Africa.

The Nile Secretariat confirmed its interest in the network and declared itself ready to become involved in its activities, awaiting meanwhile to submit its official ANBO adhesion for the approval of its hierarchy.

B) PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ENCOUNTERS

ANBO took part in several international events dedicated to water resource management, which were ideal occasions to introduce and make known the network. The most important were:

- the meeting organized by ADB and NEPAD, around the NEPAD Short-term Action Programme on the management of transboundary waters, Jo'Burg, December 2004). As a result of this meeting, support to ANBO was one of the 13 projects in the field of water governance, chosen within the framework of this Action Programme.

- those organized by the Executive Committee of AMCOW (Addis, June 2005), then by the World Water Council, ADB and AMCOW (Tunis, September 2005) and which were aiming at co-ordinating at technical level, the African contribution and participation to the 4th World Water Forum. It was on the occasion of those meetings that the Secretariat made a proposal on behalf of ANBO, to become the main organizer of the »Transboundary Waters « session, with as co-organizers, the following institutions: ADB, SADC, GWP, UN Water, the Observatory for the Sahara, the Nile Initiative.

C) PARTICIPATION IN THE MEXICO FORUM

▪ the preparatory session in Windhoek

Within the framework of the preparation of this Transboundary Waters session, the Permanent Technical Secretariat of ANBO (PTS) organized an encounter with the African basin organizations, in Windhoek (Namibia) on the 8th and 9th of December 2005. The session was held at the invitation of the Namibian Minister for Water and with the support of the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The concept of the Transboundary Waters session was presented to the members and it was possible to fix with them : the programme, the provisional budget and the list of foreseen panelists as well as to choose which experiences should be presented in the context of local actions.

The session in Windhoek allowed also, to study and to propose the ANBO contribution to the Africa regional report and to the sessions organized by the International Network of Basin Organizations during the Forum.

▪ the transboundary waters session

The Transboundary Waters session organized by ANBO on behalf of AMCOW, within the framework of the Forum's Africa Day had for objective, to share real experiences in order to promote dialogue and co-operation within the field of transboundary waters' management

The session was to illustrate the progress accomplished in the integrated management of transboundary basins in Africa, and to highlight the efforts made by all the actors to promote co-operation between riparian States, in creating new basin organizations or in strengthening those that already exist.

The session, which attracted a large following, was presided by His Excellency Mr. Bruno ITOUA, Minister for Energy and for Water of the Republic of Congo and co-presided by Mr. Adama SANOGO, the General Secretary of OMVS. Doctor Amadou Boubacar CISSE, Vice President of the Islamic Development Bank pronounced the opening address.

Four river basin management experiences were presented: The Organization for the Development of River Senegal (OMVS), the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), the Niger Basin Authority (ABN) and the Komati Basin Authority (KOBWA).

As a result of the discussions, the delegates formulated and adopted around ten recommendations so as to position the future actions in the field of governance of shared waters.

For this occasion and this event, ANBO received some financial support from French Co-operation, from GTZ and from the Islamic Development Bank.

C) OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

The Secretariat took advantage also of the OMVS bilateral exchanges in order to promote ANBO. The High Commissioner pleaded the cause of ANBO before the African basin organizations, there to study the experience of OMVS. This being the case of the Zambeze Authority (which at the end of its study tour presented a request to become a member of ANBO), and of the Nile Basin Initiative (more precisely the Technical Co-ordination Bureau for the development of the Eastern Nile (ENTRO)).

2- Relations with partners

The network has accomplished significant progress in this field. The efforts have been concentrated on 2 particular aspects:

A) THE SEARCH FOR FINANCING

Under the leadership of the Presidency, the PTS addressed requests to the partners for them to second the proposal for the implementation of the ANBO programme of activities.

Thus, the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs made a grant to the network for the amount of 45.000 Euros for 2005. This amount made it possible to organize the meeting of the Co-ordination Bureau in Marrakech and the participation of ANBO in the Mexico Forum, in particular.

In addition, 3 important projects have, up to date, been presented with success to the financial partners, within the framework of the ANBO programme.

▪ The African Water-related Information System Project (Pre-Awis, or SadiEau in French)

OMVS, in its capacity of PTS of ANBO, has elaborated and presented, with the support of the International Network of Basin Organizations and in collaboration with other partners,¹ a project for setting up a Pan African system for the exchange of information in the water sector. For the total cost of 1.090.218 Euros over 3 years,

¹ The Programme Solidarité Eau- PS-Eau, the Régional Centre for Potable Water and Sanitation (CREPA), the International Office for Water and WEDC

Pre-Awis has for objective to design a computerized system for sharing and exchanging information, relying on a network of documentation centres disseminated over the continent. The project is soon to get under way (imminent signing of the contract) and will be financed by the European Union for a first conceptualization phase, then will be tested on the scale of 10 documentation centres. Thus, the Project should contribute to the structuring and the development of the information exchange capacities of the basin organizations.

To this effect, it forms an important asset in regard of the execution of Component 4 of the ANBO programme of actions, based on the **Strengthening of exchange capacities and the pooling of institutional documentation between the basin organizations and the member governmental institutions**. As a reminder, this component has for specific objectives, to set up an information system, centralized at the PTS level and to second the structuring of the documentation centres that exist over the pilot basins' territory.

▪ **The ANBO Development Project**

In the same way, ANBO is at the point of concluding an agreement with the Water Facility of the African Development Bank, for the implementation of a 2-year programme of activities aiming at strengthening the network and at the achievement of a certain number of projects based on the problems linked with the management of shared basins.

The ANBO Development Project is a 3-year project for the amount of 500.000 euros. It is centred around 4 components : the quantitative and qualitative strengthening of adhesions (members) ; the evaluation of legal frameworks for existing co-operation (achievements of studies), the development of information systems and methods for the exchange of experiences between the members ; the reinforcement of the Secretariat (including a study on the evaluation of the needs of the basin organizations in respect of capacity building, the review of ANBOs programme of actions and the possible revision of ANBOs statutes).

This project is an important contribution to the fulfilment of Component 1 of the action programme, aiming at the institutional anchoring of the Network, the reinforcement of the Permanent Technical Secretariats' (PTS) activities and the influence of the Network both at continental and at international level.

It corresponds also to the concern of Component 2, the subject of which is **The documentary analysis of the basin situations and the synthesis of available knowledge and know-how**.

▪ **The Project for the Development of Performance Indicators for management of African basins**

Elaborated in collaboration with INBO, the Project for the Development of Performance Indicators for African basins², for the amount of 342.475 Euros, aims at developing and testing with around ten basin organizations, some adapted and specific indicators to contribute to the implementation of integrated management on

² The partners within the frame of this project : INBO ANBO, the International Office for Water and Ecologic

the continent. INBO presented the project to the Water Facility within the framework of the European Initiative.

At the time of writing these lines, we are informed that this request seemed to have received a favourable response during the 2nd selection phase of the « call for proposals ». If the financing of this Project is confirmed, it would be a first step towards the implementation of **Component 5** (in its portion « Stimulation and support for river basin management at national and at transboundary levels ») as well as for **Component 3**, one of its objectives being to capitalize the methods, the planning, analysis and decision-making tools, together with the know-how in respect of **IWRM** matter.

B) SETTING UP OF PARTNERSHIPS

In compliance with the recommendations resulting from the General Assembly in Dakar, the Secretariat seized the opportunity to introduce ANBO and its activities to some regional institutions and some financial partners.

▪ **The AMCOW / ANBO process**

Owing to the efforts made, the Conference of African Ministers in charge of Water - AMCOW- has shown interest for collaboration with ANBO. A delegation composed of representatives of AMCOW and of German co-operation - GTZ, undertook in February 2006, a working mission to OMVS, in its capacity of STP of ANBO to discuss in particular, the part that ANBO could play in the finalizing and the implementation of the project « Management of Transboundary Waters » launched by the G8 within the framework of its Initiative for Africa, and that GTZ develops in relation with AMCOW.

Since this first contact, ANBO is involved in the accomplishment of a directory of African basin organizations (*Sourcebook*). It has provided the project's terms of reference and ensures the follow-up in relation with the partners. A first version of the *Sourcebook* has just been delivered by the Consultant.

But the mutual willingness for the 2 institutions to establish closer links, received a boost on the occasion of the **Basin Organizations' Conference in Kampala**, in October 2006. Convened on the initiative of AMCOW, the conference specifically recommended that ANBO be recognized by AMCOW and the African Union as an asset to be consolidated in order to install co-operation between the African basin organizations. The conference came to the conclusion that this consolidation should come about by way of a revision of ANBO's statutes in order to facilitate the partnership

A work-group (known as the Tekateka Commission) presided by AMCOW, has been put into place to lead this process. It includes, in addition to the President, a representative of each of the following stakeholders : AMCOW, the African Union, ANBO, ANEW (civil society) and basin organizations who are not members of ANBO.

The first meeting of this work-group was held in November 2006 in Johannesburg. It made some recommendations and proposals for the revision of the statutes aiming to adapt them to the new partnership context between these institutions. A new proposal for the statutes was produced by the Commission and circularized to the members and partners of ANBO in order to receive their impressions and opinions.

On the fringe of the AMCOW/TAC meeting, held in Nairobi from the 14th to the 16th of February 2007, the consultation on the revision of ANBOs statutes continued. It was made clear that ANBO will remain the African component of INBO which will continue to participate as an observer in ANBOs governing body meetings. ANBO must keep its network identity and for this reason, play a support-advice role for AMCOW in the field of management of transboundary waters and development of the basins.

▪ **The AFRICAN UNION / ANBO partnership**

In March 2006, the Regulatory Board for Agriculture and for Rural Economy of the African Union Commission approached OMVS to announce a project for the creation of a Federation of African basin organizations.

The High Commissioner of OMVS when responding, invited the Board to bear in mind and to take into account the existing structures and to rely upon ANBO for the implementation of its programme in respect of water resource management.

The outcome of discussions conducted thereafter led to the working visit, on the 1st of July 2006, of Mr. Foday BOJANG, Head of Department Environment and Natural Resources, accompanied by Mr. OUATTARA, Co-ordinator of the Fouta Djallon Programme.

The reason for their visit was to see how the African Union could collaborate with ANBO in the implementation of the Syrte Declaration (which invites the Union to encourage collaboration between basin organizations), and what support the AU could bring to ANBO.

The High Commissioner of OMVS asserted the willingness of ANBO to become involved in such collaboration which in addition, is essential and strategic. He recalled the advantages of the network -which has the merit of existing already- to federate several basin organizations, to be in relation with financial institutions, to be known on an international scale in its capacity of member of other networks and finally, to have an action plan ready to be implemented. These institutional and programmatic connections are an important asset upon which the African Union can rely.

Evoking the expectations of ANBO, the High Commissioner of OMVS put forward the following short-term proposals within the framework of a partnership with the Commission :

- patronage of ANBO, for example, in seconding its requests introduced to funding agencies or in helping to extend and to consolidate the support of targeted stakeholders. In the same way, the Commission could also become involved in the organization of the next general assembly of the Network.

- joint preparation of a framework document which has to lead to a consultative body status of the African Union, for ANBO. This document would be proposed in the next summit meeting of the Heads of State.

The delegation reacted positively to these proposals as a whole. Mr. Bojang also put forward the idea to convene a joint meeting ANBO-AU as a preliminary to the next ANBO General Assembly.

The meeting would gather together the African basin organizations on the Syrte Declaration and on the terms and conditions for ANBO-AU collaboration within the framework of the implementation of the said Declaration.

During the months that followed, the progressive fulfilment of these engagements with the Kampala process and the joint organization of the ANBO General Assembly was observed. The dialogue between the 3 institutions AMCOW/AFRICAN UNION/ANBO has intensified and has resulted in real proposals for collaboration. AMCOW, set to become a technical committee of the AU, ANBO in its capacity of consultative body could, to some extent, become a specialized committee of AMCOW.

3- Statutory meetings

A) ANBO COORDINATION BUREAU

The meeting of the Co-ordination Bureau was held in Marrakech on the 25th of May 2005, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Ould Aly, President of ANBO. The participants included the bureau members, the President and the Permanent Technical Secretary of INBO, but also various partners such as the European Commission, the World Water Council, etc.

During this meeting, several important questions were examined such as the members subscriptions, communication, the members contributions (support to PTS) to the animation of the network, the next ANBO general assembly and the contribution of the Network to the next World Water Forum. It was on this occasion that the representative of the South African Ministry for Water Resources (Department of Water Affairs) offered to host the second General Assembly of the Co-ordination Bureau of ANBO.

B) OTHER MEETINGS

ANBO has been regularly represented in the various meetings of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) and in its regional networks.

4- Present composition of the members

The network has up to date 42 members and observers of which (see list in annex):

- ✓ 17 basin organizations
- ✓ 08 international organizations

- ✓ 09 water administrations
- ✓ 03 projects or programmes
- ✓ 05 others (Universities, civil society organizations...)

Over the last 2 years :

- ✓ **5** new requests for membership have been recorded : Global Water Partnership / Eastern Africa, Zambezi River Authority, Lake Victoria Basin Commission, Observatory for the Sahel and the Sahara – OSS, Niger Basin Authority (ABFN)
- ✓ **2** requests have to be confirmed (the membership form has to be sent to the secretariat duly completed) : the new Volta Basin Authority and the Co-ordination Unit of the water resource management of ECOWAS (UCRE).

5-Financial situation

a) subscriptions

Reminders have been addressed to all the members asking them to pay their subscriptions. Up to date, XXXXXXXX members paid their contributions in 2005, XXXX in 2006.

b) contribution of OMVS towards the operating of PTS

Under the expenditure item, in its capacity of Permanent Technical Secretariat of ANBO, OMVS has contributed for the amount of XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

CONCLUSIONS

The ANBO fiscal year of 2005-2006 has thus been marked by the significant progress made in the visibility of the Network. This is illustrated by new responsibilities being entrusted and the links formed with the key-partners.

The participation in the Mexico World Water Forum has indisputably been a deciding factor in the evolution of the network. In showing its mobilization and its fulfilment capacities, ANBO has roused the interest of the participants. The Basin Organizations' Conference held in Kampala has allowed to consolidate this asset and to help ANBO move forward towards a political recognition of the important regional institutions.

From now on, one can consider that the conditions are almost all united for a satisfactory fulfilment of the Network's missions. Owing to its extension, to new strategic partnerships engaged with the political regional institutions (AMCOW and the African Union), and to the funding mobilized for the first programmes/projects, ANBO will really be able to provide for its members and partners the services that they expect from such a network. On this subject, special attention must be given to the ANBO Development Project which foresees the reinforcement of the Secretariat so that it would have the capacity to face up to these new engagements. To this end, human and material means must be allocated to ANBO.

These assets form some important results in respect of the fulfilment of the 3-year ANBO action programme. They contribute to the objectives of the main components that structure the programme.

However, efforts still need to be made for consolidating the network and the involvement of the members in the activities. In particular, it is necessary to raise an increasing consciousness to the obligation for each member to pay its yearly subscription. It is obvious that the credibility of ANBO depends on this point.

ANNEXES

- ✓ Up-to-date list of ANBO members
- ✓ Note presenting the ANBO Development Project
- ✓ Note presenting the SadiEau Project
- ✓ Note presenting the Performance Indicators Project
- ✓ Synthesis of the ANBO programme of activities
- ✓ Report on the Tekateka Commission meeting
- ✓ Report on the Nairobi mission to AMCOW