

Main outcomes

The workshop took place from 16 to 19th May 2011 at the conference room of the Serena hotel in Douala. The workshop was officially opened by the advisor of the Minister of water and energy of Cameroon with the participation of the representative of the Cameroon National Commission of UNESCO and the representative of the Director of the Yaoundé office. Thirty three participants have participated in the workshop. They are hydrogeologists and water professionals from West Africa and Central Africa countries, river basin organizations of the sub-region and water coordination units of ECOWAS and ECCAS. Countries represented were: Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Burkina, Niger, Ghana, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroun, Chad, RCA, Congo, RDC and Rwanda. River basin organizations represented were: OMVS for Senegal basin, OMVG for Gambia systems, VBA for Volta basin and LCBC for Lake Chad basin. Also global water partnership for West and Central Africa have been represented.

The main outcomes for the West Africa ISARM component have been:

- Transboundary aquifers studies presented by representatives of Ghana, Benin, Nigeria, Niger, Burkina, Mali, Guinea, Senegal, Gambia, and Guinea Bissau. Update has been provided for the different transboundary aquifer systems.
- New identified transboundary aquifers will be mapped and current transboundary aquifer map will be updated by IGRAC in close collaboration with countries;
- UN articles on transboundary aquifers to be considered by ECOWAS during the preparation of the ECOWAS framework directive on transboundary water resource management;
- Presentations of different river basin organizations during the workshop have shown that river basin organizations have been considering groundwater within their activities even though it was not at the level of surface water;
- Participants agreed to set up of a regional coordination committee to move forward the implementation of the ISARM component in West Africa with the leadership of UNESCO;
- The participants agreed to initiate fora by transboundary aquifers system. The fora will be a platform to share and discuss issues related to sustainable management of the aquifers system. The fora will include all the key stakeholders.
- ECOWAS coordination centre to concentrate the data and information collected by the countries to feed the regional water information system.
- To make use of the different national reports produced by countries to publish report for transboundary aquifers system where sufficient data and information have been collected.
- To prepare proposal for the identified pilot aquifers for case study.

The main outcomes for the Central Africa ISARM component have been:

- Preliminary inventory of transboundary aquifers presented by representatives of Cameroon, Chad, RCA, Congo and RDC.
- The identified transboundary aquifers will be mapped and current transboundary aquifer map will be updated by IGRAC in close collaboration with countries;
- UN articles on transboundary aquifers to be considered by ECCAS within its planned regional water resources legal framework; LCBC water charter in preparation did consider those UN articles.
- Participants agreed to set up of a regional coordination committee to move forward the implementation of the ISARM component in Central Africa with the leadership of UNESCO;
- The participants agreed to continue the collection of data and information for a better study of identified aquifer systems.
- ECCAS coordination centre to concentrate the data and information collected by the countries to feed the regional water information system.
- To initiate data and information sharing by aquifer transboundary system.
- To prepare proposal for the identified pilot aquifers for case study.