



Technische  
Universität  
Braunschweig



EXCELLENCE CENTER FOR  
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION  
SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT

## Regional Expert Workshop on Transboundary River Basin in Africa

# Implementation of a Sustainable IWRM Agenda for River Basins in Africa: Prospects and Challenges

November 4 – 9, 2013 / Gaborone, Botswana



Funded by



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development

ex|ceed  
EXCELLENCE CENTERS  
FOR EXCHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

DAAD

## Expert Workshop on the Volta Basin, West Africa

# Contribution to the Implementation of a Sustainable IWRM Agenda for the Volta River Basin: Prospects and Challenges

### Overview

Transboundary water resources management poses an increasingly great challenge for practitioners as well as for policy makers at regional, national and local levels. One example is the Volta River Basin which is spread over six West African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Togo). For many years, it remained one of the few large transboundary river basins in Africa without formal legal and institutional arrangements among the riparian countries for managing its resources. The Volta Basin Authority (VBA) was established in 2007, by the Heads of State of the riparian countries, to institute measures for the Integrated Water Resource Management of the basin with respect to the establishment of the necessary governance for dialogue, sharing of information, management of the resource through knowledge building, data compilation, improvement in expertise and understanding and also for the development of the basin through providing the necessary infrastructure for sustainable development of the population of the Volta basin. This management demands a more thorough understanding of the hydrogeochemical processes, better prediction models and monitoring technology as well as more efficient collaboration among experts, managers and other stakeholders in order to close the gap between science and policy making. This therefore provides an opportunity for academics to draw on their wide expertise to provide input to the work programmes of transboundary basin authorities and advise their respective governments on the need to strengthen support for IWRM including effective collaboration in the process.

### Objectives

The Expert Workshop therefore intends to provide an overview of the actual management status of the young Volta Basin Authority and to take advantage of the experiences from the Okavango River Basin with concrete input from the expert scientists from EXCEED SSA and worldwide networks in order to identify research needs to improve sustainability requirements in transboundary basin management. The workshop is also expected to come out with a draft of a research project to be finalized by the riparian scientists of the Volta basin.

### Methodology

The EXCEED SSA consists of scientists working in the field of sustainable water management. Together with the Volta Basin Authority, the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM) and others experts, the expert workshop, will identify concrete research action for scientists in order to contribute to the implementation of the management strategy of the Volta Basin Authority.

The Workshop will consist of presentations and discussions on the actual management strategy for the Volta Basin, the management strategy for the Okavango basin, and some input from the expert scientists followed by recommendations. All participants will have the opportunity to discuss/present their experiences (case studies) with the aim of identifying, together with the group, the most appropriate solutions and related research actions for improved management of transboundary river basins. This shall lead to the development of a suitable research project. The base of this project could be the previous SSA project on "Water pollution reduction: prevention and remediation strategies in Sub Saharan Africa".

An excursion to selected areas of the Okavango basin, and to the headquarters of OKAKOM will contribute as a case study.

On successful completion of the workshop, each participant will be equipped with essential information on:

- the management strategies of the VBA and OKACOM;
- the need to strengthen research in the VB, including pollution and sources of pollution of the water resource in the VB;

Each participant would propose strategies and approaches for sustainable management of the basin.

# SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Events
Monday 4/11/2013	Whole day	Arrival of Exceed colleagues participating in the COVIDSET conference and Exceed regional workshop
Tuesday 5/11/2013	Whole day	Participation COVIDSET conference
Wednesday 6/11/2013	9:00 – 17:00	<b>Exceed regional expert workshop</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Introductory Session</li> <li>▪ The Volta Basin management strategy, strength and weakness</li> <li>▪ The Okavango Basin strategy, with focus on possible input for the Volta Basin management strategy</li> <li>▪ Review and analysis of the two transboundary basin strategies, with the goal of improving the Volta basin strategy</li> <li>▪ Identification of research project for scientists of the Volta Basin</li> </ul>
Thursday 7/11/2013	9:00 – 17:00	<b>Exceed regional expert workshop</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Development of proposals on the identified project</li> <li>▪ Feedback for the closing COVIDSET conference</li> </ul>
Friday 8/11/2013	9:00 - 17:00	<b>Exceed regional expert workshop</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Development of proposals on the identified project → Continuation of the discussion</li> </ul>
Saturday 9/11/2013		<b>Departure</b>

## Target Audience:

The participants expected would be experts and scientists from Exceed partner Universities working on sustainable water resources management.

## Number of participants:

The number of participants will be limited to 20. Only SSA experts from EXCEED partner universities will be financed by covering flight and accommodation.

## Application:

Please apply online until **August, 31, 2013**

## Venue

The workshop will be held at: Gaborone, Botswana

Funded by



**DAAD**

Website: [www.exceed.tu-braunschweig.de](http://www.exceed.tu-braunschweig.de)

Email: [exceed@tu-braunschweig.de](mailto:exceed@tu-braunschweig.de)

**Contact:**

Dr Samuel PARE  
University of Ouagadougou  
UFR/SEA, 03 BP 7021 Ouagadougou 03  
Burkina Faso  
E-mail: [samuel.pare@gmail.com](mailto:samuel.pare@gmail.com)  
Phone: +226 70 40 84 17

**Organization TU Braunschweig:**

Prof. Dr. Andreas Haarstrick  
Scientific Coordinator  
Excellence Center for Development Cooperation  
Sustainable Water Management  
Beethovenstraße 51a  
D-38106 Braunschweig, Germany  
Email: [a.haarstrick@tu-bs.de](mailto:a.haarstrick@tu-bs.de)  
Tel.: +49 531 391-3935