



UNECE 1992

Water Convention –

Aspiring for effective global

Transboundary Water Governance

LAUNCH
GHANA NATIONAL
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

21st May, 2021



UNECE



Background



- The Conference of the Parties to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (1992 Water Convention), in 2003 amended the Convention to allow accession by all United Nations (UN) member states. The amendments became operational in 2016.
- Ghana as a transboundary downstream state, took this opportunity to strengthen technical and institutional cooperation with its co-riparians by becoming a party to the Convention. This was to ensure a good basis for building national capacity for water governance.

...the processes...



- At a national workshop held (with the support of UNECE) in January, 2018, there was general consensus on the need for Ghana as a downstream riparian state to accede to the 1992 Water Convention and the 1997 Water courses Convention.
- On September 20, 2020 Ghana become a party to both the 1992 UNECE Water Convention and the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention.
- The next stage was to ensure the successful implementation of the 1992 Water Convention through the drawing up of a National Implementation Plan.



... the details...

- This Implementation Plan provides a step by step process for implementation considering the technical, economic, financial and other capacities of Ghana.
- It also considered the physical and governance framework for water governance in Ghana with specific focus on transboundary management.
- Based on gaps identified in the present national and transboundary waters governance framework, this Implementation Plan provides key strategic actions plans and measures for the implementation of obligations.





Focus Areas, Actions and Measures

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1. Strengthening of the policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks for managing and protecting water resources;
 - Ensuring that policies and regulations are adequate and enforced to strengthen national and transboundary water governance.
 - Support is required for the creation of institutional structures such as joint bodies at the international level to manage basins with no existing formal transboundary management bodies.

Focus Areas, Actions and Measures

2. Strengthening financing of water resources management to enhance transboundary cooperation;

- Innovative financing has become necessary for implementing the Water Convention and promoting transboundary cooperation – e.g. incorporate elements of transboundary financing into water charges.
- Budgeting specially for transboundary actions, expanding the revenue sources, and dedicating budget funds for meeting transboundary obligations are some of the financing innovations considered.



Focus Areas, Actions and Measures

3. Improving the knowledge base to facilitate water resources planning and decision making;

- Actions to address the knowledge base for planning and decision making at the national and transboundary levels.
- Specific actions to deal with collaboration, sustained data collection both on water and water related sectors, database sharing and clearing system, joint monitoring, and technical support to guarantee the sustainability of data generation and exchange.



Focus Areas, Actions and Measures

4. Enhancing participation of all stakeholders, public awareness and education in water resources management;

- Stakeholder participation including the vulnerable and private sector at all levels is pertinent in promoting transboundary cooperation.
- This could be achieved through the engagement of citizens to access all information including obligations, involvement in decision making, and access to justice.



Focus Areas, Actions and Measures

5. Improving IWRM at the river basin level for water security and enhance resilience to climate change.

- The effective promotion of transboundary water resources management centres also on the execution of planned IWRM actions that target water security and promote adaptation and the resilience to climate change at the river basin level.



Steps for Implementation (1)

Institutional arrangements

- Adopts and improves upon existing structures for implementing already existing transboundary arrangements for Ghana.
- A networked institutional frame composed of a National Focal Structure made up of
 - a Dialogue Team – inter-ministerial and non-state actors/stakeholders and
 - a Management Unit – the secretariat

Chaired by the Water Resources Commission.

Steps for Implementation (2)

Resources for implementation and Timelines

- The human resources of the Management Unit will be selected from the water sector agencies and assigned responsibility by the Minister in charge of water.
- Material resources will be provided by the State. It is anticipated that other technical and financial partners and, to some extent, the Water Convention secretariat can support by providing some material resources as part of the implementation of projects and programs in the country.
- The overall budget required to execute the actions/measures is about USD465,000 over the anticipated **five-year period (2021-2025)**.
- The proposed time lines are aligned with the time lines adopted for the national and basin level IWRM plans.



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Road-Map to Implementation

Functional link to the UNECE secretariat

The National Focal Point will;

- monitor and report on progress of implementation;
- produce bi-annual technical and financial reports on the implementation plan;
- send the reports and any other relevant reports and documents, as may be requested, to the Water Convention Secretariat; and
- participate in the sessions of the bodies and organs of the Water Convention and any other duties related to the implementation plan.

... the way forward...

- Strategic actions developed and carried out for each focus area will help in achieving this aim
- The application of the Implementation Plan will steer Ghana towards successfully implementing the 1992 Water Convention to promote transboundary water resources governance.



thank
you