

NIGERIA'S PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN THE ACCESSION TO THE CONVENTION, PERCEIVED BENEFITS AND PROSPECTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

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- Broaden the discussion and involve other actors;
- Organize a National Workshop on the Water Convention at the Regional level.

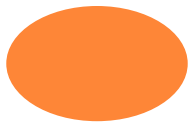
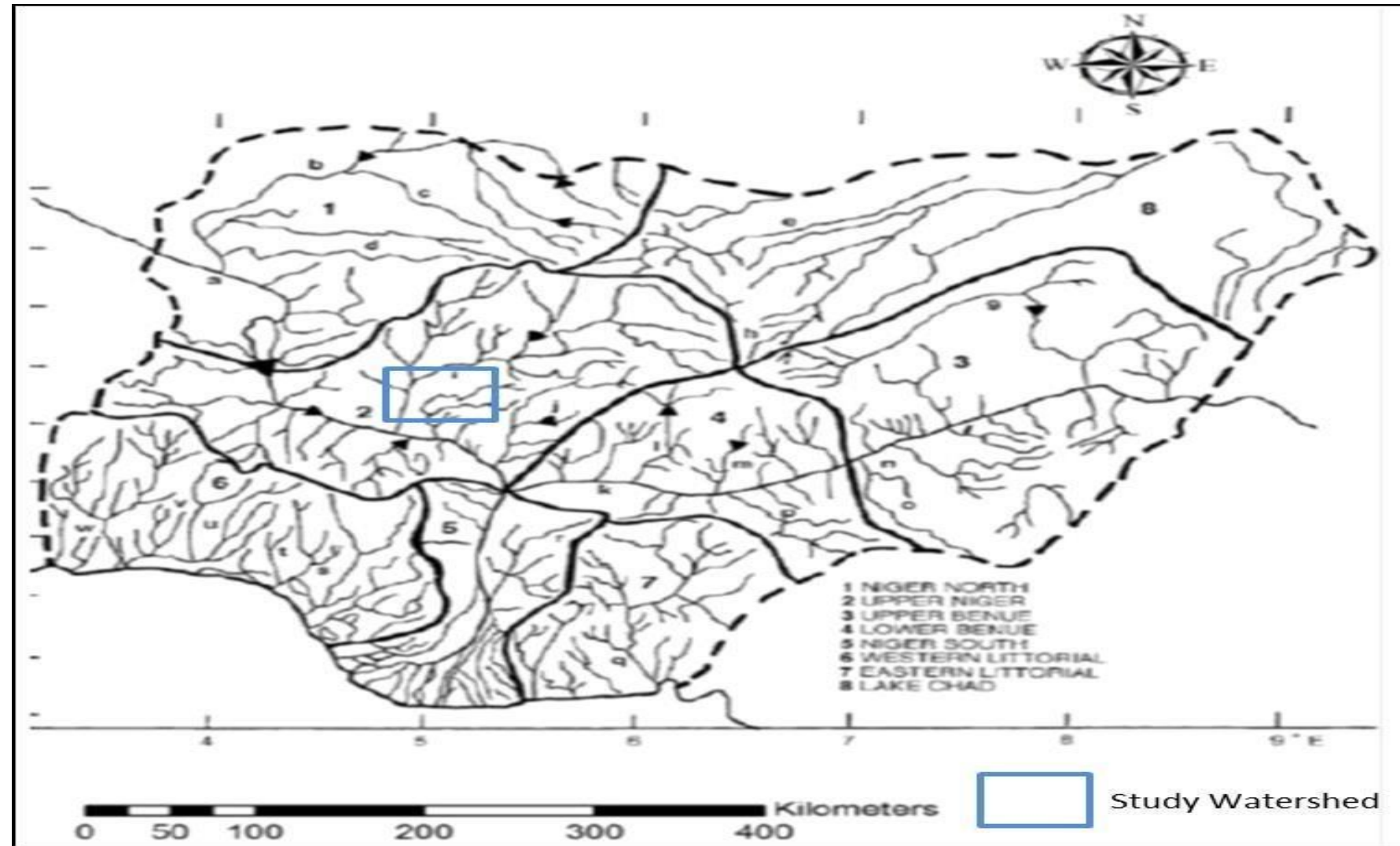
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INTRODUCTION



BACKGROUND

Nigeria is blessed with abundant Water Resources.

Nigeria experiences an annual rainfall of 4000mm in the coastal south and 500mm in the extreme north an approximately 224 billion m³ of fresh water annually and a substantial volume of ground water resources in aquifers.

Nigeria has the largest population on the African continent which is estimated at 220 million representing half of West Africa's population is drainage by two major drainage systems namely: the Niger– Benue system and the Komadugu – Yobe inland drainage system.

Nigeria under the Federal Ministry of Water Resources has an institutional arrangement both at the National and Regional levels for planning, development and management of the water resources



BACKGROUND Cont....

National Levels-12 River Basin Development Authorities established by the Water Act (2004) in the six geopolitical zones , The Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA), The National Water Resources Institute (NWRI), and The Nigeria Integrated Water Resources Management Commission (NIWRMC)

Regional Levels- Niger Basin Authority (NBA) and the Lake Chad Basin Commission.

All these arrangements is to ensure proper planning, development, management of the resources in an integrated manner

The overriding concern of management of transboundary waters is the efficient and effective use of its water resources for economic activities including power generation, agriculture, fishing, communication and other useful activities which is of the highest interest to the Government of Nigeria.



BACKGROUND Cont....

As such, all protocols, initiatives and conventions aimed at securing the prudent use of transboundary waters is of interest to the Federal Government and are meticulously examined before implementation.

It was therefore appropriate to accede to the water convention for effective cooperation and greater benefits in using shared resources



NIGERIA'S CONTEXT OF ACCESSION TO THE CONVENTION

- Nigeria shares three transboundary water basins namely River Niger Basin, River Benue Basin and Lake Chad. RIVER NIGER BASIN is shared by 9 countries, namely, Benin Republic, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger and Nigeria).
- RIVER BENUE BASIN is shared by Cameroon, Chad and Nigeria,
- LAKE CHAD BASIN is shared between Cameroon, Chad, Niger
- It is known that the Convention contributes to strengthening cooperation and prevention of conflicts over transboundary waters; Promoting sound water management and protection at national level; and Implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management, (IWRM), which is at the heart of SDG 6.5, “a process that promotes coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximize economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems” Global Water Partnership, (2000). Water resources are under growing pressures from climate change, population growth, energy production and agriculture. Cooperation on shared water resources is therefore vital to secure peace and stability,

NIGERIA'S CONTEXT OF ACCESSION TO THE CONVENTION Cont...

- The Federal Ministry of Water Resources has held several preparatory meetings at the regional level to sensitize the relevant stakeholders in Nigeria on the Water Convention.
- A workshop was convened in each of the 6 Geo – Political zones of the country, and the national held at the Federal Capital Abuja, to raise broader awareness of the Convention and commit them to develop a road map for accession and eventual implementation.
- These sensitization workshops have contributed immensely towards getting the country's competent authorities comprehensive understanding of the Water Convention, its provisions and obligations, its work on the ground as well as the benefits and possible opportunities the country stands to gain by acceding to it, in order to facilitate the preparations for accession and eventual implementation.



EXPERIENCE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

- The Convention establishes the principles and rules which form the basis for countries to work together (development of soft-law instruments like guidelines, recommendations, model provisions);
- It promotes cooperation on transboundary surface and ground waters and strengthens their protection and sustainable use of fresh water;
- The Convention assists policy processes and technical cooperation from a global, regional, national and basic levels in addressing challenges;
- It defends the rights and defines the obligations of both upstream and downstream countries;
- The convention assists parties in negotiating agreements between countries, supporting their implementation as well as joint bodies;



EXPERIENCE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION Cont....

- Develops Grievances redress mechanism for close relationship between the federal, state and local governments to avoid conflicts;
- Parties to the Water Convention implement the convention by entering into bilateral and multilateral agreements, setting up joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation, exchanging data and information, carrying out joint monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters, taking other measures in line with their obligations under the convention;
- The main tool to support the implementation of the water convention is its program of work which is adopted every three years by the meeting of parties;



EXPERIENCE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION Cont....

- The program of work is shaped to address political and technical challenges of Parties and non-Parties in managing their transboundary water resources. Thematic Capacity Building activities on issues such as climate change adaptation, water – food – energy – ecosystem nexus.

The Summary of the steps Nigeria took to accede to the Water Convention are as follows:

❑ **Preliminary discussion and expression of interest by the Ministry of Water Resources:**

- a. Nomination of Focal Points who would in turn participate in activities under the Water Convention to understand its activities, functioning and the working modalities of the Convention bodies.



EXPERIENCE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION Cont....

- Outreach and discussion sessions on the Water Convention among the Departments of the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Foreign Affairs and Justice. Discussion of the provisions of the Convention by the Technical and Legal Departments of the Ministry to assess its compliance with Nigeria's commitment/institutions;
- An official letter was sent through the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations in Geneva to notify the Secretary of Nigeria's interest in initiating the accession process.




EXPERIENCE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION Cont....

□ **Broaden the discussion and involve other actors:**

- Establish an inter-ministerial committee or a working group i.e. the relevant Ministries: Environment, Planning, Lands, Agric, Power, etc. and involve them in the discussions.
- The ToR for the Working Group amongst others are:
 - Discuss the relevant provisions of the Convention
 - Discuss the benefits and opportunities of Nigeria's accession to the Convention
 - Presented a memorandum to the 28th Regular National Council on Water Resources



EXPERIENCE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION Cont....

- ❑ **Organize a National Workshop on the Water Convention at the Regional level:**
 - The workshop mobilized all stakeholders including: relevant MDAs, Basin Organizations, Civil Society Groups, Technical and Financial Partners and the Media between January and May 2022
 - During these Workshops:
 - the benefits of Nigeria's accession with respect to its needs and expectations, the implementation strategy were discussed.
 - Frequent asked questions were addressed using the available document both in hard and soft copies to shared among stakeholders.
 - Discussed how to move forward in the national accession process.
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EXPERIENCE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION Cont....



EXPERIENCE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION Cont....



NATIONAL WORKSHOP

- Federal Ministry of Water Resources in collaboration with the support of UNECE Secretariat organized a National Workshop in the month of July 2022 in Abuja.
- Attendance drawn high profile of personalities across Nigeria
- Experts and Resource Persons them on the content of the convention, benefits, opportunities in the management of transboundary waters among others
- Road map with time lines was developed
- They all agreed and mandated the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to continue with the process to accede to the convention




RATIFICATION PROCESS

STAGE 1

- Preparation of Memorandum to seek approval from the Federal Executive Council (FEC) to ratify the water convention
- If it requires Ratification, then the same memo can be used to seek approval to ratify
- Upon approval of ratification, Federal Ministry of Justice prepare the Instrument of Ratification

STAGE 2

- Upon preparation of the Instrument of Ratification by the Federal printers in Lagos, the FMOJ forwards the Instrument of Ratification to the President for signature.
 - Once the President has signed, the Instrument is returned to the FMOJ who in turn forwards the already signed Instrument to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for onward transmission to the depository.
 - Forwarding of the instrument to the UN Secretariat through diplomatic channels
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BENEFIT OF ACCEDING TO THE CONVENTION

- The Water Convention is an international environmental agreement and a unique international legal instrument and intergovernmental platform. The convention provides support for integrated basin development; economic development and growth, the protection of natural resources and sustainable development, Energy, water resources, agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, forestry, Tourism and Water – energy – food security Nexus.
- It Prevents, controls and reduces transboundary impacts as well as promotes the use of transboundary waters in a reasonable and equitable way, and ensure their sustainable management thereby promote cooperation through agreements and joint bodies;
- Engages riparian countries for fairness in sharing the water resources, as Nigeria is at the downstream of both rivers Niger and Benue waters to support development projects rather than discharge into the Atlantic by impounding for HEP generation to power industries and for irrigation farming, Tourism etc;



- Revive Lake Chad to sustain economic growth and improved livelihood through river diversions eg. Hawul River at the National level and River Congo at the Regional level
- Develops needed institutional and legal framework to support participation of the catchment levels in the development of their area
- Develops comprehensive plan covering the entire statute , at the Federal government and catchment areas
- Establish Grievances mechanism to redress close relationship between Federal , state and local governments to avoid conflicts



BENEFIT OF ACCEDING TO THE CONVENTION Cont...

- Gives independence to the integrated water resources management commission and the guidelines on water and sanitation
- Provides strict laws to prohibit point source pollution and control erosion
- Supports catchment area with relevant laws and operational mechanisms for collaborations in utilizations of the ecosystem services in their catchment areas.



CONCLUSION

- The Convention develops needed institutional and legal framework to invoke effective participation of the catchment levels in the development of their area.
- It develops comprehensive plan covering the entire statute, those of federal government and the catchment areas;
- Provides strict laws to prohibit point source pollution and control erosion;
- Gives independence to the integrated water resources management commission and the guidelines on water and sanitation
- Supports catchment area with relevant laws and operational mechanisms for collaborations in utilising the ecosystem services in their catchment areas.



CONCLUSION

- Facilitating financing for transboundary water cooperation
- Its institutional framework to ensure that no country is left behind to implement the convention
- Develops guidance to parties in such areas as adapted to climate change and water allocation
- Establishes National Policy Dialogues on integrated water resources management as part of the program
- Building peace and stability, economic development and growth, protect the natural resources and sustainable development
- Support a simple, non-confrontial, transparent and supportive mechanism to facilitate and support implementation of the convention





**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**

