

Current development under the Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin (SMAB) Initiative and support from Secretariat and other partners (Mr. Landing Bojang, Chief Hydrologist and Water Convention Focal Point on behalf of the RWG)

Ever since the signing of the Ministerial Declaration on the 29th September 2021, by Ministers in charge of Water in the SMAB member states, the Regional Working Group mandated to spearhead and coordinate the regional cooperation on the concerted management of the SMAB, continue to receive support from partners such as;

1. Technical assistance by the World Bank for the institutional arrangement and capacity building for SMAB member states and RBOs,
2. The initial and continuous facilitation of the dialogue among the SMAB member states and RBOs by the Water Convention Secretariat, Geneva Water Hub and International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC),
3. Several meetings were held under the facilitation team such as; the hybrid meeting in Tallinn in June 2022, the validation workshop for the UNEP funded component of the Joint regional project in November 2022 in Dakar, and the informal meeting in March, during the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York etc.,
4. Moreover, a couple of other virtual meetings were held to facilitate the discussion among the two RBOs on the development of a joint Protocol and a work programme,
5. The current and upcoming activities include; the launching of the second phase of the project, the commencement of negotiation on the legal framework on the SMAB with support of the Water Convention and other partners,
6. A timeline is anticipated to be finalized for the achievement of the above activities,

Thank you for your kind attention!