

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WATER CONVENTION THE CASE OF GHANA

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how to use the two global Water Conventions to promote cooperation on the ground”
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Introduction

- Every convention must put in place means and processes to implement the obligations under the convention

- At the international level the accepted systems are;
 - The Meeting of the Parties
 - The Secretariat
 - Technical bodies/committee
 - Scientific body
 - Implementation Committee etc

National Level Implementation of Convention

- Ratification of a Convention makes it acceptable as law at the national level
- The state must put in place systems to make it possible to apply the provisions/obligations of the convention
- There should be institutions and laws and policies; adopted, adjusted and aligned to the obligations assumed.
- This is best done in the development of an Implementation Plan setting out details of institutions, strategies and focus for implementation.

THE CASE OF GHANA

Background

why Ghana decided to develop an Implementation Plan after becoming a party to the two Water Conventions

- From 2016, 1992 Water Convention becomes open for accession by non-ECE states.
- Ghana took this opportunity to strengthen technical and institutional cooperation with its co-riparians by becoming a party to the 1992 Water Convention and the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention in 2020.
- The next stage was to ensure the successful implementation of the Water Convention through the drawing up of a National Implementation Plan focusing on the obligations assumed under the international convention.



...the processes...

actors involved and duration



- A discussion with the UNECE secretariat led to the drawing up of a ToR and selection of a consultant to lead the process of drafting the plan.
- An internal committee was formed at the institutional level to decide on the issues to be targeted and the stakeholders to be consulted. A questionnaire was developed to solicit information needed on prioritization of actions.
- Stakeholders selected were from those in the water sector, i.e. regulators, major water users, civil society and international partners like the local office of GWP. Questionnaires were distributed, information collected and validated.
- The process of consultations to final draft and launch of the Plan covered a period of seven months.


... the details...

prioritized actions and timeline for implementation

- 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, the Implementation Plan provided 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

- The Plan 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. Support is anticipated from other technical and financial partners— e.g. aspects are incorporated into WRC projects especially making of regulations and setting up offices – Focus Area 1.
- The overall budget required to execute the actions/measures is for a 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

plan endorsed, mobilization of support



- The Plan was launched and becomes one of the main strategic documents for transboundary water governance
- The National Focal Point monitors and report on progress of implementation
- Ensure that the focus areas, actions and measures are incorporated into any river basin plans and transboundary plans for the basin
 - e.g. a strategic plan for extreme events in the Volta Basin is being developed at the transboundary level and Ghana is ensuring that the focus areas are covered especially Focus Area 5.

... the way forward...



- Ensuring that projects and plans developed and carried out incorporate each focus area. This will help in achieving the aim of implementing the plan.
- The application of the Implementation Plan will steer countries towards successfully implementing the Water Conventions to promote transboundary water resources governance.

thank
you