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## Presentation

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# OPTIONS FOR INCREASING STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION IN TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS MANAGEMENT

*experiences from Volta Water Governance Project*

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# Key Characteristics of the Volta

- The Volta River Basin covers an estimated area of 400,000 km<sup>2</sup> of the sub-humid to semi-arid West-African savannah zone,
- The basin is shared by six countries-(Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali & Togo).

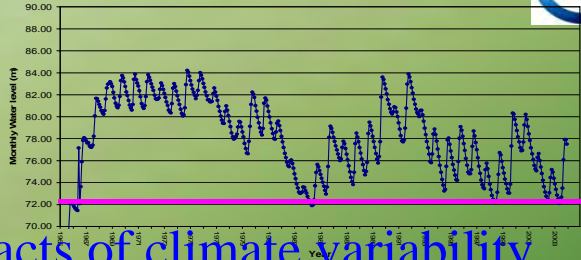


# Key Characteristics of the Volta



- 85% of the total basin area is shared between Burkina Faso and Ghana
- It is the ninth largest basin in Sub-Saharan Africa – and remains one of the few trans-boundary river basins in Africa with no formal institutional arrangements for managing its water resource
- Its water is a key developmental resource for Burkina and Ghana

# WRM Challenges in the Volta



Absence of coordination

Misconception about impacts of climate variability

Farming on river banks, contributing to silting of river channel

Erosion on river banks due to poor farming practices



## Strategic focus of PAGEV



The focus of PAGEV are as follows:

- To fix the governance deficiencies in the basin that translate into;
  - uncoordinated management of the basin;
  - competing use of land and water resources (potential sources of conflicts);
  - weak capacity to deal with transboundary environmental threats such as water pollution, deforestation, flooding, etc;

## Strategic focus of PAGEV (cont)



- To build on previous and on-going consultations and joint initiatives on water management between Burkina Faso and Ghana.
- To utilise the strengths of relevant on-going and planned initiatives in order to establish necessary linkages between
  - Science (Knowledge base) and policy (Institutional adjustments)
  - theory (IWRM principles & national water policies) and practice (stakeholder consultation, pilot field interventions)

# Thematic area-1 of PAGEV



*Compile and share key decision-support information base to inform constructive dialogues and collaboration on water management between Burkina and Ghana*

# Thematic area-2 of PAGEV

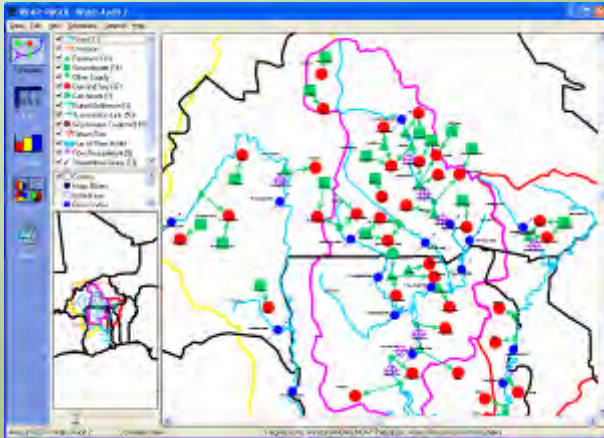
- Burkina Faso and Ghana jointly develop, implement and learn from pilot IWRM interventions in a selected trans-boundary sub-basin

# Thematic area-3 of PAGEV

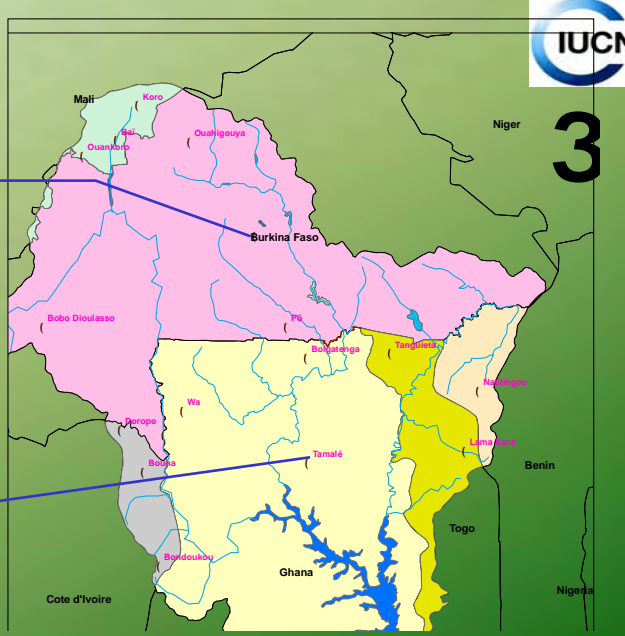
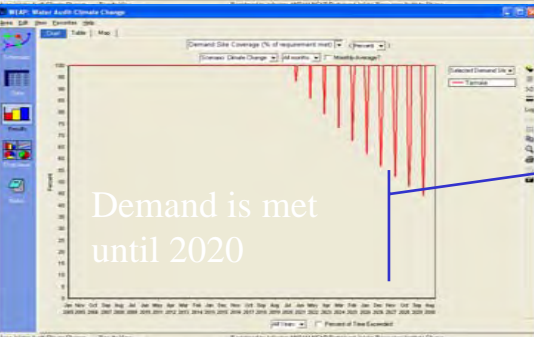
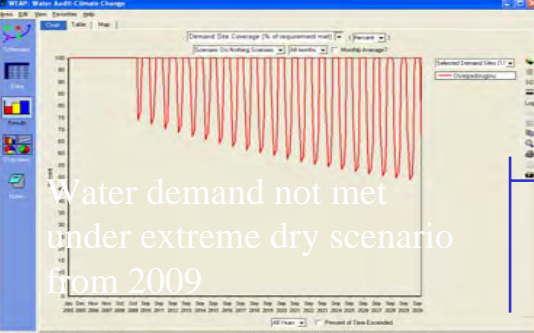


- Broadening existing bi-lateral consultations mechanisms on water management between Burkina and Ghana

# Information to facilitate dialogue



A water audit providing the dynamics of water availability and demand carried out and a tool for predicting water demand and supply impacts under various climatic scenarios has been proposed



# Information to facilitate dialogue

3D view : Before reforestation



Maps for assessing and illustrating environmental changes in the basin, and used for awareness raising produced



# *Setting the impulse for collaboration and building trust*



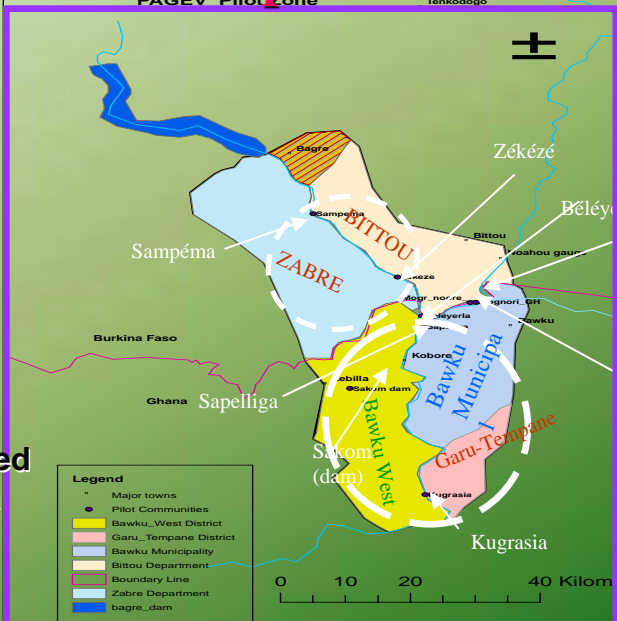
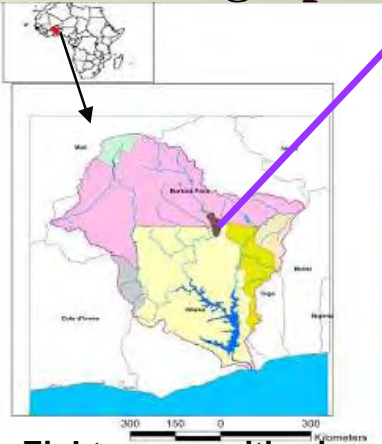
*DGRE was supported to rehabilitate two river gauging stations downstream of the Bagré dam to gather information on river flows into Ghana*

## *Setting the impulse for collaboration and building trust*



A joint water quality monitoring of selected sites undertaken by teams from Burkina Faso and Ghana.

# Geographical focus for pilot IWRM



- Eight communities involved in pilot IWRM (4 in Burkina Faso and 4 in Ghana):
  - 2 departments in BF
  - 3 districts in GH

*Linking ecosystem conservation to livelihood  
improvement*



**Over 16 km of river banks reforested with fruit & other trees to provide alternatives for income generation and fuel wood.**

*Linking ecosystem conservation to livelihood  
improvement*



**Women empowered  
for trees nurseries  
management**



# *Linking ecosystem conservation to livelihood improvement*



**Farmers supported to increase cropping areas for vegetable farming-.**

# Mainstreaming gender perspectives in interventions



- Communities supported to dig wells to supplement domestic water supply and support dry season gardening - bringing relief to the communities, particularly women who spend time looking for water for domestic chores



- Custom limit access to land by women. Women groups are being supported to rear small ruminants to earn income.

# Setting up platforms for - *multi-level partners engagement in TWMM*



River banks protection committees formed in 8 communities & regular consultations and awareness raising organized.

Joint planning sessions with technical services (Agric, Forestry, Environment, Animal Production) and NGOs organized.

Multi-level stakeholders platform enhanced with participation of Prefects and District Chiefs in SC meetings

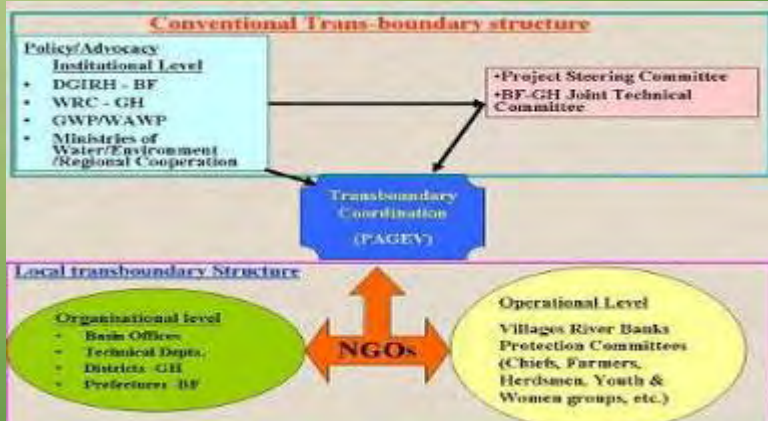


# Enhancing local participation in TBM

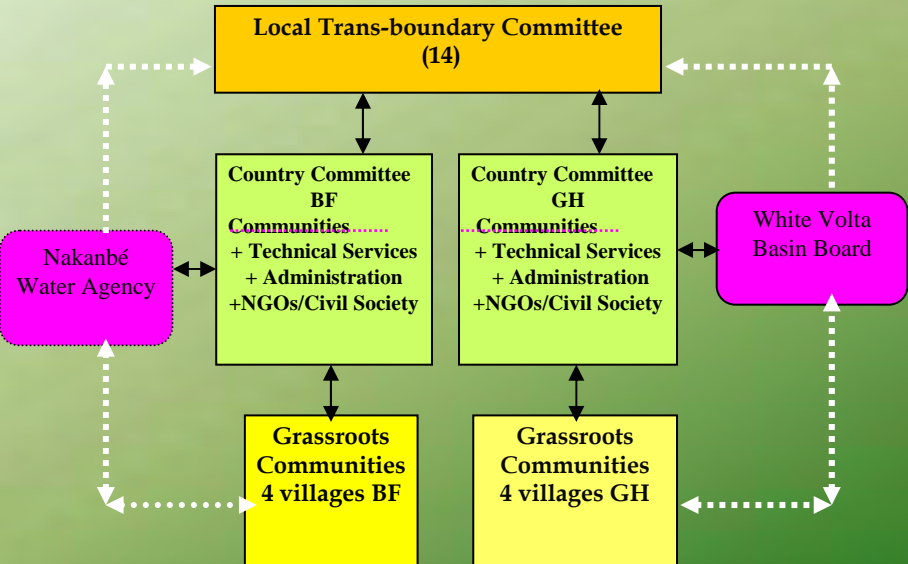


*MOUs signed with key partners -  
DGRE, WRC, GWP/WA, Basin offices  
and NGOs*

3 key institutional blocks whose reformation and linkages would add value to a **conventional transboundary water governance** were identified.



# Local stakeholders' forums

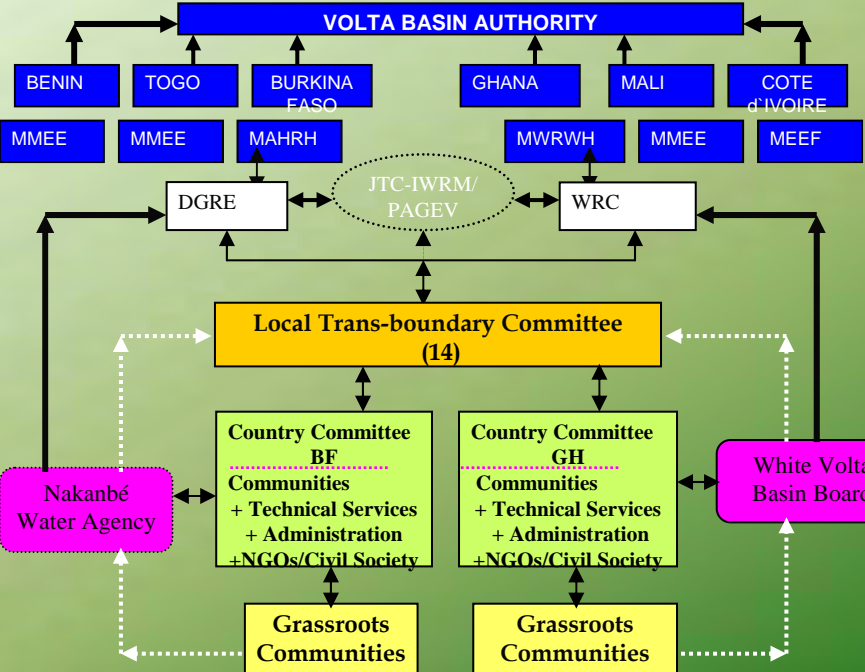


*• Guidelines for internal operations of the local transboundary committee and the national forums*





Emerging  
basin-wide  
Institutional  
setup



# *Reflections on lessons from project implementation*



- Strengthening of technical level cooperation could lead to improvement in information sharing (e.g. flood warning from operators of Bagré dam) and provided impulse to building trust

# *Reflections on lessons from project implementation*



- Communities are willing to participate in water and other natural resources conservation interventions when the outcomes of participation are clearly and directly linked to the improvement of livelihood of participating communities

# *Reflections on lessons from project implementation*



- Planning and implementation of community-based activities can be shared between sectors as well as between communities across boundaries;

# *Reflections on lessons from project implementation*



- The multi-stakeholder (participatory) approach adopted by PAGEV is slow, expensive and time consuming. It has however, helped to mobilize partnership with Ministries, and decentralized local government, NGOs and civil society;

# *Replicability of PAGEV*



## *interventions*

- Presently, transboundary coordination of management of the Volta River Basin has evolved - all six riparian states in the Volta basin have signed protocols to form the Volta Basin Authority (VBA). Strengthening the collaboration with other initiatives (UNEP/GEF-Volta project and VBA) will ensure the replication of PAGEV experiences in other riparian states of the basin (the FFEM Observatory has listed IUCN as key partner)

# *Replicability of PAGEV*



## *interventions*

- The creation of buffer zones initiated by PAGEV is being replicated by the Regional Directorates of Agriculture and other community based projects from the regions straddling the border between Burkina Faso and Ghana as part of support to communities to improve small-scale irrigation for food security.

## **Further information at:-**

<http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/cwaro/programmes/peauzh/index.cfm>

[http://www.gwpforum.org/gwp/library/Running\\_Water\\_N16.pdf](http://www.gwpforum.org/gwp/library/Running_Water_N16.pdf)

**THANKS**