



Document from the 7th Africa Water Week,
held in Libreville, Gabon, 29 October – 2
November 2018

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practice in the provision, use and
management of water resources for
sustainable social and economic
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Council on Water



PLENARY SESSION DAILY REPORT
(RAPPORT JOURNALIER DE SESSION PLÉNIÈRE)
‘7TH AFRICA WATER WEEK’
« 7^{IE}ME SEMAINE AFRICAINE DE L’EAU »
29 OCT. – 02 NOV. 2018

No.	AWW7-2018SS/11	Version No.	V1r0			Report Date: (Date du rapport)	30-10-2018
Date:	30-10-2018	Time: (Heures)	9:00 AM	to	10:40 AM	Language: (Langue)	French
Theme:	Toward Achieving Water Security and Safely Managed Sanitation for Africa						
French theme	‘Vers la Sécurité de l’Eau et des Services d’Assainissement gérés en toute sécurité pour l’Afrique’						
Sub-theme: (Sous-thème)	Water governance: reengineering IWRM (Integrated Water Resources Management), the Link Approach in Action						
Session No.	SS11	Title: (Titre)	Fostering Scientific and Technical Capacities and Competencies in Africa’s Water Sector through the AU-NEPAD Water Centers of Excellence.				
Country: (Pays)	GABON	City: (Ville)	Libreville	Location: (Lieu)	Stade de l’Amitié Sino-Gabonaise, ANGONDJE		
Rapporteur (Rapporteur):	Ms Claudia Ondo				Technical Partner: (Partenaire technique)	SASI GABON	
Further details: (Informations complémentaires)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint Presentation (YES) : SS11_PowerPoint Presentation • Technical Documentation (NO) 						
Abbreviations and acronyms: (Sigles et abréviations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNESCO – The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization • UNESCO-IHP – UNESCO International Hydrological Programme • SANWATCE – Southern African Network • CEANWATCE – Central/Eastern Africa Network • NEPAD – New Partnership for Africa’s Development • AU – African Union • IWRM – Integrated Water Resources Management • REC – Regional Economic Commission • RBO – River Basin Organization • WEF – Water, Energy, Food and Environment 						

IDENTIFICATION OF THE LEAD CONVENER AND CONTACT (IDENTIFICATION DES RESPONSABLES ET CONTACTS)

Lead Convener (Responsable):	UNESCO - IHP
Co-convener (Coresponsable):	Joint Research Centre - European Commission
Contact:	Murray Biedler, UNESCO Liaison Office in Brussels, Belgium

SPEAKER IDENTIFICATION (IDENTIFICATION DES INTERVENANTS)

Moderator (Modérateur):	Murray Biedler, UNESCO
Speakers (Intervenants):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paolo Ronco – European Commission • Nico Elema - SANWATCE • Jayakumar Ramasamy - UNESCO • Awa Niang Fall, WANWATCE • Zeleke Agide Dejen – CEANWATCE • Anton Earle – SIWI

SESSION OBJECTIVES (OBJECTIFS DE LA SESSION)

- Presentation of the ACEWATER programme and its roles and responsibilities
- Presentation of the challenges related to the building of human capacities in the water sector and the capacities of educational institutions.

SESSION PLAN (PLAN DE SESSION)

- Presentation of the AU-NEPAD Centres of Excellence
- Each speaker presents their findings, challenges, demands, general constraints and prospects with a view to human and scientific capacity building.
- Q&A session

SESSION SUMMARY (RÉSUMÉ DE LA SESSION)

- The twenty (20) Centres of Excellence are organised into three regional networks representing West, South and East Africa. They provide a platform for dialogue and collaboration with policy makers' representatives. Their core mission is to promote sustainable capacity development at the institutional, higher, educational, technical, technical, scientific and professional levels in the water sector through the network of AU-NEPAD Centres of Excellence.

There is some degree of momentum in the dialogue among both scientific and political stakeholders. At the scientific level, which is represented by the network of Centres of Excellence, the decision-making process is supported by scientific evidence, tools and skills development, while the political level actively contributes to the definition of needs, priorities and strategies at the regional level.

The Centres of Excellence have a mandate to meet these institutional policy requirements by providing robust tools and scientific knowledge in various WEFE-related thematic areas, and by supporting national frameworks for higher education and vocational training in these sectors.

As for the political level, it is represented by AMCOW at various geographical and institutional levels on the continent and by RECs and RBOs at regional level. AMCOW supported the ACEWATER2 initiative by taking two formal decisions explicitly requesting the Centres of Excellence to provide support in addressing professional and scientific capacity development issues at continental level, both at the technical education (vocational training) and higher education (university) levels. RBOs and RECs actively participate in project activities and have provided relevant support by explaining specific water resources needs, from the WEFE perspective, including shortfalls in technical and scientific capacity to be addressed by the Centres of Excellence.

All activities are implemented in cooperation frameworks governed by MOUs and agreements with RECs and RBOs. The HCD programme implemented by IHP-UNESCO, with the development of common sectoral priorities and national frameworks for skills development, will be followed by concrete implementation at national level. The three regional networks, respectively representing West Africa, Southern Africa and Central Africa, are currently working on major river basins in Africa to assess the WEFE link. The West African network covers the Niger and Senegal river basins, while the Southern network covers the Zambezi River. The basins were selected in accordance with the needs and priorities of the RECs.

- The main challenges facing the sector are infrastructure, human resources and finance. The most difficult challenge relates to human resources: there is a deficit in human resources and technicians have not received adequate training.

Panel discussion: What are the roles of the NEPAD Water Centres of Excellence, Regional Economic Commissions and River Basin Organisations?

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (QUESTIONS ET RÉPONSES)

Question No.	1	Author (Auteur):	Daniel Sighomnou, WMO
Wording (Libellé):	The technical staff is shortage a serious problem. The institutions that used to train hydrological technicians have stopped. It has been said that the institutions have run out of money. If we provide them with the necessary funds tomorrow, what will they do? Will they be able to start training technicians again to collect data, which form the foundation for what we are working on?		
		ANSWERS (RÉPONSES)	Speakers (Intervenants)
No answer from speakers			-

Question No.	2	Author (Auteur):	Guy Maillaux, organisation name not provided
Wording (Libellé):	Yes, we train people. Yes, they can be qualified, but young people need practical experience. Despite being educated, young people need to go through internships before they have the opportunity to work. However, internships are not well organised. What are the organisations doing to address this situation?		
		ANSWERS (RÉPONSES)	Speakers (Intervenants)
We have tried to go beyond the concept of internships and focus on entrepreneurship. By investing in specific areas, we create opportunities in the field and young people can benefit and participate in development and growth.			Anton Earle

Question No.	3	Author (Auteur):	Mamadou Diallo, Regional Science Officer for UNESCO in Central Africa
Wording (Libellé):	There is no network or subnetwork in Central Africa. However, challenges exist in the Lake Chad Basin, the Congo Basin, the Ogouée-Ntem Basin, etc. What strategies are proposed to reach Central Africa?		
		ANSWERS (RÉPONSES)	Speakers (Intervenants)
We did not intend to exclude certain regions within our network of centres of excellence. When creating this network, we issued a continent-wide call for applications. The selection and evaluation process was led by the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), UNESCO and the European Commission. The process was essentially based on scientific excellence in terms of production, control and knowledge. The issues of good governance and financial capacity were also taken into account. Only 4 of the 10 applications received were successful.			Paolo Ronco

CONCLUSIONS OF THE SESSION (CONCLUSIONS DE LA SESSION)

- We need to reflect on the lessons learned and consider how human capacity shortfalls can be addressed in a different way.