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

This material is shared as a learning resource to promote awareness and good practice in the provision, use and management of water resources for sustainable social and economic development and maintenance of African ecosystems.

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PLENARY SESSION DAILY REPORT
(RAPPORT JOURNALIER DE SESSION PLÉNIÈRE)
'7TH AFRICA WATER WEEK'
« 7IEME SEMAINE AFRICAINE DE L'EAU »
29 OCT. – 02 NOV. 2018

No.	**AWW7-2018SS21/21**	**Version No.**	V1r0		**Report Date:** (Date du rapport)	30-10-2018	
Date:	30-10-2018	**Time:** (Heures)	4:05 PM	to	5:30 PM	**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 Security: Infrastructure, Investment and Innovation						
Session No.	SS21	**Title:** (Titre)	Hydro Climate Services for Water Security				
Country: (Pays)	GABON	**City:** (Ville)	Libreville	**Location:** (Lieu)	Stade de l'Amitié Sino-Gabonaise, Angondje		
Rapporteurs (Rapporteurs):	Brel-Maurel Mickongo Moukakou			**Technical Partner:** (Partenaire technique)	SASI GABON		
Further details: (Informations complémentaires)	• PowerPoint Presentation (YES) Hydro-climate services; AGRHYMET_7WWA_UNESCO; Presentation-OMM; Status Hydro Climate Services in the LCBC. • Technical Documentation (NO).						
Abbreviations and acronyms: (Sigles et abréviations)	• WHYCOS: World Hydrological Cycle Observing Service. • AGRHYMET: Agronomy, Hydrology and Meteorology. • IWRM: Integrated Water Resources Management. • NMHSs: National Meteorological and Hydrological Services.						

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

Lead Convener (Responsable):	UNESCO-IHP
Co-convener (Coresponsable):	
Contact:	

SPEAKER IDENTIFICATION (IDENTIFICATION DES INTERVENANTS)

Moderator (Modérateur):	Abou Amani
Speakers (Intervenants):	• Daniel Sighomnou, Scientific Officer, World Meteorological Organization • Abou Amani, UNESCO • Mohammed Bila, Lake Chad Basin Commission • Mohamed Hamatan, AGRHYMET

SESSION OBJECTIVES (OBJECTIFS DE LA SESSION)

The overall aim of the session is to increase knowledge about climatological and hydrological services and water security in Africa.

Session Plan (Plan de session)

- Presentation by Daniel Sighomnou
- Presentation by Abou Amani
- Presentation by Mohamed Hamatan
- Presentation by Mohammed Bila

Session Summary (Résumé de la session)

- During this meeting on hydro climate services for water security, four speakers took the floor to address the participants in turn.

- Daniel Sighomnou was the first to make his presentation. His contribution included a state-of the-art review and outlook focusing on data collection systems. He revealed that African countries, and especially West African countries, experienced difficulties gathering hydrological data. Indeed, hydrological services have stopped operating in certain African countries since the 1980s, due to the high cost of hydrological monitoring. Although hydrometric monitoring networks are essential, they remain insufficient. The question at this time is whether the old projects and the old data gathered are still reliable in the light of the climate change that has been observed.

- Hydrological data collection systems such as WHYCOS and the Global Hydrometry Support Facility are useful tools; their objectives include: (1) Reinforcing and maintaining hydrological monitoring systems around the world. (2) Encouraging the use of hydrological data in decision making based on reliable data, support for IWRM and disaster risk reduction. (3) Facilitating operational utilisation of innovative hydrometric technologies by NMHSs, targeting four strategic priority areas, namely: capacity building on hydrometric monitoring, integration of hydrometric innovation, connecting the NMHSs community and serving as a hydrometric benchmark. He also pointed out that hydrological monitoring provides support for addressing water challenges. Effective development projects and decision making are impossible without good quality data.

- Mr Abou Amani then took the floor. He stated that hydro climate services were vital tools for water security. According to his definition, water security is “the ability of a population to conserve access to adequate quantities of water of an acceptable quality to preserve the health of humans and ecosystems through their hydrographic basin and ensure effective protection of lives and property against water risks – floods, landslides, land subsidence and drought”.

- He also pointed out the importance of hydro climate services:
  - Providing decision-makers with significant ecological data,
  - Increasing knowledge and innovation in order to meet water security challenges.

- Water science can support informed decision making, it therefore has an important position alongside other national policies. Credible data are required to support sector advocacy, stimulate political commitment, inform decision making and trigger well-targeted investments with a view to optimising gains in the areas of health, the environment and economics.
- The International Hydraulic Programme (IHP) promotes intelligent decision making. It improves networking with a view to knowledge sharing, supports capacity building and education to empower local communities, develops data, tools and methodologies, and promotes regional and international cooperation.
- Above all, water science allows us to assess the impact of climate change. With the help of several tools, initiatives and programmes, it can be used to monitor and forecast droughts and floods. Tools such as the G-WADI GeoServer have already proved successful in Pakistan during the floods of 2010. It is important to provide tools for exchanging data in order to enhance resilience in a changing climate.
- Mr Mohamed Hamatan presented the AGRHYMET Regional Centre, which is an institution specialising in production of operational information for decision making in the areas of agro-meteorology, hydrology, meteorology and food security, which also provides continuous training leading to certification.

- He also noted that the AGRHYMET Regional Centre (ARC) works in synergy with national government services and regional organisations. It has respondents in all ECOWAS countries, which make up the ANC, the AGRHYMET National Components. These components include government services focusing on agriculture, meteorology, water and forests, herding, plant protection, hydraulics, and the environment, as well as NGOs.
- He also added that the centre has a regional database system using satellite data. After presenting several satellite data captures, the speaker explained that AGRHYMET's aim was to ensure that the country (Burkina) would no longer be caught unawares by drought and to achieve food security.
- The challenges facing AGRHYMET that were highlighted during the presentation included: capacity building for MWGs (multidisciplinary working groups) to increase the quality and dissemination of climate services, modernise hydro climate data collection networks, support improved seasonal forecasts and their distribution to end users, support the extension of adaptation of hydrological models to all West African basins.
- Mr Mohammed Bila addressed the issue of climate and hydrological risks by showing pictures of floods in Chad in 2012, and presenting a history of flooding in the country in 2012, 2013 and 2010. He recalled that databases on precipitation and run-off dated back to 1952.
- He highlighted the following points regarding the challenges facing the Lake Chad Basin Commission:
  - Up-to-date information needs to be obtained in a timely and regular fashion, without gaps;
  - The agreement on data sharing and exchanges is not applied;
  - There is a lack of continuity in permanent specialists' (meteorologist, hydrologist) attendance at annual meetings of the technical expert committee;
  - Failure of climate experts to attend meetings of the technical expert committee;
  - Irregular meetings of the technical expert committee on issues such as "Promoting a mutual approach to water management".
- The recommendations he issued included:
  - Strengthening collaboration between meteorological services in neighbouring countries to improve hydro climate monitoring.
  - Launching of an annual regional experts' meeting on hydro climate services.
  - Implementing the agreement on sharing and exchanging data should be on the agenda of the regional experts' meeting.

Questions and Answers (questions et réponses)

Question No.	1	**Author** (Auteur):	Abou Amani
Wording (Libellé)**:**	How can awareness be raised in leaders on the importance of funding networks?		
ANSWERS (RÉPONSES)			**Speakers** (Intervenants)
National actors are required to influence national policies. Water resource management plans should take account of these hydrological projects.			Prof. Amadou Hama Maiga

Question No.	2	**Author** (Auteur):	Abou Amani
Wording (Libellé)**:**	Is it possible to reinforce training at AGRHYMET?		
ANSWERS (RÉPONSES)			**Speakers** (Intervenants)
Continuing training at AGRHYMET is always available, and now we even have Masters programmes. These training courses are motivated by countries that understand the importance of hydrology. The AGRHYMET Regional Centre opens training courses in response to needs.			Mohamed Hamatan

Conclusions of the Session (conclusions de la session)

- No conclusion