



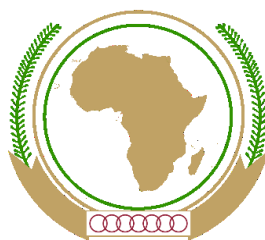
Document from the 7<sup>th</sup> Africa Water Week,  
held in Libreville, Gabon, 29 October – 2  
November 2018

*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.*

*Copyright for this material rests with the authors.*



A knowledge asset of the African Ministers'  
Council on Water



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

<b>No.</b>	<b>AWW7-2018SS/34</b>	<b>Version No.</b>	01r0			<b>Report Date:</b> (Date du rapport)	01/11/2018
<b>Date:</b>	01/11/2018	<b>Time:</b> (Heures)	200 PM	to	3:42 PM	<b>Language:</b> (Langue)	French
<b>Theme:</b>	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’						
<b>Sub-theme:</b> (Sous-thème)	Choices, Approaches and Actions for Safely Managed Sanitation in Africa by 2030						
<b>Session No.</b>	34	<b>Title:</b> (Titre)	Contextual Analysis of Sanitation in Gabon and Perspectives (SDG Related)				
<b>Country:</b> (Pays)	GABON	<b>City:</b> (Ville)	Libreville	<b>Location:</b> (Lieu)	Stade de l’Amitié Sino-Gabonaise à ANGONDJE		
<b>Rapporteur</b> (Rapporteur):	Erica MAGANGA LOUEMBA				<b>Technical Partner:</b> (Partenaire technique)	SASI GABON	
<b>Further details:</b> (Informations complémentaires)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PowerPoint Presentation (YES) : 2 Présentation Assainissement_Gabon AMCOW</li> <li>• Technical Documentation Technique (NO) :.</li> </ul>						
<b>Abbreviations and Acronyms:</b> (Sigles et abréviations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals</li> <li>• GWP: Global Water Partnership</li> </ul>						

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

<b>Lead Convener</b> (Responsable):	Ministry of Water and Energy in Gabon
<b>Co-convener</b> (Coresponsable):	
<b>Contact:</b>	Victor BOUMONO MOUKOUMI <a href="mailto:boumono@yahoo.fr">boumono@yahoo.fr</a>

**SPEAKER IDENTIFICATION (IDENTIFICATION DES INTERVENANTS)**

<b>Moderator</b> (Modérateur):	No moderator
<b>Speakers</b> (Intervenants)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Director of Water of Gabon</li> <li>• Sanitation Director of Senegal</li> <li>• Central Africa GWP Representative</li> <li>• Director of the Public Hygiene Institute of Gabon</li> </ul>

**SESSION OBJECTIVES (OBJECTIFS DE LA SESSION)**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current situation of the sanitation sector in Gabon: strength, weaknesses, challenges and perspectives.</li> </ul>
---

## **SESSION PLAN (PLAN DE SESSION)**

- Presentation by the Sanitation Director of Gabon
- Intervention #1 General Director of Water of Gabon (MAVOUNGOU Jocelyn)
- Intervention #2 Sanitation Director of Senegal
- Intervention #3 Central Africa GWP Representative
- Mr. EDZANG from the Public Hygiene Institute of Gabon

## **SESSION SUMMARY (RÉSUMÉ DE LA SESSION)**

- Current Situation in the Sanitation Sector of Gabon:

### Institutional Framework:

- The Ministry of Water and Energy manages domestic and industrial waste water;
- The Ministry of Infrastructures is in charge of the management of waste water and rain water collection and drainage;
- Local communities manage solid domestic waste;
- The Ministry of Environment is in charge of gaseous and used oil waste management;
- The Ministry of Health is responsible for medical waste management.

### Regulatory Framework:

It details all the judicial texts that regulate the sanitation sector in Gabon.

### Organizational Framework:

It is based on 4 axes: planification, execution, exploitation and maintenance.

### Infrastructures:

There exists a waste water treatment pilot station in Angondje, that could have been used to inspire sanitation in the entire country, but unfortunately, it is not functional due to lack of funding.

Building irrigation canals to relieve populations from inundations and aims to irrigate waste water.

### Sanitation Access Rate:

The national sanitation coverage rate is 32%. In rural areas, the sanitation rate remains insufficient while in urban areas the issue the lack of fecal sludge treatment stations. The emptying is therefore done in open air in public discharges, exposing populations to risk of diseases and pollution.

- Strength and Weaknesses:

The strength of Gabon's sanitation sector are within the existence of rules of law and decrees in favour of the preservation of the environment and sustainable development, and multiple studies have shown, have identified sanitation road maps. In addition, the State allocates part of its budget to sanitation.

However, there still exist weaknesses in the sector, such as the lack of centralization in terms of data collection and decision centres scattering, which the lack of efficient collaboration as a consequence. The lack of national institutions dedicated to the training and research on water and sanitation is to deplore, which leads to a lack of interest from the youth, whom are the future of the sector.

- Challenges for a Better Sanitation Management:

As challenges for the sanitation sector in Gabon, we can raise the governance issues, the absence of funding which leads to the non-accomplishment of certain major projects, and the lack of population implication .

- Perspectives:

Increase the budgets allocated to sanitation, update existing studies that are not always in phase with recent data, review organic texts, create training centres dedicated to water and sanitation professions, and implement an auto financing mechanism in the sector.

- Q&A:

The Q&A period consisted of interventions from the panellists and experience sharing from the audience.

Panellist interventions:

- Senegal’s Sanitation Director and the GWP Representative raised the importance of mutualising the efforts in sectors linked to sanitation and to carry strong actions to obtain more funding from the State, in order to get closer to reaching objectives and to motivate populations to engage, and take action through information campaigns. They have also raised the issue of lack of engagement from the Ministry of Economics of Gabon.
- Mr. EDZANG pointed the efforts of the State for the development of the sanitation sector through the presence within the public administration, of a Public Hygiene and Sanitary Engineering Corps, which has trained 572 sanitation officers to this day.
- Gabon’s Water General Director elaborated on the financial aspect or the State implication and specified that for most infrastructures funded by the State, in particular the Ministry of Finance (this seemed common knowledge for nationals and less understood by other participants, thus the clarification from the GWP Representative)

Experience sharing:

- Two participants, beneficiaries from the African Water Fund (AWF) from Sokode (Togo) discussed the building of latrines in households, precising that the program was made possible thanks to the population’s full participation and engagement; they have understood the importance of sanitation without having to wait for the State’s implication.  
The same story was shared by a participant from Burkina Faso who discussed about popular engagement.
- The Director of Equipment and Construction (Gabon) classified the Ministry of Economics as a stakeholder of different commissions aiming at obtaining funding, but the issues lies in the concretisation level or funding release, and that leads populations to not need to wait for the State.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (QUESTIONS ET RÉPONSES)**

<b>Question No.</b>		<b>Author (Auteur):</b>	
<b>Wording (Libellé):</b>			
<b>ANSWERS (RÉPONSES)</b>		<b>Speakers (Intervenants)</b>	

**CONCLUSIONS OF THE SESSION (CONCLUSIONS DE LA SESSION)**

Gabon’s Water General Director concluded the session by recommending that Man be put at the core of sanitation, along with the correct level of pricing in order to receive funding outside the State’s, and initiate awareness raising campaigns, at the popular level and at the political level so that Ministries of Finance can plan the allocation of more funds to the sector.