



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
development and maintenance of African
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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/35	Version No.	01r0			Report Date: (Date du rapport)	01/11/2018
Date:	01/11/2018	Time: (Heures)	2:15 PM	to	3:40 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 Governance: IWRM Reengineering, the Nexus Approach.						
Session No.	35	Title: (Titre)	Promote Sustainable Underground Water Resources Management in the IWRM Context (OBF/F, CER)				
Country: (Pays)	GABON	City: (Ville)	Libreville	Location: (Lieu)	Stade de l’Amitié Sino-Gabonaise à ANGONDJE		
Rapporteur (Rapporteur):	Henri Georges MADYBA				Technical Partner: (Partenaire technique)	SASI GABON	
Further details: (Informations complémentaires)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint Presentation (YES) : Broda_WHYMAP_AWW_v3 ; STAS_MCCM_ORASECOM ; GW in RBOs ; • Technical Documentation Technique (NO) 						
Abbreviations and Acronyms: (Sigles et abréviations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IWRM: Integrated Water Resources Management • PWHP: Plan of the Word Hydraulic Program 						

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

Lead Convener (Responsable):	UNESCO-PHI
Co-convener (Coresponsable):	AMCOW, BGR, UNECE
Contact:	Tales Carvalho Resende (t.carvalho-resende@unesco.org)

SPEAKER IDENTIFICATION (IDENTIFICATION DES INTERVENANTS)

Moderator (Modérateur):	Jayakumar Ramasamy (UNESCO)
Speakers (Intervenants)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Tales Carvalho Resende (UNESCO-PHI) • Mr. Stefan Broda, Federal Natural Resources and Geoscience Institute, Berlin (Allemagne). • Mr. Papa Ndiounga Ndiaye, Expert in Underground Water Resources Networks, Senegal • Mr. Rapule Pule, Water Resources Specialist (ORASECOM)

SESSION OBJECTIVES (OBJECTIFS DE LA SESSION)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the sustainable management of underground water in the IWRM framework in lake and river basins organisations, regional economic commissions and/or transboundary underground water management cooperation frameworks.

- Make Africa's underground water resources more "visible" for water managers that are obligated to manage them in a sustainable way, sensitize on the importance of underground water resources for Africa.
- Raise awareness on the importance of underground water in Africa.

SESSION PLAN (PLAN DE SESSION)

- The motivations behind the International Hydrogeological Program
- The underground water resource governance in transboundary aquifers project
- The PWHP Products
- Mapping Africa's Underground water resources
- Aquifer Productivity
- Challenges and recommendations

SESSION SUMMARY (RÉSUMÉ DE LA SESSION)

- The motivations behind the International Hydrogeological Program
 - Awareness raising on underground water (industrialized and non-industrialized countries' governments and water experts)
 - General Overview on potential risks (drought due to climatic change)
 - Worldwide complete coverage with the transboundary aquifers system
 - Globally harmonize underground water in Africa and the rest of the world
 - Contribute to the global efforts to better study and manage aquifer resources (implication of financial institutions, contributions from water experts and government action)
 - Underground water as growing issues of water scarcity (water use and management through the implementation of a transboundary aquifer system)

- The underground water resource governance in transboundary aquifers project
 - Funding from the Swiss Cooperation and Development Agency
 - Implementation by UNESCO's National Hydraulic Program

With transboundary aquifers in Central Asia, Central America and Southern Africa, as principal objectives.

- PWHP Products
 - Underground Resources and vulnerability maps
 - Explanatory notes or pamphlets
 - Analyses
 - Web maps viewer and services
 - Data download

- Aquifer Productivity
 - Highly productive porous aquifers
 - Average productive porous aquifers
 - Limited or local underground water aquifers
 - Underground water-less layer

- Challenges and recommendations

Challenges:

- Transboundary aquifer management must begin at the national level.
- A solid judicial institution base at the national level will trigger transboundary aquifer cooperation frameworks.
- The domestic underground water governance framework must either review and improve laws on water or complete the laws on water with regulation.
- Reinforcing national capacities in implementation is necessary to support cooperation.

Recommendations:

- Call on regional institutions, whose mandates cover underground water, to pay particular attention to transboundary aquifers.
- Rely on capacities and institutions, national governments and seek to create synergies to reach a common objectives, for example: transboundary aquifer exploitation through cooperation.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (QUESTIONS ET RÉPONSES)

Question No.	1	Author (Auteur):	Participant
Wording (Libellé):	How can we bring African States to look at the importance of underground water?		
ANSWERS (RÉPONSES)			Speakers (Intervenants)
The issue with underground water management is important but African States should implement possibilities, so that institutions can be triggered to execute underground water management strategies, which would greatly help those governments in water management.			Mr. Papa Ndiounga Ndiaye, Expert in Underground Water Resources Networks, Senegal

Question No.	2	Author (Auteur):	Participant
Wording (Libellé):	How can we solve the watershed issues? Is it possible to help African States in the context of aquifers?		
ANSWERS (RÉPONSES)			Speakers (Intervenants)
On that point, countries should reach agreements with financial institutions according to the needs in underground water and watershed management to find solutions. Currently, the supports are possible, but require legislation from African countries to advance the process.			Mr. Rapule Pule, Water Resources Specialist (ORASECOM)

Question No.	3	Author (Auteur):	Participant
Wording (Libellé):	What can we do for African States who want to adopt aquifers, to obtain funds for the implementation of the strategy?		
ANSWERS (RÉPONSES)			Speakers (Intervenants)
The financial issue remains important, but African States are not really conscious about the underground water resources, and it may take time for them to pay attention to underground water.			ORASECOM Specialist

Question No.	4	Author (Auteur):	Participant
Wording (Libellé):	Some countries may not have the correct information on underground water and aquifers management, what do you provide in that case?		
ANSWERS (RÉPONSES)			Speakers (Intervenants)
About the lack of knowledge, a sensitization is done with the objective of making State understand the importance of underground water management, but also for surface water management. However, for things to properly occur, it is necessary that countries activate themselves at the legislative level to accelerate the adoption of management strategies.			Tales Carvalho Resende (UNESCO-PHI)

CONCLUSIONS OF THE SESSION (CONCLUSIONS DE LA SESSION)

- The management of underground water constitutes a major point for the world but especially Africa. Following analyses conducted by international experts, it was shown that Africa remains in the incapacity of adopting reliable strategies, necessary to realize the importance of existent use of underground water for a better perpetual and non-risky development. However, challenges such as the lack of leadership from African governments and there remains the strong will of political actors to resign in implementing laws in vigour for the effective transboundary aquifer effective application. However, financial institutions remain ready to play their role in Africa's development in terms of underground water management.