

Current Technical Partners

ECOWAS/WRCU
France
Sida/IUCN/PAGEV
GLOWA Volta Project
UNEP/GEF Volta Transboundary Project
Volta HYCOS
International Water Management Institute

Future Activities

Based on VBA's specific objectives, notably:

1. To organize and reinforce consultations among the riparian countries of the Volta and also between these countries and all the development partners interested in the development of natural resources of the Volta Basin;
2. To harmonize the national policies relating to the management of the water resources of the Volta basin, through the adoption and enforcement of Integrated Water Resources Management throughout the basin;
3. To mobilize the human, technical, and financial resources necessary for undertaking studies, research activities and works aimed at sustainable management of water resources for the socio-economic development of the Volta Basin;
4. To coordinate studies, research activities and works initiated in the basin for the development of the water resources of the basin;
5. To create and or improve the tools and networks for the collection, processing, storage and dissemination of data and information necessary for the activities of scientific research, planning, development and management of the natural resources of the basin;
6. To promote cooperation between the Authority and other similar regional and international organs;
7. To authorize the development of infrastructure and projects planned by the States Parties which could have substantial impact on the water resources of the basin;
8. To develop joint projects and works.

Donors Consultative Group

The formation of a Framework of Financial Partners of the Volta Basin, Donors Consultative Group (DCG), stems from a Ministerial resolution in June 2006, which called on the international community to provide support for the VBA, requesting specifically African Development Bank/Africa Water Facility, ECOWAS and France to guide the formal constitution of a Financial Support Group. The current membership includes Sida, GTZ, Danida, DFID, World Bank and the European Commission. The VBA welcomes other organizations to join the DCG

Contact



Dr. Charles A. Biney
Ag. Executive Director

M. Samuel Yao Atikpo
Ag. Deputy Executive Director

Volta Basin Authority
10 P. O. Box 13621 Ouagadougou 10
Burkina Faso

cbiney@gmail.com;
samuel.atikpo@gmail.com or
secretariat.abv@gmail.com

Tel.: +226 50376067
Fax: +226 50376486



Volta Basin Authority



Background

The Volta is a transboundary river, which is shared by six countries in West Africa; Bénin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Togo. It stretches from north to south over a distance of 1850 km with a basin covering an area of approximately 400,000 km².



The basin area in the six countries varies. It ranges from 2.48% in Côte d'Ivoire to 42.9% in Burkina Faso (Table 1). On the other hand, while the Volta Basin covers 70.1% of the land area of Ghana, it dwindles to 1.0% in Mali.

Proportions of Volta Basin

Country	Area of Basin (km ²)	% of Basin Area	% of Country Area
Bénin	13,590	3.41	12.1
Burkina Faso	171,105	42.9	62.4
Côte d'Ivoire	9,890	2.48	3.1
Ghana	165,830	41.6	70.1
Mali	12,430	3.12	1.0
Togo	25,545	6.41	45.0
Total	398,390	100	



With a population of about 19 million, the Volta Basin has become of increasing importance in supporting development notably, for electricity production, irrigation, fishery and domestic water.

Establishment

March 2004 – a Volta Basin Technical Committee was created to prepare for the establishment of a Volta Basin organization;

06 December 2005 – the Ministers of water resources of the riparian countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Ouagadougou to create a Volta Basin Authority;

17 July 2006 – in Lomé, the Ministers approved a Convention and Statutes for the VBA, with its headquarters in Ouagadougou, and appointed an Interim Executive Directorate;

19 January 2007 – the 1st Assembly of the Heads of State signed the VBA Convention in Ouagadougou

16 November 2007 – the 1st meeting of the Council of Ministers in Ouagadougou signed the Statutes of the VBA.

Ratification

- Burkina Faso on 30 October 2007 in Ouagadougou, and
- Mali on 24 April 2008 in Bamako

Mandate

The Volta Basin Authority has a mandate to:

1. Promote permanent consultation tools among the parties for the development of the basin;
2. Promote the implementation of integrated water resources management and the equitable distribution of the benefits resulting from their various utilization;
3. Authorize the development of infrastructure and projects planned by the stakeholders and which could have substantial impact on the water resources of the basin;
4. Develop joint projects and works;
5. Contribute to poverty alleviation, the sustainable development of the Parties in the Volta Basin, and for better socioeconomic integration in the sub-region.

The permanent administrative organs are:

1. The Assembly of Heads of State and Government;
2. The Council of Ministers in charge of Water Resources;
3. The Forum of the Parties involved in the Volta basin development;
4. The Committee of Experts;
5. The Executive Directorate of the Authority.

Priority Technical Activities

Observatory of Water Resources of the Volta Basin
EU Water Initiative for Volta Basin
Pre-investment studies