

**AUTORITE DU BASSIN DE LA VOLTA**

**VOLTA BASIN AUTHORITY**

Bénin- Burkina Faso- Côte d'Ivoire- Ghana- Mali- Togo



**VOLTA BASIN AUTHORITY**

**STRATEGIC PLAN**  
**2010-2014**

January 2011 (**Inner cover**)

## Message from Chairman, Volta Basin Authority Council of Ministers

The Volta basin is important for the socio-economic development of the countries, which share its natural resources - Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Togo. In order to manage these resources equitably using the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management, the governments of the six countries signed a Convention on the Status of the Volta River and Establishment of the Volta Basin Authority on 17 January 2007. The basin is currently faced with many challenges including rapid population expansion, impacts of water development, climate change and poverty. Recognizing the important role that various partners in the basin continue to play towards sustainable management of water and related resources, as well as the need for the new Authority to build capacity and operate effectively, this first Strategic Plan, covering the period 2010 to 2014 is aimed at facilitating the VBA and its partners to focus their efforts on the development priorities of the Volta basin while optimizing the use of available resources. As a requisite for successful management of water and other natural resources, the involvement of all partners cannot be overemphasized. I therefore wish to invite all technical and financial partners and the various stakeholders to support the implementation of this Strategic Plan in order to ensure the sustainability of the resources of the basin for present and future generations.

**HE Laurent, Sedogo**

Minister of Agriculture and Hydraulics of Burkina Faso

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Recognizing the importance of coordinated management of shared natural resources, the Governments of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Togo signed a Convention on the Volta basin in January 2007 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. This Convention, which came into force on 14 August 2009, makes provision for the establishment of the Volta Basin Authority (VBA), an organization tasked to: *promote permanent consultation tools among the basin's stakeholders, promote the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and the equitable distribution of benefits, evaluate planned infrastructure development that impact the water resources of the basin, develop and implement joint projects and works and contribute to poverty alleviation, sustainable development and socio-economic integration of the sub-region.*

Many partners and projects are currently active in the Volta basin. These initiatives span a range of IWRM, environment and development issues and themes. To date, many of these activities are not well aligned with the VBA and are not well coordinated with other initiatives in the basin. There is therefore considerable risk of duplication of efforts between some of these initiatives.

Based on initial work by a consultant to draft a Strategic Plan, the UNEP/GEF Volta Project assisted the VBA to organize a Programming Workshop in Ouagadougou from 10 to 13 August 2009. The objective of this participatory review workshop was to establish a programming framework, which outlines the key priorities of the VBA and will facilitate the VBA and its partners to better focus their efforts in serving the needs and priorities of the Volta Basin while avoiding duplication of efforts. The draft Strategic Plan for the period 2010 to 2014 was approved by the VBA Council of Ministers during its 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting in Accra on 15 December 2009.

## 2.0 THE BASIN CONTEXT

The Volta River Basin is spread over parts of six West African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Togo). The basin covers an estimated area of 400,000 km<sup>2</sup> and the river flows for a total distance of 1,850 km.



**Political Map of the Volta Basin**

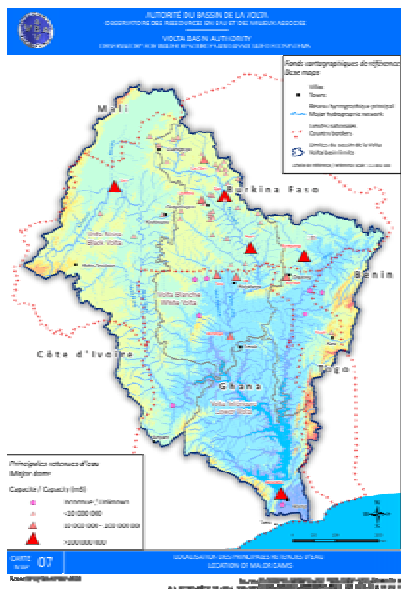
The basin area in the six countries varies. It ranges from 2.48% in Cote d'Ivoire to 42.9% in Burkina Faso. On the other hand, while the Volta basin covers 70.1% of the land area of Ghana and 62.4% of Burkina Faso, it dwindles to 1.0 % in Mali (Table 1).

**Table 1 Proportions of Volta Basin**

Country	Area of Basin (km <sup>2</sup> )	% of Basin Area	% of Country Area	% Population
<b>Bénin</b>	13,590	3.41	12.1	2.56
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	171,105	42.9	62.4	47.6
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	9,890	2.48	3.1	2.13
<b>Ghana</b>	165,830	41.6	70.1	35.8
<b>Mali</b>	12,430	3.12	1.0	3.35
<b>Togo</b>	25,545	6.41	45.0	8.55
<b>Total</b>	398,390	100		100

Source: Volta HYCOS, 2003

The major sub-basins are the Black Volta, White Volta, Oti River and the Lower Volta. Although the Oti or Pendjari sub-basin accounts for only about 18% of the total basin area (Table 2), it contributes about 26% of the annual flow into the Volta Lake. This is because its catchment is the most hilly and mountainous (>900 m) in the whole Volta basin and it receives higher rainfall than the northern part of the basin.



**Major Sub-Basins**

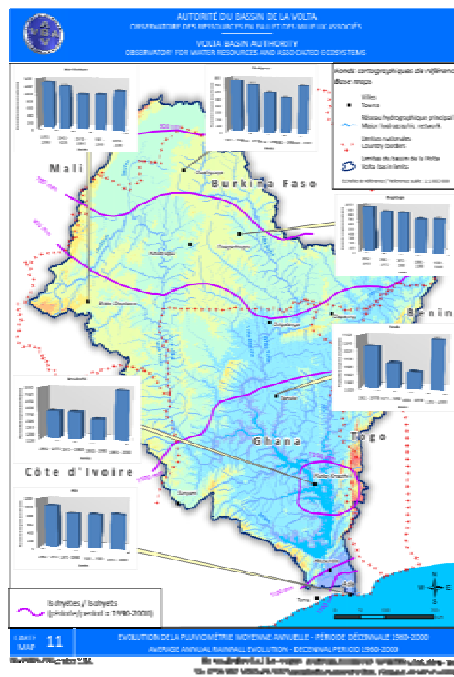
**Table 2 Characteristics of Major Sub-Basins**

Sub-basin	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Mean Annual Flow (Mm <sup>3</sup> )	% Contribution
White Volta	104,749	220	20
Black Volta	149,015	200	18
Oti	72,778	280	26
Other tributaries			36

(Source: Volta River Authority, 2010)

Groundwater potential varies over the basin. For example, the region that contains the headwaters of the Black Volta has a good groundwater potential while, at the other end, the Middle Voltaian Obosum Sediments in Ghana have generally a low groundwater potential. The mean yield from boreholes in the basin is relatively low, between 2 and 9 m<sup>3</sup>/h with an estimated annual recharge in the range of 2 to 16% of the annual precipitation (i.e. 17 to 136 mm/y). Overall, data on the occurrence of groundwater in the Volta basin is inadequate since there is no systematic monitoring of groundwater. The need to undertake location specific studies to support resource exploitation cannot be overemphasised.

The climate of the Volta Basin is characterized by great variability in rainfall distribution as a result of spatial variability, with a south-north gradient of increasing aridity and medium-term variability, with alternating dry and wet periods. There is also strong spatial and short-term variability within a given rainy season. Annual rainfall in the basin varies from about 500 mm in the upper parts of the basin in Mali and northern Burkina Faso to more than 1,100 mm in southern Ghana.

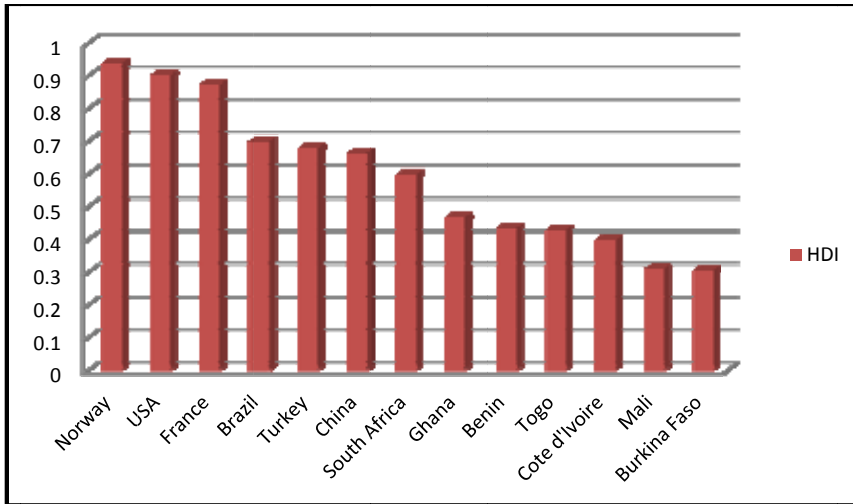


**Rainfall in the Volta Basin**

The major population areas in the basin include Ouagadougou, Tamale and Bolgatanga in the White Volta sub-basin and Bobo Dioulasso in the Black Volta sub-basin. Others are the Kara region of Togo in the Oti basin and in the lower reaches of the Volta Lake and Lower Volta River in southern Ghana. Estimates indicate that the basin population, which was 18.6 million in 2000, will increase to 33.9 million in 2025. The current high growth rate and the fact that between 64% and 88% of the basin population is rural and live on the natural resources constitute a challenge for their sustainable management.

In general, the riparian countries of the basin are generally poor have weak economies based mainly on export of primary commodities. The 2010 Human Development Report (HDI) of UNDP groups them in the Low Human Development bracket with Human Development Index below 0.5 compared to the world highest index of 0.938 of Norway.

Comment [CB1]: Missing from document



**Human Development Index of Volta Basin Countries Compared to Other Areas**

The major consumptive water uses in the Volta basin are domestic, crop irrigation and livestock production. Hydropower generation is the major non-consumptive use followed by fisheries while recreation and tourism are growing in importance. The water demand for domestic and industrial activities is projected to increase due to rapid population increases and industrial expansion with even higher increases expected for irrigation as more food needs to be produced for the expanding population and rain-fed agriculture becomes less reliable due to climate change. Thus increases in total water demand of more than 1000% are projected between 2000 and 2025.

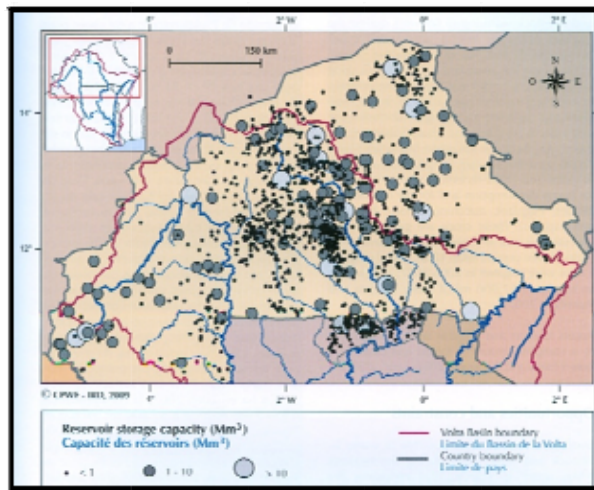
In the last fifty years, several large dams have been constructed in the Volta basin with the primary purpose of generating electricity but also to meet the increasing needs of the growing population and of agriculture and industries. In addition to the major dams at Akosombo, Kpong, Kompienga and Bagre, there are two new dams currently under construction in Burkina Faso and Ghana mainly for hydropower generation at Samandeni and Bui respectively. The two dams are both located in the Black Volta basin. Other dams in the basin include Ziga and Lery for water supply and irrigation respectively in Burkina Faso, the extension of the Lery Reservoir into Mali and several small dams in Togo, Benin and Côte d'Ivoire. In Ghana, the Tono, Bontanga and Veia dams located in the Volta basin are used mainly for irrigation purposes.



**Location of Major Dams in the Volta Basin (GLOWA Volta)**

There are many small reservoirs in the basin located especially in Burkina Faso but also in the northern part of Ghana. These serve multiple purpose uses, including dry season farming, livestock watering, fishery and domestic water requirements.

In all the riparian countries, there are plans to construct more dams in the Volta basin. Further expansion of small reservoirs in the northern part of the basin is also expected in the future.



**Distribution of Small Reservoirs – Northern Volta Basin**  
(Lemoalle and de Condappa 2009)

In spite of its socio-economic importance, development of rivers for hydropower and other uses in Africa, just as in other areas of the world, has also come at a high cost in terms of riverine communities and ecosystems. Water storage behind dams disrupts the natural variability in the flows that sustain floodplain agriculture, fishery production, groundwater replenishment and stabilization of beaches. This is quite evident in the Volta basin where traditional food production systems are quite dependent upon the annual replenishment of waters and nutrients to the floodplains, wetlands,

estuaries and deltas. Small reservoirs also contribute to the spread of some water related diseases in the basin including malaria and guinea worm infections.

Climate change is a major challenge to sustainable development in Africa. Although the continent contributes less than 4% of total greenhouse gas emissions, its countries are among the most vulnerable to climate change, which derives from multiple stresses coupled with low adaptive capacity. West Africa is among one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change because some of its physical and socio-economic characteristics predispose it in such a way as to be disproportionately affected. Such characteristics include the highly visible contrast between wetlands and arid zones and continuing poverty. Within the Volta basin, several studies such as those of GLOWA ([www.glowa.volta.de](http://www.glowa.volta.de)) and the Challenge Program for Water and Food ([www.waterandfood.org](http://www.waterandfood.org)) have predicted negative impacts including increasing temperatures, reduced rainfall and decreased availability of water resources, water quality deterioration, loss of biodiversity and spread of some water-related diseases. With water resources already stressed by non-climatic factors such as rapid population growth and development, pollution and deforestation, the impacts of climate change will further aggravate the situation. These impacts will also lead to negative socio-economic consequences, which if unmitigated, will tighten the poverty and disease cycle and bring further hardship to the population of the basin.

### **3.0 THE VOLTA BASIN AUTHORITY**

The Volta is a transboundary river system, which for many years remained one of the few large transboundary river basins in Africa without formal legal and institutional arrangements among the riparian countries for managing its resources. In order to institute measures for sustainable transboundary water resources management, the Ministers responsible for water resources of the riparian countries approved a draft Convention and Statutes of the VBA on 16 July 2006 in Lomé, Togo. The Convention was signed by the Heads of State of the riparian countries at their first assembly held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on 19 January 2007 and it finally came into force on 14 August 2009.

According to Article 6 of the Convention on the Status of the Volta River and Establishment of the Volta Basin Authority, the mandate of the Authority is to:

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

The mandate of the VBA is made operational by its Statutes, Article 2 of which defines the specific objectives. The pillars of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) are therefore spelt out with respect to the establishment of the necessary governance for dialogue, sharing of information, management of the resource through knowledge building, data compilation, improvement in expertise and understanding and also for the development of the basin through providing the necessary infrastructure for sustainable development of the population of the Volta basin.

The statutory organs of the Authority are:

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



To ensure effective international cooperation VBA has, in addition to the statutory organs, established a Technical and Financial Partners Consultative Group with the principal objective of promoting complementarity in the provision of technical and financial support to the VBA.

## VISION

The vision of the Volta Basin Authority is that of: *‘A basin shared by willing and cooperating partners managing the water resources rationally and sustainably for their comprehensive socio-economic development’.*

This vision, defined by the Member States and the major partners during the workshop, highlights the fundamental values of a Basin Authority focused on integrated management of watersheds. It implies provision of ample opportunity for dialogue and discussion among the stakeholders engaged in the development of the basin, a collective ownership of common interests, through collaboration and partnership.

## MISSION

The mission of the Volta Basin Authority is to *‘Promote permanent consultation and sustainable development of the water and related resources of the Volta basin for equitable distribution of benefits towards poverty alleviation and better socio-economic integration.’*

This synthesis of the main points of VBA’s mandate by participants of the workshop also takes into consideration its specific objectives and will be implemented according to the following agreed core values:

- Transparency;
- Teamwork;
- Mutual respect;
- Good governance;
- Gender and social equity;
- Efficiency.

## 5.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE VOLTA BASIN AUTHORITY

The Volta Basin Authority and its major partners have identified the following Strategic Objectives for the period 2010 to 2014:

- Strengthening policies, legislation and institutional framework;
- Strengthening the knowledge base of the basin;
- Coordination, planning and management;
- Communication and capacity building for all stakeholders;
- Effective and sustainable operations.

These strategic objectives (Table 3) constitute the medium term framework for intervention by the VBA and should be viewed in their interrelated form. The five-year strategic framework serves as a guideline for operationalising VBA in its early years of establishment at the organizational, technical, political and financial levels. It is also a reference document for all VBA partners to ensure:

- Common understanding of the orientation of VBA concerning its set up;
- Proactive involvement in terms of technical and financial support for the VBA;
- Identification of key priorities and avoidance of duplication of efforts through coordination.

(Table 3) Summary Specific Objectives, Expected Outcomes and Programme (2010-2014)

Expected Outcomes	Activities/projects	Deadline for Execution	Level of priority
<b>Strengthening of Policies, Legislation and Institutions</b>			
<b>1.1 Policies for good water governance guide VBA and its activities</b>	1.1.1 Ownership and internalization of water resources policies in West Africa and the Volta Basin States	5 years	2
	1.1.2 Assist member States as necessary to introduce IWRM into national legislations and harmonization of approaches where necessary.	5 years	2
<b>1.2 Legislation for water governance in the Volta basin established</b>	1.2.1 Draft a Water Charter for the Volta basin	To start in 1 <sup>st</sup> year and completed in 5 years	1
<b>1.3 All VBA organs are operationalized</b>	1.3.1 Establish and organize regular meetings of the statutory VBA organs (e.g., Council of Ministers, Forum of Parties...)	5 years	<b>1</b>
<b>Strengthen the Knowledge Base of the Volta basin</b>			
<b>2.1 The state of water and environmental resources is known</b>	2.1.1 Conduct inventory of water resources and their uses	Completed 3rd year	<b>1</b>
	2.1.2 Conduct studies on the environmental status of the basin including land use, biodiversity, climate change and socio-economic aspects in the basin.	Completed 3rd year	<b>1</b>
<b>2.2 Data management and sharing mechanisms are in place</b>	2.2.1 Support national institutions to strengthen or create qualitative and quantitative monitoring networks for surface and underground water and socio-economic conditions	5 years	2
	2.2.2 Support national institutions to strengthen monitoring and evaluation of the quality and quantity of surface and underground water and of socio-economic-conditions	5 years	2
	2.2.3 Finalize establishment of the observatory	5 years	<b>1</b>
<b>Coordination, Planning and Management</b>			
<b>3.1 Sustainable management and regulation of water resources</b>	3.1.1 The VBA or its organs (Experts/Technical Committee) direct sustainable water resources management initiatives in the basin	To be completed in 3 years	2
<b>3.2 Knowledge and coordination of projects</b>	3.2.1 Formulate a process for the identification, monitoring and dialogue in respect of projects	To be completed in 3 years	2
<b>3.3 A Plan for an environmental management and planning of the basin is launched</b>	3.3.1 Draft a sustainable Master Plan	To take off in year 1 and completed in year 5	<b>1</b>
<b>Communication and Capacity Building for All Stakeholders</b>			
<b>4.1 Through communication and dissemination of information, ensure a common understanding of the</b>	4.1.1 Develop and implement a communication plan that takes into account both technical information and general awareness raising tools such as:	To take off in year 1 and completed in year 3	<b>1</b>

Expected Outcomes	Activities/projects	Deadline for Execution	Level of priority
<b>functioning of the Volta basin</b>	-Production of documentary films; and -Identification of partnerships and networks for the dissemination of communication products		
<b>4.2 Capacity for all stakeholders to share and collaborate in the development of IWRM</b>	4.2.1 Develop and implement plan for stakeholder participation and capacity building	5 years	2
	4.2.2 Identify and establish partnerships and networks with stakeholder groups the basin (user groups NGOs, CBOs, farmers, industrialists, etc)	To be completed in 5 years	1
<b>Effective and Sustainable Operations of the VBA</b>			
<b>5.1 Ensure implementation of the Strategic Plan</b>	5.1.1 Monitoring and evaluation framework drafted and activities carried out regularly including mid-term and 2013 revision.	<b>In 5 years</b>	<b>1</b>
	5.1.2 Direct the implementation of the plan	In 5 years	1
<b>5.2 Financial resources and partnerships mobilized in support of VBA mandate</b>	5.2.1 Engage and extend the Donors Consultative Group network of technical and or financial partners	Start in year 1 and stabilized in 5 years	1
	5.2.2 VBA plays its role in the network of basin organizations	Start in year 1 then sustained	1
	5.2.3 Consolidate the internal funds of the VBA (States, donors, projects)	To be completed in 5th year and ongoing	1
<b>5.3 Human and material resources and administrative procedures developed to support implementation of VBA activities</b>	5.3.1 Headquarters built and furnished	To start in 1 <sup>st</sup> year and completed in 5 years	2
	5.3.2 Procedures for internal regulations established and implemented	To be completed in 3 years	2
	5.3.3 Qualified personnel recruited according to needs	To be completed in 2 <sup>nd</sup> year	1
	5.3.4 Training in basin management (administrative and technical) for VBA personnel, its focal structure and partners	To be completed in 5 years	2

Comment [CB2]: Missing from document

#### **4.1 *Strengthening of Policies, Legislation and Institutions***

The ratification of the VBA Convention by riparian countries implies a change in management of the basin and its related developmental and socio-economic problems. Through the VBA, the States will incorporate the basin approach into all aspects of national life: political, technical, financial and human, as the importance of the basin is recognized.

In addition to making its organs operational (Outcome 1.3) the task of the VBA includes drafting a comprehensive basin policy, which does not currently exist, but which is important to ensure sustainable development (Outcome 1.1). Good governance of water resources will necessarily involve gradual adjustments of national policies particularly in the areas of IWRM (Activity 1.1.2) and water policy (Outcome 1.2).

The preparation of a Water Charter will ensure the definition of common rules on water management, that is, the principles and modalities for the allocation of water in terms of its various uses, the rules for validating new projects that entail water use or generate pollutants, the modalities for the conservation of all aquatic environments and for participation by all the stakeholders in decision-making. The Water Charter will be the political and legal backbone of the VBA and will enable it to play its full role as a Basin Authority.

#### **4.2 *Strengthening of the Knowledge Base of the Basin***

Knowledge and scientific characterisation of the Volta basin is important for the development of a basin policy, which will among others, enable cohesion and coordination of development projects. The modalities for strengthening the knowledge base and for supporting national institutions will be done through the stages stated in Outcomes 2.1 and 2.2. There is the need to acquire and/or collect environmental data particularly those relating to water including specific socio-economic information on the Volta basin and then ensure that the data is organized and easy to update. Within the 5-year period, the VBA will establish its Observatory and make it operational.

#### **4.3 *Coordination, Planning and Management***

With regard to the operationalisation of this Strategic Plan, VBA shall establish the organizational mechanisms for the coordination of existing and future projects in the Volta Basin (Outcome 3.2), in addition to its traditional coordination role. To ensure success, this objective shall be linked to Strategic Objective 1 on Strengthening of Policies, Legislation and Institutions. Project coordination must be appreciated by all partners. Coordination can only be achieved if there are proactive exchanges between VBA and its partners.

The development of a sustainable development plan for the basin (Activity 3.3.1) shall be carried out in phases. The first phase will be the drafting of a Master Plan for Development and Sustainable Water Management (MPDSWM) in the basin. The MPDSWM is a logical follow-up to strengthening of knowledge base of the basin (Strategic Objective 2). The MPDSWM is the key planning tool, which together with the Water Charter will provide a solid framework within which the VBA can undertake its management and other necessary socio-economic development activities. The MPDSWM will be linked to the Strategic Action Plan being currently developed by the UNEP/GEF Volta Basin Project.

In relation to Strategic Objective 1, VBA shall also initiate the establishment of a Basin Management and Regulation Committee even though no joint engineering works have yet been started. Initially, the committee shall engage in dialogue with the various stakeholders to ensure that future structural works in the basin are managed in a coherent manner to optimize the hydrological and hydrodynamic operations in the Volta basin.

#### **4.4 Communication and Capacity Building for All Stakeholders**

Recognition of the VBA, ownership of the IWRM process, knowledge and governance of the basin cannot be achieved without a Communication Plan (Outcome 4.1) that will identify set targets and messages to be communicated. It is important to distinguish between general communications on the basin status and the more technical aspects relating to the operationalisation of the basin. Among others, a close relationship will be established with the products of the Observatory. For communication to be understood and appreciated by the major partners VBA shall outline a training scheme for current and future partners (Activity 4.2.2).

#### **4.5 Internal Capacity Building**

To ensure success of the other strategic objectives, VBA shall initiate a focused and qualitative capacity building process. The major areas will be on:

- Strong capacity (Activity 5.2.3) to develop and implement IWRM structural projects. The basic recruitment objective is to provide the VBA with the technical competence to ensure implementation of this strategic plan (Outcome 5.1).
- Financial autonomy to implement basic activities (Activity 5.3.3): In the process of creating a complex scheme such as management of a transboundary basin, VBA shall work towards developing adequate financial resources to ensure smooth operations in the institution as well as coordination of the various actions in the basin.

### **5.0 OPERATIONAL MEASURES**

The five Strategic Objectives presented above highlight the strategic development framework of the VBA for the period 2010 to 2014 and serves as a reference for the States and partners. The challenge for the VBA is to make operational all these interrelated strategic objectives while maintaining the core elements of its mission and mandate.

The following priorities shall enable VBA effectively undertake the major technical and institutional processes to ensure effectiveness in IWRM of the Volta basin:

- Develop its financial resources to enable it to fully carry out the basic studies and the daily institutional functions;
- Continue, launch and implement the following fundamental technical activities – finalize Observatory; develop Water Charter, launch and finalize the MPDSWM; formulate and implement Communication Plan;
- Establish and coordinate the national focal institutions;
- Recruit the necessary technical and administrative teams ;
- Promote partnerships with the major technical and financial partners.

#### **Financial Resources**

The VBA must be independent in its work in order to promote the development of the Volta Basin. In addition to consolidation of contributions by Member States, which is the basic source of finance, it is imperative to create an additional fund for both core technical studies and operations to execute other priority actions indicated above.

#### **Technical Studies**

The technical credibility of the VBA can only be achieved by presenting concrete elements to all the partners. It is also this credibility that will allow the VBA to play its political role among States in the basin, as they will genuinely feel supported in their national development efforts. The four activities proposed for the next 5 years, the Water Charter, Observatory, MPDSWM and Communication Plan all complement each another.

#### **Establishing VBA National Focal Institutions**

Article 10 of the VBA Statutes defines the framework for the creation of national focal

institutions. In view of the size of the basin and the number of countries involved (6), it is critical to ensure that there is a local working link between the Executive Directorate and the national focal institutions. The financial resources referred to above will serve as a basis for the establishment of the focal institutions and for making them operational.

**Recruitment of VBA Staff**

Staff recruitment will be according to needs of the Strategic Plan and not necessarily according to a predetermined organizational chart. After the first five years of operations of the VBA a revised organizational chart will be developed.

**Promoting Technical and Financial Partnerships**

As required in an IWRM process, stakeholder institutions constitute the backbone of VBA’s implementation of its policies and strategies. The institutions include those within the riparian countries that work together and with the VBA. They also include development partners who support various projects or programmes in varying time horizons. At country level, VBA, through its Focal Points, will strive to develop a number of strategic partnerships with development organizations such as NGOs, and government agencies with an implementation focus and substantial outreach to end users.

With the Framework for Cooperation of the Technical and Financial Partners Consultative Group developed by the VBA, their activities would be directed towards attracting more partners to support VBA activities. A crucial role of the Authority is to support the riparian countries to create a favourable environment for private sector participation both in the national and transboundary water management.

**6.0 BUDGET**

The estimated total budget for implementation of the Strategic Plan is FCFA 18,162,000,000 (approximately €27,687,787). Out of this total, FCFA 3,163,000 (€4,821,962), constituting 17%, is available in the form of the approved VBA 2010 budget and from funds for projects such as Volta HYCOS Project and VBA Observatory. The remaining FCFA 14,999,000,000 (€22,865,826) will have to be searched for.

**Table 4 Summary of Budget Estimates**

Activities/Projects	Budget Estimate (FCFA x10 <sup>6</sup> )					Total	%
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014		
1. Strengthening of Policies, Legislation and Institutions	125	422	641	409	145	1,829	10
2. Strengthen the Knowledge Base of the Volta Basin	1,324	2,827	1,750	0	0	5,901	32
3. Coordination, Planning and Management	33	630	570	470	470	2,713	12
4. Communication and Capacity Building for All Stakeholders	105	181	90	0	0	376	2
5. Effective and Sustainable Operations of the VBA	518	2,535	2,709	1,217	904	7,883	43
Total	2,105	6,595	5,760	2,183	1,1519	18,162	100
Budget Available	508	1,213	0	0	0	3,163	17
Budget to be Searched For	1,442	5,382	5,760	2,183	1,519	14,999	83

VBA will develop annual budget estimates on the basis of identified actions linked to the Strategic Plan to be funded by Member States and in relation to identified projects that require funding from donors.

#### **7.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

VBA will prepare annual work plans and reports to be submitted to its statutory organs and partners as well as a terminal report at the end of the implementation of the Strategic Plan. Technical reports and other publications will form a key method of crystallizing and disseminating results and achievements. The Strategic Plan will be subjected to at least two independent external evaluations in the form of Mid-Term and Final Evaluations.