

PROJECT BRIEF

SENEGAL:

IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ACTION PLAN FOR SENEGAL'S INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT – PAGIRE

Promote a sustainable management of Senegal's water resources



"The PAGIRE was a great project that brought a new life to the dynamization of the water resources management plan of Senegal at a national level."

Niokhor Ndour, Current Director of the WMRPD-DGPPE and former PAGIRE project coordinator

The PAGIRE project

Senegal's water resources are characterised by their vulnerability in quantity and quality. These are linked to the country's geographical position and other factors including low rainfall, as well as negative impacts resulting from human activities.

The increase in water demand in Senegal is associated to demographic growth and economic development that put a strong pressure on the resource. It is thus necessary to balance water needs, resources, and environmental functions, considering all relevant factors and all concerned actors, for a balanced, environmentally sound, and sustainable use of water resources.

The "PAGIRE Senegal" project was approved in 2007 and the development objectives underlying the project were to improve the living conditions of the populations by

strengthening the availability and management of water resources for productive activities.

These objectives were established in accordance with the Johannesburg Summit (2002) recommendations, that all countries should develop and implement Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plans to protect water availability, promote water security and sustainable use of resources, emphasising the role of water in the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

The African Water Facility (AWF), was the backbone financier of the project, covering 93% of the project budget in a total of almost 1.4 million euros. This is aligned with AWF mission to assist African countries to address the increasing investment needs for the development and management of water resources in Africa, towards meeting the goals and targets of the Africa Water Vision (AWV).

Key Lessons

- In Senegal the efficiency of the implementation of a IWRM process required the creation of a decentralised governance framework, which was not the case at the beginning of the project. As a result of the project, it was possible to **set up an IWRM process** that allows to **take charge of cross-cutting issues** and to **develop spaces of cooperation and participation**, while respecting the current decentralised framework as well as integrating Senegal's strategic objectives.
- It was fundamental to **sensitise the population** to the importance of IWRM and **establish consultation workshops** involving all stakeholders in the water sector. Making people aware of the difficulties and the possibilities of sharing water at the territorial level between the different actors, while managing conflicts, and ensuring an inclusive participation of all community members is the way to ensure a sustainable management of water.
- The **availability of documents through online publications, the creation of a documentation center for students** and the creation of a bulletin with daily hydraulic data, available at any time are an inexpensive but effective approach used to promote IWRM.
- **Adequate training** regarding **project management** established immediately after the project was initiated allowed to develop the planned activities without further postponements and delays, which would have negatively impacted the conclusion of the project.



“The population feels concerned by the topic of water and needs to have ways to express themselves so they can have their place in water management framework.”

Ndeye Aida Boye, Head of Drinking Water and Sanitation Sector

Recommended Actions

From the project, it is possible to identify the below recommended actions regarding structures, policies and strategic plans:

Provide supplementary financing to guarantee the consolidation of project results and effective implementation of PAGIRE.

Implement the **sensitization** to the importance **IWRM at the school level**. Introduce IWRM thematic in school programmes.

Provide WRMPD-DGPRES with more human resources capable of monitoring water resources and collecting hydrological data (**technicians and hydrology officers**) and providing them with a career plan.

Pursue the **institutional strengthening** of WRMPD-DGPRES, as well as the revision of its legal and organisational frameworks for the management of water resources, to allow the fulfilment of its responsibilities and ambitions.

Consolidate project's achievements regarding environmental sustainability by raising awareness among the concerned stakeholders. Polluting industries have been questioned and sworn in on the adverse effects of their activities on the integrity of the resource. Recommendations have been made for the protection of resources and have been communicated to the population. The concept of the polluter pays principle have been introduced.

Continue the revision of the water code, namely by incorporating the IWRM principles and clarifying the roles and responsibilities of actors in the management of the hydric public domain



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