

Case Study: Action Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management in Burkina Faso (#338)

1 Problems & Constraints

The frequency of droughts in Burkina Faso and its location in the Sahel contribute to the nation's water supply problems. The country has 17.5 cu km of renewable water resources, but only 66% percent of the urban population and 37% of rural dwellers have access to safe water. According to the World Health Organization, about 80% of all diseases in Burkina Faso are caused by unsafe water. Exacerbating this problem is increasing industrialisation, increasing population, and increasing levels of rural-urban migrations. In relation to these factors, notable pollution problems occur as a result from the uncontrolled disposal of sewage and industrial wastes. There are a number of key constraints limiting the ability of Burkina Faso to respond to these challenges including organisational, capacity, legal, economic and technical issues, such as:

- Almost all the government's ministerial departments were responsible for water under one or another of its form or uses. The lack of coordination between these various departments and their inappropriate functional structuring resulted in competence conflicts, as well as poor use of resources and limited effectiveness.
- In terms of legislation, not only have various revisions and amendments resulted in a maze of laws and statutes with limited harmony, the formal legal and administrative system took little account of common laws that play an important role in many people's daily lives.
- From a fiscal point of view, there was limited application of the economic value of water in a sector that was more than 80% financed by external loans and donations.
- There were also serious technical short-comings in the collection, processing, diffusion and application of data relating to be used for effective management.

2 Decisions & Actions Taken

Since 1996, in recognition of the above problems and constraints, the Government of Burkina Faso has received technical and financial assistance from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Danida). One of the most significant results of this collaboration has been the formulation of the Action Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management in Burkina Faso (PAGIRE) of March 2003. PAGIRE is scheduled to run from 2003-2015.

The overall objective of PAGIRE is to contribute to the implementation of IWRM in Burkina Faso by respecting the principles acknowledged on the international level in relation to a sustainable and ecologically rational management of water resources, while taking account of the local situation. The two sub-objectives are: 1) to define and plan the implementation of the future framework for IWRM; and 2) to identify specific actions and propose the necessary means for their implementation.

The strategy framework of PAGIRE is:

- To promote an integrated rather than a sector-based approach
- To support the disengagement of the State, particularly in relation to operation of water production and irrigated areas
- To propose a scenario with sufficient qualified employees for the progressive restructuring of the public administration
- To design an efficient and stable management framework
- To propose a progressive restructuring of management

Based on the above objectives and strategy, the goals of PAGIRE have been defined as follows:

- To define the missions of the State
- To set up the National Water Council (CNE) as a structure on the national level established for a consulted management of water and associating the State, the local communities, the private sector and the civil society in its various components
- To build new management structures on the basis of hydro-graphic basins as appropriate specific subdivisions for water planning and management

- To reinforce the intervention capacity of local communities, the private sector and civil society in the scope of water
- To develop and reinforce the human resources

In order to operationalise the objectives and strategy, and to achieve the goals, eight fields of action were defined in the Action Plan:

1. Enabling environment
2. Water information system
3. Procedures
4. Research & development
5. Human resources
6. Information, education & sensitisation
7. Institutional framework
8. Emergency measures

The Annex tables show a synoptic view of operational actions for PAGIRE implementation, presented per field of action and in a simplified logical framework format (including the justifications/objectives, expected results and related activities for these eight fields of action).

The total cost of actions provided for the 1st phase (2003-2008) of PAGIRE is C FAF 13.671 billion. The budget of the 2nd phase (2009-2015) will be estimated in 2008 on the base of reviews and the assessment of the 1st phase.

To raise the required financial resources, PAGIRE funding strategy is based upon raising local funding; making the structuring programmes and significant investment programmes in the water sector contribute to support the implementation of the Action plan; and raising foreign assistance through consultations with development partners.

PAGIRE is reviewed every three years, with a major midway evaluation scheduled for 2008 and a final evaluation in 2015. The following four risk factors concerning the implementation of PAGIRE have been identified and will be taken into account in the reviews:

1. Political risk: The success of the action plan implementation will be essentially related to the will and determination of the government to conduct it to its end.
2. Capacity: The ability of the managerial staff of the water, public administration to appropriate the action plan and their engagement to implement it.
3. Acceptance: (i) obtaining of a national consensus on the institutional aspects, (ii) interest given by these actors to the plan implementation and (iii) their determination to occupy and play the roles which are assigned to them in the management new framework).
4. Assistance: Availability of the development partners to support the action plan implementation.

3 *Lessons learned and replicability*

- Political will at highest levels should be established at an early stage and the overall process should be firmly anchored in the responsible ministry and ministry staff should be involved in all activities
- The planning process should be supported by a communication strategy for involvement of stakeholders, technical and financial partners
- Institutional reform possibilities should be considered during the process
- IWRM principles need to be studied and adapted to the national context
- Stakeholder groups should be formed to discuss the plan and allowed enough time for comments and endorsement
- Decision makers at many levels should participate in the consultative processes
- Prioritisation of issues need to be based on rational methodologies
- Proposals and approaches need pilot testing in a basin where economic, social and environmental stakes are high.

4 Contacts, references, and organisations

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Action Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management in Burkina Faso (PAGIRE): http://www.cap-net.org/FileSave/40_action_plan_IWRM_BF.pdf

<p>Such a responsibility of the State cannot be isolated from the other responsibilities concerning the institutional development (field of actions n° 7) actors training (field of actions nb 5) and information of citizens (field of actions n° 6).</p>		<p>1.2.4. Proposing future evolution of sharing of responsibilities concerning IWRM between the State and its dismemberments, the local communities and the development other actors.</p>
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	<p>5.6. The capacities of actors from the private sector have been reinforced as far as IWRM is concerned through the training of a representative sample of technical staff (firms and planning offices leaders, design and execution agent, etc)</p>	<p>5.6.1. Training to IWRM of agents from the private sector.</p>
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	<p>7.4. Local communities have the capacity to assume their new attributions concerning water management resulting from the decentralization policy</p>	<p>7.4.1. Supporting local communities in the setting up of competent services as far as water resources are concerned Part (a) : On the communal level (50 communes) Part (b) : On the provincial level (45 provinces) Part (c) : On the regional level (10 regions)</p>
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