

# Evaluation Summary

## *Final evaluation of the WaSAf project*

Country/Region: **Ivory Coast, Senegal and Uganda**

Theme: **Aquatic ecosystems**

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Date of assessment: **July 2024**

### Key data of FFEM support

**Project name:** WaSAf (Water Sources in Africa), "*Instituting sustainable management of continental aquatic ecosystems in intertropical Africa to conserve their uses*"

**Project Number:** CZZ 1947

**Amount of FFEM funding:** €1.05 million

**Date of award:** 26/11/2015

**Duration: Initial:** 4 years, extended to 7 years

### Context

The WaSAf project aimed to set up an approach to assess and monitor the quality of water resources, particularly on the toxic risk linked to cyanobacteria blooms, on three lakes: Lake Guiers (Senegal), Murchinson Bay (Lake Victoria - Uganda) and Lagune Aghien (Ivory Coast), each of which has water quality problems that are likely to increase under anthropogenic pressures.

### Speakers and modus operandi

The project owner was iEES Paris and JF Humbert, Research Director at INRAE, was project manager.

The funding agreement with the FFEM was signed with the CNRS on behalf of the laboratories making up the joint team that implemented the project. Partnerships have been established in the three countries with universities and research institutes.

Within each of the three countries:

- A facilitator was in charge of the local relay;
- A scientific partner worked in partnership with a French partner.

In addition, the project was monitored by:

- A project steering committee each year;
- A local steering committee in each country.



### Objectives

The purpose of the project was to *participate in the development of long-term water quality monitoring programs, particularly on the toxic risk related to cyanobacteria blooms*. In addition, this program aimed to *support, mainly in understanding the societal and institutional aspects that this implies, the first measures for the sustainable management of these systems and therefore for the preservation of drinking water resources on the three study sites*.

### Specific objectives

1. Launch of the program: training and awareness-raising.
2. Deepening of scientific knowledge on the ecological functioning of the three sites.
3. Technical preparation of monitoring programs.
4. Operational implementation of the monitoring program.
5. Support for local authorities in the implementation of management plans for the protection and restoration of the site.



## Performance assessment

### Relevance

The overall purpose of the project, its five specific objectives and the choice of the three bodies of water are considered relevant. The activities carried out by the project were (i) relevant to its objectives, (ii) partially relevant to the needs and expectations expressed by national stakeholders and (iii) relevant to the expectations of a part of the local population concerned (that of the Aghien Lagoon).

### Coherence

The **internal coherence** of the project was good. The competence and availability of the project team and the multidisciplinary nature of the team of scientists mobilized are positive points of the project.

The **external coherence** of the project was satisfactory. Collaborations with other research projects have resulted in co-authoring of scientific articles. Fruitful exchanges on the issue of cyanobacteria treatment took place with projects for drinking water production plants. Interesting synergies were also mentioned between European and African experiences in the study of cyanobacteria. The main negative interaction noted is that with the project to create a pilot basin committee on the Aghien Lagoon watershed, led by the local AFD agency, and which has caused an unfortunate sticking point in the implementation of the cyanobacteria observatory project.

### Effectiveness

The implementation of the project's actions (or **effectivity**) has varied according to the components (C). The main changes in activities concerned (i) C3 (activity to create observatories not completed) and (ii) C4 (actions to preserve water resources not carried out). The implementation of actions not initially planned has compensated for those that could not be carried out.

In terms of the achievement of the project's expected results (or **effectiveness**), only the C2 saw all the results achieved. The effectiveness was also good for the animation/management component. For the other components, the effectiveness was partial. The production of knowledge and know-how is one of the main strengths of the project, both for academic knowledge and for those with a more "operational" scope. The implementation by the authorities of long-term cyanobacteria monitoring programs on Lake Guiers and the Aghien Lagoon has not been successful. This failure is mainly attributed to (i) problems of local institutional organization, (ii) a lack of funding, and (iii) opposition from the local AFD agency in the RCI. However, support for cyanobacteria monitoring has been provided by the project. The project did not lead to the implementation of effective measures for the protection and restoration of ecosystems but was able to carry out some actions aimed at the protection of ecosystems. There has been a particularly important promotion of the project's results through numerous productions, most of which are made available on a dedicated website. Possible improvements for better advertising of results have been proposed.

### Efficiency

The project **budget** was managed responsibly and efficiently. The project implementation system worked satisfactorily. There was no malfunction in the payment of partners. The physical **monitoring system** was basic but functional and the financial monitoring provided by the CNRS was complex for the FFEM. The overall functioning of the **governance** of the WaSAf project has been good.

### Impact

**Several stakeholders testified to proven achievements, better mutual knowledge and networking thanks to these collective learnings.** Significant collective work carried out with local institutions in Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire has made it possible to define an organization for the long-term monitoring of water bodies, which with funding, the institutions are now able to put in place. The benefits of the project for the population were relatively large in Ivory Coast, limited in Senegal and low in Uganda. In the case of the Aghien Lagoon in Ivory Coast, the project has raised awareness among the population about the pollution factors in the lagoon. In Uganda, these benefits have mainly been related to improving the quality of the drinking water produced.

### Sustainability/Sustainability

The monitoring and action plans put in place by the project cannot be considered sustainable, as none of these results have been achieved (neither observatories nor management plans). However, several other project outputs, were cited as being sustainable or sustaining factors. **Many regrets were expressed by the project's stakeholders that the momentum initiated by the project has come to a halt.** This raises the question of how to calibrate the duration of the project in relation to its important ambitions.

### Added value of the project and FFEM support

The activities carried out by the project would not have been carried out without him. The most cited added values are: acquisition of knowledge, development of scientific skills/training, cooperation between academics and with operators, initiation of consideration by politicians. The involvement of the AFD and the flexibility of the FFEM in the management of the project were highlighted.

## Recommendations & lessons learned

### DIRECT FOLLOW-UP TO THE PROJECT: COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY (donors)

1. Create a "community" on the issue of cyanobacteria in Africa.
2. Strengthening the valorisation of results
3. Carry out a prospective study with a model of water quality issues (in support of advocacy)
4. Propose in Ivory Coast that the observatory be carried directly by the prime minister.

### SETTING UP FUTURE PROJECTS ON THESE SUBJECTS (promoters and donors)

5. Involve national actors as strongly as possible to promote the sustainability of the project's results
6. Discuss upstream of the project between donors and local partners, the financing of the monitoring and protection of continental aquatic environments (making commitments)
7. Provide for the training of scientists in the project (for empowerment and sustainability)
8. Plan an approach involving local populations (participatory monitoring) based on the experience of the WaSAf project
9. Provide a section on the fight against organic pollution of the water bodies concerned
10. Study and experiment with water body governance issues in support of the SHS
11. Analyze the impact of cyanobacteria on uses other than drinking water
12. "Practical" deliverables for operators and "educational" deliverables for the population

### SETTING UP FUTURE PROJECTS (project leaders)

13. Ensure the logic and semantics of the structure of the project's logical framework
14. Establish "SMART" project objectives and monitoring indicators

### SETTING UP AND MANAGING FUTURE PROJECTS (donors)

#### Feasibility study

- 15 and 16. Ensure that the project's ambitions are realistic to achieve over the time allowed
17. Systematize the integration of a results/advocacy component
18. Ask the candidate projects how to optimise the project's carbon footprint

#### Project Start-up

19. Add a financial monitoring model to the agreement between the lessor and the holder
20. Systematize an in-depth "financial follow-up" kick-off meeting

#### Project management

21. Perpetuate the practice of a certain flexibility/flexibility in project management

### FACILITATION OF EXCHANGES BETWEEN PROJECTS (for the attention of the FFEM)

22. Develop capitalization / exchanges / sharing between FFEM projects

