



**REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE AFRICAN
NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS (ANBO)
TUNIS, 2 – 4 JULY 2019**



JULY 2019



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List of Acronyms

ABAKIR	: Lake Kivu and Ruzizi/ Ruzizi River Basin Authority
AfDB	: African Development Bank
AMCOW	: African Minister's Council on Water
ANBO	: Africa Network of Basin Organizations
AWF	: African Water Facility
AWW	: African Water Week
AWIS	: Africa Water Information System
CB	: Coordination Bureau
CICOS	: International Commission of the Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin
CIWA	: Cooperation in International Waters in Africa
ENTRO	: Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office
GEF	: Global Environment Facility
GWP	: Global Water Partnership
IGRAC	: International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (of UNESCO)
INBO	: International Network of Basin organizations
KOBWA	: Komati Basin Water Authority
LCBC	: Lake Chad Basin Commission
LVBC	: Lac Victoria Basin Commission
NEPAD	: New Partnership for Africa's Development
NBA	: Niger Basin Authority
OKACOM	: Okavango River Commission
OMVS	: Senegal River Basin Development Organization (Organisation pour la mise en valeur du Fleuve Sénégal)
OMVG	: Gambia River Basin Development Organization (Organisation pour la mise en valeur du Fleuve Gambie)
ORASECOM	: Orange-Sengu River Commission
OSS	: Sahel and Sahara Observatory
REC	: Regional Economic Community
PTS	: Permanent Technical Secretariat
TAC	: Technical Advisory Committee
ToR	: Terms of Reference
TWM	: Transboundary Water Management
TBOs	: Transboundary Basin (or Aquifer) Organizations
UNDP	: United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO/IHP	: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization-International Hydrological Program
WWF	: World Water Forum



Introduction

The seventh General Assembly Meeting of the African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO) (1st Ordinary ANBO Council Meeting) was held from 2 to 4 of July 2019 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Tunis, Tunisia. As a statutory activity of the Network, it is held every two years. The last one was held in September 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda.

The meeting was attended by ANBO members and partners. A total of 64 participants took part in the meeting, including representatives of sixteen (16) Transboundary Basin Organizations (TBOs), five (5) Regional Economic Commissions (RECs), the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), technical and financial partners (UNDP, UNESCO, AfBD, INBO, UNECE, GWP, CIWA, the Executive Secretariat of the 9th World Water Forum "Dakar 2021", etc.) and Tunisian authorities (see list of participants in Annex 1).

The major objective of this meeting was to revitalize ANBO as a vibrant Network for knowledge building and sharing, especially after a long period of inactivity marked by the end of the SITWA Project. The meeting provided an opportunity to review the following items in the Network's work program:

- knowledge sharing on ANBO priority themes such as climate change, groundwater management, and sustainable financing;
- information of particular interest on initiatives by ANBO partners, including the CIWA program of the World Bank, AMCOW, INBO and "Dakar 2021" forum;
- studies and decision-making in relation to: proposals for amendments of ANBO's Statutes; evaluation of the strategy (2015-2024) and Action Plan (2015-2019) and the roadmap for ANBO's future Action Plan (2020-2024); and financial options for the Network;
- review of the ANBO's activities since its last meeting in 2016; and
- the renewal of the ANBO governing bodies.

This report presents the different sessions of the meeting. All the presentations and studies discussed are documented in USB keys which were distributed to the participants. This report is equally available on the Network's website: www.anbo-raob.org



Photo 1: Family picture (participants of the Council meeting). ANBO picture, July 2019.

1. Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony commenced with a welcoming address by the Executive Secretary of the Sahel and Sahara Observatory (OSS), followed by speeches of the OMVS High Commissioner (Permanent Technical Secretary of ANBO), the INBO Secretary General, the AMCOW Representative, the Director of Water Resources of Tunisia, the UNDP Representative, and the Executive Secretary of the 9th World Water Forum "Dakar 2021". In her opening speech, the President of the Network, Mrs. Judith Enaw, called for greater cohesion within the Network and highlighted three priority areas, namely:

- make ANBO an efficient and sustainable organization;
- take into account the context of climate change for Transboundary Water Management in basins;
- strengthen the link with AMCOW by calling on TBOs to become more involved in AMCOW's activities.

Mrs. Enaw called for the effective participation of TBOs in the Dakar 2021 World Water Forum, before declaring the Council meeting open.

It was recalled that the Council meeting provides an opportunity for ANBO to showcase its activities and achievements in the field of transboundary water management in Africa using diverse communication tools. Hence the mobilization of the written, audio, television and online press was noted during the opening ceremony. In total, about ten national press organizations covered the opening ceremony (see annex 7 press links) and gave the opportunity to ANBO leaders



to express their opinion on the major objectives and expectations of the Tunis meeting, which marks a new beginning for the Network. The various press articles were relayed on the ANBO Facebook page and the @AnboRaob twitter page.



Photo 2: Opening ceremony of the Council meeting. *ANBO picture, July 2019.*



Photo 3: ANBO President Mrs. Enaw Judith, addresses the Tunisian media. *ANBO picture, July 2019.*

2. Presentation of the ToRs of the Council meeting and the ANBO-UNDP/GEF Project

The ToRs, including the agenda of the Council meeting, were presented by the **ANBO-UNDP/GEF Project** Team manager. The Project seeks to strengthen ANBO's capacities to enable the Network to implement its mission and play its role as a service provider within the domain of knowledge harnessing and cooperation building in the continent on transboundary and groundwater resource management. The ToRs and agenda presented (Annex 2) were adopted unanimously by the Council members present.



Photo 4: The Project Manager, Mr. Abdoulaye NDIAYE, presenting the ToRs of the Council meeting and the ANBO-UNDP/GEF Project. *ANBO picture, July 2019.*



Following the adoption of the ToRs, the ANBO-UNDP/GEF Project manager made a presentation of the Project. The discussions that ensued among the participants centered on the following points (i) ANBO's new strategic orientations (ii) synergy with TBOs and RECs; (iii) outcomes achieved by the Project since its inception; and (iv) support for capacity building for members and ANBO.

Discussions on the last point highlighted the fact that the ANBO-UNDP/GEF Project was not to replace the Network, but to support it, all the while enabling it to free itself from the cycle of 'Project dependency' funded by external partners. As such, the Project is expected to support the Network in the implementation of its Action Plan, promote the exchange of knowledge and experiences, as well as build synergy among members.

In terms of results registered since its inception, the Project manager intimated that several strokes have been struck by the Project team, prominent among them, the preparation and organization of this Network Council meeting in Tunis. The project took care of most of the technical, logistical and financial aspects for the organization of this Council meeting. The following partners also made financial and logistical contributions: OSS, AfDB, UNDP and UNESCO.



Photo 5. Reaction after the presentation of the project.
ANBO picture, July 2019.

3. Presentation of the Initiatives of Partners of Special Interest to ANBO

Besides deliberations linked to the functioning of the Network and its activities, the ANBO Council meeting served as a platform through which the Network's strategic partners, whose activities are in line with, or of particular interests and concerns to the Network, could present their activities and share their experiences in the field of transboundary water management. The targeted partners were AMCOW, the Executive Secretariat of the 9th World Water Forum (WWF) "Dakar 2021", the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA) program of the World Bank, and the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO). They made presentations on their various activities, which not only generated lively discussions among the participants but also shed



light on new avenues for better and improved collaboration between these partners and ANBO, on the one hand, and the RBOs, on the other hand.

3.1. Presentation of the initiatives of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)

The AMCOW representative confirmed, in his opening remarks that ANBO is the best platform for the promotion of Transboundary Water Management (TWM) in Africa. He presented the important initiatives between the 2 organizations and concluded by encouraging the Network leaders to take AMCOW's strategy into account in the development of its next Action Plan in order to enable the Network, as the technical arm of AMCOW, to work in tandem with the continental Council. He further encouraged all stakeholders within the water domain to be present and to adopt a common agenda for the Dakar 2021 World Water Forum.

The discussions that followed this presentation revealed that there is a need for AMCOW to be informed of the Network's activities, especially within the premise of the availability of financial resources announced by the AfDB intended to support the dissemination of information. ANBO can contribute in building synergies with AMCOW and capacities especially of its member RBOs involved in groundwater resources and aquifers management such as OSS. The latter will be established as a think tank for groundwater resource management with the involvement of the AMCOW Commission in charge of groundwater. This approach will strengthen the collaboration and coordination between the two bodies (AMCOW and ANBO).

The following recommendations were made at the end of the discussions:

- **strengthen coordination between ANBO and AMCOW, especially with the Commission in charge of groundwater;**
- **inclusion in ANBO's 2020-2024 Action Plan, the orientations and actions defined in AMCOW's strategy;**
- **encourage the RBOs and ANBO to regularly transmit information on their transboundary water management activities;**
- **advocate for a strong commitment in the budget of African States to finance the water sector, per the Maputo Agreement where they have committed to contribute at least 10% of their budget to the agriculture sector;**
- **make OSS a platform for exchange and dissemination of information on transboundary groundwater in Africa.**



Photo 6: Presentation of the AMCOW Strategy by Dr Paul ORENGAH. ANBO picture, July 2019.

3.2. Presentation of the initiatives of the 9th World Water Forum "Dakar 2021"

Considered as the world's largest water event, the next World Water Forum will be held in Dakar in March 2021 on the topic "Water Security for Peace and Development". The innovation of the preparation process highlights an operational framework around 4 working groups focused on the Forum's priorities: (i) namely water security; (ii) cooperation in the sector; (iii) water and rural development and (iv) tools and means of financing, governance and knowledge management.

ANBO, and its members are expected to contribute in the second priority axis for the development of (i) transboundary cooperation, shared waters, common infrastructures, (ii) dialogue and cooperation at all institutional levels, (iii) water for peace, hydro-diplomacy.

The exchange of ideas amongst the participants of the working group made it possible to clarify opinions on issues linked with the management of aquifers, the need to develop an action plan for RBOs and aquifers, the level of advancement of the participation of ANBO in the Forum masterminded by OMVS, and the involvement of all social strata, including young people.

The recommendations made at the end of the discussions include:

- **the development, in collaboration with OMVS, of an action plan for the participation of ANBO and its members in the "Dakar 2021" forum;**
- **the development of bankable projects by RBOs;**
- **the active involvement of the Network and the RBOs, invited to install a pavilion during the Forum;**
- **the participation of RBOs in the Cooperation Session but also their active participation and involvement in all the other themes of the Forum.**



Photo 7: Presentation of the World Water Forum "Dakar 2021" by Mr. Abdoulaye SENE. ANBO picture, July 2019.

3.3. Presentation of the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA)

CIWA undertakes to support water stakeholders through several programs, including the Africa Regional Data Cube Project. The latter, funded with 200 million dollars, provides opportunities for ecosystem monitoring, river monitoring (hydrology, water quality, etc.) and monitoring of the indicators of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 6 on water. It thus, provides beneficiaries such as Senegal, Kenya, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Tanzania with information collected through satellite means, processed and disseminated on priority topics.

Discussions showed the Project's strong interest for TBOs and highlighted the need to address their real data needs. Emphasis was also placed among other things on, the role of users, that of ANBO, and advantages of such a service.

Two main recommendations were made at the end of the discussions, namely:

- **develop the collaboration between ANBO and CIWA in order to involve the Network in such services;**
- **establish collaboration between CIWA and RBOs in order for them to benefit from services developed under the CIWA initiative.**



Photo 8: CIWA introduced by Mrs. Christine OCHIENG. ANBO picture, July 2019.

3.4. Presentation of the International Network of Basin Organization (INBO) Initiatives

The new INBO work program, defines seven (7) priority areas and aims at promoting water management at the transboundary basin level through the putting into place and the use of governance tools, capacity building, knowledge management, and the development of IWRM financing mechanisms. In Africa, several projects and programs are incubated in the field of infrastructure and investment, knowledge management, water, and climate change in collaboration with technical and financial partners. In the field of knowledge management, a manual on water policing and another on city-basin dialogue are being prepared for presentation and dissemination during the 9th World Water Forum "Dakar 2021".

Discussions focused mainly on potential projects, linked to the “incubation concept” and on the ANBO and the AfriAlliance project. It is worthy to recall that ANBO is an INBO member. The following recommendations sanctioned the end of the INBO discussion:

- a call was made to RBOs for contributions for bankable projects in the water sector, in order to supplement the above-mentioned projects;
- a call for contributions to feed into the manuals on water policing (case studies and recommendations) and on dialogue between cities and basins;
- ANBO was encouraged to attend the General Assembly of INBO scheduled from 30th September to 03rd October 2019 in Marrakech (Morocco);
- a call to participate in the December 2019 workshop on data exchange in transboundary basins, organized by UNECE and INBO.



Photo 9: INBO presentation of Dr. Eric TARDIEU. ANBO picture, July 2019.

4. Technical sessions

From the ToRs of the technical sessions presented by the ANBO-UNDP/GEF Project Manager, it was evident that these sessions cover three priority domains of the Network. These are: Groundwater, Climate Change, and Sustainable Financing. The objective sought of the technical sessions was to share state of the art knowledge and information on these relevant domains, and make recommendations that will go a long way in the formulation of ANBO's 2020-2024 Action Plan.

4.1 Transboundary groundwater management

Presented by UNESCO, this paper provided an overview of the governance initiative framework designed to address groundwater issues at the global, transboundary, regional and national levels. The initiative stems from the global project "Groundwater Governance - A Global Framework for Action" funded by GEF and implemented by UNESCO's International Hydrological Program (IHP), FAO, the World Bank, the International Association of Hydrogeologists and GEF. It thus guides the establishment of legal, regulatory and institutional arrangements for groundwater, the ongoing engagement of stakeholders and integration with other sectors. A comprehensive process to be adapted through a step by step approach at the local context to achieve the desired governance objectives was also proposed.

Discussions with the panel made of speakers from UNESCO and the Limpopo Commission (LIMCOM) highlighted:

- the difficulties in obtaining data with States arising from the obsolete state of data collection and treatment networks as well as poor monitoring of the systems, despite the existence of data exchange protocols in this field;



- the lack of groundwater management techniques by the RBOs themselves, despite the existence of the 1997 United Nations Convention on Rivers and the IWRM principles which cover groundwater, especially within the context of climate change.

The technical session thus permitted the participants an opportunity to: (i) better understand the benefits of groundwater and the governance challenges facing its sustainability ; (ii) share the Groundwater Governance Initiative and its process for improving groundwater governance in national and transboundary aquifers and (iii) improve ANBO's ability to take ownership of the initiative and integrate it into its strategy.

The following recommendations were made at the end of the discussions:

- **strengthen the management of transboundary water governance in ANBO's 2020-2024 action plan;**
- **ensure the integration of groundwater into water resource planning in basins, lakes and rivers;**
- **strengthen political will, advocate for leadership and raise awareness on the importance of groundwater resources development;**
- **review and strengthen the responsibilities of RBOs to clearly and explicitly address transboundary groundwater governance and management;**
- **strengthen the technical and management capacity of L/RBOs to enable them address issues;**
- **promote the improvement of knowledge on transboundary groundwater and aquifer systems as well as the dependencies of groundwater ecosystems.**



Photo 10: Technical session on Groundwater management by Mohamed BAZZA (UNESCO, LIMCOM). ANBO picture, July 2019.



4.2. Climate change and transboundary water management

The presentations made on this topic by UNECE (Adaptation to Climate Change and Water Convention), INBO (Building the Africa-EU Innovation Alliance for Water & Climate) NBA (Adaptation to Climate Change in Transboundary Basins: Niger Basin Experience) and CICOS (Climate Change: CICOS Experience) centered around the experiences of the Institutions in their strategic design, work and the results recorded within the framework of climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Convention promotes adaptation to climate change thru planning and project implementation, as well as publication of guidance to help countries adapt to climate change.

The AfriAlliance project analyses the significant gaps between science and policy, societal challenges and types of needs for climate change resilience. In this way, appropriate solutions are identified and proposals for innovative knowledge and technologies are made for adaptation to climate change.

The knowledge and experiences shared during this panel discussions, enabled the participants to raise several concerns, share lessons and formulate recommendations for ANBO. Among the concerns are the absence of data and environmental models, the weakness of water resources monitoring networks, the lack of data to define the planning scale for adaptation to climate change (national, basin, region...), inadequacies related to the identification and replication of successful experiences, weaknesses related to the development of bankable projects, and inconsistencies in climate change financing guidelines. The key lessons learned from this session were:

- the need to possess an excellent knowledge on water resources availability and possible fluctuations;
- the need to implement concrete projects to generate political will;
- cross-border cooperation for the effective implementation of climate change adaptation action plans;
- the need to share and have a synergy of interventions to mobilize partners;
- the need for the Water Convention and INBO to support basins in adapting to climate change.

The following recommendations were made at the end of this session:

- **assist RBOs to assess their vulnerability to climate change and to elaborate bankable adaptation projects and to mobilize funding;**
- **improve RBOs networking to enable the exchange of data, techniques and experiences;**
- **encourage participation in regional training programs, and learn from good practices;**
- **integrate Groundwater issues within the context of climate change in RBOs workplans;**



- promote the appropriation of the Water Conventions.



Photo 11: Technical session on Climate Change and transboundary water resource management (UNECE, INBO, ABN). ANBO picture, July 2019.

4.3. Sustainable financing for transboundary water management

This technical session was directed by the AfDB (Sustainable Financing of the TWRM in Africa's Contribution to the African Development Bank), supported by presentations by OSS on (climate finance for water management in the OSS area) and INBO on (The financial situation of most African basin organizations is characterized by irregularities, deficiencies and dependencies).

The topic engendered rich exchanges, but also many questions from participants. These were generally focused on the ways and means to have good projects and programs for financing investments in Transboundary Water Management. This session also highlighted limitations of basin organizations in project design and brought out the fact that this limitation significantly reduces their chances of receiving funding from technical and financial partners.

At the end of the panel discussion, the following recommendations were made:

- **the need to diversify funding sources;**
- **the need to find a good cost-benefit ratio for ANBO, while showing the added value of its investments;**
- **the possibility of introducing the user/pay and polluter/pay charges concept in the water domain;**
- **envisaging creating a financing mechanism for ANBO based on contributions from Regional Economic Community levies (ECOWAS, UEMOA...);**
- **Project management ;**
- **floating capitalization funds;**
- **the implementation of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs);**



- **an inventory of available resource to develop appropriate strategies and make proposals that fit well with funding priorities;**
- **improving skills for project development**
- **Secure the existence of ANBO by providing it with an operating budget;**



Photo 12: Technical session on sustainable financing (ADB, INBO, OSS). *ANBO picture, July 2019.*

5. Presentation and discussion of the studies

Three studies had hitherto been conducted under the auspices of the ANBO-UNDP/GEF Project as part of the preparation of the ANBO Council meeting. These were: (i) a review of the Statutes; (ii) the evaluation of ANBO's 10-year strategy (2015-2024) and 5-year action plan (2015-2019); and (iii) the Network's financing options. These studies were presented in the plenary session. In-depth discussions ensued within working groups set up for the purpose. The objective was to make recommendations to the Council which could later be captured as the Council's resolutions.

5.1. Review of ANBO Statutes

In the workshop organized for the launch of the ANBO-UNDP/GEF Project, it was noted that some inconsistencies existed in the ANBO Statutes adopted in 2016 in Kigali. In a bid to correct these shortcomings, the Project conducted a review of the Statutes in a bid to enable Network members to make needed amendments. A presentation made in plenary of the proposed amendments was followed by group discussions. The amended Statutes are set out in the addendum to the Network's Statutes (see Annex 3).



Photo 13: Group work on the review of ANBO Statutes. *ANBO picture, July 2019.*

5.2. Evaluation of the (2015-2024) strategy and (2015-2019) Action Plan, and (2020-2024) Action Plan Roadmap

ANBO adopted a 10-year strategy (2015-2024) during its last General Assembly meeting in 2016, along with a 5-year Action Plan (2015-2019). The holding of the Council meeting provided an occasion for the evaluation of the level of implementation of the strategy and its action Plan as a means to enable the preparation of a roadmap for the formulation of the action plan for the last 5-year phase of the strategy (2020-2024). The presentation of the evaluation document in plenary, followed by group discussions, enabled the Council to identify lessons learned from the implementation of the (2015-2019) action plan and adopt a roadmap for the (2020-2024) action plan. The roadmap is presented in Annex 4.



Photo 14: Group work on ANBO strategy. *ANBO picture, July 2019.*



5.3. The preliminary study on ANBO financial options

One of the major resolutions of the 2016 General Assembly meeting was the institutional restructuring of the Network, especially the creation of an autonomous Executive Secretariat. However, the provision of the financial resources necessary to enable the proper functioning of the Secretariat was not identified.

In the face of this situation, one of the expected outcomes of the ANBO-UNDP/GEF Project is to help identify the financial options that will enable ANBO effectively implement the aforementioned restructuring. Along these lines, a preliminary study was conducted by the Project to address the financial gaps mentioned above. The preliminary study was geared towards the identification of potential financial options from which 1-2 options would be selected by the Network for further investigation in a second phase study.

Following the group discussions on the preliminary study on financial options, the Council adopted the mixed funding option (consisting of contributions from members and partners, generation of funds through services, grants, donations, and legacies). Given that the functioning of the Executive Secretariat would depend on core funding, the participants decided to increase membership annual contribution from one (1,000) to three thousand (3,000) US dollars per year per member. The Council adopted the roadmap in Annex 5 on a detailed study of the preferred financial option (the mixed option).



Photo 11: Group work ANBO financial options. *ANBO picture, July 2019.*



6. Statutory session

6.1. Presentation and discussions of the ANBO President's moral report

The ANBO president presented her moral report, which focused on achievements of the various Network's Governing bodies, from the last General Assembly held in September 2016 and May 2019 as recommended by the General Assembly. Some of the activities were carried out within the framework of the ANBO-UNDP/GEF Project, which started in October 2018.

In her presentation, she recalled the Network's objectives and governance framework, the status of implementation of the recommendations of the 2016 GA, the achievements within the framework of the ANBO-UNDP/GEF Project and the constraints faced by the Network.

A brief report was made on the state of the Network's finances by the Permanent Technical Secretariat, responsible for the Network's financial accounting.

At the end of the discussions, the Council adopted the technical report and requested that the Permanent Technical Secretariat produces, for the purposes of the next Council meeting, a detailed financial report, in line with recognized norms in the domain.

This will allow members to measure the contribution of the Permanent Technical Secretariat in the functioning of ANBO Secretariat, the contributions of basin organizations and those of technical and financial partners.

6.2. Election of members of ANBO Organs

Unanimously, the Council renewed the members of the Network's Organs as follows:

- ANBO Presidency: CICOS;
- Vice-president: NBI;
- Permanent Technical Secretariat: OMVS.

Coordination Bureau :

- West Africa: VBA and OMVG;
- Central Africa: LCBC and ABAKIR;
- East and Horn of Africa: LVBC and ENTRO;
- Southern Africa: KOBWA et OKACOM;
- North Africa: OSS;
- AMCOW Executive Secretariat.

Discussions with representatives of the Tunisian government and OSS led to decision that OSS should continue to hold the position of representative of North Africa, pending the creation of



RBO(s) in this sub-region. As a result of this decision, Medjerda, would be admitted to sit in as an ANBO member only after she has been well established as an RBO.

6.3. Reading and adoption of the final resolutions

At the end of its deliberations, review and amendment, sixteen (16) resolutions were adopted at the end of the Council meeting. These are presented in annex 6.

7. Parallel sessions on partner initiatives

These sessions provided continued discussions in parallel working groups on special initiatives of partners bearing particular interest to ANBO members which featured in agenda item 3 of the Council meeting (see section 3.). The intention of these pursued sessions was to explore opportunities and modalities for possible collaboration and cooperation either between ANBO as a Network and these partners, or between particular RBOs and the partners within targeted domains.

7.1. The CIWA session

CIWA presented its Africa Regional Data Cube program to RBO representatives. The objective of the session was to inform them about opportunities available to them to have tools for collecting data on transboundary water resources (hydrological data, water quality data, etc.) using satellite.

CIWA reported on their use by African countries (Senegal, Kenya, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Tanzania) in various areas of natural resource management, including water resources. Discussions led to the following observations:

- potential benefits offered by the program include water resources planning, and forecasting of extreme events (floods, droughts, etc.);
- identification of the data and nature of information needed by RBOs in their field;
- opportunities for user capacity building;
- the proposal for a roadmap for the next steps:
 - sign a partnership agreement with the program;
 - strengthen the capacity of RBOs to use the program;
 - test the program in 1 or 2 pilot basins of the Network;
 - replicate in several other basins after the test phase.

The RBOs present at the parallel session made a commitment to continue the discussions with the program, **while ANBO is invited to sign an agreement with the programme as soon as possible.**



7.2. The AMCOW session

Discussions on collaboration between ANBO and AMCOW focused on three main points, namely (i) the formalization of collaboration between AMCOW and ANBO, (ii) the pooling of efforts from both parties, (iii) the sustainable financing of RBOs and ANBO and the preparation of bankable projects.

To stimulate and promote collaboration, a high-level ANBO mission to the AMCOW Secretariat to discuss the implementation of all the recommendations within a well-defined agenda is expected. ANBO is expected to participate systematically in AMCOW statutory meetings at the level of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Collaboration between regional ANBO Focal Points and the AMCOW TAC will be encouraged and strengthened.

As concerns the pooling of efforts, collaboration opportunities will be identified, and synergies developed in terms of capacity building, training, and research and development to address common concerns of RBOs. To this end, the strategic plans of the two structures should be made complementary.

With regards to sustainable financing, collaboration will be activated in three areas, namely:

- request AMCOW, in its resource mobilization campaigns for the African Water Facility (AWF), to integrate ANBO's needs, in particular a minimum permanent staff for the Secretariat;
- involve ANBO in AMCOW's information collection mechanism for the preparation of the periodic report on the water sector;
- assist ANBO in the elaboration of bankable projects for the benefit of RBOs, to be presented at the donors' Round Table in Stockholm.

7.3. The Dakar Forum 2021 session

During the parallel session relating to the Dakar 2021 Forum, four points of exchange were discussed. These include: (i) the support of ANBO member RBOs to OMVS, strategic partner of the forum, within the framework of the Cooperation theme, (ii) the modalities of ANBO participation in the various thematic sessions, (iii) the development of projects to be proposed within the framework of the 2021 Initiative for labelling and (iv) ANBO participation in the forum.

a) Concerning the support to OMVS, it was a question of sharing with ANBO members the introductory note presented during the Kickoff meeting. The latter will be discussed at ANBO's next meeting to collect contributions. A coordination committee will be appointed to work closely with OMVS;

b) As concerns the modalities of ANBO participation, it was decided to designate focal points within ANBO to participate in the other 3 topics of the forum. The participation modalities will be discussed in greater detail in the margins of ANBO and the coordination committee that will be set-up;



c) Regarding the development of projects, each Basin Organization will be able to share its experiences and projects, approved for the forum. To this end, additional information will be provided on the types of projects expected for this initiative;

d) Concerning ANBO's participation in the forum, an ANBO pavilion will be set up.

8. Closing ceremony and conclusion

On behalf of the Tunisian Minister in charge of Water, the Tunisian Director General of Water Resources, Mr. Frigui, thanked ANBO for holding its Council meeting in Tunisia, before wishing a good return to the participants. He announced his country's readiness and commitment to work in collaboration with its neighbors and the Network.

The President of the Network officially, closed the Council meeting. She thanked all participants on her own behalf and on behalf of the Network. Special thanks was made to OSS for the logistic support provided during the organization of the meeting, to OMVS for the work done since the creation of the Network in 2002, to the AfDB and UNESCO for their financial support enabling the holding of the meeting, and the ANBO-UNDP/GEF Project for its technical, financial and logistical support for the preparation and holding of the meeting.



ANNEXES

Annex 1: List of participants

N°	Name and Surnames	Organizations	City/Country	Telephone	E-mail
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Annex 2: ToR of the Council meeting

1. Introduction

2016 was a decisive year for the African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO). As a matter of fact, besides renewing its statutory bodies which is a recurring process at each General Assembly (GA), the Network's governing documents have been reviewed and adopted in Kigali.

The GA meeting in Kigali amended and adopted the new ANBO Statutes according to which the membership of the Coordination Bureau (BC) was extended to include 12 members from the 5 sub-regions of the continent. On the same occasion, the GA renewed its governing bodies in accordance with the new Statutes and recommended the implementation of ANBO's Communication Strategy, which was endorsed by the Coordination Bureau in June 2016 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The 7th GA of ANBO will be organized in 2019. It will provide an opportunity to make key decisions to strengthen the network's role as the technical arm of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW). It will also be a starting point for the review of the Network's 10-year Strategy and Action Plan for 2015-2019, and the definition of a roadmap for the 2020-2024 Action Plan. The GA will, as well, review the application of the resolutions adopted in 2016, revise the new statutes and re-align them with the three years of operation since the end of the SITWA project (2012 - 2016). Finally, it will give ANBO a new orientation, the aim of which being to make it a service organization for the priority areas identified by ANBO members: institutional capacity building, information sharing and knowledge management, climate change, groundwater, and sustainable financing.

2. Background

Since its creation in July 2002, ANBO has been instrumental in establishing real cooperation between basin organizations on a continental scale and under the aegis of AMCOW. Such cooperation has contributed significantly to the integrated management of water resources, knowledge of climate change issues, information sharing and institutional development of ANBO.

As a result, the General Assemblies in Addis Ababa in 2015 and Kigali in 2016 adopted a 10-year strategy, a five-year action plan and the revision of ANBO's statutes. All this work contributed to strengthening the network's capacities as a platform for connecting basin organizations with each other, for collaboration with financial and technical partners, and above all, for strengthening ANBO's Technical Secretariat to develop initiatives including the ANBO-UNDP/GEF project.

The ANBO-UNDP/GEF project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through UNDP, which is the implementing agency. OMVS and UNESCO are the two executing agencies of the project. The project, which implementation started in June 2018, aimed at strengthening the coordination and cooperation capacities of African lake and river basin organizations and commissions as well as cooperation frameworks for transboundary groundwater management, and those of their member states, with a view to improving transboundary water governance in Africa. To this end, the project will contribute to the capacity-building of ANBO and the implementation of the 10-year strategy adopted in 2015, through two components: (i) "Strengthening ANBO's institutional and technical capacities as a technical body of AMCOW" and (ii) "Support for the capacity building of lake/river basin organizations, groundwater commissions and RECs to foster transboundary cooperation".



The project is in line with the SITWA project (2012-2016) which was designed to strengthen the capacities of basin organizations.

However, since the end of the SITWA project, ANBO's operational activities underwent one and a half year of latency that consequently impacted the implementation and monitoring of the five-year action plan initiated by the SITWA project.

It is in this context that the next General Assembly will be held in Tunis (Tunisia) in July 2019.

3. Objectives and expected deliverables

3.1. Objectives

The main objectives of the next ANBO General Assembly are as follows:

1. Assess ANBO's achievements since 2016;
2. Renew ANBO's decision-making bodies including the presidency and the Coordination Bureau (CB);
3. Revisit gaps and pending issues resulting from the last General Assembly of Kigali in September 2016, including the statutes and the identification of ANBO financing options (operation and program);
4. Review the 2015-2024 strategy and assess the 2015-2019 action plan, and define a roadmap for the 2020-2024 action plan;
5. Adopt a new approach making ANBO a service organization for its members and partners in the 5 priority areas identified by ANBO members: institutional capacity building, information sharing and knowledge management, sustainable financing, groundwater management, and climate change;
6. Share state-of-the-art knowledge in 3 services areas (groundwater management, climate change, and sustainable financing) to inform ANBO's strategy and 2020-2024 action plan.

3.2. Expected results

The expected results of the General Assembly are:

- The ANBO decision-making bodies are renewed;
- The statutes adopted at the GA in Kigali in 2016 which defined the roles and responsibilities of the different ANBO bodies are revised and approved;
- The 10-year strategy 2015 -2024 and its implementation action plan 2015-2019 are assessed;
- The roadmap of ANBO 2020-2024 action plan is defined;
- Financial options for ANBO (operation and programs) are identified;
- A new approach making ANBO a service organization for its members and partners in 5 priority areas identified by ANBO members is approved;
- State-of-the-art knowledge in 3 services areas (groundwater management, climate change, and sustainable financing) is shared to inform ANBO's strategy and 2020-2024 action plan.



4. Planned meetings

A series of meetings will be organized during the GA to foster dialogue and decision making involving all participants. There will be a set of plenaries and working group sessions. The GA will provide a platform for information on programs of transboundary water management organizations.

The forum will be organized in three parts:

(i) Technical sessions

The objective of the technical sessions is to inform and exchange with participants on state-of-the-art knowledge on sustainable financing, groundwater management, and climate change.

Technical sessions on each topic will be facilitated by experts through presentations and exchanges. Discussions will be organized in a way to produce recommendations to be considered for ANBO's action plan for the next five years and its work program for the next two years (until the next GA).

(ii) Review of ANBO governance documents

Documents prepared for the GA (statutes, assessment of ten-year strategy and action plan, financing options) will be reviewed for approval by all ANBO members, and input from partners.

(iii) Statutory sessions

These are sessions during which the ANBO's governing bodies will be renewed, namely the chairmanship and the Coordination Bureau.

5. Venue and date

The GA will be held **in Tunis from 2 to 5 July 2019**. The selection of Tunisia is based on a principle of rotation of the venue for the General Assembly. After Southern, Eastern, Central and Western Africa, it is now North Africa's turn to host the 7th ANBO GA.

6. Draft Agenda

The General Assembly is scheduled to take place over a 3-days period. A 4th day will follow to hold the meeting of the newly elected coordination bureau and the 2nd meeting of the steering committee of the ANBO-UNDP/GEF project.



Day 1: Tuesday 2 July 2019

TIME	ACTIVITIES	BY
8:30 - 9:00	Registration of Participants	RAOB Project Management Unit
9:00 - 11:00	Official opening ceremony (10 minutes for each speech) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcoming address by OSS 2. Speech of ANBO Permanent Technical Secretary 3. Speech of AMCOW Representative 4. Speech of INBO Chair 5. Speech of UNDP 6. Speech of ANBO Chair 7. Speech of the Tunisian Minister of Agriculture 8. Family Photo 9. Press conference 	Facilitator (Khatim Kherraz)
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break	
11:30 – 13:00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Self-introduction by all participants 2. GA ToRs and agenda approval 3. Presentation of ANBO -UNDP/GEF project 	Chair Abdoulaye Ndiaye Abdoulaye Ndiaye
13:00- 14:30	Lunch break	
14:30- 15:30	Presentation of Partner Initiatives of relevance to ANBO	CIWA, AMCOW, Dakar 2021 forum
Technical Sessions		
15:30-16:45	Transboundary Groundwater Governance	UNESCO
16:45-17:00	Coffee break	
17:00-18:00	Transboundary Groundwater Governance (continued)	UNESCO
20:00	Welcoming Reception	



Day 2: Wednesday 3 July 2019

TIME	ACTIVITIES	BY
Technical sessions (continued)		
09:00 – 11:00	Climate Change and Transboundary waters management	Facilitator (INBO)
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break	
11:15 – 13:15	Sustainable financing of transboundary waters	Facilitator (AfDB)
13:15 – 14:30	Lunch break	
14:30 – 15:15	<p style="text-align: center;">Presentation of studies on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review of ANBO new statutes; 2. Review of ANBO 2015-2024 Strategy and 2015-2019 Action Plan, and roadmap of 2020-2024 Action Plan 3. ANBO financing Options (operation and program) 	Consultants
15:15 – 15:30	Formation of working groups	Abdoulaye Ndiaye
15:30 – 16:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Group work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Group 1: Review of ANBO new statutes; ➤ Group 2: Review of ANBO 2015-2024 Strategy and 2015-2019 Action Plan, and roadmap of 2020-2024 Action Plan ➤ Group 3: ANBO financing Options (operation and program) 	Facilitators (Lamine Ndiaye for group1, Tanor Dieng for group2, Daniel Malzbender for group3)
16:30 – 16:45	Coffee break	
16:45 – 18:00	Group work continued	Facilitators

Day 3: Thursday 4 July 2019

TIME	ACTIVITIES	BY
9:00 – 10:30	Working groups' reporting (Adoption of Recommendations)	Group Rapporteurs
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break	
11:30 – 13:30	Statutory Session	



	<p>Presentation and discussions of ANBO Chair's report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ANBO's activity report ➤ ANBO's financial report 	ANBO Chair
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reading and adoption of final resolutions 2. Election of ANBO's Coordination Bureau members 3. Election of ANBO Chair and Vice Chair 	<p>ANBO Chair</p> <p>Facilitator to be identified</p>
13:30 – 15:00	Lunch break	
15:00 -16:00	Parallel sessions (side events) on partner initiatives	CIWA, AMCOW, Dakar 2021 forum
16:00 – 17:00	<p>Closing ceremony Closing remarks (ANBO Chair and Representative of Tunisia Government)</p>	ANBO Chair
End of the 7th General Assembly		
17:00 - 20:00	Field Visit	



Annex 3: Addendum to ANBO Statutes

ADDENDUM TO THE STATUTES

▶ Article 4 : Membership

Article 4.1. The members of the Network are transboundary river, lake or aquifer basin organizations whose establishment is recognized through an international or subregional agreement

Article 4 (4) - Observer Members

- The Network may include "observer members" who may be technical and financial partners of ANBO or public organizations and civil society associations involved in the management of transboundary water resources.*
- Observer members participate in meetings of the Network Council, but do not have the right to vote and cannot be elected. They may also be invited to participate in other Network events (workshops, conferences, training).*
- Candidates, upon request, shall be admitted as observer members upon proposal by the Coordinating Bureau, and with the agreement of the Council. Observer membership is granted on a permanent basis.*

The status of observer member is lost by resignation or by exclusion by the Council. Removal shall take place if the member is guilty of a serious breach of the Network's Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions.

▶ Article 7: The Council

7(3) The Council shall meet once every two years in ordinary session upon its President's request. The notice shall be sent at least 45 days before the scheduled meeting date. Decisions are adopted by a simple majority of the members present and transcribed in the form of a resolution.

Each member has one vote. In the event of a tie, the President shall have the overriding vote. The agenda is set by the President based on the proposal of the Secretary and with the agreement of the Coordination Bureau.

Successive Council meetings shall be held as far as possible in a different geographical regions.

7(4) The Council shall take its decisions by consensus or by vote in the event of disagreement.

7 (5) An Extraordinary Council meeting shall be convened, exceptionally for urgent business. It is convened one month before the scheduled date:

- Upon the President's initiative,*
- or at the request of the Coordination Bureau,*
- or at the request of half of the members of the Network who have paid their dues.*



The deliberations of the Council shall be taken by consensus or by a vote of at least two thirds of the members present or represented, and up to date with their contributions.

▶ **Article 8: Duties of the Council**

It approves, upon the proposal of the Coordination Bureau or the Permanent Technical Secretariat, the Network's Statutes and any amendments thereto. A qualified majority of two thirds of the members present or represented shall be required when voting on the Statutes.

▶ **Article 9 : The President**

9 (2) The President and Vice-President shall be elected for a two-year term, renewable once only.

9(3) The Presidency rotates according to the regions North Africa / East Africa / West Africa / South Africa / Central Africa.

▶ **Article 10: Duties of the President**

- *Chairing the Network Council meetings.*
- *Chairing the meetings of the Coordination Bureau.*

In the event of impediment, the President shall be replaced in these tasks by the Vice-President

▶ **Article 11 : The Coordination Bureau**

11(1) The Coordination Bureau is composed of the representatives of two member organizations in each of the 5 geographical subregions of the continent (according to the division of the African Union), the representative of the Secretariat of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), the representative of ANBO's Permanent Technical Secretariat, the President and the Vice-President of the Network.

11(2) Meetings of the Coordination Bureau shall be chaired by the President

▶ **Article 15: Financing of the Network**

15(3) The Network's sources of financing are: a) membership fees; b) subsidies from States and public or private organizations; c) the proceeds of services provided by ANBO to its members and partners; d) donations, legacies and other legal gifts; e) any other resources acquired by the Network in its activities.



Annex 4: Roadmap development ANBO 2020-2024 Action Plan

Suggested revision for the Roadmap (AMCOW expects ANBO to play a coordination role for RBOs and a consultative role from ANBO to AMCOW):

1. 1 ANBO **contact person** designated in each TBOs in the morning of Thursday 4th of July first plenary session, with the responsibility detailed in **ToRs prepared by the ANBO TPS** to follow up ANBO action plan (with a formally revised official appointment by the TBO head with a letter addressed to ANBO President),
2. Communication of the unchanged 2015-2019 Action Plan to the TBOs for review and feedback (Action Plan not obsolete? How would you prioritize the component of activities? Is there any activity/component of activities missing? What inputs from the Tunis General Assembly should be integrated?),
3. Consolidation of the Action Plan by the TPS and presentation at the **Stockholm Water Week in Aug 2019**
4. Communication of the new version of the Action Plan to donors and partners (AMCOW/AU/AfDB/INBO/UNECE),
5. Finalization of the Action Plan,
6. **Roundtable of donors** (at the INBO WGA?) confirm financial commitments with the political support of AMCOW & AU.
7. Implementation of the Action Plan

Annex 5: Financial Options of the ANBO

- **None of the stand-alone options is found feasible at this time.**
- **The group recommends the blended option be considered and further explored along the following lines:**
- **Alternative 1: the two positions, i.e. one business development manager and one assistant, be funded through increased membership fee (USD 3000 per member per year);**
- **Alternative 2: the business development manager be financed through AfDB as TA for a limited duration;**
- **Alternative 3: explore the possibility of the business development manager be funded through the current UNDP-GEF project;**
- **Alternative 4: the business development manager could be a part-time position to reduce cost.**
- **Alternative 5: the business development manager could be financed through fees levied on RBOs on project funding;**



Annex 6: ANBO's Council Resolutions of 2019

The ANBO Council met in Tunis, Tunisia at the Ramada Plaza Hotel from 2 to 4 July 2019. At the end of the presentations, discussions and observations, the first Council meeting took the following decisions, which were transcribed in the form of resolutions. These resolutions are follows:

R1: The Council adopts the amendments made to the 2016 revised ANBO Statutes (see document entitled "Addendum to the 2016 revised ANBO Statutes").

R2: The Council unanimously renewed the terms of office of the Network Organs (President, Vice-President, Coordination Bureau, Permanent Technical Secretary) for a period of two years, and/or until the next Ordinary Council meeting. However, a position of the North African representatives in the Coordination Bureau remains vacant until further notice.

The members of the Network's organs are:

- 1) President: CICOS**
- 2) Vice-President: NBI**
- 3) Permanent Technical Secretariat: OMVS**
- 4) Coordination Bureau:**
 - West Africa: ABV and OMVG**
 - Central Africa: LCBC and ABAKIR**
 - East Africa and Horn of Africa: LVBC and ENTRO**
 - Southern Africa: KOBWA and OKACOM**
 - North Africa: OSS**
 - AMCOW Executive Secretariat**

R3: The Council approved the activity report of the President of the Network for the period October 2016 - May 2019.

R4: The Council took note of the status of the Network's bank account for the period October 2016 - May 2019 presented by the Permanent Technical Secretariat (PTS) and recommends that the latter produces a detailed financial report for the next Council meeting.

R5: The Council reiterates its recommendation to its members to pay their Annual financial contributions, now set at three thousand (3,000) US dollars.

R6: The Council requests the Permanent Technical Secretariat (PTS) to set up an effective system for collecting financial contributions from Network members.



R7: The Council accepted, with amendments, the roadmap proposed by the study for the elaboration of the 2020-2024 Action Plan and instructed the Permanent Technical Secretariat (PTS) to implement it with the support of the ANBO-UNDP/GEF Project.

R8: The Council recommends that each member includes in its annual work plan and budget, its technical and financial obligations to the network.

R9: The Council recommends that the Permanent Technical Secretariat (PTS) prepares the ToR and the official letter requesting each member to formally designate its focal point responsible for handling the Network's affairs.

R10: The Council urges ANBO governing bodies to strengthen working relations with AMCOW and to fulfil its mission and constitutional obligations towards the latter.

R11: The Council calls on its members to support funding mobilization efforts for the Network and their own programs.

R12: The Council urges its organs to find ways to put in place and operate a small team for the Secretariat.

R13: The Council reiterates the recommendation for the implementation of the communication strategy, validated in 2015 in South Africa.

R14: The Council urges ANBO governing bodies to support countries and RECs in the creation of new RBOs such as ABAKIR and others.

R15: The Council urges the organs of the Network and its members to work in full collaboration with OMVS to ensure the active and visible participation of RBOs in the process of preparing the Dakar 2021 Forum.

R16: The Council recommends developing programs for data collection and management, especially satellite data collection and management, in collaboration with CIWA (especially through the Africa Regional Data Cube program).

**Tunis, July 4, 2019
ANBO Permanent Technical Secretary
Mr. Hamed Diane SEMEGA**



Annex 7: Links for Articles on the Council meeting in Tunis in 2019

Wataniya 1: national TV

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UECBL35lt1M> (Watch from 25mn 52)

Agence TAP : Tunisian Press Agency in 3 versions (French, English and Arabic)

- <https://www.tap.info.tn/fr/Portail-Economie/11603326-tenue-à-tunis-de-la>
- <https://www.tap.info.tn/en/Portal-Economy/11603802-african-network-of>
- <https://www.tap.info.tn/ar/إقتصاد-سيت-ويب-Portal-Economy/11603878-الافريقية-الشبكة>

L'Expert : Arabic Version

<http://lexpertjournal.net/blog/2019/07/03/الأفريق-للشبكة-السابعة-العامة-الجلسة/>

Webmanager center : French Version

<https://www.webmanagercenter.com/2019/07/02/436671/le-reseau-africain-des-organismes-de-bassin-tient-son-assemblee-generale-en-tunisie/>

Espace Manager : French Version

<https://www.espacemanager.com/7eme-assemblee-generale-du-raob.html>

French. Xinhuanet : French Version

http://french.xinhuanet.com/afrique/2019-07/02/c_138193117.htm

Made in Tunisia : French Arabic Version

<https://www.almanber-ettounsi.com/2019/07/03/الجلسة-العامة-السابعة-للشبكة-الأفريق/>

Maghrebemergent: French Version

<https://maghrebemergent.info/afrique-discussion-a-tunis-sur-la-gestion-de-leau-dans-le-cadre-dune-vision-a-atteindre-dici-2025/>