



World Meteorological Organization

Weather, climate, water

Volta-HYCOS

SECOND REPORT

“The IMPLEMENTATION PHASE – July to December 2006”

Prepared by the Secretariat of WMO

Geneva, 31 January 2007

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Volta-HYCOS
Second progress report on
The implementation of activities
31 January 2007

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), in collaboration with the French Institute for Development Research (IRD), prepared a draft project document in February 2003 to implement the Volta-HYCOS project. The ultimate objective of this project is to develop a system of reliable information on the water resources in the Volta Basin, using quality data, with easy access, using the Internet facilities by users. The project intends to consolidate the technical and institutional capacities of the NHSs in the participating countries, reinforce hydrological observing networks, in particular through the use of different technological options in remote data acquisition, promote development of national and regional data bases, foster regional cooperation and organize pertinent training programs. The project will also strengthen the institutional capacity of the Volta Basin Authority (VBA).

1.2 An agreement between WMO and the AFD for funding the project was signed in early December 2004. WMO is the executing agency of the project and will provide technical supervision. According to article 3-a of the above agreement in order to execute the preparatory phase of Volta-HYCOS, WMO received on 12th of September 2005 the first transfer of € 69.000 (sixty nine thousands Euros) for implementation of the preparatory phase.

1.3 The main objectives of the preparatory phase were to establish the Project Management Unit, implement country visits to collect data and information to prepare the Draft Detailed Project Document and finally to establish the project Steering Committee. The preparatory phase was successfully completed and has achieved its objectives. A progress report was submitted to FFEM in July 2006 supplemented by another one dated 20th October 2006.

1.4 The second phase, which constitutes the Field Implementation phase of the project, was planned to start immediately after the preparatory phase. WMO submitted a financial status report and the first progress report to FFEM on 19 July 2006 and requested a payment of € 100.000 to start the activities.

1.5 Due to certain amendments carried out in the agreement between WMO and AFD, the funds could only be released by 12 January 2007. However, in order to maintain the momentum gained and to keep the project management unit operating, WMO advanced the project with limited funds to start the work until the required funds are available.

1.6 As per the Agreement referred to in paragraph 1.2 of the VOLTA-HYCOS project; WMO is expected to submit a progress report bi-annually on the work accomplished under the project. This is the second semi-annual report and it covers all the activities undertaken during the period, July to December 2006.

2. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The project is of duration 3 years, including the initial phase of 6 months (preparatory phase), which started in January 2006 and the implementation phase of 30 months (field activity phase). From July 2006 through to 31 December 2006, noticeable progress has been achieved.

2.1 ***The work of the preparatory phase*** has been fully accomplished.

- The project Management Unit is fully operational.
- Country consultations have been implemented.
- Draft Detailed Project Document was prepared and circulated.
- The Project Steering Committee was established and focal points were identified.

2.2 ***The first Steering Committee meeting was organized*** in Ouagadougou in September 2006. The main objectives of the meeting were to receive comments from countries on the draft Detailed Project Document circulated earlier, to endorse and agree on the budget and the implementation plan. Twenty-three (23) participants including the Steering Committee (SC) Members, partners and invited organizations, attended the meeting. The full report of the meeting is attached at annex I while the main outcome is summarized below.

- Noticing the various activities that have been undertaken by the riparian countries of the Volta basin towards the establishment of the Volta Basin Authority (VBA), WMO invited and supported the participation of Dr. Charles Biney, Ag. Executive Director of VBA to the 1st Steering Committee meeting.
- Participants presented their comments and views on the draft project documents, proposed budget and workplan. There was common agreement among participants on the following points:
 - The New established VBA should be assigned an active role in the implementation process. This role should be identified and clearly reflected in the final project document. Involvement of VBA in the implementation activities has been reflected in the final project document.
 - The role of 2iE should be well defined and reflect responsibility in the implementation process. It has been reflected in the final project document.
 - The project budget should be revised to include funds to support and enable the newly established Volta Basin Authority to enhance its operational capacity and strengthen its role in the Volta-HYCOS project. It was also recommended to increase the allocated budget for a vehicle for the PRC and one vehicle for each country to ensure successful implementation of the project's field activities. The meeting requested WMO to assist VBA secure funds to strengthen its role in the project implementation.
 - Establish strong links of communication with the Niger-HYCOS to exchange experience, ensure synergy between the two projects and organize joint training modules to ensure cost effectiveness.

2.3 **WMO revised the project document** including the workplan and budget to include comments from countries. As a result, the revised budget has increased to a total of € 2,937,354. The FFEM's contribution of € 1,000,000 remained without change as per the agreement between WMO and AFD, while € 200 000 from countries in kind, €150 000 from 2iE's in kind, € 870 000 from IRD in kind and another €717,354.00 need to be secured from other sources to complete the project objectives including strengthening the Volta Basin Authority.

. The revised budget is attached to this report in annex II.

2.4 **WMO is assisting VBA** secure fund to the tune of €717,354 to enable it to fulfil its role in the project and strengthen VBA institutional capacities. WMO assisted VBA to submit request to African Water Facility (AWF) to support its activities. AWF is considering the request to co-fund the Volta-HYCOS.

2.5 **Consultation meetings** were carried out between PMU staff and NBA experts to discuss the means to bring synergy between the two projects and plan joint training activities.

2.6 **The training module on Hydrometry and Topographic Survey** applied to hydrology (Training of trainers) was organized from the 4 to 9 December 2006 at the Project Regional Centre. Eleven trainers including seven from National Hydrological Services in the participating countries and four from 2iE were trained on the subject. The full report is attached as annex III.

2.7 **Draft Technical Specification** of the Hydrological equipment, computers, ADCP and Hydrological Data Base Management System were prepared in English and French.

2.8 **Draft call for international tenders** for the Hydrological equipment, computers, ADCP and Hydrological Data Base Management System were prepared in English and French.

3. PROJECT PERFORMANCE AND LESSONS LEARNED

3.1 Project Performance

The process of the implementation phase started in September 2006 two months after request of fund transfer. More time than anticipated was consumed in finalizing the fund transfer. WMO managed to accommodate the situation and maintain project implementation. Although the funds for the implementation phase were available starting January 2007 , noticeable progress has been achieved. This demonstrates commitment and good progress in implementing project activities.

3.2 Lessons Learned

3.2.1 The project had to operate without the support of a secretary/administrative assistant. The project team experienced some difficulties with translation facilities from French to English and vice versa and other minor administrative tasks.

3.2.2 Due to absence of project vehicle, the PMU is facing transportation problems. Provision has been made for the acquisition of a vehicle in the revised project document.

3.2.3 Currently, it is only the Project Coordinator and the Hydrologist from IRD that carry out all the activities in the PMU of the Volta HYCOS project. A hydrological technician, as envisaged in the Agreement between WMO and IRD, would be more helpful in the field and in updating the hydrological information. If all the personnel envisaged therein were available, there would have been the possibility of working as a team on a number of other aspects of the project, as is the case in Niger-HYCOS project.

4. CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

4.1 Some delays were experienced in implementing activities, due to flow of funds and non-provision of personnel by IRD as had been agreed to by them. Noticeable progress has been achieved even though it is lightly behind schedule.

4.2 There is an urgent need for a meeting between WMO and partners i.e. IRD and FFEM to clearly identify responsibility of each partner and review workplan and other administrative procedures, which impact the implementation process and time schedule.