



Performance Indicators in IWRM

Good water governance is vital for mastering water resource issues. Performance Indicators (PIs) are an important new tool for improving water governance, and can provide useful support for:

MANAGEMENT: Indicators are important instruments for managing sustainable natural resources. They constitute the basis for assessing achievement of objectives within a management process and for evaluating impacts.

GOVERNANCE: Indicators provide information on the management of shared resources that can be used to enhance accountability and transparency, thus supporting good governance.

COMMUNICATION: PIs have a broad target audience, which can be within the organisation (e.g. RBO) or external to it. PIs can represent a powerful tool for synthesizing information and delivering it in a concise and direct way to these audiences, and are frequently used in reporting.

Two sets of indicators were developed:

1- Twenty Performance indicators related to **governance aspects:** focusing on legal and institutional frameworks, organization, management, financing and planning processes.

ID #	Indicator	GLOSSARY - Meaning of the indicator
G1	Political connection	State policy involved in the governance and running of the basin organization body
G2	Benefit sharing	Benefit sharing mechanism exists to share water resources equally between basin countries

2- Fifteen Performance indicators related to **realities on the field:** technical, economic, social and environmental, etc.

ID #	Indicator	GLOSSARY - Meaning of the indicator
T1 T2	Regulated volumes compared to input flows	This indicator denotes the volume contained in dams in comparison to the received input flows The indicator is based on two sub-indicators: • T1: volume regulated by all dams • T2: volume regulated by all shared large dams. Unit: Percentage
...

The IWRM Performance Indicators were developed for application by both **internal** and **external** stakeholders, including **River Basin Organisation (RBO)** personnel, **NGOs**, **Donors**, and **Government**.

The approach

The indicators are based on the strong partnership between ten major African Transboundary **River Basin Organizations**, and encourage a high level of acceptance and integration. They have been selected on criteria of **simplicity, relevance, reproducibility** and **cost/benefit ratio, following a period of iterative work (intellectual conception and field testing)**.

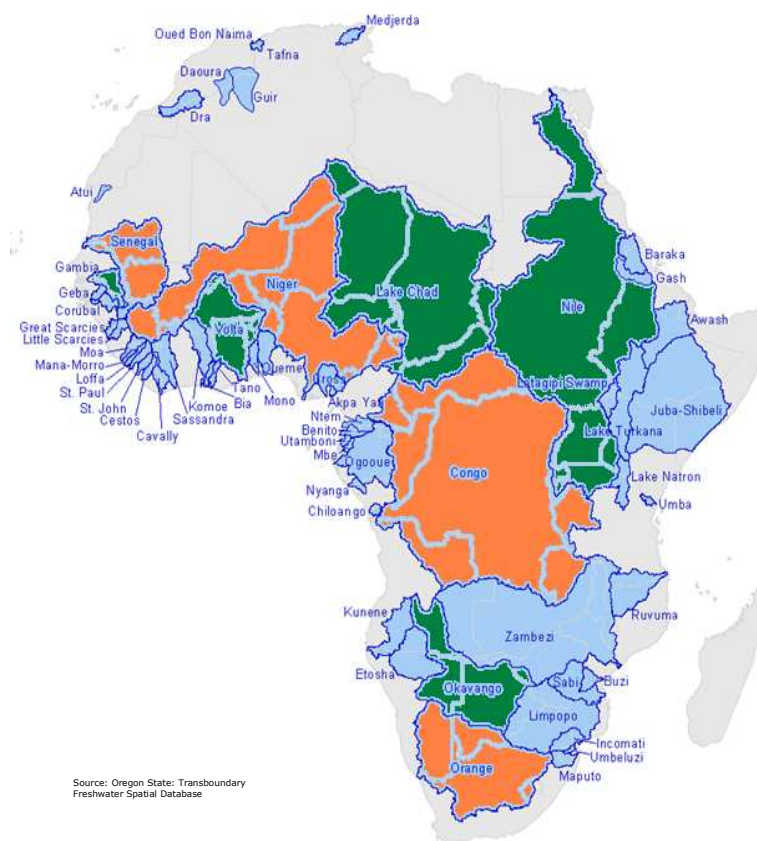
The indicators are pragmatic, consume little time and correspond to local realities. In addition, the project has shown **that RBOs benefit from and need** these indicators, since the process of assessment / notation provides an ideal opportunity for **better management**.

Implementing IWRM in large transboundary basins is a lengthy and complex process. The use of applicable and relevant Performance Indicators can be of great help in managing the basins:

Basin Organization Managers can define appropriate objectives and design Basin Management Plans and Programmes of Measures by providing guidelines and benchmarking;

Basin Organization stakeholders, including water users and civil society, are able to better monitor planning processes and implementation;

Donors can assess the quality of work and the use of their funds.



Tests in Pilot River Basins

The project benefited from two iterative testing phases within various African RBOs (cf map)

Transboundary river / lake basin organizations were selected, widely spread over the continent, characterized by serious water management issues, diverse legal and institutional frameworks, and distinct social, economic and geographical contexts.

- **Congo** (CICOS)
- Gambia (OMVG)
- Lake Chad (LCBC)
- Lake Victoria (LVBC)
- **Niger** (ABN)
- Nile (NBI)
- Okavango (OKACOM)
- Orange-Senqu (ORASECOM)
- **Senegal** (OMVS)
- **Volta** (VBA)

(Key project partners in bold)

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