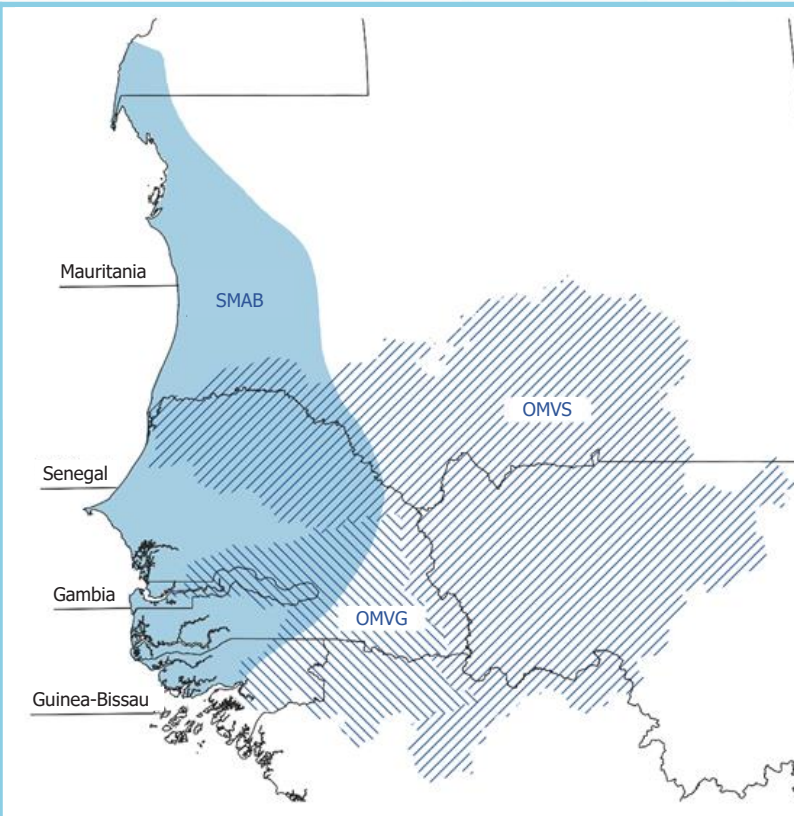
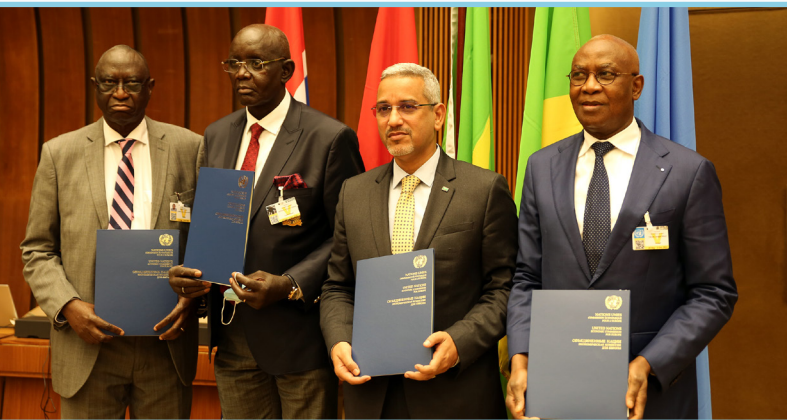




OBSERVATOIRE
DU SAHARA
ET DU SAHEL

Advances in transboundary cooperation in the Senegalo-Mauritanian aquifer basin (SMAB)



Regional dialogue facilitated by:



With financial support of:



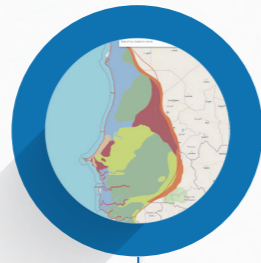
February 2019

Roundtable in Geneva on transboundary cooperation in the SMAB



Summer 2020

Preparation of diagnostic studies



Oct. 2020 - June 2021

Preparation of a joint vision and project



February 2021

3rd meeting of the RWG

September 2021

Meeting of the ministers of water in Geneva, validating the project of the RWG and renewing its mandate

Oct. 2021 - March 2022

Operationalization of the RWG according to its new mandate and exchanges with potential donors



9th WORLD WATER FORUM | DAKAR 2021

May 2020

Creation of the Regional Working Group (RWG), mandated by the ministers of water of the 4 countries

October 2020

1st general meeting of the RWG

December 2020

2nd meeting of the RWG in Dakar

June 2021

4th meeting of the RWG

December 2021

Approval of a project identification form submitted by UNEP and OSS to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), in line with the joint vision and project of the RWG

March 2022

High level session and exchanges on the SMAB at the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar

Joint vision and project

Global objective

To promote resilience, sustainable development and stability in the region through strategic, integrated and collaborative management of groundwater resources.

Specific objective 1

Improve the integrated and sustainable management of the strategic resource

Specific objective 2

Strengthen governance for water cooperation, the protection of water resources and their equitable and efficient use.

Specific objective 3

Strengthen political engagement and develop sustainable financing mechanisms.

Estimated budget

8 855 000 \$

Management of the project will be jointly supported by the two river basin organisations, OMVG and OMVS.

Important facts about the Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin (SMAB)

333,000

KM²

The SMAB is large over 330.000 km². It covers 100% of the area of the Gambia, 27% of Guinea-Bissau, 14% of Mauritania and 84% of Senegal.



There are already cases of **over-exploitation** and **contamination** of groundwater in the SMAB.

32%

OMVS

18%

OMVG

The hydrographic basins managed by the Senegal River Basin Development Authority (OMVS) and the Gambia River Basin Development Authority (OMVG) cover 32% and 18% of the SMAB.



Water demand is expected to rise, due to demographic growth and economic development. Water availability is further threatened by climate change. In consequence, the pressure on groundwater is likely to increase.

16

MILLIONS

It was estimated in 2016 that 16 millions people were living in the SMAB. The region experiences a strong demographic growth, with an average annual growth rate of 2.5%.



Groundwater governance and available information are not adequate to tackle these challenges.

80%

DEPENDANCE

The 4 countries depend for more than 80% on groundwater.



The countries and the river basin organisations are developing a **regional cooperation mechanism** to improve the management of groundwater resources, building upon 50 years of cooperation on transboundary surface water.

To know more

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSQecUAUptA>

<https://ggis.un-igrac.org/view/basm>

<https://www.genevawaterhub.org/news/9th-world-water-forum-high-level-panel-exchange-between-transboundary-aquifers-three-continents>

