

# **STIMULATING STAKEHOLDERS' SUPPORT FOR MANAGING SHARED WATERS –**

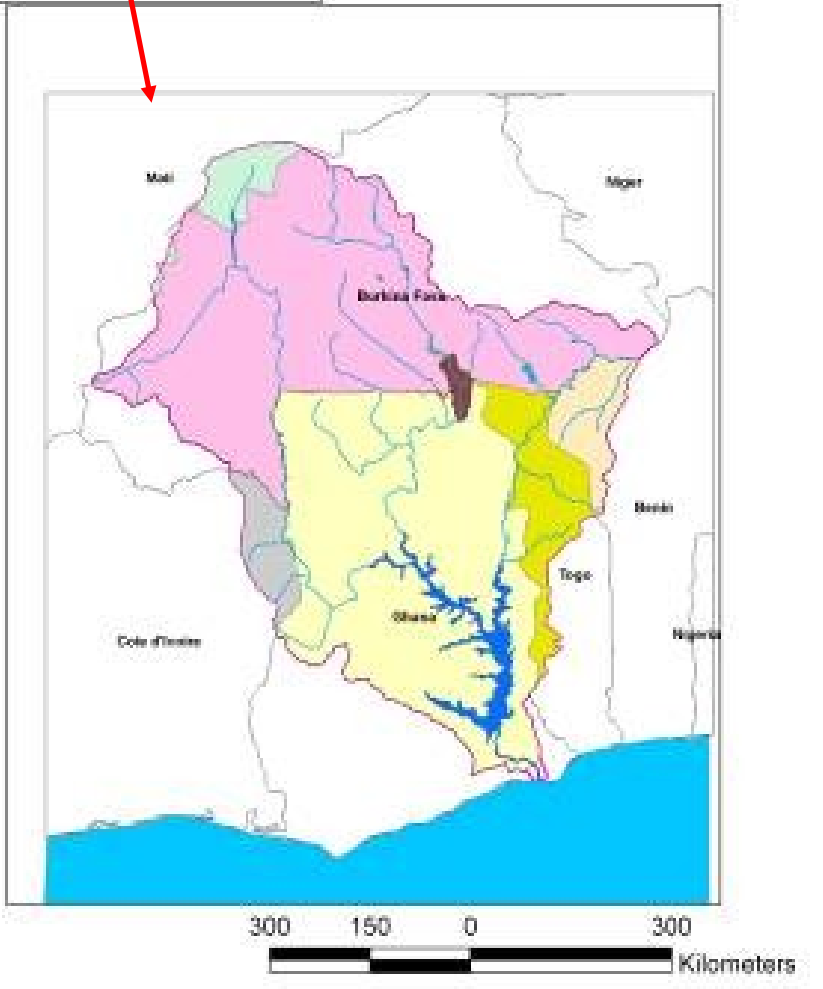
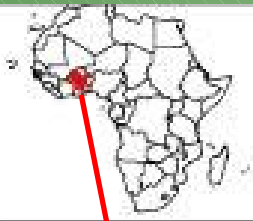
*experiences from the Volta Basin in West Africa*

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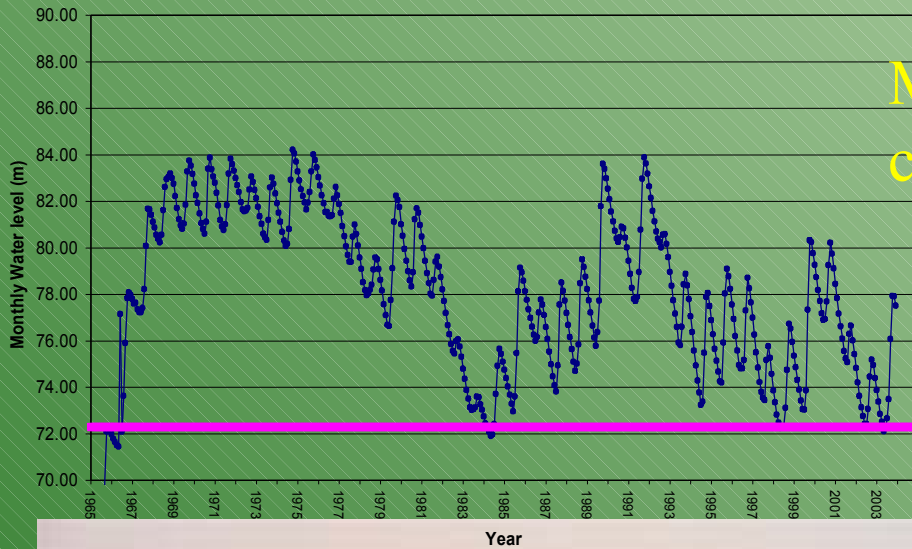
**Coordinator, Volta Water Governance Project**

# Key facts about the Volta Basin



- The Volta River Basin is shared by six countries-(Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali & Togo).
- It covers nearly 400,000 km<sup>2</sup> of the sub-humid to semi-arid West-African savannah zone
- 85% of the total basin area is shared between Burkina Faso and Ghana
- Its water is a key developmental resource.

# WRM Challenges in the Volta



Misconception about impacts of climate variability

Absence of coordination

Farming on river banks, contributing to silting of river channel



Erosion on river banks due to poor farming practices



# Strategic focus of PAGEV



Projet d'Amélioration de la Gouvernance de l'Eau dans le bassin de la Volta –

PAGEV- focuses on:

- Fixing the governance deficiencies in the basin that translate into;
  - uncoordinated management of the basin;
  - competing use of land and water resources (potential sources of conflicts);
  - weak capacity of countries to deal with transboundary environmental threats such as water pollution, deforestation, flooding, etc;
  - Build on previous and on-going consultations and joint initiatives on water management between Burkina Faso and Ghana.
- To utilize the strengths of relevant on-going and planned initiatives in order to establish necessary linkages between
  - Science (Knowledge base) and policy (Institutional adjustments)
  - theory (IWRM principles & national water policies) and practice (stakeholder consultation, pilot field interventions)

# Geographical focus of PAGEV



- Eight communities involved in pilot IWRM (4 in Burkina Faso and 4 in Ghana):
  - 2 departments in BF
  - 3 districts in GH

# Multi-level partners for TWM engaged



**River banks protection committees formed in 8 communities & regular consultations and awareness raising organized.**



**Joint planning sessions with technical services (Agric, Forestry, Environment, Animal Husbandry) and NGOs organized.**



**Multi-level stakeholders platform enhanced with participation of Prefects and District Chiefs in SC meetings**

# Impulse for collaboration and building trust set



- **A water audit** providing the dynamics of water availability and demand undertaken and a DSS for predicting water demand and supply impacts under various climatic scenarios has been proposed.

*DGRE supported to rehabilitate two river gauging stations*



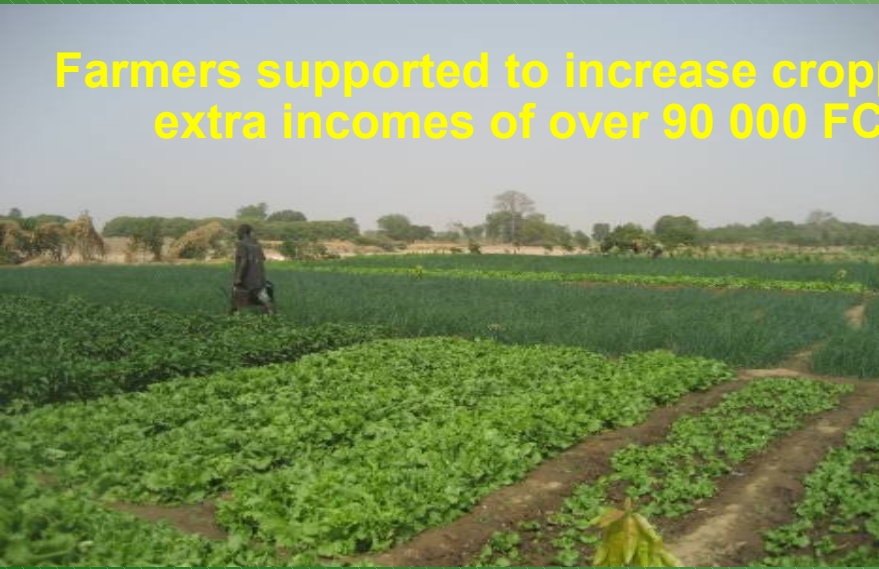
**A joint water quality monitoring of selected wells and sites undertaken by teams from Burkina Faso and Ghana.**

# *Land & water conservation linked to livelihood improvements*



**Over 16 km of River banks reforested with fruit & other trees to provide alternatives for income generation and fuel wood.**

**Farmers supported to increase cropping areas for vegetable farming- extra incomes of over 90 000 FCFA made in the last dry season.**





# Gender perspectives mainstreamed into IWRM interventions



**Women empowered for trees nurseries management**

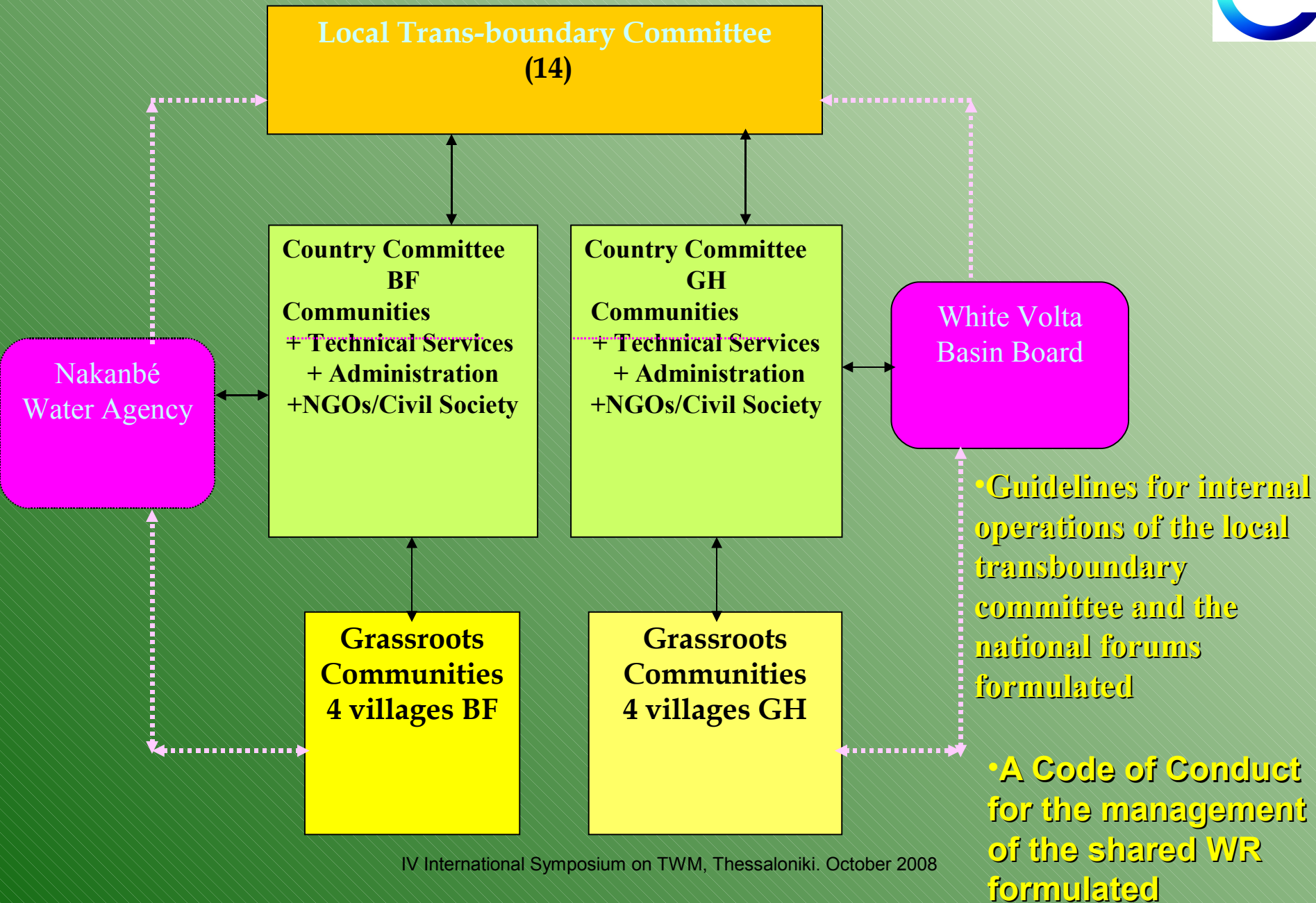


**Communities supported to dig wells - bringing relief to the communities, particularly women who spend time looking for water for domestic chores**

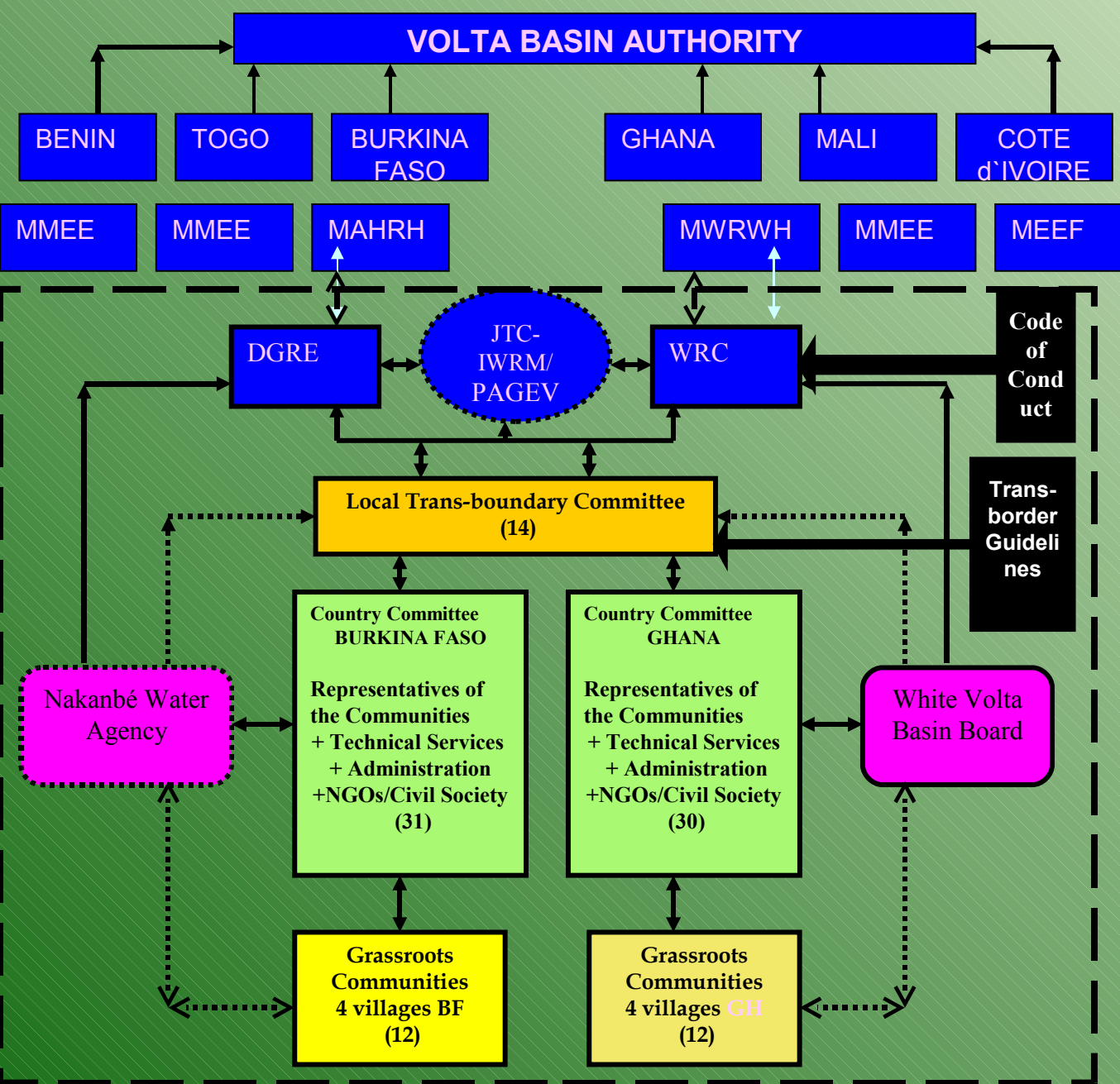


**Custom still limit access to land by women:- Women groups are being supported to rear small ruminants to earn income.**

# Collaborative TWM frameworks improved



# Emerging basin-wide Institutional setup



## *Reflections on lessons from project implementation*

- Technical level cooperation could enhance improvement in information sharing (e.g. flood warning from operators of Bagré dam) and provided impulse to building trust
- Power of community-level participation is evident when the outcomes of participation are clearly linked to the improvement of livelihood of participating communities;
- Planning and implementation of community-based actions can be successfully shared between sectors as well as between communities across boundaries;
- The multi-stakeholder/participatory approach is slow, expensive and time consuming. It has however, helped to mobilize partnership with Ministries, and decentralized local government, NGOs and civil society;

## *Replicability of PAGEV interventions*



- Presently, transboundary coordination involving all six riparian states of the Basin has evolved – the convention for the establishment of the Volta Basin Authority (VBA) has been signed, - strengthening the collaboration with initiatives (UNEP/GEF-Volta project and VBA) will ensure the replication of PAGEV experiences
- The buffer zones creation initiated by PAGEV are being replicated by the Regional Directorates of Agriculture and other community based projects in Burkina Faso and Ghana as part of support to communities to improve small-scale irrigation for food security.

For further information visit the following sites:-

<http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/cwaro/prograr>

[http://www.gwpforum.org/gwp/library/Running\\_Water\\_N16.pdf](http://www.gwpforum.org/gwp/library/Running_Water_N16.pdf)

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION