

**Integrated Water Resources Management in the Congo basin
based on Earth Observation-based operational services
being developed in the framework of the AMESD Programme in Central Africa**

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ABSTRACT

The Congo basin is one of the richest in terms of water resources. These water resources are still under-exploited and less managed. However due to the decrease of the Oubangui river discharge since 30 years and the Small Lake Chad current status in the neighbour Lake Chad Basin, the monitoring of water resources in the Congo basin is crucial.

The African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development Programme (AMESD) therefore sets the basis for the development of a regular monitoring system of the Congo Basin water resources in its Central African component dedicated to the Management of Water Resources.

In the next 36 months, satellite data reception stations will be installed in 7 Central African countries, regional experts capacities built and operational services developed. They will alert on low waters in order to improve navigation conditions anticipation and on water cycle to assess the impact on climate change on its water resources and on humid forests in particular. A decision-support tool will be initiated and some decision-makers will be sensitised.

The presentation focuses on the project expected outcomes as well as its first achievements.

Key Words: IWRM, Central Africa, Congo Basin, Congo, Ubangui, AMESD, Remote sensing, Earth Observation, environmental monitoring, water resources management, operational services, capacity building, decision-makers sensitisation

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