

The overall objective of the study is to develop an appropriate and flexible legal and institutional framework for consultation and joint management of water resources of the Niger Basin. The establishment of a legal and institutional framework to support sustainable development initiatives - both at the level of each Member country and in the basin - is an essential element for the new approach to integrated, equitable and sustainable management of the shared water resources of the Niger Basin. Thirty years after its creation, the NBA does not yet have an appropriate legal and regulatory framework for the integrated management and peaceful concerted water resources of the basin.

This study will:

Facilitate dialogue and cooperation between Member countries in the design and implementation of programmes and projects affecting water resources;

Strengthen solidarity and promote integration and sub-regional economic cooperation among Member countries;

Fix the principles and procedures for allocating water resources between different sectors of use and associated benefits;

Determine the rules for the preservation and protection of the environment, particularly with regard to water quality;

Define the modalities of participation of water users in decision-making for the management of River Niger's water resources;

Attach the principles and rules for conflict prevention and resolution related to the use of River Niger's water resources.

To facilitate the design of a solid and adequate institutional and legal framework to achieve these objectives, the study was divided into two parts:

- i)- Part I: the establishment of a complete diagnosis of sub-regional legislative and institutional framework for the management of water resources at the local, national, and sub-regional level the Niger River basin.
- ii)- Part II: formulation, based on the Phase I and existing watercourse agreements, a Water Charter

[Download the Water Charter](#)