International Commission of the Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin « CICOS »

5th World Water Forum - Italian Side Event
“the Po valley compares itself with big international basins”

CONGO RIVER BASIN: challenges and current initiatives

Benjamin NDALA
General Secretary
Situation of the Congo River basin

- 1/3 of the basin in the northern hemisphere, 2/3 in the southern hemisphere.
- Area: 3,700,000 km²
- 9 countries
- 25,000 km of waterways

1st basin in Africa and 2nd in the world.
CICOS legal framework

- The agreement establishing a Uniform framework for the river system and creating CICOS was signed on 6 November 1999 by the 4 Heads of State of Cameroon, Central Africa, Congo and Democratic Republic of Congo (Angola is now observer)

- An Addendum to the agreement extending the mandate of CICOS to IWRM was signed on 22 February 2007
Major issue in the Congo river basin: Inga dam

Biggest hydropower potential in the world:
- **44 000 MW** - 225 km downstream Kinshasa
- Installed capacity: 351 MW + 1424 MW
PROBLEMATIC and PROJECTS

- Water transport promotion (GTZ, World Bank)
- Monitoring of water resources (Congo HYCOS, WMO)
- Strategic planification (AWF)
- Management of halieutic resources (FAO)
- Water infrastructures (hydropower...
Oubangui low water problems

The basin faces severe low-water, notably for its tributaries situated in the northern hemisphere, such as the Oubangui River.
Oubangui low water problems (continuation)

- **Consequence:** interruption of navigation on Oubangui river
  - 4 days per year from 1935 to 1971
  - 40 days per year from 1972 to 1982
  - 107 days per year from 1983 to 1989
  - More than 200 days per year since 2002

- **Project of transfer of Oubangui waters to Lake Chad:** environmental and social impacts must be seriously studied
African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development Program

- African Union / European Union; CEMAC / CICOS
- Central Africa region Thema: Management of Water Resources
- Low waters alert system and water cycle modelling
- Training sessions, sensitisation of stakeholders and decision-makers
Agreement Addendum: “the projects likely to have significant impacts on shared waters, (...) must be object of the commission opinion and/or of a states consultation before their authorisation”

*Construction by CICOS of decision making support tools* (prospective scenarios simulation)
Thank you for your attention

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