Transfer of knowledge: the example of the cross-border BIO-PLATEAUX project

Patrick Lecante
President of the Water and Biodiversity Committee of French Guiana
The Maroni and the Oyapock river basins at a glance

French Overseas Territory in South America - French Department since 1945

National and European regulations in force

Cultural and ethnic diversity of populations
Strong demographic dynamic that creates significant challenges in terms of access to essential services
Exceptional biodiversity (high taxonomic diversity) - High mineral wealth (specific pressures such as illegal gold washing)
Articulation of economic development with the management and enhancement of the natural heritage

A specific transboundary context

French Guiana at the 9th World Water
Shared issues for shared basins: need for cooperation

**Resilience to a changing climate**
Anticipate against uncertainty, adaptation to water-related risks (floods/low waters), and mitigate in an Amazonian context.

**Accompany economic development and reduce anthropogenic pressures**
The territories are facing pressures (illegal gold mining for instance). We must find a coherent and long term path to development for populations and ecosystems.

**Short term needs**
Reinforce jointly human essential services (drinking water supply, sanitation, waste management, health) in isolated context.
Cooperate with our neighbors

BIO-PLATEAUX PROJECT

TOWARDS A TRANSBOUNDARY MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES AND BIODIVERSITY

The privileged model to strengthen transboundary cooperation in the river basins of the Oyapock and Maroni on water resources and aquatic biodiversity, follows a progressive step-by-step logic. The fundamental objective of this work is the joint implementation of a balanced development model, also taking into account the expectations of citizens and stakeholders.

PHASE I
DATA SHARING AND MUTUAL KNOWLEDGE
2019/2022

- Identification of cooperation needs
- High level contacts (Cayenne Conference Statement)
- Creation and animation of a technical network
- Fundamental tools: web platform for sharing data, information and documents
- Planning for knowledge
- Awareness raising: pilot water classes
- Progressive technical link with ACTO

PHASE II
CREATION OF THE TRANSBOUNDARY OBSERVATORY
2022/2025

- Legal, economic and organizational studies: towards the creation of the Observatory
- Animation and development of the technical network
- Citizen participation
- Initiation of the planning process: shared diagnosis on the two river basins
- Strengthening of knowledge: studies, instrumentation, data production and sharing
- Joint pilot cooperation activities on water resources and aquatic biodiversity
- Interoperability work between BIO-PLATEAUX and the ACTO Amazon Regional Observatory

PHASE III
INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES AND AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY
2025/...

- Support to the technical secretariat of the Observatory
- Implementation of shared governance
- Integrated planning by river basins
- Joint financing of pilot measures for the implementation of the action program
- Decision making support for a development model that respects ecosystems
- Scaling up to the Guiana Shield level
- Joint projects with ACTO
Cooperate with our neighbors
Thank you for your attention

bio-plateaux.org

French Guiana at the 9th World Water