

# Implementing IWRM in the territories – A case study in the Senegal River Basin

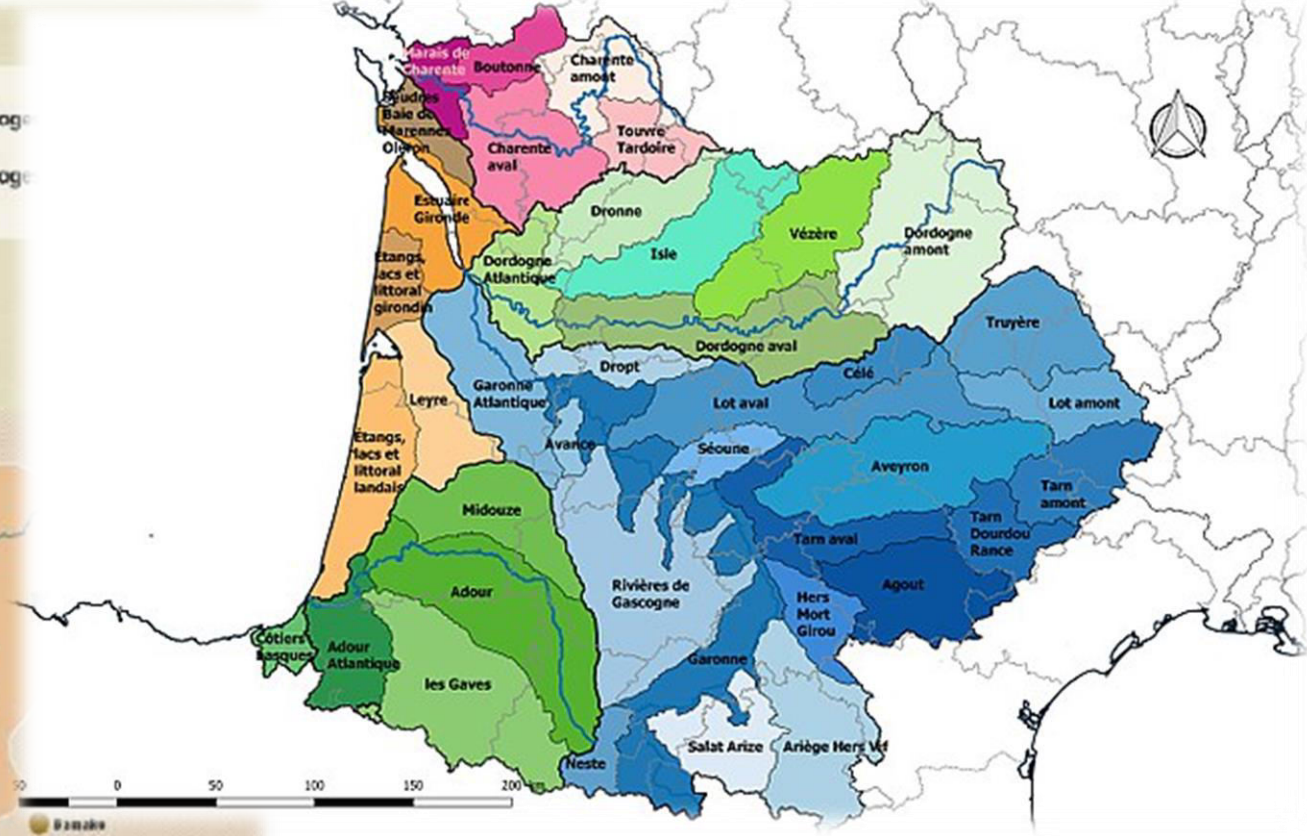
A case study in the frame of the Cooperation between the Senegal river basin organization (OMVS) and the Adour-Garonne Water Agency (Agence de l'eau Adour-Garonne)

# Background – IWRM in the Senegal River Basin

- Since 1972, a basin organization for the Senegal river basin: **the OMVS**
  - **Transboundary**, crossing **4 countries**: Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal
  - **5 institutional contexts**: in the 4 countries AND in the Senegal River Basin
  - Responsible for **multiple use of the Senegal water** : agriculture, access to drinkable water, navigation, hydroelectrical energy, etc.
- A basin governance that seeks **inclusivity**
- For inhabitants of the basin: a big area to apprehend, a **lack of knowledge** of the OMVS
- A **dynamic** basin: a lot of different initiatives and projects
- A collective of NGOs, **implementing projects for more than 30 years** in the area: the Senegal River Initiative (Initiative Fleuve Sénégal)

# Background – IWRM in the Adour-Garonne basin (France)

- Water and sanitation management at the basin level through Water Agencies and their **Basin Committees**
- **Creation in 1964** of the Adour-Garonne Water Agency (Agence de l'eau Adour-Garonne)  
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- **IWRM dialogue frameworks and tools adapted to the context**  
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- A rural basin with many agricultural users, a lot of stakes around water pollution, droughts and floods



**Adour-Garonne River Basin  
in Southwestern France**

**Senegal River Basin across Mali, Senegal,  
Guinea and Mauritania**



Sur base de la cartographie observationnelle de l'assèchement

# Since 2002, a cooperation between two river basins: Adour-Garonne and Senegal

- Working together on **governance** issues, leading also to **technical partnerships** to work on Water Information Systems, satellites data exploitation, etc.
- Making **resilience/adaptation to climate change** a spine to all activities
- Considering **water resources** in articulation with the services
- **A partnership that opens itself to other stakeholders at different scales (particularly the field level)**, and notably the decentralized and non-governmental actors (in link with the French Water Solidarity Program)
- A big incentive **to mobilize local collectivities** on IWRM



# The stakes of IWRM in the Senegal River Basin

- **Climate change:** salinization of the fields, droughts and floods, etc.
- **Improving access to water and sanitation**
- **Water pollution:** gold mining, invasive plants, agrochemicals, etc.
- Difficulties to implement **IWRM strategies in the territories (top-down)**
- **Legal framework** stakes for the articulation of all 4 countries PLUS the river basin legal framework

# The case study : creating a multi-actor framework dialogue to develop IWRM

- Since 2018, an annual meeting of the actors of the **Senegal River Basin in link with the Adour Garonne/French actors**, including: cooperation actors and donors, local authorities of the basin, universities, research organizations, the civil society and NGOs.
- At first, an initiative held with the support of the French Water Solidarity Program, then retroceded to the **Senegal River Initiative** (with a power of action in the field) that holds the meetings since 2020.
- **Cooperation between 4 southern countries and a northern one (France)** : sharing experiences and good practices in the 5 countries to build a dialogue framework adapted to the Senegal River Basin,

# Impacts aligned with global goals and SDGs - 1

- **Environmental sensitizing and action taking** in link with water resources management and water and sanitation access
- A key tool for **peace building** in the region
- An incentive for **transboundary cooperation** : beyond the institutional frontiers, water gathers. Building a feeling of belonging to the basin between the actors
- **Bottom-upping the IWRM**, making needs and demands match the IWRM **institutional frameworks**
- Articulating basin level Cooperation with **decentralized cooperation** >> a tool to build capacities and to provide funds
- Thinking about new ways of funding the initiatives in favor of water management in the area : working on fiscality, taxes on payments, etc.



# Impacts aligned with global goals and SDGs - 2

- **Distinctiveness of the partnership:** multi-actors/partnerships/countries initiative
- The dialogue framework contributes to the **global thinking on IWRM and water governance (following OECD principles)**
- Feeding the global goals with experiences **aligned with the SDGs** and the **Blue Deal** (Dakar declaration from 2022 World Water Forum).
- **Feeding the international basin network organization** with new initiatives and feedbacks
- Giving birth to **new projects** at the field level