







<u>Project:</u> "Integrating Flood and Drought Management and Early Warning for Climate Change Adaptation in the Volta Basin" (VFDM Project)

Report of the closing workshop of the VFDM project and the project final technical advisory committee session, 21st June 2024.



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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS









CEO Chief Executive Officer

CFDMC Community Flood and Drought Management Committee

CREWS Community Resilience Through Early Warning

DRM Disaster Risk Management

E2E-EWS End-to-End Early Warning Systems

GMET Ghana Meteorological Agency

GWP-WA Global Water Partnership West Africa

IUCN The International Union for Conservation of Nature

K&I Knowledge and Innovation

MoU Memorandum of Understanding

NMA BENIN National Meteorological Agency

NMHA National Meteorological and Hydrological Agency

NGO Non-Governmental Organisation

NOCP National Office for Civil Protection

NACP National Agency for Civil Protection

NOCP National Office for Civil Protection

PPR Project Performance Report

PTAC Project Technical Advisory Committee

S.G Secretary General

SODEXAM Airport, aeronautical and meteorological operation and development company.

SIMEX Simulation Exercises
ToRs Terms of Reference

VBA Volta Basin Authority

VFDM Volta Flood and Drought Management

WASCAL West African Scientific Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use

WRC Water Resources Commission

WMO World Meteorological Organization

I. Background

The World Meteorological Organization WMO (a specialized agency of the United Nations), VBA (Volta Basin Authority) and GWP (Global Water Partnership) West Africa are implementing the VFDM project entitled 'Integrating Flood and Drought Management and









Early Warning for Climate Change Adaptation in the Volta Basin'. The project activities started in June 2019 and this workshop marks the closing of the final project activities with the aim to to share the final project progress mainly the project activities carried out and key outputs generated together with the National and Regional institutions and partners. It was also an opportunity to allow participants to give their feedback on the achievements of the project and provide recommendations for their consolidation and upscaling within and beyond the Volta basin.

As the project concludes the fifth year of the implementation at the end of June 2024 as well as the on-going final evaluation is being carried out by an independent evaluation team, it is necessary to present the final progress and have discussion with the stakeholders and partners in relation to the activities implemented, financial and implementation plan, challenges encountered, synergies with other projects for sustainability etc.

After the Closing workshop session in the morning of the 21st of June 2024 was the continuation in the afternoon with the <u>technical advisory committee (PTAC)</u> with experts and representatives of the National agencies and regional organizations in the Volta basin (list of members in Annex 1) for guiding the implementation of the project activities including also on technical and financial reports and sharing experiences and methodologies for developing synergies and complementarities with other initiatives.

The main task of the PTAC was to provide strategic guidance and support to the project coordinator and project team to ensure that the activities and results meet the project's objectives. The responsibilities and duties of the PTAC members was as follows:

- Review the project outputs/outcomes and identify the strong/weak points with respect to the objectives of the projects and the applications of the results (opensource, sustainable and tailored products and services with institutional strengthening)
- Comment on the teams' skills and the relevance of their proposals and actions;
- Link the project stakeholders' efforts to other initiatives to build synergies, optimize resources and assure coherence;
- Promote the exposure of VFDM Project activities.

As agreed with the VFDM project donor, the WMO as the implementing partner need to submit the yearly Project Performance Report (PPR) to the Adaptation Fund Technical review committee presenting the overall project implementation status, challenges encountered, activities carried out by the project partners and external technical entities etc.

A. MORNING SESSION: CLOSING WORKSHOP OF THE VFDM PROJECT.

I. Introductory elements

The closing session started with a welcome address from the Chairman of the Board of Directors, GMet Hon. George Isaac, and was marked by 12 speeches from the following;

Deputy Minister for communication and digitalization - Hon. Charles Acheampong









- Deputy Minister of Sanitation and Water Resources of Ghana Hon. Alhai Amidu Issahaku Chinnia
- Deputy Minister of Works and Housing of Ghana Dr Prince Hamid Armah
- Board Chairman, Ghana Meteorological Agency Hon. George Isaac Amoo
- GWP-WA Executive Secretary Mr Armand Houanye
- WMO Representative Mr Giacomo Teruggi
- VBA Deputy Executive Director Mr Millogo Dibi
- Adaptation Fund Board Member Ms. Patience Damptey
- Director-General, Ghana Meteorological Agency- Dr Eric Asuman
- Executive Secretary, Water Resource Commission Dr Bob Alfa
- CEO, Ghana Hydrological Authority Dr John Kissi
- President, CIMA Research Foundation Professor Luca Ferraris













All speeches made by the aforementioned speakers started by welcoming and acknowledging the presence of each other as well as the different structures they represent. Among those welcomed not previously mentioned were;

WASCAL – Seyni Salack

Representatives from World Bank and Africa Development Bank

AGRYHMET – Mohammed Hamatan and invited participants.

More specifically, appreciations were given to;

Ms. Patience DAMPTEY, Adaptation Fund Board Member

Implementing partner; WMO

Executing partners; VBA, GWP-WA, and WMO

Technical partners: CIMA, IUCN, K&I, for the great technical support through out the implementation of the project and the member countries (Burkina Faso, Benin, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Mali and Togo) for their active and steadfast involvement in all activities and relentless effort to ensure no one is surprised by flood and everyone is prepared for drought.

i. Summary of speeches

All speakers expressed their gratitude to the GMET and Ghana WRC for hosting the final back-to-back regional workshops for which this closing workshop was part and the importance of the volta basin project which is an important milestone for strengthening early waring capacity in the volta basin was equally acknowledged.









- More specifically, remarks by the hon. minister for communication and Digitalisation highlighted their awareness of how tropical climate change discussions have taken a centre stage in global forums because of its direct impact on our very existencee and it is therefore imperative on policymakers and partners within the climate ecosystem to collaborate to implement systems that provides early warning to protect lives.
- ➤ Deputy Minister of Sanitation and Water Resources of Ghana emphasised of the robust foundation that has been laid by all the stakeholders of the VFDM project and invited their continuous collaboration in harmony of shared vision as they journey along.
- ➤ Words from the GWP-WA Executive Secretary was focused on the successful results acquired (some of which are mentioned below in section III) by all project stakeholders. The tools developed, tested, and approved at different levels and understood by the local community are available to be improved and valorised in the basin. The many lessons learned will help us all to do better moving forward with other initiatives in the pipeline.
- ▶ Professor Luca Ferraris quoted, the VFDM project did not only strengthen early warning capacities but also forged valuable partnership and foster experience of collaboration that will endure. The active participate of the NMHSs, the National civil protection and disaster management agencies and the agriculture and food security agency in all 6 volta basin countries with their desire to learn and share their expertise was key in the success of the VFDM project.
- Giacomo Teruggi welcomed everyone on behalf of the S.G of WMO Prof. Celeste Saulo. He pointed out a significant importance of the VFDM project of being a successful application of integrated technical, environmental, institutional, and social aspect of flood and drought management. This project helped in addressing the EW4ALL initiative which was launched by the UN S.G Antonio Guterres in 2022 and aiming to ensure that anyone in this planet is covered by an EWS in the coming years.
- ➤ VBA Deputy Executive Director focused on the second phase of the project and called on all the partners and experts to make an effort for a second phase and to all policy, and decision makers to repair structures (bridges, roads etc) which goes a long way to help in early action.
- Adaptation Fund Board Member **Ms. Patience Damptey** gave a brief overview from where the funds for the VFDM project steamed from. She acknowledged the results achieved so far and aspire for the sustainability to be maintained within the 6 countries. On behalf of the adaptation fund, she expressed their gratitude to a successful implementation of activities which is always their goal as well as the participation of all partners in this project.
- ➤ **Deputy Minister of Works and Housing** appreciated the role of stakeholders at the International, transboundary, and national levels in EWS which is pivotal in saving lives and livelihood. A EWS that provides timely, accurate and reliable information about impending extreme weather event allowing communities, governments, and









institutions to prepare and respond adequately and effectively. He further mentioned that the government of Ghana is in line with the Global effort to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and strengthen resilience to climate related hazards which is why his ministry has supported GMET and recruited 250 staff with 30% female representation, procured 26 automatic weather stations, calibration equipment etc to enhance the operation of GMET in delivering weather and climate services in Ghana.









II. Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between VBA and CIMA

A MoU dated 21/06/2024 was signed between the CIMA Research Foundation and VBA with the goal to facilitate cooperation and collaboration between the Parties, to establish the necessary arrangements to ensure effective cooperation between the Parties in areas of mutual interest.

The MoU sets out the cooperation framework to ensure closer collaboration and exchange of information between the Parties so as to create synergistic relationships and partnership in the maintenance, strengthening and continuous improvement of the VoltAlarm platform for cross-border early warning in the Volta basin. (MoU in Annexe 3)











III. Presentation of VFDM project results, achievements and challenges

After the family picture and coffee break was the presentation of the results and achievements of the VFDM project over 5 years (2019 – 2024), including the challenges encountered and lessons learned by Mr. Boukary Niampa, VFDM manager in VBA.

Project results and achievements among others include;

- Preparation of flood and drought risk maps for the Volta basin;
- The development of the Flood and Drought Risk Profile for the Volta Basin;
- The development of the VOLTALARM Flood and Drought Early Warning and Forecasting Platform (EWS), involving the contribution of the various players in the forecasting and warning chain;
- The development of the Flood and Drought Risk Profile for the Volta Basin
- The development of the Strategy for the reduction and integrated management of floods and drought in the Volta basin;
- The development of the Action Plan for the effective participation of women and vulnerable groups in the Integrated Flood Risk Management (IFRM) and End-to-End Early Warning System for Flood Forecasting (SAP-BEB-PC) processes in the Volta Basin;
- Drawing up flood and drought risk maps for the Volta basin
- The development of community initiatives for integrated flood and drought management, with the setting up of Community Flood and Drought Management Committees (CFDMCs) and Community Action Plans;
- Building community capacity for self-management of floods and drought in the first 6 pilot sites selected in the Votas basin;
- The deployment and implementation of innovative, participatory and accessible solutions and approaches to integrated flood and drought management: community-based approach, acquisition and installation of local hydrometeorological equipment, localised data collection, nature-based solutions for integrated flood and drought management;
- Increased knowledge of the environmental services and flood and drought management provided by ecosystems;
- Capacity building of national institutions for effective and sustainable implementation of policies and plans for the management of climate extremes with (750 young professionals (men and women) who benefited from a total of 8 face-to-face and 7 online training workshops).

Challenges encountered:









The challenges encountered thus far was the covid 19 pandemic which slowed down implementation progress especially at the early stage of the project leading to an additional 1 year into the project implementation period and an extended end date to June 2024 rather than June 2023. An important action taken to manage the covid 19 pandemic was the use of technology to have online meetings, though challenges such as unstable internet connection and power shortage were encountered with volta basin member countries.

Unstable security situations were encountered among the pilot sites which made it difficult to get to these sites during implementation of activities. An action adopted was to carry out implementation of activities in neighbouring communities while stakeholders from the unstable sites were invited to participate.

Links to project results and knowledge materials.

VFDM project website: https://www.floodmanagement.info/volta-basin/

Project newsletter: https://www.floodmanagement.info/volta-basin/newsletter/

Project deliverables are available here: https://www.floodmanagement.info/volta-basin/deliverables/

The second presentation was done by Gabiele Quinti, Coordinator of Knowledge and Innovation (K&I) on their contributions to the VFDM project since it's inception which are:

- Participation in the VFDM Kick-Off meeting (June 2019)
- Support in the flood and drought vulnerabilities (and Response Capacities) in Local Communities: Analysis and Mapping (2020-2021)
- Support to the Community-Based Flood and Drought Management in the Volta Basin in 6 sites (2021-2022)
- Development of the manual on CBFDM in the Volta Basin (2022)
- Support to some activities aimed at strengthening capacities for integrated FDRM in the Volta Basin (2023-2024)
- Collection and documentation of "Voices from the field" from CBFDM in the Volta Basin (2024)









B. AFTERNOON SESSION: PROJECT FINAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PTAC) SESSION

The session started by presenting the chair **Dr Eric Asuman** from the host institution, GMET.

After the adoption of the agenda by PTAC members was action on the first item which was the;

I. Implementation status of the project

This presentation was done by Ramesh Tripathi (project coordinator) who started by recalling the 3 project components of;

- 1. Risk prevention
- 2. Concrete adaptation plan and stakeholder engagement
- 3. Governance

The implementation status during the final PTAC session was at 99% of completion with a 1% of uncompleted activity being the installation of stations which has been purchased and the delay was with the agencies since countries took long to provide exact location for the installation of the stations. All key stakeholders in charge of the installation of the stations were encouraged to create availability and show their dedication as always for a successful installation. One of the requirements from the NMHSs was the requisition of an exemption letter from their respective national leves in coordination with UNDP which will facilitate possession of the stations and subsequent installation.

Countries were remaindered about activities to be carried out after the project end date which are;

- Final audit process and countries were advised on their availability during this period to provide the required documents.
- Final terminal evaluation of the project. An independent consultant for project evaluation recruitment process is ongoing (ToRs for the recruitment of a consultant is on WMO e-Recruit website). Participants were reminded of the midterm evaluation done in 2022 and the independent project evaluator, based on the evaluation proposed a 1 year no cost extension because of Covid 19 which slowed down project implementations.

A methodology on how the above-mentioned pending activity will be conducted was presented to countries being mostly more on virtual meetings with a possibility of face-to-face meetings and/or focused group discussions with visits to the field.

II. Project Financial status

The financial execution stage of project is presented as follows.









Implementation of VFDM project activities as well as project management and execution costs (June 2019-June 2024):

- Amount received from the Adaptation Fund: 7,122,000 USD (\$)

Amount spent so far: 7,002, 000 USD (\$)

Unspent amount: 120,000 USD (\$)

It should be noted that the financial statement mentioned is based on the actual status as on the workshop date. Financial reports are still expected from the countries and technical partners and once received and evaluated, a final financial status will be provided.

As per the unspent amount, the pending activities mentioned in A(I) which can only be done after the project implementation end date will be used for that purpose.

Other challenges encountered:

- Difficulty to look for a suitable date for regional workshops since members had other commitments and engagement.
- Insufficient hydrometeorological data in some parts of the volta basin to calibrate the model or visualize the real time observation and there is still a lot of improvement to ensure the products are updated or upgraded in order to improve the accuracy.

Another important project achievement is the implementation of a community of practise with a section on VOLTALARM EWS which will help for sustainable sharing of experiences. Countries were encouraged to join and make a community of forecasters in the basin area to share with each other some of the knowledge and successes. This is a platform which is always available, and countries are welcome at any time for continuity in sharing lessons learned and building each others capacity.

III. Recommendations of the third PTAC session (held in December 2022) and status.

No	Recommendation	Status
	To consortium parti	ners
1	At WMO, in collaboration with VBA and GWP-WA, to accelerate the acquisition of IT hardware and other equipment for the strengthening and improvement of the functioning of centralized national databases	Completed . In all six countries, the server has been delivered, MCH has been provided and multiple trainings have been done.
2	Negotiate a project extension period in order to be able to use the remaining budget and meet unfinished needs given the delay	Completed. One year extension was approved which is why project is ending in June 2024.
3	Promote synergy of action between the different programs and projects	On-going . There are ongoing projects such as Hydromet, CREWS and









IAII	ON FUND	
		ReWARED where synergy is being
		ensured.
4	Focus on face-to-face training	Completed. During the covid 19
		pandemic, travels were highly
		restricted which explained the virtual
		meetings but after the covid period,
		majority of the trainings have been in
		person.
5	Take stock of training opportunities by the end of the project	Completed.
6	Reorient certain activities if possible. For example,	Completed. Many activities were done
	increase investments in pilot sites	in the pilot sites such as media
		trainings, SIMEX on flood and drought,
		developed and improved alert
		dissemination channels, development
		of special bulletin for farmers etc was
		done through an agreement between
		WMO and the NMHSs.
7	Promote the value chain of governance for	On- going. Many policies and plans
	sustainability	have been identified at the national
	,	level where changes, review and
		amendments have been done to make
		them more useful in terms of getting
		more investment from the
		governments.
8	At WMO, with VBA and GWP-AO, prepare the	Completed. It was done with the
	project work plan until June 2024	executing partners and based on the
		workplan, all activities have been
		completed till date except the
		installation of stations.
9	To the Implementing/Executing Agency (WMO), in	Completed. All activities have been
	collaboration with other regional and national	implemented except the station
	implementing agencies to accelerate the pace of	installation.
	implementation of project activities and report on	
	actions taken with progress made at the next	
	PTAC meeting;-	
10	At the VBA, with the support of WMO and GWP-	On-going. The strategy was adopted in
	WA within the framework of the implementation	a regional workshop with VBA expert
	of the project and in collaboration with the	committee members. It is now left for
	partners concerned to take the necessary	the VBA to present the strategy to the
	measures to develop and finalize the Regional	ministerial council and actions are
	Adaptation Strategy and resilience to floods and	ongoing to be presented at the next
	drought impacts in the Volta Basin by June 2023	ministerial council.
	for submission to the VBA Ministerial Council	
11	To VBA, in collaboration with WMO and GWP-WA,	On-going. Second phase will be
	with relevant partners to prepare the next phase	developed for funding by either AF or
	of the project by the end of 2023 and mobilize	another donor.
	funding for its implementation	
12	To the WMO, in collaboration with the partners	Completed. The VOLTALARM is
_	involved, to ensure that the demonstration stage	operational and used by countries and
	2 23, 22 222 22 22 22	VBA as of June 2023. Countries develop
	<u> </u>	









PIAII	ON FUND	
	of the EWS VoltAlarm is finalized to prepare the	twice a week flood bulletins and once a
	full-scale test during the following rainy season	month drought bulletin.
13	At WMO, in collaboration with VBA and GWP-WA,	On-going. Data is not still sufficient and
	to ensure that the VoltAlarm early warning system	older data achieved so far has been
	is in operation with the modality agreed in the	used for the calibration of the model
	Regional Workshop in Lomé July 2022 and	with the hope of getting new data
	presented by CIMA. Furthermore, VoltaAlarm	through on-going initiatives which have
	integrate the appropriate facilities of national and	as plan the installation of new stations.
	regional agencies for enabling data sharing as well	
	as for developing synergies and partnerships with	
	partners in the implementation of relevant	
	initiatives	
	To national agence	es
1	Many activities will be implemented in parallel at	Completed. NMHSs, civil protection
	the national level	and emergency agencies, consortium
		partners all came together to ensure
		activities were done in parallel and to
		be completed on time.
2	The support of national agencies is very necessary	Completed
3	Local and national country data and information	On-going. Good data is needed to
	will help develop quality and accurate products	calibrate the model and ensure
	and it is very important to share at early stage	accuracy.
	before the calibration of flood and drought system	
	is completed	
4	Using and testing VOLTALARM EWS will help	On-going. There is additional
	develop products that will build ownership and	information to what was previously
	long-term sustainability	produced. There is now information on
		impact-based drought monitoring
		system. Other ongoing and future
		interventions should be laverage to
		improve on the systems.
5	Ask National Agencies to report on any other	On-going. The system is operational,
	projects or initiatives underway or planned for the	and countries should use the system to
	future in order to create synergies and	build synergy with other projects. A
	complementarities	very good example is the Hydromet
		project.

IV. Long-term sustainability exit strategy.

Boukary Niampa presented the VBA exit strategy for long-term sustainability of the project. A MoU between VBA and CIMA (technical partner for the development of the VOLTALARM EWS) was signed for a three-year no-cost maintenance and operational support to the VOLTALARM EWS.











V. Recommendations

Proposed recommendations	Main actors concerned
VBA to ensure synergies are identified and linkages established between the VFDM project and new planned or ongoing projects.	VBA
WMO, in accordance with its mandate (contained in the WMO Convention signed by the 193 Member States) to continue supporting NMHSs, fostering international cooperation and through its network of experts (including CIMA Research Foundation).	WMO, CIMA
VBA, GWP-WA and WMO to explore further development of project proposals and other initiatives aiming at upscaling the methodologies and tools developed in the framework of the VFDM project for a possible second phase.	Consortium members
As per the written commitment signed at the beginning of the project, countries of the Volta basin to ensure sustainability and upscaling of the project results in activities planned at the national level, and ensure that appropriate resources to maintain the project results are budgeted and allocated.	ABV member states
Adaptation Fund to support efforts to consolidate and upscale the project's achievements, possibly also through the financing of a second phase, together with other potential technical and financial partners such as the World Bank or the African Development Bank	AF









Regional and national training institutions in West Africa (e.g. AGRHYMET, 2iE,	Regional/National
WASCAL) to take stock of the good practices developed and implemented in	training centers
the framework of the VFDM project and include them in their training	
curricula	
	ABV member states
Member countries to continue facilitating the data and information exchange	
necessary to the appropriate management of hydrometeorological risks and	
adaptation to climate change at the Volta basin scale	
	VBA
VBA to continue supporting its member countries for a better coordination	
and valorization of hydrometeorological data and information at the Volta	
basin scale	
	ABV member states
Member states to facilitate the carry out of closing activities for the project in	
their respective countries and at the regional level, notably those related to	
the project evaluation and final reporting	

ANNEXES

Annex 1: PTAC Members

• 18 Members in total

PAC Members	Area of Expertise	Country	Name and contact details
	Operational Meteorology and Hydrology	Benin	chedef@yahoo.fr marcellin.nakpon@gmail.com
		Burkina Faso	joezoung@yahoo.fr
National		Cote d'Ivoire	lamine.soumahoro4278@gouvci.onmicrosoft.com lamine.soumahoro@sodexam.ci
Meteorological Services (one from each country)		Ghana	tanu@atmos.albany.edu m.tanu@meteo.gov.gh tanumichael@gmail.com
		Mali	malimeteo@malimeteo.ml djibamaigafr@yahoo.fr
		Togo	isslat@yahoo.fr
National focal points/representatives	Hydrology and Water Resource		
of VBA	Management		
(one from each country)			
National Civil protection	Early Warning System,		









agencies/disaster management (one from each country)	Emergency/Disaster management	
WASCAL	Water Resource Management, Flood and Drought management Ecosystem	
ECOWAS	Water Resource Management, Ecosystem, Flood and Drought Management	
AGRHYMET	Drought Management	

Annex 2. Provisional Agenda: Project's Closing workshop

Time (GMT)	Discussion points / Topics	Speakers
08:00-09:00 AM 60 minutes	 Participants' registration Background music Video on the simulation exercise on flood warning 	GMet VBA
09:00 – 09:05 AM 5 mins	Video on the VFDM project overview	GWP-WA
09h05-10h00 55 minutes	Opening prayer	GMet
	Welcome address	Chairman of the Board of Directors of GMet
	• Speeches	 GWP-WA Executive Secretary WMO Representative VBA Deputy Executive Director Member of the Board of Directors of the Adaptation Fund Deputy Minister of Works and Housing of Ghana Deputy Minister of Sanitation and Water Resources of Ghana
	Opening speech	Minister of Communication and Digitalization of Ghana









	Signing of an MoU on the sustainability of the VoltAlarm Volta Basin EWS	Between VBA and CIMA Foundation
10h00 -10h30	Family picture	• GMet
30 mins	Coffee break	• VBA
10h30-11h00	Presentation of the results and	WMO, VBA & GWP-WA,
30 minutes	achievements of the VFDM project over 5 years, including the challenges encountered and lessons learned.	CIMA, K & I
11h00-11h05 5 minutes	Video on the feedback of the project beneficiaries	GMet
11:05-11:45 AM	Questions and answers	VFDM Partners
40 mins		
11:45 – 12:15 AM	Closing remarks	• WRC
30 mins		
12:15 - 01:00 PM	Media sessions and interviews	• All
45 minutes		
01:00 – 02:00 PM	• Lunch	GMet
60 mins		• VBA

PTAC Session

Time (GMT)	Discussion points / Topics	Speakers	
14h00 – 14h15	Adoption of the agenda	Chair of the meeting	
15 mins			
14h15 – 16h30	Presentations and discussions		
135 mins			
	Update on the implementation of the	GWP-WA	
	recommendations of the last session of the TAC.		
	Financial status of VFDM project implementation	• WMO	
	Full closure activities of the VFDM project		
	Initiatives and strategy for the long-term	• VBA	
	sustainability of the VFDM project results	GWP-WA	
		• WMO	
	General discussions	TAC Members	
16h30-17h00	Adoption of the summary with	TAC Members	
30 mins	recommendations and follow-up actions	 VFDM Partners 	
	Closing remarks	Chair of the meeting	