

## CONGO BASIN

RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY NAME: Commission Internationale du Bassin Congo-Oubangui-Sangha

RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY SHORT: CICOS

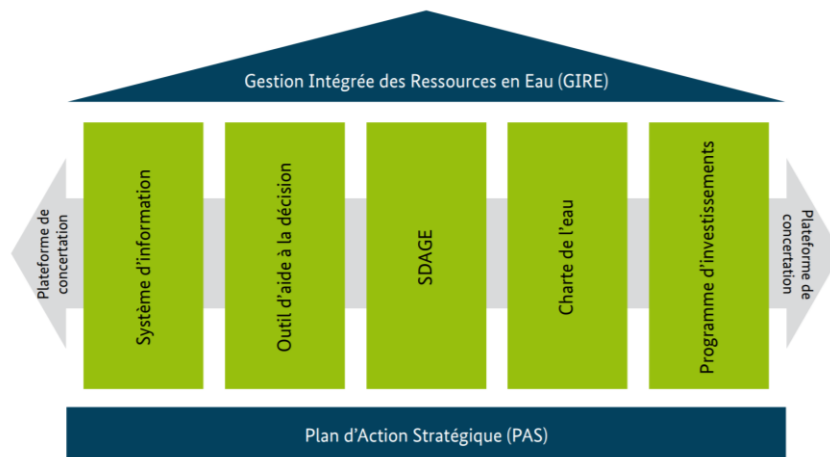
YEAR (LEGAL FRAMEWORK): the 6th November 1999, the Heads of State of Cameroon, Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic and Democratic Republic of the Congo signed the “*Accord instituant un Régime Fluvial Uniforme et créant la Commission Internationale du Bassin Congo-Oubangui-Sangha (CICOS)*”. This legal framework evolved during the following years, being one of the milestones the signing in 2007 of the “*Additif à l’Accord instituant un Régime Fluvial Uniforme et créant la CICOS par l’élargissement de ses missions à la Gestion Intégrée des Ressources en Eau (GIRE)*”. Concretely, in the last 20 years the CICOS has evolved from a specialised agency with a narrow focus on navigation to a river basin organisation (RBO) with a wide mandate to coordinate and facilitate an integrated water resource management approach in the Congo basin.

MEMBER STATES: Angola, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Gabon.

NUMBER OF MEMBER STATES: 6

MANDATE: CICOS has been entrusted with two main missions: 1) promotion of inland navigation; 2) Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

Regarding IWRM, the Strategic Action Plan (Plan d’Action Stratégique, PAS) sets the framework for IWRM in the basin and includes multiple studies regarding priorities such as land management, access to drinking water, food security, hydropower or wetland management. Besides, the Master Plan on Water Resources Development and Management (Schéma Directeur d’Aménagement et de Gestion des Eaux, SDAGE) is a strategic document, which aims to provide guidelines for the implementation of sustainable water management at basin scale.



*CICOS instruments for Integrated Water Resources Management. Source: [CICOS-SDAGE-Etat-Lieux.pdf](#)*

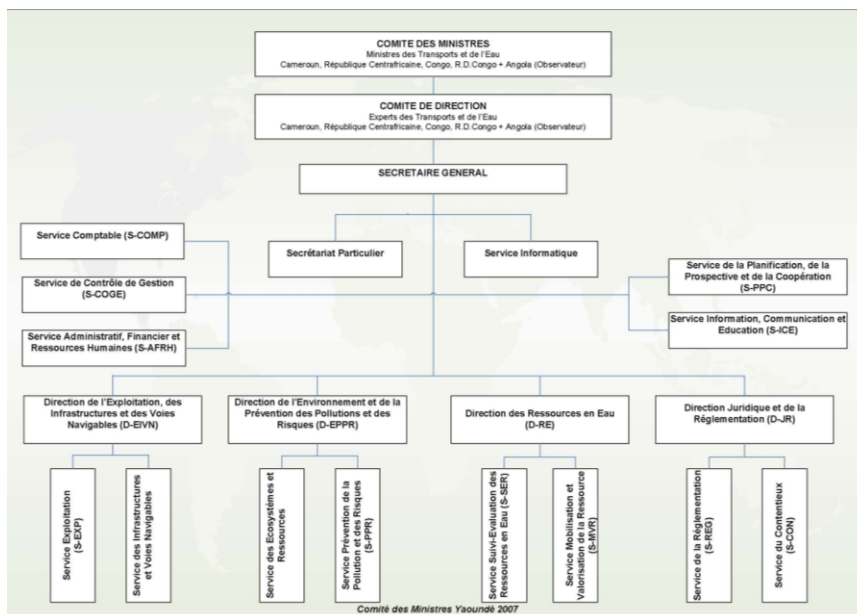
## OBJECTIVES:

- Ensure the sustainable management of inland navigation;
- Harmonise the regulations regarding river transport, to ensure navigation safety and the promotion of the environment;
- Integrate all water uses within regional planning;
- Water allocation optimisation;
- Sharing the benefits generated by water uses between the Member States;
- Support development and fight poverty;
- Promote food security.

## STRUCTURE:

- Committee of Ministers (decision making body): Integrated by Ministers responsible for inland navigation and water resources management, it defines the management and exploitation policies for the watercourses of the basin.
- Direction Committee (advisory body): It prepares the deliberations of the Committee of Ministers (each Member State provides three members to the Direction Committee).
- General Secretariat (executive body): It implements the provisions of the Committee of Ministers, according to the missions set by the Member States. It is composed by four directions, 6 attached services and multiple experts in inland navigation, transboundary water management and environment.

Besides, the General Secretariat has established National Committees to monitor the CICOS activities in the Member States.



Source: Organisation | CICOS

HEADQUARTERS:

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