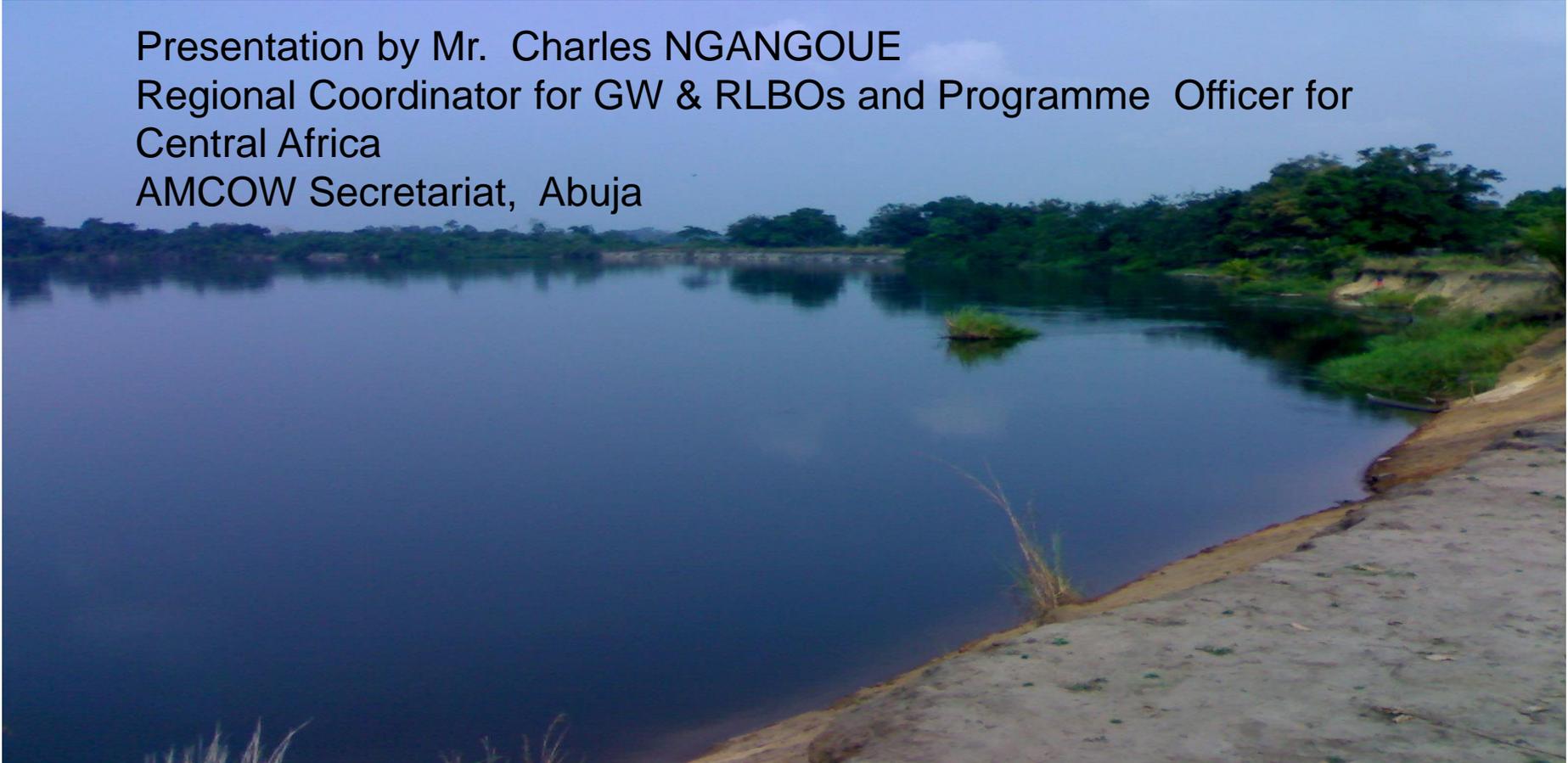


*Scientific Meeting : NEPAD Network of Centre of Excellence in Water Sciences Phase II*  
*Swiss Spirit Hotel & Suites Alisa, Accra, Ghana, 31st Oct-4 Nov 2016*  
**ACTIVITIES OF AMCOW ON GROUNDWATER**

Presentation by Mr. Charles NGANGOUE  
Regional Coordinator for GW & RLBOs and Programme Officer for  
Central Africa  
AMCOW Secretariat, Abuja



# PLAN OF PRESENTATION

- Missions of AMCOW
- Important role of Groundwater
- Groundwater Challenges in Africa
- Actions taken on Groundwater
- Activities of AMCOW on Groundwater
- Conclusion: operationalization of the AGWC

# AFRICAN MINISTERS' COUNCIL ON WATER (AMCOW)

- Missions of AMCOW

To provide political leadership, policy direction and advocacy in the provision, use and management of water resources for sustainable social and economic development and maintenance of African ecosystems.



In the context of the international, regional and national Goals

- **Africa Water Vision 2025: An Africa where there is an equitable and sustainable use and management of water resources for poverty eradication, socio- economic development, regional cooperation and integration and environmental protection.**
- **Africa Agenda 2063:**
- **Sustainable Development Goals 6 ( SDGs 6)**
- **N'gor declaration on water security and Sanitation**

# AFRICA WATER VISION 2025:

## Water Resources Availability and Use in Africa:

- **1. Human Right for Water and Sanitation:** Sustainability of access to safe Water and Sanitation services to meet basic needs
- **Ensuring all have sustainable access to water for all use: safe and adequate water supply and sanitation, irrigation, sport, etc...**
- Water has become one of the primary factors for sustainable socio-economic development, eradication of poverty and Protection of ecosystem
- Water contributes to cooperation, integration and peace: **Hydro**

**Diplomacy**



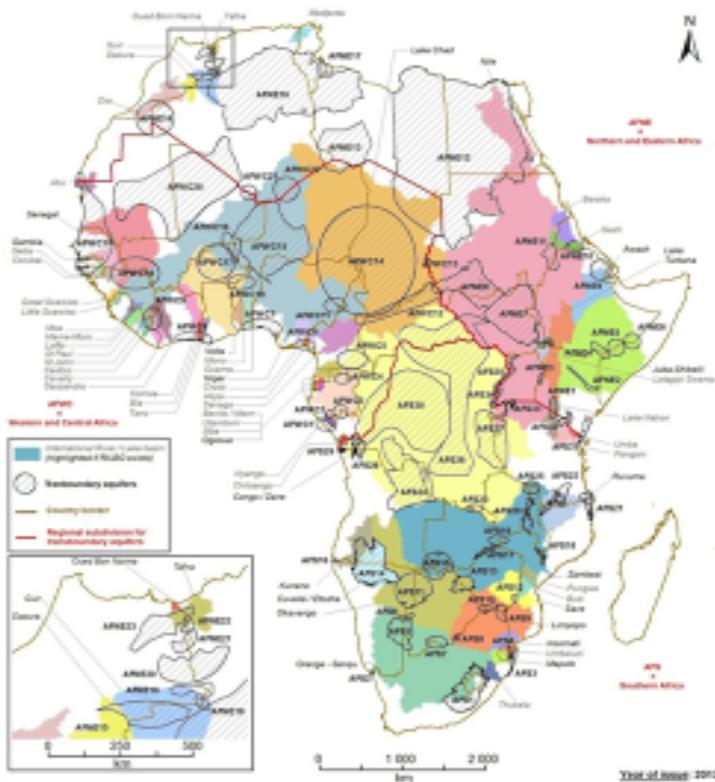
# Important role of Groundwater

## **In human development:**

- A key resource for human development
- A key element in many sustainable development goals
- Providing drinking water to at least 70% of African's population
- Providing water used for agriculture at least 43% in rural areas
- Sustaining the base flow of rivers and aquatic systems (Flood and river management)
- Industry development, agriculture, forest, biodiversity
- Water security at national, basin and international levels
- Critical resource for adaptation to climate variability and climate change
- Cooperation and integration
- Water, Food and Energy : Nexus ( Exemple de l'OMVS)

# Cooperation and integration

## Transboundary Aquifers



### Transboundary Water Resources

Development in Africa: 1. The Niger Basin Authority

2. The Senegal River Development Organization (OMVS)

3. The Gambia River Basin Organization

4 The Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)

5. The Kagera Basin Organization

6. The Okavango River Basin Commission

7. The Mano River Union

### Emerging Transboundary River/lake Basin Organizations in Africa

1. The Zambezi River Authority

2. Permanent Joint Technical Committee

3. The Nile Basin Initiative

4. Lake Victoria Initiative

# Groundwater Challenges in Africa

- Vision of the AGWC: **“An Africa where groundwater resources are sustainably utilised and managed for the benefit of all”**.
- Groundwater should be recognized, utilised and protected as an integral part of Africa’s water resources.
- Groundwater governance : Framework for Groundwater Governance, legal and institutional aspects for participative management in systematic planning, financing and implementation
- Poorly understood resource ( few attention, few recognized)
- Explosively abstracted ( Intensive use of groundwater, not enough taken into account in planning , development and coordination, extraction agreement)
- Knowledge and information management(Building institutional and technical capacity and skills because few specialists, education, capacity building, research ,training centres, innovation by scientific research, technology)
- Monitoring ( groundwater quality and quantity, aquifer management, resource protection,
- Environmental aspect of groundwater
- Cooperation agreement (Cooperative management of transboundary aquifers at basin, regional , national levels
- Financing (Mobilizing financial resources)

## Groundwater Challenges

38 Aquifers transfrontaliers ( sous-régional et pays):

Afrique centrale et de l'Ouest: Lacs Tchad ( RCA, Cameroun, Tchad, Niger, Cameroon, Nigeria)

Countries: Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe)

Basin Level: Congo Basin

- As resource, is multifunctional and multidimensional, limited, vulnerable
- Groundwater governance for better and sustainable management at local, national, basin, RECs and trans-boundary levels is still poor despite efforts made by some RECs (SADC), countries (South Africa, Libya, Kenya), Basin (ORASECOM):
- Not well understood ( poorly mapped, not sufficient monitored, evaluated, lack of information)
- **Insuffisance of groundwater professionals, institutions:** Capacity Building: Effective system, Research, Training center
- **Not Sustainable financing**

Avoid this ( à éviter)



## Actions taken: Political will

Water is increasingly being recognized worldwide, as a critical factor of social and economic development and has been addressed in Africa in the following key political Declarations:

6<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session Of AMCOW : Brazzaville, 28<sup>th</sup> ~ 31<sup>st</sup> May 2007  
Political Will: Unissons-nous pour relever le défi des  
problématiques de l'eau en Afrique ».



## Summits of Heads of States and Government and AMCOW Decisions

- **2000** : Africa Water Vision 2025
- Abuja 2002: AMCOW
- **Johannesburg, 2002** : Integrated Water Resources Management and water efficiency plans incorporating all IWRM components.
- **Syrte , Libya February 2004:** Water for Agriculture
- Brazzaville May-June 2007: AMCOW Declaration on Groundwater Initiative,
- **Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt, July 2008:** For accelerating the achievement of water and sanitation goals in Africa .Water and sanitation are and must remain a key to sustainable development in Africa
- **Nairobi Nov 2008** establishment of of the AGWC
- **Syrte, Libya 2008:** Water for Energy and Agriculture : a challenge in the achievement of food and energy securities NEXUS
- **Addis Ababa 2014** AU summit decision on a Study on groundwater for agriculture
- **Dakar 2014:** N'gor declaration on Water security and sanitation
- Involvement of partners: UNESCO, BGR, AGWN, IAH, IGRAC,  
Engagement of African countries and RECs: Libya, South Africa, Kenya ; SADC

# Activities of AMCOW on Groundwater

- Implementation of the AU and AMCOW decisions on Groundwater
- Full operationalization of the AGWC and achieve the vision of the AGWC
- Promote, Facilitate, coordinate platform for African and international water community to work together for development, implement and monitor the AMCOW Work programme and the SDGs and targets at regional, basin and country levels
- Coordination of Platform for Data & information management, results of scientific research knowledge, best practices sharing between regional institutions, organizations, countries (RECs, RBOs)
- Promote groundwater governance (Framework for transboundary aquifers management and cooperation)
- Financial resources mobilization
- Capacity Building (Training, Seminar, meeting , AWW)

# Partners of implementation

## AfDB/ AWF

- **AMCOW Project on Support for the Establishment of a Monitoring and Reporting System for the Water Sector in Africa** (develop indicators on groundwater issues and implement at basin, RECs, countries levels)

**UNESCO** : Operationalization of the AGWC, capacity building programme, transboundary aquifers management and cooperation

**NEPAD Water Centres of Excellence** (Capacity building, Research , scientific and technology aspects)

**RECs**: SADC, ECCAS, ECOWAS

**ANBO** and Basin Organizations

**GWP**: IWRM, Promote benefit sharing in transboundary aquifers, strengthen Institution of ANBO

**OSS** : data information , Aquifer, regional cooperation

BGR, AGWNetwork, AGRHYMET (to be added): data, information sharing ( *dans un langage simple pour les usagers des eaux souterraines* )

***Need to formalize the partnership through MOU: identify areas of collaboration***

# Conclusion

GA/10/2016/Dar/11: Governing Council Decision on Operationalising the African Groundwater Commission

The Governing Council : calls on Member States and Partners to financially and technically support the operationalization of the AGWC

If we have common Challenges, we should have Common Objectives:  
Sustainable Groundwater governance in Africa

**Let us join AMCOW to fully operationalize the AGWC and bring value to groundwater sector in Africa.**

**Ensure Groundwater security for generations to come**

**Groundwater is the Key to achieve the N'gor declaration on water security and sanitation and ipso facto to achieve the SDGs 6**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR

MERCI POUR VOTRE

ATTENTION

