

C10 • DATA MANAGEMENT, FRESHWATER

Shared evidence. Shared decisions.

Four experiences from six countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Togo.



01 From one-off training to a lasting knowledge system

The Volta Decision Support System (DSS) connects a Knowledge Base, a water-resources Planning Tool, a Drought Early Warning System and a bilingual Training Portal. Success depends on the people and routines behind these tools.

KNOWLEDGE BASE

Shared, structured data

PLANNING TOOL

Compare water-use scenarios

DROUGHT EARLY WARNING

Indicators, forecasts and alerts

TRAINING PORTAL

Courses, guides and exercises

What changed

Training sessions also served to amend the tools and build a shared consensus on strategic directions and option choices. They retained core learners, tracked country feedback and provided reusable resources. The basin model was calibrated for 1982-2002 and validated for 2003-2023.

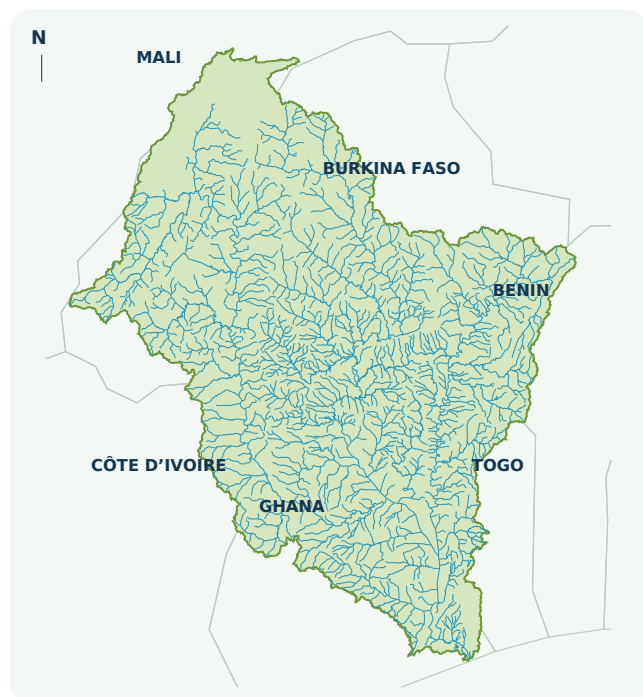
C10 takeaway: answer the decision in front of the user

Bring a short scenario comparison, drought briefing or pressure map to a real planning discussion. Explain limitations, agree an action and track whether the evidence was used.

C10 • EVIDENCE FOR RESTORATION AND RESILIENCE

02 Doing more with less

Recent satellite imagery and local knowledge turned fragmented ecosystem information into a shared planning baseline.



A common method across the basin

Sentinel imagery for 2015, 2020 and 2025, cloud processing and independent validation created comparable 10-metre land-cover maps. Surveys added evidence from 560 community and 161 institutional stakeholders.

More than 90%

overall classification accuracy

GIS-based basin map: HydroBASINS; rivers: SIEREM/IRD; country boundaries: Natural Earth.

-20.69%

Tree cover • 2015-2025

-10.10%

Wetlands • 2015-2025

+72.59%

Cultivated land • 2015-2025

From maps to action

The assessment supports restoration priorities, Component 3 site diagnostics and monitoring. Benefit transfer provides a first ecosystem-service valuation estimate; local verification and refinement remain essential. Follow-up is securing source layers, scripts, metadata and reproducible GIS workflows.

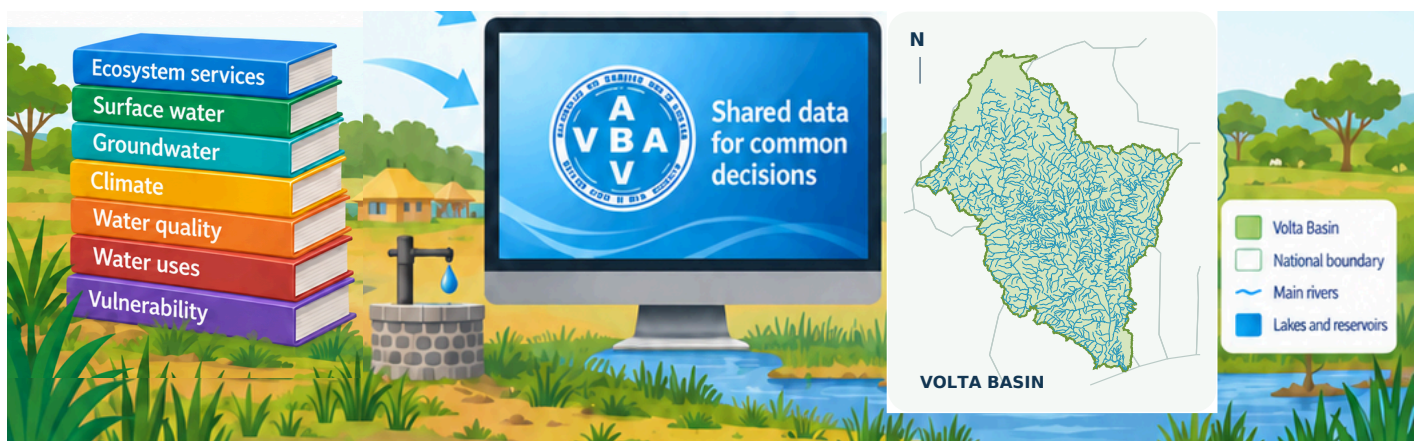
C10 takeaway: preserve the evidence behind the map

A reusable product includes sources, methods, validation, assumptions and update responsibilities - not just a final image.

C10 • UNCERTAINTY / SUSTAINABLE FINANCING • SS1 • WS10

03 From fragmented data to an investment programme

SuGroM-VB: Sustainable Management of Shallow Groundwater in the Volta Basin.



Illustrated data workflow with corrected GIS basin outline (HydroBASINS); rivers: SIEREM/IRD.

Use imperfect data responsibly

Uneven national records were critically assessed and organized in a common GIS framework. A regional hydrogeological synthesis and aquifer mapping made data gaps explicit and converted them into priorities for field investigations, water-quality surveillance and monitoring.

US\$45 million / five years

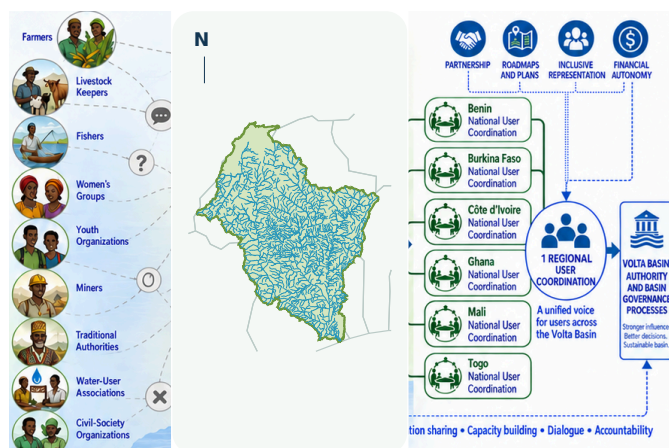
Proposed regional programme - seeking funding, not financing already secured.

Regional validation in Abidjan on 26-27 June 2026 linked knowledge, governance, recharge protection, resilient infrastructure, inclusion and safeguards. The next step is country endorsement and adaptation to a lead financier's requirements, with complementary partners mobilized around one programme.

C7 • COOPERATION / C10 • OWNERSHIP AND SUSTAINED USE

04 A basin-wide voice

Six National User Coordinations and one Regional User Coordination connect local experience with transboundary governance.



One vision, nationally adapted

Users mapped their organizations, shaped statutes, elected bureaux and defined capacity priorities. Country-specific legal pathways strengthen legitimacy. Recognition, operational finance and regular functioning still need consolidation.

C7 lesson: cooperation needs an institutional home

PMU/VBA and GWP-WA provide coordinated steering; National Focal Structures anchor delivery in each country; consultants supply methods and facilitation. User platforms can bring local evidence, feedback and accountability into restoration and livelihood programmes.

Take these experiences into the other sessions

FOF • WS5; DSA • WS6

Continuous learning; inclusive basin institutions.

DSA • C3 and SS3

Lake pressures, ecosystem evidence and fisheries links.

DSA • WS4; FOF • WS10 / SS1

Partnerships and financing; SuGroM-VB investment pathway.

FOF • Visit 1; DSA • Visit 4

Water-efficient livelihoods; river waste and circular solutions.

Both • SS4; DSA • WS13; FOF • WS11

Women's leadership, youth voice and regional coordination.

The next test: sustained use and measurable influence

Secure operators, data-transfer routines and maintenance budgets; complete a controlled document repository; track tool use and decisions informed.



Download from
the VBA website