OMVS: General presentation
Main Conventions

- **Convention on the Establishment of the OMVS** defines the statutory organs as well as the mandate and competences of the Organization (Conference of Heads of States, High Commission, Water standing Committee).

- **Convention on the legal Status of the Senegal River**: the Senegal River (including its tributaries) is declared an international waterway in the territories of the Republics of Mali, Mauritania and Senegal. Provides for the principle of the contracting states' prior approval of all projects that are likely to modify in a noticeable way the characteristics of the river.

- **Convention on the legal Status of Jointly Owned infrastructures**: states that the common interest structures constructed on the Senegal River shall be the joint ownership of the OMVS Member States.

- **Convention on financing modalities of Jointly Owned Structures**: provides for the financing modalities for the OMVS program (contributions, loans, grants), the guarantee arrangements toward financiers (joint and several guarantee) and a cost and charge allocation key.

- **The Senegal River Water Charter** reinforcing the public participation and the integrated water management principles.
Main achievements

Infrastructures

- **Manantali**: stores 11 billion m$^3$ for irrigation of 255,000 ha, make the river navigable. Is 482.8m Long and 65m high
  - 5 groups of 40 MW each;
  - 200 MW installed power;
  - Producing 800 GWh/year, guaranteed 9/10 years;
  - 1500 Km Inter connected High Power line between the 3 states.
  - 1500 km optic fiber line connected to the trans-Atlantic sub-marine cable

- **Diama**: Anti salt dam has no storage capacity. Its main role is to prevent the salt intrusion upstream.
Basin wide studies and development programs

- Integrated Regional Infrastructure and Water Management Plan of Senegal River Basin
- Regional Environment Code and Environmental Actions Plan
- Regional Health Program
- Observatory of environment (control panel for environment and water quality & balance)
- Water saving and Regional Program for more effective irrigation systems
- Environmental impacts mitigation and environmental management program
- Early warning and disaster preparedness system
- GEF environmental program extension to Guinea, public participation, sustainability of the mitigation program beyond the Regional Energy Program
Positive impacts

• Food security and flood control
• “Shared vision”, Peaceful cooperation and integration of the Three riparian states
• Energy exchange between the 3 state, a step toward exchange throughout West Africa
• More attractive energy sector for investment
• Strong and proven institutional framework for future development of the basin potential and conflict resolution
• Better environment management
Negative impacts

- Water borne diseases (malaria, bilharzias)
- Water weeds proliferation
- Chemical pollution from irrigational channels
- Lost of land for small flood recessing farming due to the longer duration of the artificial flood
- Lost of species of fish at the embouchure
- Delay and slow progress due to long term negotiations to reach an agreement among riparian states
Lessons learned

• None of the three countries could alone mobilize the investment for the regional infrastructure program;
• The development plans in the Basin are integrated despite the artificial boundaries inherited from the colonial time;
• Upstream-Down stream disputes are rare and anticipated;
• Permanent high level dialog opportunities allowing to solve disputes beyond the water issues
• The time spent to reach the first agreement is saved for future similar discussions in the future