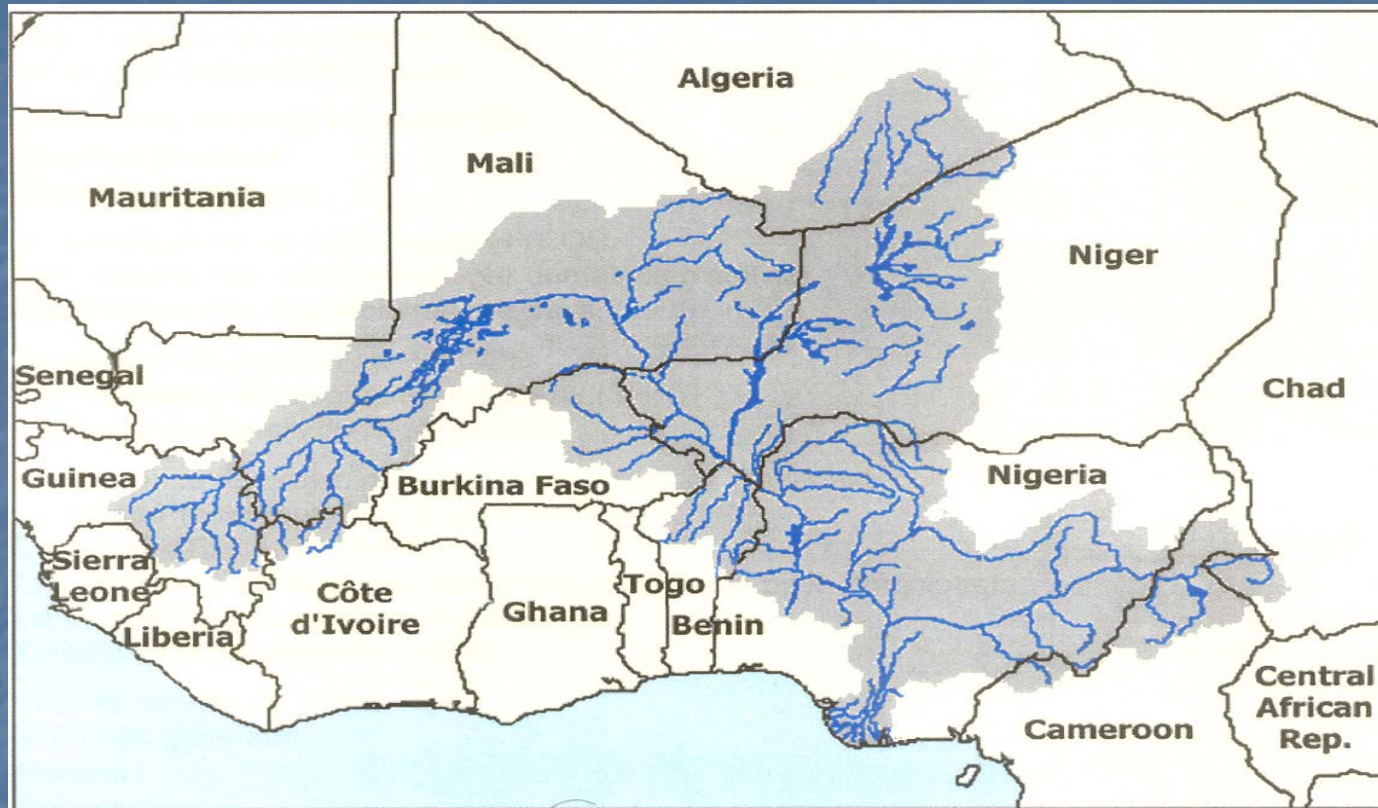


# IWRM, Water Users and Civil Society in NIGER RIVER BASIN



**“One Basin, 9 Countries, One Vision”**

Alain BERNARD – International Office for Water

Zhengzhou Octobre 22nd 2009 IYRF

# GEOPOLITICAL CONTEXT

- Guinea (6%)
- Ivory Coast (1%)
- Mali (26%)
- Niger (23%)
- Burkina Faso (4%)
- Benin (2%)
- Cameroun (4%)
- Chad (1.0%)
- Nigeria (33%)



# DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

**Sustainable and equitable of  
WR by all water users**

**Poverty Alleviation  
And improvement of  
living conditions**

**Economical  
Development  
and  
Regional Integration**

**Development  
Of a Shared Vision**

**Protection of Environment  
and ecosystems**

**Food Security**

**Sharing of  
mutual benefits**



▶ Niger Basin Shared Vision :

**«Niger River Basin, a geographical region for sustainable development through the integrated management of water resources and associated ecosystems, to improve living conditions and prosperity of local populations by 2025»**

▶ **Prioritary actions :**

- 1- Development of socio-economical infrastructures,**
- 2- Preservation of basin ecosystems,**
- 3- participation and capacity-building of stakeholders.**

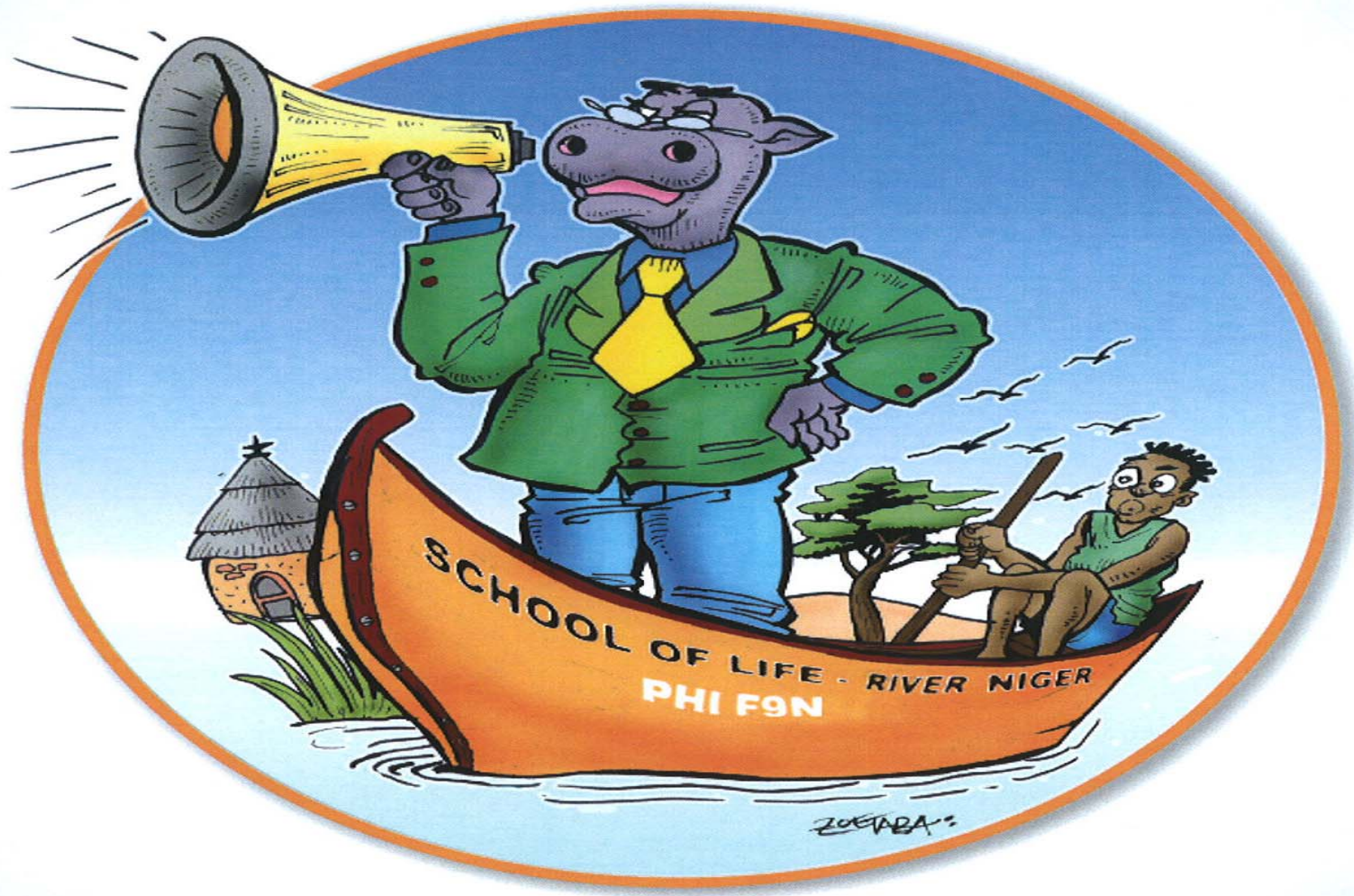
## RESULTATS ATTENDUS

### ▶ **Three main results for Shared Vision Process :**

- 1)- Formulation of the Shared Vision, related to Niger River Basin Sustainable Development by 2025**
- 2)- Elaboration and adoption by the Head of States of a « Sustainable Development Action Plan »**
- 3)- Mobilisation by NBA, Member-States and international Community of necessary funds for Plan implementation**



# THE APPEAL OF PROFESSOR HIPPOPOTAMUS





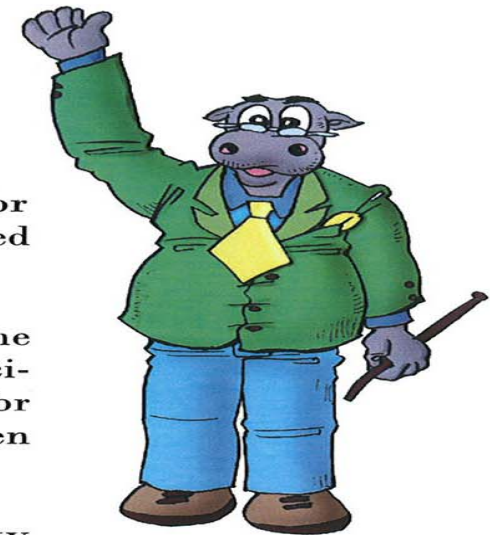
# The River Niger School of Life: the students; a very special class

**D**uring the latest Global Assembly of Wise-persons for Water, Professor emeritus, Hippopotamus, was appointed as standing member of this Assembly.

He seized this opportunity to request the collaboration of the International Secretariat for Water (ISW), in order to participate in the teachers' committee, to organise the final exam for the special class of the River Niger School of Life and then report the results.

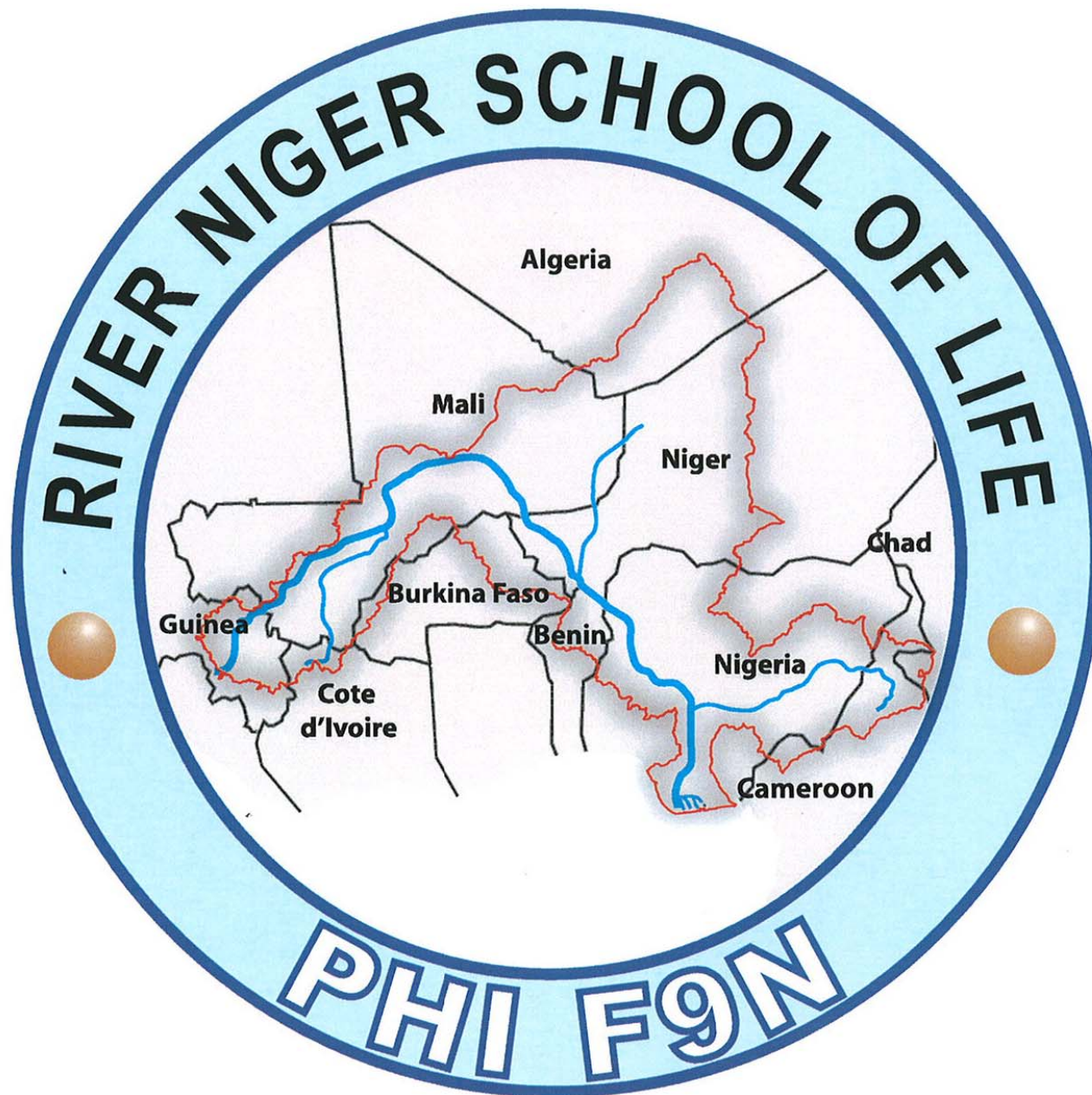
Professor Hippopotamus is a direct descendant of a dynasty of "Wise-persons" who, after listening long and hard to his people, and sharing in their daily lives, founded the River Niger School of Life.

This school is attended by local and foreign populations, settled persons and nomads, who today live in an area that concerns nine countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Chad.



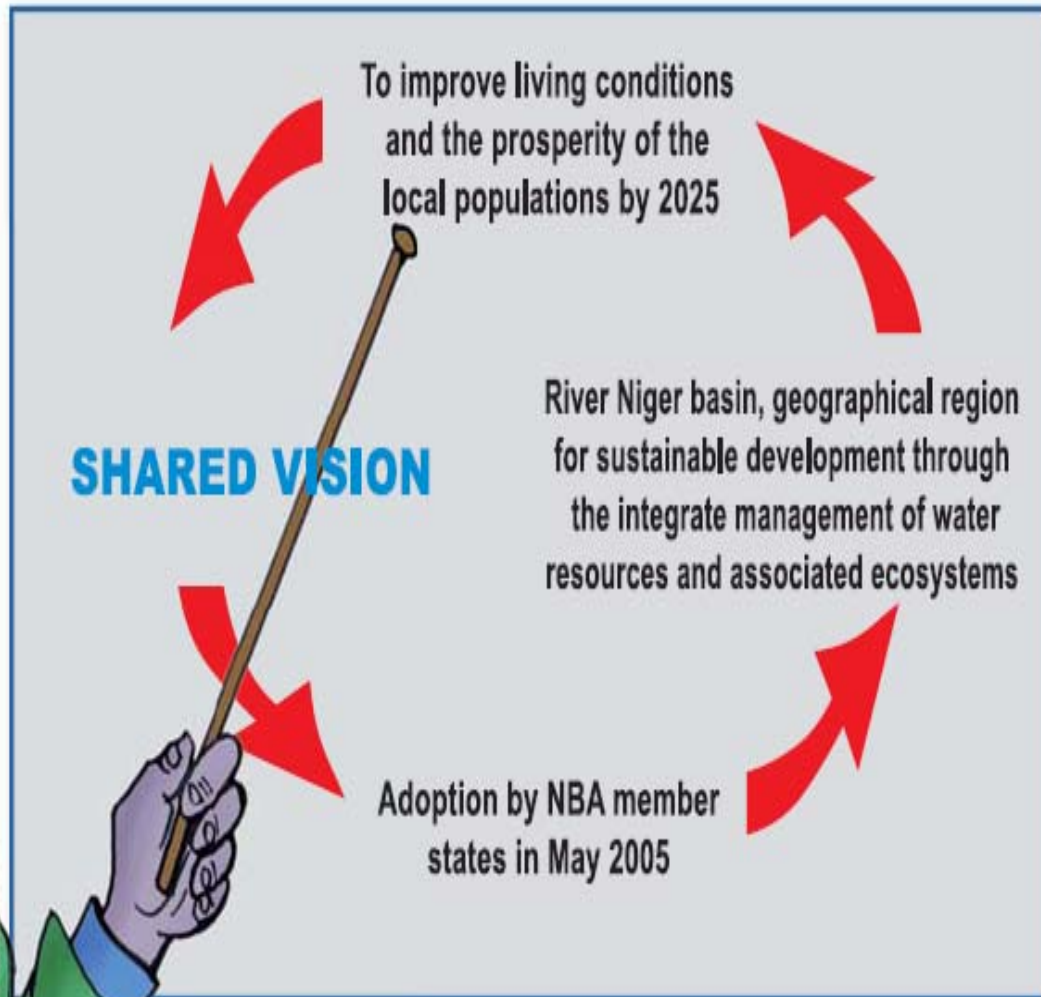
**Professor  
Hippopotamus**







# 1- The Shared Vision Process

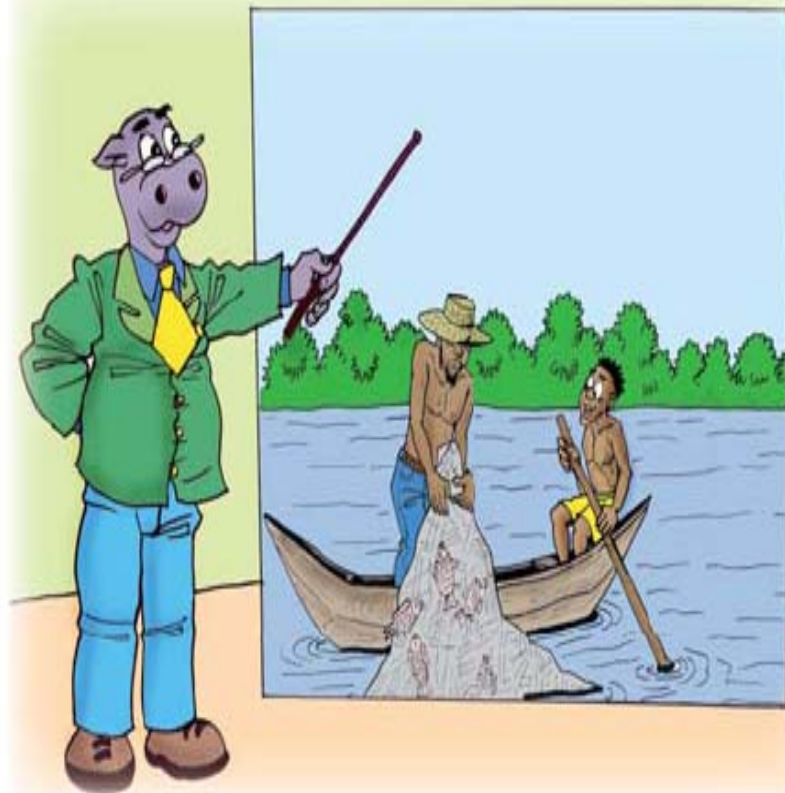


## 4- The issue of major infrastructure



Dams are necessary to regulate the river flow and that of its tributaries, making it possible to guarantee the provision of drinking water, ensure agricultural production through irrigation, safeguard fisheries, produce hydropower and offer navigation opportunities while also helping to protect environment.





However, due to the impact of such infrastructure on the local populations and their homes, they must be planned according to a very rigorous and transparent process.

## 5- User participation in decision making

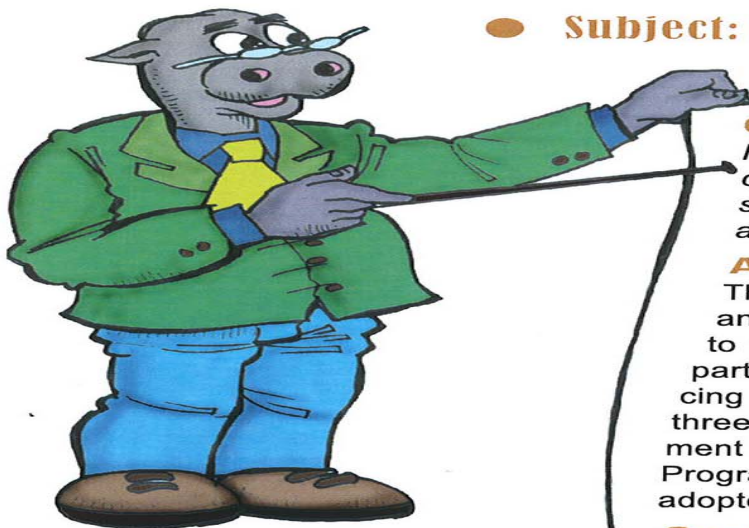


"The basin exists only through the people who live in it". The countries that share the River Niger basin have everything to win from ensuring the participation, support and mobilisation of the populations in translating the Shared Vision Pro-

cess into concrete actions that shall contribute to reducing poverty and improving quality of life. The participation mechanism, officially adopted in July 2007, is an effective means of mobilising users.



# An Exam: questions and answers ...



## ● Subject: Political Will and Financial Support

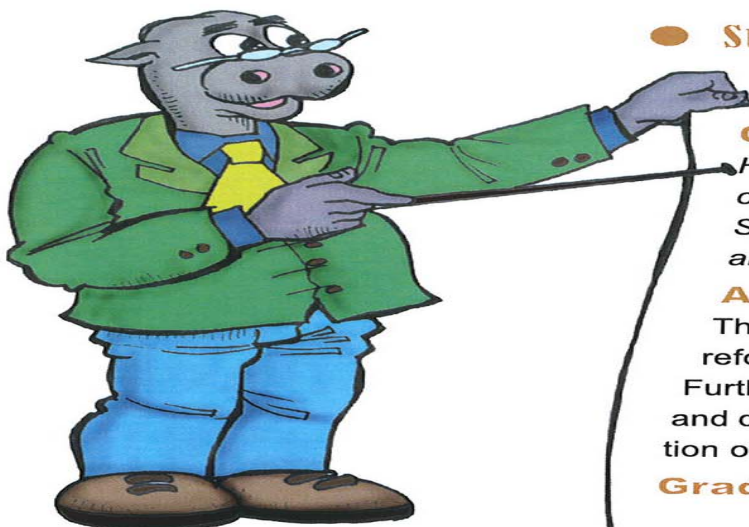
### Question:

*Have the Heads of State coordinated their political efforts and obtained the required financial support to successfully draw up joint plans and actions in the River Niger basin?*

### Answer:

The students have worked very well since 2002 and the activities and coordination efforts have led to the adoption of the Paris Declaration and the partners' Cooperation Framework, as well as financing studies that have resulted in the publishing of three major documents: the Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP), the Investment Programme and the Water Charter which will be adopted in April 2008.

**Grade: 18 out of 20**



## ● Subject: Institutional Reform

### Question:

*Has the NBA carried out the institutional and organisational reforms agreed on by the Heads of State to reach the targeted levels of competence and effectiveness?*

### Answer:

The Executive Secretariat has carried out its reforms. The focal structures are not all set up yet. Further effort is required to maintain, consolidate and develop the skills required for the proper operation of the NBA.

**Grade: 14 out of 20**



● **Subject: Theoretical and practical planning and programming**



**Question:**

*Are the planning and programming tools used to measure the suitability of the different actions envisaged in the Niger basin and the Shared Vision Process appropriate?*

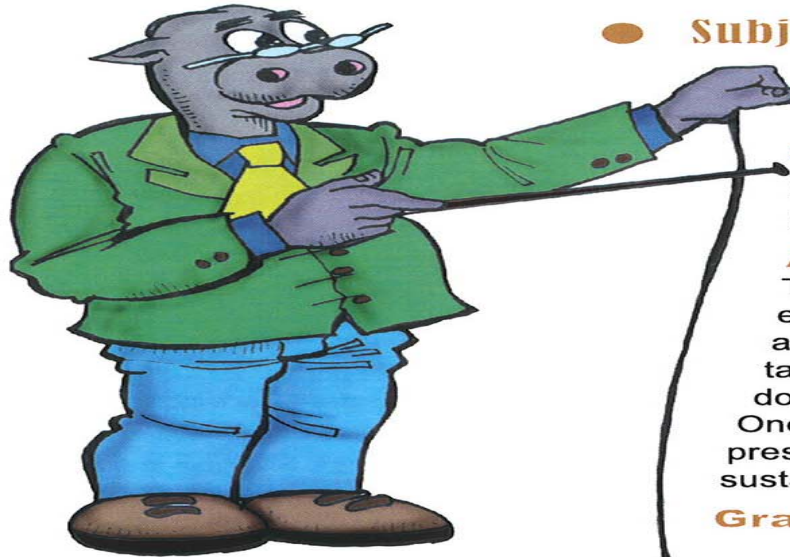
**Answer:**

The Sustainable Development Action Plan and the Investment Programme have been produced through tools that have been in accordance with international standards and correspond to the different contexts of the River Niger basin.

The hydrometric monitoring network set up along the river and the recent programme to combat the silting up of the river are steps in the right direction. We must spend more time getting to grips with the water needs of the ecosystems, in order to guarantee policies that ensure water flow matches the environment's needs.

**Grade: 17 out of 20**

● **Subject: Infrastructure scenarios**



**Question:**

*Have the Ministers chosen the best scenario for the installations proposed by the SDAP?*

**Answer:**

The scenario chosen presents several negative effects (in a context with aggravating factors such as climate change), in particular the risk of substantial loss of humid zones, a drop in water levels downstream, a drop in electricity production etc.

One of the other scenarios proposed in the SDAP presented more advantages and guarantees of sustainable development on a basin level.

**Grade: 10 out of 20**

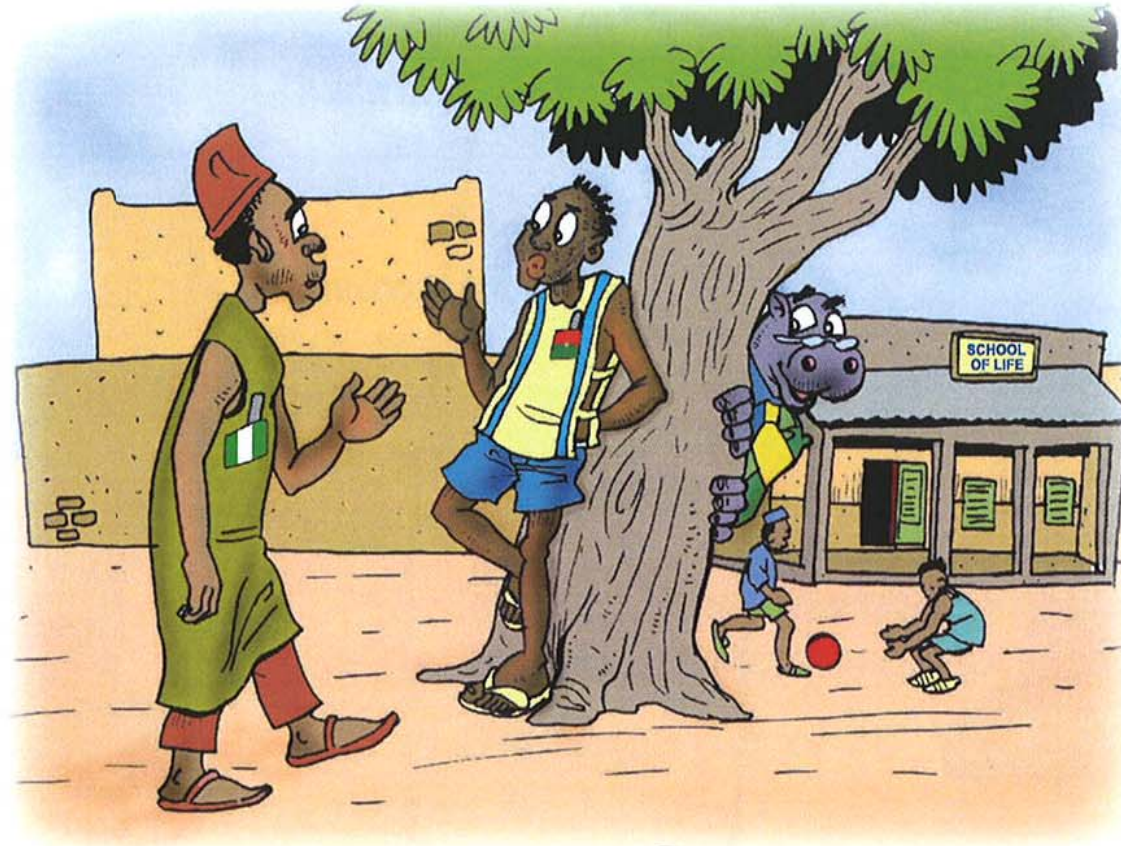




# School Report

To evaluate his special class, Professor Hippopotamus drew on written answers, but also on conversations

held in the school yard, to help him read between the lines.



## Extract from the reports of the special class of the "River Niger School of Life"

Subjects	Grades	Professor's remarks
Political Will and Financial Support	18/20	Very good work.
Institutional Reform	14/20	On the right track.
Theoretical and practical planning and programming	17/20	Highly satisfactory.
Infrastructure scenarios	10/20	Lesson to be revised collectively.
Impact Studies	12/20	Extra effort required in transparency.
Donors' Cooperation	13/20	Unjustified absences.
User Participation	12/20	Notable progress, must be made a priority!
<b>Comments</b>	Passing grade: 12/20 Diligence: 77%	
<b>General assessment</b>	<p>The majority of the students, on an individual basis can graduate to the next level and thus begin contributing to the process. However, on a collective level, the choice of infrastructure scenario should be reviewed in a readjustment session. This should consist of an in-depth reflection on the negative impacts of the scenario and on the compensatory and corrective measures to be taken.</p>	

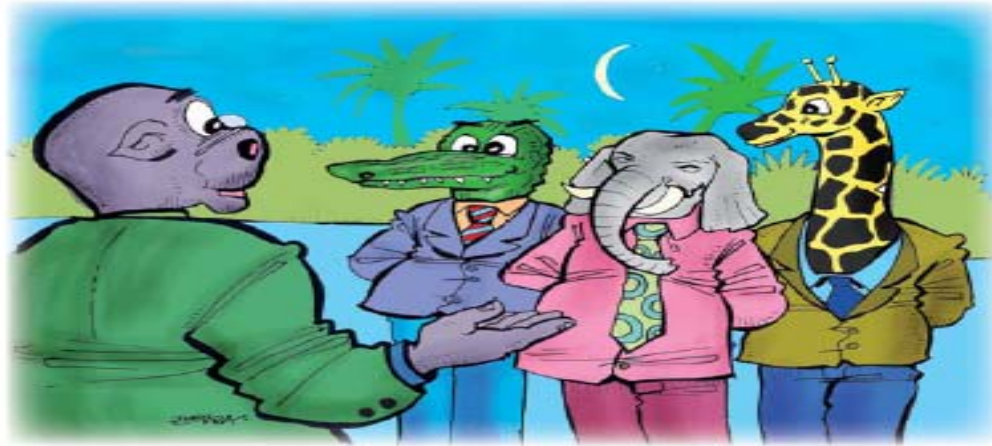
Date: April 20th 2008

Professor Hippopotamus





## Recommendations ...



After having spent much time since 2002 with the students of the special class, Professor Hippopotamus sets off to have a rest in the middle of his river. During the day, he talks with his peers and at night he questions the stars, which reassure him as to the future of the River Niger School of Life and the next generations which will attend it.



He takes notes and in his personal notebook formulates the recommendations that he will transmit at the right time and place to those who wish to listen.

## ... and one last suggestion

If the size of certain water regulating infrastructure were to be revised downwards, this would generate a certain amount of savings. These could be used to help backers and the countries concerned to find innovative solutions such as creating decentralised financing mechanisms for the

benefit of the local economy, the final beneficiaries being individuals, families, traders, fisherfolk, shop keepers, small and medium sized enterprises, villages and municipalities etc. An opportunity that could have an immediate impact on poverty reduction.



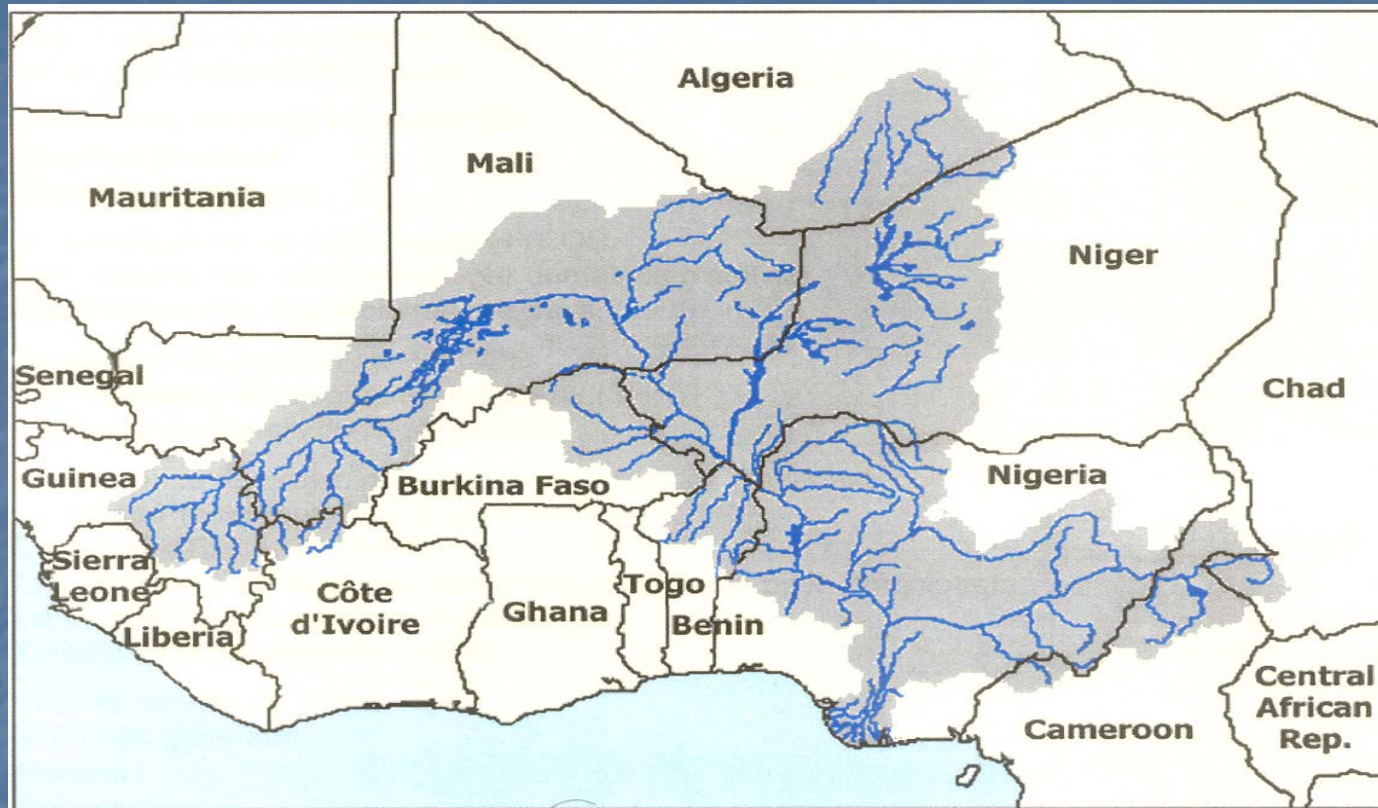
Finally, my very  
best wishes go  
with you...

*Professor Hippopotamus,  
Citizen of the River Niger Basin.*

*"School of Life" Cause  
River Niger  
PHI F9N*



# IWRM, Water Users and Civil Society in NIGER RIVER BASIN



“One Basin, 9 Countries, Two Visions ?”

Alain BERNARD – International Office for Water

Zhengzhou Octobre 22nd 2009 IYRF