

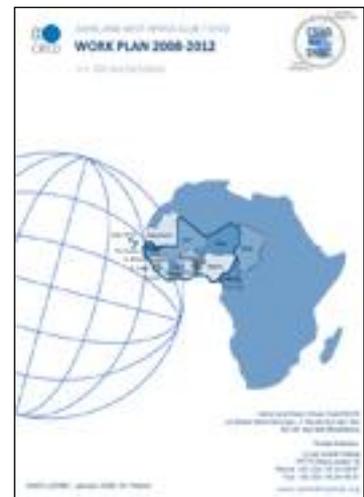
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*The Sahel and West Africa Club's monthly newsletter aims to provide regular information on ongoing SWAC activities, publications, upcoming events and other SWAC news.*

- **WORK PLAN 2008-2012: ORIENTATIONS**
- **PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE SAHELIAN BAND**
- **2007/2008 WEST AFRICA REPORT**
- **MIGRATION DYNAMICS IN WEST AFRICA**
- **BORDER CO-OPERATION: NIGER-NIGERIA**
- **AFRICAN UNION BORDER PROGRAMME**
- **POLICY COHERENCE IN WEST AFRICAN FISHERIES**
- **PUBLICATIONS**
- **UPCOMING EVENTS**

## **WORK PLAN 2008-2012: ORIENTATIONS**

In 2008 the SWAC starts a new work cycle with new orientations. A draft five-year Work Plan will be submitted to the Strategy and Policy Group Meeting to be held at OECD Headquarters in Paris on 31 January and 1 February 2008. It outlines proposed activities and expected results of the SWAC's four work areas as well as communications. Promoting regional approaches and policies continues to guide all SWAC activities. Moreover, prospective thinking on the region's future will be made available to the region and its partners. Partnerships, debates, observations and communications will be essential tools to implement this programme. The SWAC will act as an observer to identify and valorise West African expertise and capitalize on the experience of OECD member countries. Moreover, it will strengthen its relationships within the OECD. The draft Work Plan also reviews the SWAC's financial situation and administrative issues. > [read the draft Work Plan 2008-2012](#)



## **PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE SAHELIAN BAND**

**Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), 10-11 December 2007**

Invited by Dr. Ibn Chambas, the ECOWAS Commission President, and the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), the SWAC Director Normand Lauzon, participated in a high level delegation to discuss the progress of the peace process in Niger and in Mali. With the resurgence of violence and rebel movements in isolated desert areas in the Sahelo-Saharan region, the governments of both countries as well as other concerned countries are seeking peace in the region, notably by combating organized crime, strengthening State capacities in peripheral areas and intensifying border co-operation. This meeting resulted in suggestions for encouraging a comprehensive consultation process with all components of societies in Mali and Niger. It also focused on how to capitalise on lessons learned from the [ECOWAS Cross-Border Initiatives Programme \(CIP\)](#) and the [SWAC's work on border co-operation](#) in order to make specific recommendations for the Sahelian band. Proposals will be brought to the attention of the Presidents of Mali and Niger and will be taken into account in the preparation of the Sub-regional Conference on "Peace and Security in the Sahelian Band and Sub-regional Stability" that is scheduled to take place in Ouagadougou in January 2008.

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## 2007/2008 WEST AFRICA REPORT

### Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), 12-13 December 2007

The ECOWAS/SWAC editorial team held a preparatory meeting to review the progress of the 2007/2008 West Africa Report on "Resources for Development" and discuss follow-up activities and promotion strategies with a view to the Report's finalisation scheduled for the first semester of 2008. The Report analyses three forms of capital: (i) natural capital through resources such as water, forests and minerals, (ii) cultural and social capital with regard to its artistic, linguistic and community aspects, and (iii) economic capital through infrastructure development or informal sector dynamics. The third section includes interviews with leading West African personalities on the various topics addressed within the Report highlighting their own experiences. The Report will be reviewed by an editorial panel composed of West African regional experts and the ECOWAS/SWAC's editorial team. An information brochure on the Report will be presented at the forthcoming ECOWAS Heads of State and Government Summit, the Conference with civil society representatives and other relevant events.

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## MIGRATION DYNAMICS IN WEST AFRICA

### ⇒ *Launching of a two-year programme funded by the European Commission*

The SWAC concluded a partnership agreement with the Research Institute for Development (IRD), the Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar (UCAD) and the Center for Research in Ethnic Relations at the University of Warwick (UK). The programme's objectives are to:

- Develop an online database on West African migration;
- Produce statistical analysis, mapping studies and a feasibility study for the setting up of a regional observatory on migration; and
- Provide ECOWAS with the produced data, analysis and other relevant information to facilitate the implementation process of the ECOWAS joint approach on migration.

### ⇒ *Launching of a thinking process on a regional approach to address West African migration issues*

West African countries are negotiating and implementing bilateral agreements with European countries. How could a regional approach be useful for them? With the financial support of the French Ministry for Co-operation, the SWAC will facilitate debates within a West African strategic thinking group to address this issue. It will focus on:

- Analysing and documenting the implementation prospects of a West African regional approach to migratory issues based on the common approach developed within ECOWAS;
- Broadening the debate on the regional approach on migration to non-institutional actors; and
- Contributing to the preparation of the second Ministerial Euro-African Conference on Migration and Development to be held in October 2008 in France.

### ⇒ *Review of international migration policies*

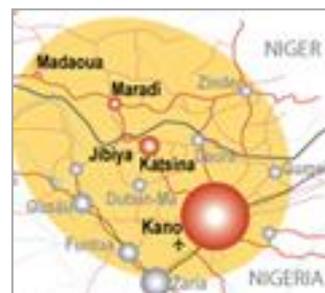
This work will be complemented by a review of international migration policies currently in force in major host countries of sub-Saharan African migrants and bilateral or regional mobility agreements (free movement of people within the ECOWAS zone, AU and ECOWAS policies, Senegal River Development Agency (OMVS), etc.). This project is funded by the Italian Co-operation Agency.

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## BORDER CO-OPERATION: NIGER-NIGERIA

### ⇒ *Launching of two feasibility studies in the Kano-Katsina-Maradi (K<sup>2</sup>M) area*

The [Katsina Workshop held in September 2007](#) validated the setting-up of three information platforms on cross-border activities: (i) Information on food crop markets, (ii) Information on cross-border movement of cereals and livestock, and (iii) Information on capital transfer between the two countries. Two feasibility studies will be launched in January/February 2008 with a view towards implementing this initiative. The first feasibility study proposes a two-year project focusing on operationalising the dialogue platforms, in consultation with involved actors in the K2M area as well as local and national authorities, and identifying concrete activities to be launched within the framework of this initiative. The second study defines the modalities for setting-up a cross-border radio station network aiming to facilitate local dissemination of information on cross-border trade of cereals and livestock, exchange rates, food security issues, citizen rights and responsibilities with a view to the free movement of people, goods and capital and other relevant information. The outcomes of these studies will be published by the end of the first semester of 2008. The Delegation of the European Commission in Niger has expressed its willingness to fund these two studies.



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## AFRICAN UNION BORDER PROGRAMME

### Djibouti, 1-2 December 2007

The Conference of African Ministers in charge of Border Issues, held in Addis Ababa in June 2007, defined the modalities for the implementation of the African Union Border Programme. Within the framework of the follow-up meeting organised in Djibouti, invited experts validated proposals for action that could be undertaken in order to achieve the Programme's objectives. In particular, the AU Border Programme aims to actively promote local cross-border co-operation initiatives as a tool for accelerating regional integration processes. The SWAC participated as a member of the restricted Committee in this process.

> [read the information note](#) (French)

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## POLICY COHERENCE IN WEST AFRICAN FISHERIES

### Dakar (Senegal), 11-12 December 2007

The [OECD Fisheries Policy Division](#) and the SWAC in partnership with Enda Diapol/REPAO conducted a joint analysis on policy coherence in fishery development policies in CSRP (Sub-Regional Fishery Commission) countries in West Africa in 2007. A two-day regional workshop, organised by Enda Diapol/REPAO, the SWAC, CSRP and WWF entitled « Fishing for coherence in West Africa », presented to regional stakeholders the findings of this analysis. Discussions focused on three key areas of policy coherence: (i) harmonisation of conditions for access to fisheries resources; (ii) illegal, unregulated and unrecorded fishing; and (iii) coherence between economic agreements and fisheries agreements. The meeting brought together about 50 participants including some key partners from OECD countries (the European Commission, the Netherlands, US NOAA and US Navy, the World Bank). The outcomes of the workshop included the development of indicators designed to help stakeholders monitor policy coherence in these three areas and facilitate information-sharing as well as the establishment of a regional taskforce to follow-up the workshop recommendations.

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## PUBLICATIONS

### Atlas of Regional Integration in West Africa: Demographic Trends



At a time when an increasing number of countries are facing demographic decline, West Africa will, for a long time, continue to experience strong population growth. Managing urban growth, including setting-up infrastructure and adequate services for an increasing number of demanding citizens must be considered a public policy priority. The younger generation should also be given high priority. Today, 60% of West Africans are under 25 years of age and 70% are under 30. This chapter of the Atlas on Regional Integration in West Africa presents global demographic trends, urban dynamics and West African-specific demographic behavior patterns. It provides the necessary groundwork to understand the social, geographic and economic changes and perspectives in West Africa.

[> download this chapter](#) (4,3 Mb)

### Summary Record of the 23<sup>rd</sup> RPCA Annual Meeting: Conclusions and Recommendations

Brussels, 27-30 November 2007

The Summary Record presents key conclusions and recommendations of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Food Crisis Prevention Network of the Sahel and West Africa (RPCA): it synthesizes outcomes of the agricultural campaign 2007/2008, explains the procedures of the setting-up of agricultural information systems such as AGRIS, IPC and other analytical tools for examining the food and nutrition situation, and presents best practices and crisis intervention mechanisms. It also analyses some aspects of the region's agricultural and trade policies. The agenda and list of participants are included in this report.



[> read the summary record](#) (French)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SWAC Strategy and Policy Group Meeting (SPG)

OECD Headquarters, Paris, 31 January and 1 February 2008

The SWAC has invited its SPG members to brainstorm and comment on the SWAC's 2008-2012 Work Plan. The main objectives of this meeting are to: (i) review the implementation of our 2005-2007 Work Plan; (ii) discuss and approve the orientations of the SWAC's 2008-2012 Work Plan ; and (iii) have an exchange of views on the SWAC's financial and administrative situation.

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**All publications can be downloaded from the SWAC website: [www.westafricaclub.org](http://www.westafricaclub.org)**

**If you wish to receive a paper copy or the electronic version of this newsletter, please contact [julia.wanjiru@oecd.org](mailto:julia.wanjiru@oecd.org)**

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