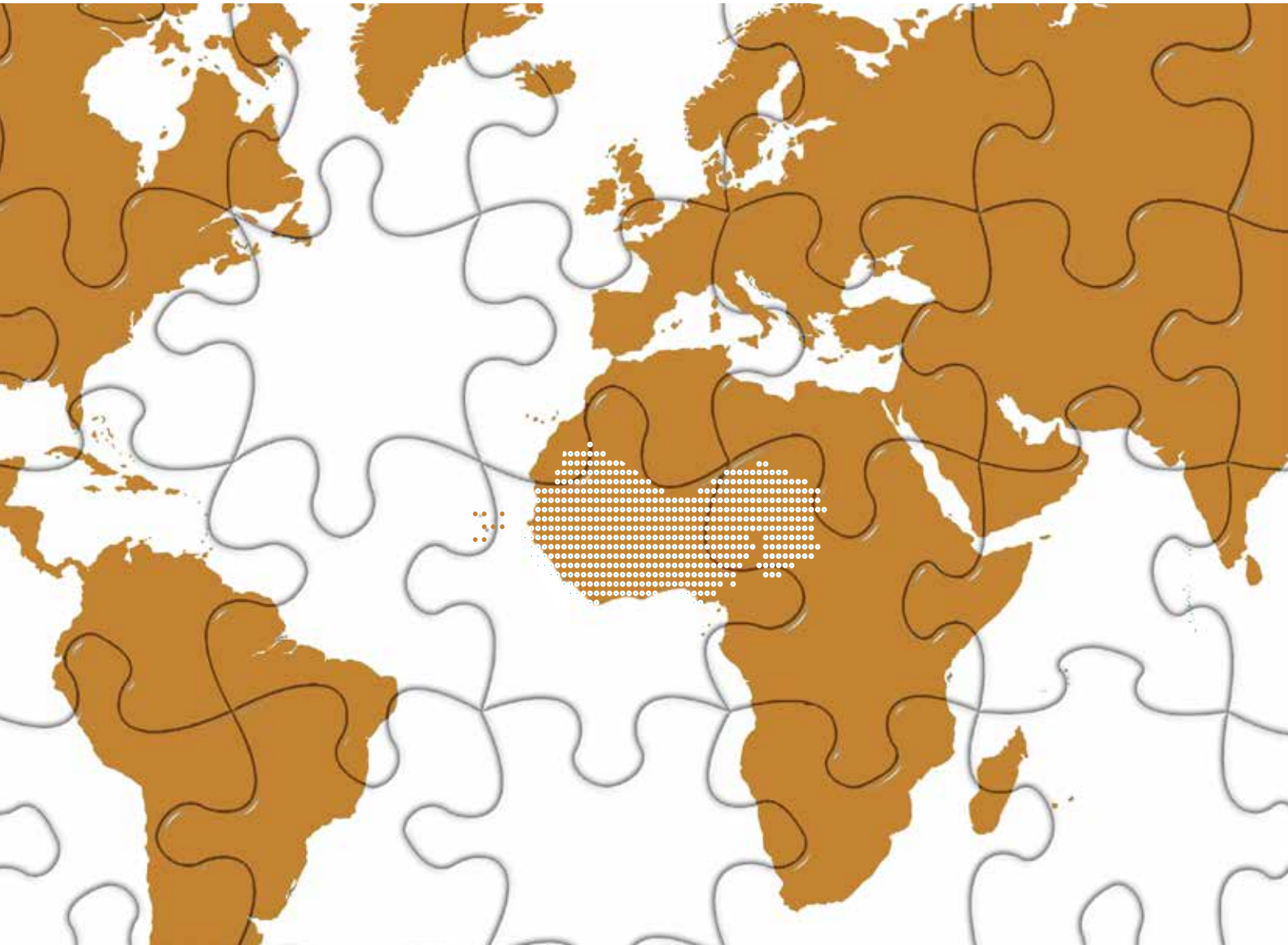
THE SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA CLUB SECRETARIAT
2012 ANNUAL REPORT

SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA Club Secretariat

OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES



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ECOWAS MEMBER COUNTRIES

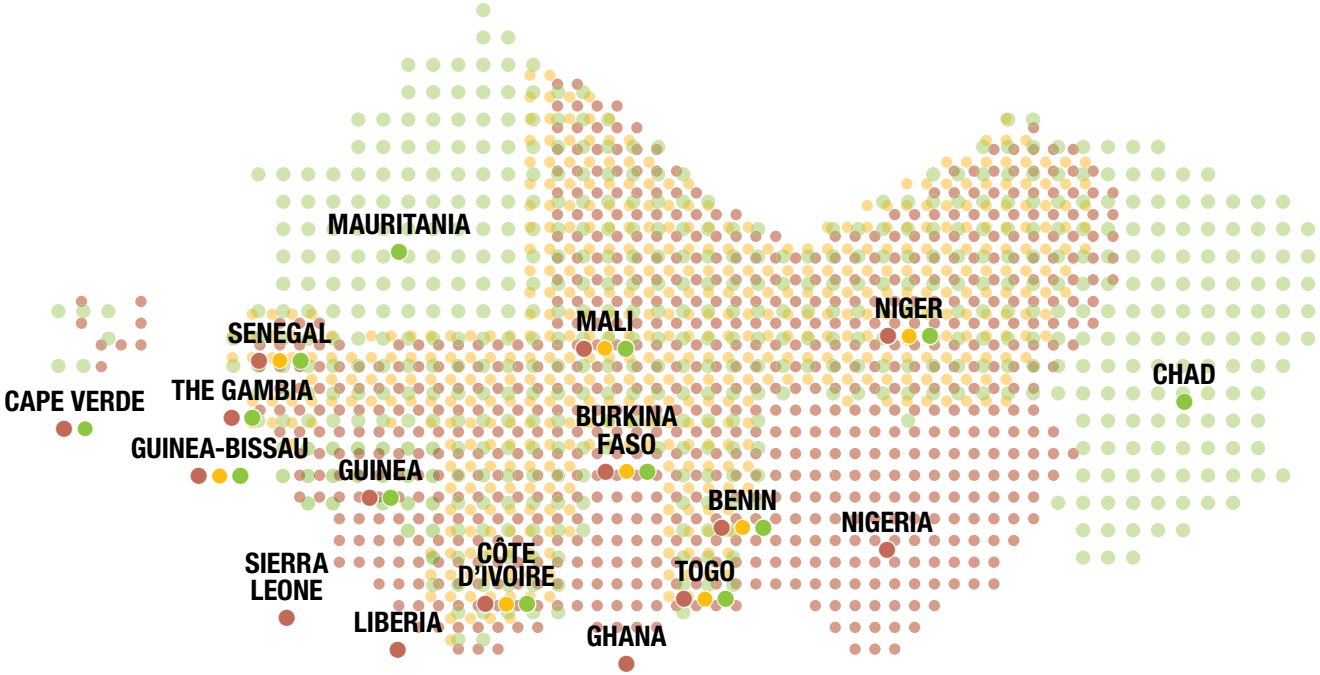
→ Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia (The), Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

UEMOA MEMBER COUNTRIES

→ Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

CILSS MEMBER COUNTRIES

→ Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia (The), Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo.



The Club

Working Together for Regional Integration

The Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC) is a group of West African regional organisations, countries and international organisations that work together towards the development and integration of the West African region. The mission of the Club is to pool together Members' experiences, ideas and perspectives to help build more effective regional policies.

Drawing on factual studies and independent analyses, the Club devises strategic guidelines and policy tools for Members and other stakeholders.

The Club is also a space for policy dialogue. As a member of the OECD Development Cluster, the SWAC Secretariat contributes to the work of the Organisation and ensures that West African concerns and initiatives are taken into account in global debates.

MEMBERS

Austria	Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs
Belgium	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation
CILSS	Executive Secretariat of the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
ECOWAS	Commission of the Economic Community of West African States
France	Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs
Luxemburg	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Netherlands (The)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Switzerland	Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
UEMOA	Commission of the West African Economic and Monetary Union
United States	U.S. Agency for International Development
EU	The European Union actively participates in the work of the Club and contributes to its financial resources; its accession process to the Club is underway.

As Observers, the Canadian International Development Agency (ACDI-CIDA) and the Network of Farmers' Organisations and Agricultural Producers of West Africa (ROPPA) are closely associated with the Club.

Time to Take Stock

Two years after the inception of the "new Club" - when West African regional organisations joined OECD member countries to become full members - where do we stand today?

The oldest initiative of solidarity and partnership between the OECD and Africa, the Club has come a long way since its creation in 1976 to mobilise international support in response to the drought crisis in the Sahel. Today, West African Members, OECD countries and international organisations sit at the same table to combine efforts, share experiences and find common solutions. On a basis of equal governance and equal financial contributions, they discuss and take decisions together on joint work priorities.

ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS have played a very dynamic role in the definition of strategic orientations and the implementation of joint activities within the framework of the Club. Thanks to the facilitation of the SWAC Secretariat, this intense collaboration also fostered the creation of new synergy between the regional organisations and led to the elaboration of various joint positions and common strategies.

Our West African Members have also been a driving force that propelled the SWAC Secretariat to become more deeply involved in the regional governance of food security. Work on food security has grown in importance and is now firmly embedded in the Club's agenda. The Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) has taken a giant step forward by improving its functioning and the impact it has on decision-making. ECOWAS and UEMOA have taken

up the political leadership of the Network, whose recommendations now directly feed into regional decision-making bodies. The Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management is unanimously recognised as an essential tool for co-ordinated and concerted action. Most importantly, beyond the sphere of its Members, the SWAC dialogue platform successfully rallied a large number of stakeholders who decided to join efforts and create the "Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR) - Sahel and West Africa".

"Wherever possible, the SWAC Secretariat uses its position within the OECD to promote West African initiatives and viewpoints in global processes."

Wherever possible, the SWAC Secretariat uses its position within the OECD to promote West African initiatives and viewpoints in global processes. For the first time, West Africa featured in the agenda of the deliberations of the G20, and the region has now become an official observer of the G20 Working Group on Development where it defends, alongside South Africa, the continent's interests. Moreover, the Regional Food Reserve benefits from the support of the G20. Regional aspects of development are better taken into account in OECD work on development. ➔

Désiré Kadré Ouédraogo
ECOWAS Commission President

"ECOWAS welcomes the Club's role in mobilising the international community around West Africa's food and nutritional security agenda. AGIR is built on the priorities of the region and will help implement existing food and nutritional strategies. The Club played a critical role in building this consensus."

Cheikhe Hadjibou Soumaré
UEMOA Commission President

"As food security is one of the Union's top priorities, the UEMOA Commission was particularly pleased with the strong food security focus of the first Sahel and West Africa Week. I hope that our exchanges within the Club continue to be as open as possible and that the Club will act as a spokesperson on behalf of our region in OECD member countries and beyond."

Alhousseini Bretaudeau
Former CILSS Executive Secretary

"The SWAC Secretariat's facilitation and support strongly contributed to the development of synergy between ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS activities, in particular in the fields of resilience-building, sustainable management of natural resources and climate change adaptation."

Stefan Scholz
Austria, Head of Department, Programming and Planning of Deveopment Co-operation, BMEIA

"Austria appreciates the newly launched AGIR Alliance and the engagement of SWAC in facilitating this important process. We highly welcome the opportunity to exchange information, ideas and best practices with like-minded partners on enhancing resilience, which will facilitate the elaboration and execution of our country and regional strategies."

Hansjürg Ambühl
Switzerland, Head of West Africa Division, SDC

"I would like to highlight the paradigm shift that the Club has undergone to put Members back at the core of its actions. The Club would gain even more efficiency and visibility, if the impact of the Club's action was clearly highlighted."

Falilou Fall
France, Former SWAC Focal Point, MAE

"We think that the SWAC Secretariat has done an excellent job. The work marks a genuine renaissance of the Club which has successfully pushed forward West African interests on the international development agenda, notably within the G20."

➔ Besides international lobbying, the Club's role in conducting independent, factual analysis in support of regional policies has been put to the test on the complex issue of settlement, market and food security. Key findings were presented and discussed with West African policy makers and food security practitioners at the SWAC Forum, which stimulated an intense and sometimes controversial debate. The final study provides policy makers and key stakeholders with a description of the food security challenges that need to be addressed in regional policy and strategy design. SWAC work on the security-development nexus was a very timely response to the complex challenges the region is facing, and contributed to greater understanding of this regional development issue. The West Africa Gateway helps channel West African information to the attention of a larger audience, notably through its weekly NewsBriefs.

The importance that Members attach to their new Club is also expressed through high-level participation in various SWAC events. Meetings of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) were jointly chaired by ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissioners, demonstrating the strength of their new political leadership role. Ministers from Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Niger, as well as the Prime Minister of Burkina Faso, attended the AGIR Launching Ceremony. Similarly, development partners were represented at the highest level. The first Sahel and West Africa Week bore witness to the vitality of the new Club.

"The Club's governance is now established on a solid base with a mandate defining a clear and ambitious contract among its Members."

Looking forward to the next biennium, the Club's governance is now established on a solid base with a mandate defining a clear and ambitious contract among its Members. Austria joined the Club as a new Member and the European Union is in the process of adhering to the Club. The spirit of the Busan Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation is already translated into practice in all SWAC activities. Today, the Club is a unique platform for dialogue within the international development landscape. Building on the leadership and active involvement of our Members, we hope to attract even more new Members and partners to join our efforts, and build an even stronger coalition in support of regional integration.

Laurent Bossard
Director, SWAC Secretariat

1. 28th RPCA Annual Meeting, Ouagadougou, 4-6 December 2012; **2. AGIR Launching Ceremony**; **3. H.E. Mr. Beyon Luc Adolphe Tiao**, Prime Minister of Burkina Faso and **François-Xavier de Donnea**, SWAC President; **4. West African leaders** meet with **Rintaro Tamaki,** OECD Deputy Secretary-General; **5. SWAC Strategy and Policy Group Meeting**, Paris, 11 June 2012; **6. Simone Zoundi**, FIAB President, Private Sector Representative; **7. 2011 SWAC Forum**, Praia, 5-6 December 2011; **8. François-Xavier de Donnea**, **Angel Gurría**, OECD Secretary-General, and **Andris Piebalgs,** EU Commissioner for Development.

The Club at a Glance

- **1973**. Extreme drought in the Sahel; creation of the "Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel" (CILSS).
- **1976**. Creation of the "Club du Sahel" at the initiative of CILSS and some OECD member countries aimed at mobilising the international community in support of the Sahel.
- **1984**. Another devastating drought; creation of the "Food Crisis Prevention Network" (RPCA) at the initiative of CILSS and the Club.
- **1990**. Adoption of the "Food Aid Charter" by Sahelian countries and DAC member countries.
- **1994**. Release of the West Africa Long-Term Perspective Study (WALTPS), "Preparing for the Future: a Vision of West Africa in the Year 2020".
- **1997**. Adoption of the Banjul Memorandum by the Sahelian Heads of State and Government for more effective aid.
- **2000**. Creation of the Network of Farmers' Organisations and Agricultural Producers of West Africa (ROPPA).
- **2001**. Expansion of the Club's geographic focus to all of West Africa (member countries of ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS).
- **2005**. Support for the elaboration of the ECOWAS Common Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP).
- **2006**. Launch of the ECOWAS Cross-border Initiatives Programme (CIP), conceived based on SWAC work.
- **2007**. Support for the ECOWAS Commission in drawing up its "Strategic Vision for 2020".
- **2008**. Support for the set-up of the ECOWAS Early-Warning and Response Network for Conflict Prevention (ECOWARN).
- **2008**. Support for the elaboration of the ECOWAS "Common Approach on Migration".
- **2008/2009**. Support for the ECOWAP "Regional Agricultural Investment Programme" (RAIP).
- **2009**. Support in defining strategic guidelines for the development of the livestock sector within ECOWAS and UEMOA.
- **2011**. Inception of the new Club; ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS joined the Club as full Members.
- **2011**. Adoption of the "Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management", which covers 17 West African countries.
- **2011**. G20 Africa Outreach Session on "Agricultural and Food Price Volatility: African Views and Perspectives".
- **2012.** Launch of the Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR) - Sahel and West Africa.

Origins and Evolution

The "Club du Sahel" was founded by Sahelian countries and OECD member countries in Dakar in 1976 to raise international support and awareness of the drought crises in the Sahel. For the first 25 years, the Club's key mission was to provide support to the Permanent Inter-State Committee of Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and to mobilise support from the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) countries, which led to a significant increase in Official Development Assistance (ODA) to the Sahel region. It also facilitated the creation of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) and the Network of Farmers' Organisations and Agricultural Producers of West Africa (ROPPA). Following a large-scale consultation process facilitated by CILSS and SWAC, the Food Aid Charter was adopted in 1990, which outlined many of the principles that were later included in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. West Africa is currently one of the most prepared regions for preventing and managing food crises.

In response to growing regional interdependence, the Club's geographic focus was extended in 2001 to encompass all West African countries. The Club was consequently renamed the "Sahel and West Africa Club" (SWAC). While deepening its partnership with CILSS, it has also developed strong relationships with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA).

SWAC has contributed to strategic thinking and facilitated the development of various common regional strategies and policies, in particular in the fields of agriculture, cross-border co-operation, conflict prevention, climate change, livestock and migration. By promoting regional action, SWAC work has helped highlight that contemporary global challenges are all part of a puzzle of interdependent regional challenges.

In 2010, Club Members launched a deep reform process, which led to the approval of a new Mandate with a new governance structure and a redefined relationship with the OECD. As a result, ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS joined the Club as full Members in January 2011.

▸ www.oecd.org/swac/aboutus.htm

Governance

The Strategy and Policy Group (SPG) brings together Club Members twice a year to define the Club's work priorities and approve the programme of work and budget, as well as activity and financial reports. Members also ensure the smooth functioning of the Club through their financial contributions and designate the Club President. The position is currently held by François-Xavier de Donnea, Belgian Minister of State. T. Jean de Dieu Somda, former ECOWAS Commission Vice President, is the Special Representative of the President responsible for promoting the Club on the international scene. The SWAC Secretariat is in charge of implementing the work programme. It is placed under the management structure of the OECD Global Relations Directorate.

1. SPG Meeting, Paris, 11 June 2012;
2. SPG Meeting, Praia, 7 December 2011;
3. SPG Meeting, Ouagadougou, 8 December 2012;
4. François-Xavier de Donnea, SWAC President
5. T. Jean de Dieu Somda, Special Representative of the President and **Christophe Joseph Marie Dabiré**, UEMOA Commissioner.

Key Functions

Combining efforts, sharing experiences and finding common solutions

As a platform for policy dialogue, the Club facilitates information-sharing and the exchange of experiences. For example, the Sahel and West Africa Week brings together Members and key stakeholders to identify areas for consensus-based regional action.

Examples:

- SWAC 2012 Forum on Settlement, Market and Food Security (page 13);
- 28th Annual Meeting of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (page 18);
- Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR) - Sahel and West Africa (page 22);
- Regional Colloquium on the Security-Development Nexus (page 26).

Conducting independent, factual analysis in support of regional policies

Drawing from factual, independent analysis and forward-looking research, SWAC develops strategic orientations for policy guidelines and best practices for its Members and other stakeholders.

Examples:

- West African Futures: Settlement, Market and Food Security (page 12);
- Conflict over Resources and Terrorism: Two Facets of Insecurity (page 28);
- Burkina Faso: Policy Framework for Investment in Agriculture (page 31).

Providing easy access to reliable information and knowledge about West Africa

The SWAC Secretariat monitors regional dynamics and debates. It provides access to data and information, and also channels West African viewpoints to the attention of a larger audience.

Examples:

- Statistical, Mapping and Regional Analysis Tool (SMART) (page 16);
- West Africa Gateway, including documents, data, maps, thematic dossiers, etc. (page 32);
- Weekly NewsBriefs highlighting regional trends (page 33).

West African Futures (WAF)

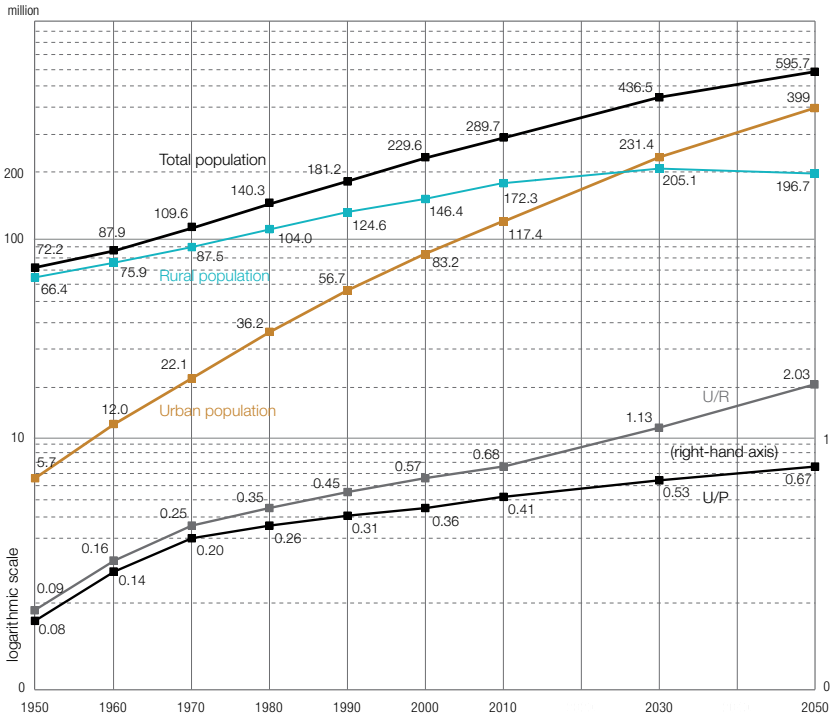
Settlement, Market and Food Security

Within the framework of the Club's biennial cycle on "West African Futures", the SWAC Secretariat provides independent and forward-looking analyses which aim to identify future challenges and inform policy making.

The 2011-2012 cycle focused on the spatial, economic and social consequences of settlement and market dynamics on food security. Drawing on new data, research and discussions, the WAF programme provides policy makers and key stakeholders with a description of food security challenges that need to be addressed in regional policy and strategy design. In particular, it highlights the importance of coherent and regionally harmonised statistics in improving West African agricultural and food strategies. The programme also shows how the failure to capture regional trade in agricultural products, considerably biases analyses of food security.

▸ www.oecd.org/swac/waf

Population in West Africa, 1950–2050



DID YOU KNOW ?

28%
of the African population is West African

2.2%
= average population growth rate

41%
of West Africans live in urban areas

>120
cities with over 100 000 inhabitants

18
cities with more than 1 million inhabitants

6
of the 10 largest cities are coastal cities

20x
more urban dwellers than in 1950

25%
of the rural population are not agricultural producers

3x
increase in agricultural production since 1980

300 000 000
estimated regional population in 2012

Source: SWAC/OECD 2012

1. 2nd Working Group Meeting,
Paris, 27-28 October 2011;
2-5. 2012 SWAC Forum,
Ouagadougou, 7 December 2012.

Dialogue & Information-Sharing

A Working Group was at the centre of the WAF process. The first meeting focused on the programme's working hypotheses and methodology. Various thematic studies were launched, including an in-depth analysis of available studies and existing databases. The second meeting provided an opportunity to present preliminary results of the WAF report. Discussions focused on drivers of urbanisation and other demographic trends, agricultural productivity, the informal economy, regional trade and the harmonisation of data at the regional level. The Technical Workshop on Regional Settlement Statistics highlighted the need to improve and harmonise statistical concepts and definitions. Alternative methods were presented at the Technical Workshop on Demo-economic and Spatial Modelling (page 17). Key findings of the WAF report were discussed with West African policy makers and food security practitioners at the 2012 SWAC Forum.

- **First Working Group Meeting,** OECD, Paris, 17 March 2011
- **Second Working Group Meeting,** OECD, Paris, 27-28 October 2011
- **Technical Workshop on Regional Settlement Statistics,** UEMOA, Ouagadougou, 15-16 February 2012
- **Technical Workshop on Demo-economic and Spatial Modelling,** UEMOA, Ouagadougou, 4-5 December 2012
- **SWAC Forum on Settlement, Market and Food Security,** UEMOA, Ouagadougou, 7 December 2012

Settlement, Market and Food Security

OECD West African Studies, May 2013

Settlement dynamics have been reshaping West Africa's social and economic geography. These spatial transformations – high urbanisation and economic concentration – favour the development of market-oriented agriculture. With the population of West Africa set to double by 2050, agricultural production systems will undergo far-reaching transformations. To support these transformations, policies need to be spatially targeted, improve availability of market information and broaden the field of food security to policy domains beyond agriculture. They need to rely on homogeneous and reliable data – not available at present – particularly for key variables such as non-agricultural and agricultural population, marketed production and regional trade.

- www.oecd.org/swac/publications/waf.htm

- Key findings and analyses of the WAF programme fed into the formulation of the AGIR Regional Roadmap (page 22), emphasising a comprehensive interpretation of market dynamics as well as the importance of urbanisation and settlement patterns in food and nutritional strategies.

- In the course of 2013, the WAF report will be widely disseminated in West Africa and in OECD member countries. The SWAC Secretariat will continue to capitalise on the results of this two-year programme and present key findings in West African and international debates, highlighting future challenges and forward-looking scenarios for settlement, market and agricultural transformations.

Contents

The WAF report is divided into three parts and six chapters. Key messages are summarised at the beginning of each chapter. Throughout the report, readers will find arguments and examples that demonstrate the widening gap between the reality and the prism through which we currently try to observe this reality.

Integrating Spatial Dynamics and Food Security Issues

Chapters 1 and 2

The retrospective analysis of settlement and agricultural dynamics sheds light on the structural transformations underway. The developments and performances of the region are presented in graphs and maps with a brief assessment. The analysis is based on an economic geography approach, which integrates aspects of economic and human density, the location of economic actors and market access.

Food security goes beyond agricultural policies. Regional organisations should develop integrated food security policies which better take into account and invest in other areas that impact food and nutritional security: infrastructure, land use, demographic policies, trade, etc.

People, Places and Transformation Dynamics

Chapters 3 and 4

Spatial recomposition and economic change are the major transformations in West Africa. Urbanisation continues, although at a slower pace. Growth in the network of medium and small cities will be accompanied by the development of markets. This growth, along with increases in the population concentration in large cities, contributes to the restructuring of rural population settlement and agricultural transformations. The transition from subsistence to commercial agriculture implies a diversification of production systems and improved market connections.

Forward-looking Scenarios to 2050

Chapters 5 and 6

Establishing a prospective vision of settlement dynamics contributes to the design of forwardlooking food security policies. Driven by the region's on-going demographic transition and urbanisation dynamic, the rural-urban transformation will see the growth of the non-agricultural population and the stagnation of the agricultural population (in volume terms). The transformation of agricultural production systems will be characterised by the growth of average farm size and the concentration of food production. However, policy makers lack homogenous and reliable data on urban and rural, agricultural and non-agricultural, and formal and informal population. They will also need more and better information on food consumption, regional trade and agricultural land to better accompany these transformations.

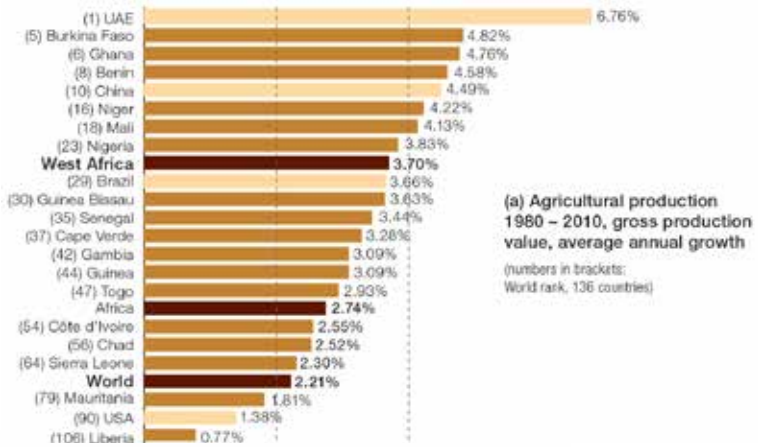
WAF SMART WEST AFRICAN FUTURES
Statistical, Mapping and Regional Analysis Tool

The Statistical Mapping and Regional Analysis Tool

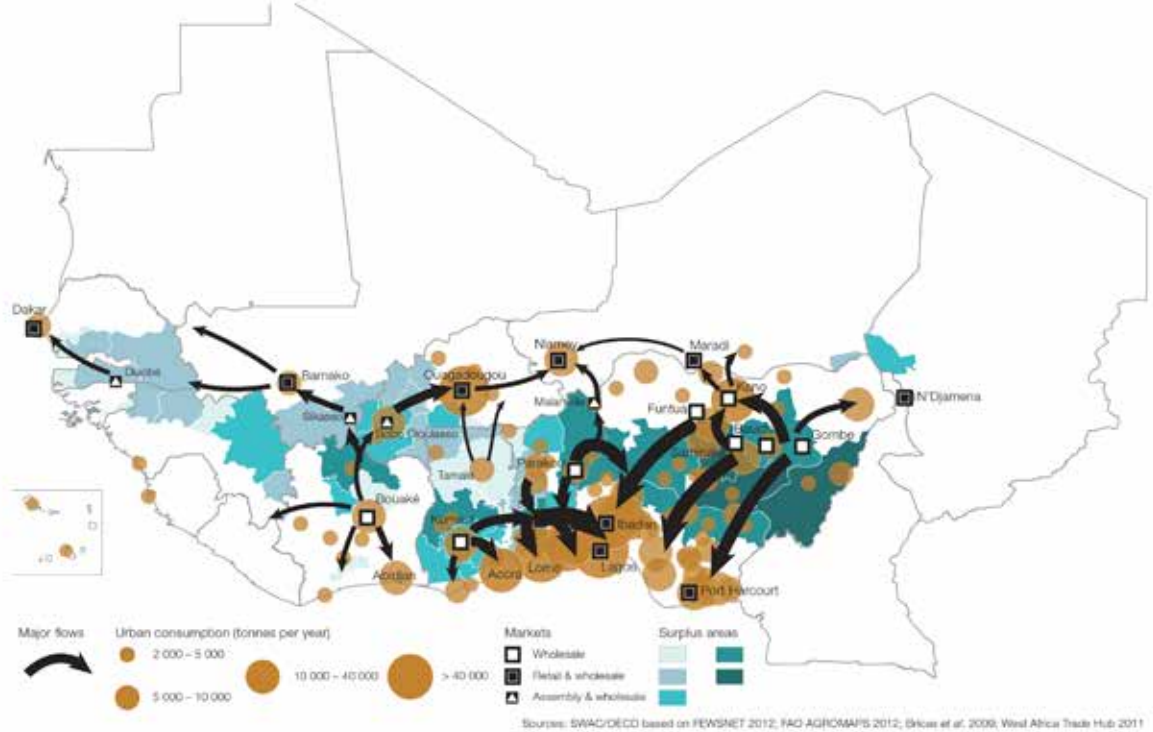
Based on the data compiled within the WAF programme, the Statistical Mapping and Regional Analysis Tool (SMART) allows users to map, compare and download 40 different indicators for the 17 countries of the region and eight sub-regional groupings. The population and settlement data cover the period from 1950 to 2050, showing long-term trends and major transformations. SMART also offers the possibility to compare settlement data and agricultural performance providing alternative ways of interpreting past trends and assessing future potential.

- www.westafricagateway.org/smart

Agricultural Performance, 1980–2010



Regional Maize Flows



Sources: SWAC/OECD based on FEWSNET 2012; FAO AGROMAPS 2012; Brices et al. 2009; West Africa Trade Hub 2011

Demo-economic and Spatial Modelling for Food & Agricultural Policies

By providing additional information on interactions between economic agents and the environment, demo-economic and spatial modelling can help inform policy-making and evaluation. At the demand of West African partners, the SWAC Secretariat organised a workshop on the technical aspects of the model used for the WAF programme. The workshop was hosted by the UEMOA Commission from 4 to 5 December 2012, and brought together experts from AFRISTAT, CILSS (INSAH, AGRHYMET), IFPRI and UEMOA.

- Increased awareness of the need to account for settlement dynamics in the elaboration of food and agricultural policies;
- Political will of regional organisations to accelerate the creation of uniform and coherent data at the regional level;
- More regular exchanges and information-sharing within the West African statistical community favouring the creation of synergy and better co-ordination between regional and international organisations.

Proposals from the Workshop:

Integrating Settlement in Food Security Policies

- The settlement approach will contribute to the understanding of factors behind the acceleration of the demographic transition, market development, stimulation of innovation and human capital development, as well as to the strengthening of population policies. It will also support the process of developing the West African common market.

Developing a Standardised Regional Database

- Participants suggested creating a regional database, managed by the regional organisations, on agricultural, demographic and settlement statistics. The establishment and harmonisation of these data should be conducted as part of on-going work at the sub-regional level (ECOAGRIS, UEMOA/SIAR, CILSS).
- Settlement dynamics also require reflection on the appropriate indicators for monitoring these changes. The use of economic modelling incorporating the issue of settlements was suggested.
- Population censuses (frequency, sequencing) and agricultural censuses should be co-ordinated and conducted more regularly.

Building Synergy

- Discussion should be facilitated and synergies strengthened between regional and international organisations: ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS, AFRISTAT, IFPRI and FAO.
- Measures should also be taken to raise public awareness and to involve universities in order to encourage capacity-building and reflection on settlement and food security.

The Food Crisis Prevention Network

Promoting Concerted and Consistent Actions

RPCA

ABOUT THE RPCA

The Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) is an international consultation and co-ordination platform, drawing on the political leadership of the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions. Its technical management is co-ordinated by CILSS, with the support of the Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat. Created in 1984, the work of the RPCA is based on consultation, dialogue, and analysis.
It reinforces the coherence and effectiveness of interventions through the implementation of the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management. The Network brings together the three West African regional organisations (ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS), regional and international information systems, bi- and multilateral co-operation agencies, humanitarian organisations and international NGOs, as well as agricultural professional associations, the private sector and civil society.

www.food-security.net

During the 2011-12 biennium, the RPCA has made immense progress towards improving its functioning and strengthening the impact it has on decision-making. This major evolution was possible thanks to the strong political commitment and leadership of the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions, together with their technical branch CILSS.

All RPCA meetings were chaired by ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissioners in charge of food security. Together with the CILSS Executive Secretary, they facilitated the debate in order to reach consensual conclusions. The Network's recommendations directly fed into regional decision-making bodies. For example, additional measures were taken by ECOWAS and UEMOA at a joint high-level meeting on 5 June 2012, in support of Sahelian countries affected by the food crises.

Important advances were also made on the network's priority work areas. Following the approval of the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management in November 2011, the key challenge in 2012 was to make this tool for concerted and co-ordinated action better known by food security practitioners. The SWAC Secretariat disseminated some 10 000 copies in the 17 countries covered by the Charter. A set of instruments was elaborated to encourage a better use of response instruments based on the nature, importance and scope of each food and nutritional crisis.

CHARTER FOR
FOOD CRISIS PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT
IN THE SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA
RPCA
1 FOREWORD

To further strengthen the network's impact on decision-making and raise the visibility of its actions on the international stage, in particular in anglophone countries, the SWAC Secretariat together with CILSS made proposals to revamp the network's communications tools. A new communications strategy has been approved by network members and will be implemented in the course of 2013.

There is no alternative to sustainable West African political leadership and meticulous respect of the "Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management".

Ibrahima Diémé
UEMOA Commissioner for Food Security, Agriculture, Mines and Environment

"Placed under the leadership of Sahelian and West African regional organisations, the RPCA is an essential decision-making tool and its recommendations now feed directly into our decision-making bodies, in particular the UEMOA High-Level Committee on Food Security (CHN-SA) and the ECOWAS Specialised Technical Ministerial Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources (CTS-AERE). That is why we are all committed to reshaping and strengthening the RPCA, so that it responds effectively to our needs in the field of food security."

François-Xavier de Donnea
SWAC President

"For nearly three decades, this Network has been at work in West Africa, progressively building consensual policies to ensure food and nutritional security for millions of people. [...] The RPCA is evolving, pushing forward innovative ideas and improving food crisis prevention and management tools. If the Network still exists today and continues to grow in number and strength, it is because above all it is built on the political legitimacy of Sahelian and West African regional institutions with a mandate from the governments of the region. It nourishes and is nourished by this political legitimacy around which it solidifies and strengthens regional governance."

- **Consensus-building**: the "Cadre harmonisé" provides a joint analytical framework accepted by all stakeholders, aimed at improving the co-ordination of actions;
- **Improved information-sharing** between food security actors active in the region;
- **Increased impact on decision-making**: RPCA recommendations fed into the joint ECOWAS-UEMOA Ministerial meeting on the Sahel food crisis on 5 June 2012 (Lomé);
- **Regional solidarity**: during the 2012 food shortages, West African countries offered food stuffs to deficit areas in the Sahel;
- **Visibility**: the network is better known within the international development community; it serves as dialogue platform for AGIR (page 22).

Making West Africa's Voice Heard in Global Debates

The restricted RPCA meeting in April offers a valuable opportunity for dialogue between the region's leaders and the international community on food security issues. These regular meetings also provide an ideal setting for forging new partnerships and strengthening North-South co-operation.

On the side-lines of the restricted RPCA meeting on 12-13 April 2012, the SWAC Secretariat facilitated meetings between ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS with key personalities involved in the G20. These meetings helped to promote on-going West African food security initiatives, in particular the creation of the Regional Food Reserve under the aegis of ECOWAS. The G20 under the Presidency of France and Mexico officially voiced support for this West African initiative, and international food security stakeholders recognised the region's leadership. The feasability study for the creation of a Regional Food Reserve was officially approved on 27 September 2012.

Yaya Sow
ECOWAS Ambassador to the EU and the ACP Group

"Regional integration in West Africa does not need an additional institution in the region, but rather one that can advocate for it internationally and help make West Africa's voice better heard in global debates."

THE REGIONAL FOOD RESERVE

As the major tool of the ECOWAS Regional Food Security Strategy, the creation of the Regional Food Reserve is an exemplary symbol of regional solidarity. Building on community-level and national food reserves, the Regional Food Reserve constitutes a third line of crisis response. Adopted by ECOWAS in 2010, it is part of the Regional Agricultural Investment Programme (RAIP) designed within the framework of the ECOWAP/CAADP process. This regional strategy provides a framework of convergence for all initiatives in this area, including networking of national food reserve agencies to improve co-operation and information-sharing (RESOGEST) as well as the strengthening of food stocks (UEMOA). The establishment of the Regional Food Reserve benefits from the political support of the international community through the G20.

www.food-security.net

- **G20 Observer**: Thanks to the facilitation of the SWAC Secretariat, West Africa is now an official observer of the G20 Working Group on Development;
- **G20 Support for the Regional Food Reserve**: a feasability study has been conducted by the G20 to support the setting-up of the Regional Food Reserve;
- **Better recognition of West African regional ledership** and awareness of endogenous efforts in the field of food and nutrition within the OECD, the G20 and other global settings.

1. Meeting with Pascale Andreani, Ambassador of France to the OECD;
2. Meeting with Agustín García-López Loaeza, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico to the OECD (2nd person from left);
3. Agustín García-López Loaeza and **Lapodini Marc Atouga,** ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources;
4. Meeting with Rintaro Tamaki, OECD Deputy Secretary-General (2nd person from right);
5. Meeting with Gabriela Ramos, OECD Chief of Staff, Sherpa to the G20 (4th person from left);
6. Sujiro Seam, Deputy Director, French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Directorate of Global Public Goods and **Ibrahima Diémé**, UEMOA Commissioner.

AGIR

Global Alliance for Resilience - Sahel and West Africa

About AGIR

Food security stakeholders have formed a consensus that humanitarian assistance must not be disassociated from efforts to combat the structural causes of poverty and endemic famine. The Alliance focuses greater attention on the most vulnerable populations with the goal of building their resilience and capacity to withstand crises and shocks, and ultimately eradicating hunger within the next 20 years. AGIR is a long-term political partnership to enhance the effectiveness of Sahelian and West African initiatives. Under the political and technical leadership of ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS, the Alliance builds on existing discussion forums and networks, in particular within the framework of the RPCA. The Roadmap provides a Regional Guidance Framework setting forth the overall objectives of the Alliance. It serves as the basis for formulating national resilience priorities, including operational frameworks for funding, implementation, monitoring and assessment.

www.food-security.net

At the initiative of the European Union, ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS met with their international partners on 18 June 2012 in Brussels to discuss the root causes of the recurrent food and nutritional crises that weaken the livelihoods of the most vulnerable households. They agreed to join efforts and create a Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR) - Sahel and West Africa.

To implement this partnership, the SWAC Secretariat facilitated consultations amongst all stakeholders. On 6 December 2012, some 200 stakeholders gathered in Ouagadougou at the 28th RPCA Annual Meeting to seal the Alliance. They adopted a Joint Statement outlining the Alliance's objectives, principles and next steps.

Steps towards AGIR

- **18 June 2012, Brussels**: High-level consultation meeting between West African leaders and development partners;
- **23 July 2012, Brussels,** EU Donor Senior Experts' meeting to discuss follow-up actions on the creation of AGIR;
- **10 September 2012, Abidjan**: dialogue meeting between West African food security leaders (facilitated by SWAC); elaboration of a joint ECOWAS/UEMOA/CILSS position on AGIR;
- **22 October 2012, Ouagadougou**: regional dialogue to collect viewpoints from agricultural producers, the private sector and civil society; adoption of a joint position paper reflecting their expectations;
- **7-8 November 2012, Paris**: AGIR Senior Experts' Group to examine a draft roadmap for the implementation of AGIR which capitalises on various inputs collected during the consultation process;
- **6 December 2012, Ouagadougou**: launch of AGIR by H.E. Mr. Beyon Luc Adolphe Tiao, Prime Minister of Burkina Faso.

1. 28th RPCA Annual Meeting;
2. AGIR Launching Ceremony;
3. H.E. Mr. Beyon Luc Adolphe Tiao, Prime Minister of Burkina Faso and **François-Xavier de Donnea**, SWAC President;
4. Mamadou Cissokho, ROPPA President of Honour;
5. Lapodini Marc Atouga, ECOWAS Commissioner;
6. Kristalina Georgieva, European Commissioner and **Nancy Lindborg**, USAID Assistant Administrator.

- **Recognition of West African leadership**: West Africa is in the driver's seat of a global alliance which supports the implementation of Sahelian and West African strategies. The West African leadership is recognised by all stakeholders of the Alliance;
- **Strong international commitment** to support the region to achieve the "Zero Hunger" objective and improve co-ordination of AGIR actions at the international level;
- **Synergy between West African regional organisations**: West Africa is speaking with one voice, capitalising on West African resources and drawing on an inter-sectoral approach;
- **Inclusiveness**: the launching of AGIR is the result of an inclusive and participatory consultation process, involving all categories of actors, in particular, agricultural producers, the private sector and civil society.

Désiré Kadré Ouédraogo
ECOWAS Commission President

"The region has a critical mass of strategic documents and concerted policies to address recurrent food crises. That is why we are convinced that AGIR should support and become an entire part of our regional agenda for sustainable agricultural development and food sovereignty, while also taking into account emergency actions which should become the exception."

Andris Piebalgs
European Commissioner for Development

"AGIR offers an unprecedented opportunity to pursue the collective effort which was initiated during the 2012 food crisis. AGIR brings us all together around a unified West African region, its institutions, its member countries and its people."

Kristalina Georgieva
European Commissioner for International Co-operation, Human. Aid & Crisis Response

"Unless we work together to build the capacity of families and communities, the needs for humanitarian aid will only grow…and then resources will go into helping short-term needs at the expense of investment in development. For this not to happen, we have to bring the short-term action with an eye on long-term response and better connect what we do, but also keeping in mind that there are people that are more vulnerable and who are often excluded from development. The Alliance aims to connect humanitarian aid and development with the primary objective to benefit exactly these people."

Mamadou Cissokho
ROPPA President of Honour, Civil Society Representative

"Our first concern is that the Alliance must be built on the priorities of the region. The leadership of our regional organisations must be recognised. These organisations must in return commit to mobilising their own resources to implement their policies and harmonise their interventions at all levels (local, national, regional, etc.). Nowhere in the world has resilience been achieved exclusively through development co-operation. That is why we are asking the co-operation agencies to develop an approach that supports our action, standing behind us and with us."

DID YOU **KNOW**

- Sahelian countries account for more than 40% of the chronic malnutrition cases in the region. The acute malnutrition rate regularly exceeds the emergency threshold level of 15% in many areas of the Sahel.
- In February 2012, UEMOA established the High-level Committee on Food Security which provides guidance and support for member countries.
- ECOWAS put in place the Nutrition Forum, co-ordinated by the West African Health Organization since 2001.

Christophe Joseph Marie Dabiré
UEMOA Commissioner for Regional Markets, Trade, Competition & Co-operation

"I would like to recall all of the reflections already undertaken, in collaboration with the Sahel and West Africa Club, the regional integration organisations, the agricultural producers' organisations, civil society representatives and the private sector. These reflections led to the need to anchor AGIR in the priorities of the regional agenda on food and nutritional security, while allowing each stakeholder to fully play its role."

Simone Zoundi
FIAB President, Private Sector Representative

"The new form of fight against hunger must necessarily target the most vulnerable groups' capacity to resist, adapt and recover quickly from a crisis or shock by developing resilience. ➔ We must raise awareness of our collective responsibility! The private sector, a driving force for economic growth, is fully committed to play its role."

Sujiro Seam
Deputy Director, Global Public Goods, French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

"Resilience is a major challenge: on the one hand, we must address the gradual de-capitalisation of small-holder farmers as a consequence of recurrent food crises; on the other, emergency measures and development actions need to be formulated in a coherent manner. The Alliance is not just another initiative. It must build on existing structures within ECOWAS and UEMOA as well as on CILSS and SWAC. AGIR must also be integrated into existing national approaches and linked to other global initiatives such as the G8's New Alliance, G20 initiatives, etc."

Nancy Lindborg
USAID Assistant Administrator

"In the Sahel, with the population anticipated to double by 2050, the challenges become ever greater, and time is not on our side. Our gathering today to collectively launch AGIR acknowledges these realities but also, most importantly signifies that we have identified and committed to a better way."

Djimé Adoum
CILSS Executive Secretary

"AGIR is first and foremost about mobilising all efforts to combat hunger and chronic malnutrition in our region. Tens of millions of our most vulnerable compatriots still suffer from these scourges, in particular women and children. We must adjust our approach to these structural problems by combining development actions and humanitarian interventions in one single approach."

Promoting Dialogue on the Security-Development Nexus

While during the past decades the region has made constant progress in the field of agriculture and in the fight against hunger, the Sahel has been hit by a wide range of serious international threats, including increased drug, arms and human trafficking, and terrorism. Local land conflicts and civil wars also risk undermining stability in the region.

The underlying dynamics can no longer be confined to the West African region. The changing nature of crises and instability as well as correlations between various forms of violence, confirm the need to link "security and development" when addressing these challenges.

▸ www.oecd.org/swac/topics/security-development.htm

Regional Colloquium

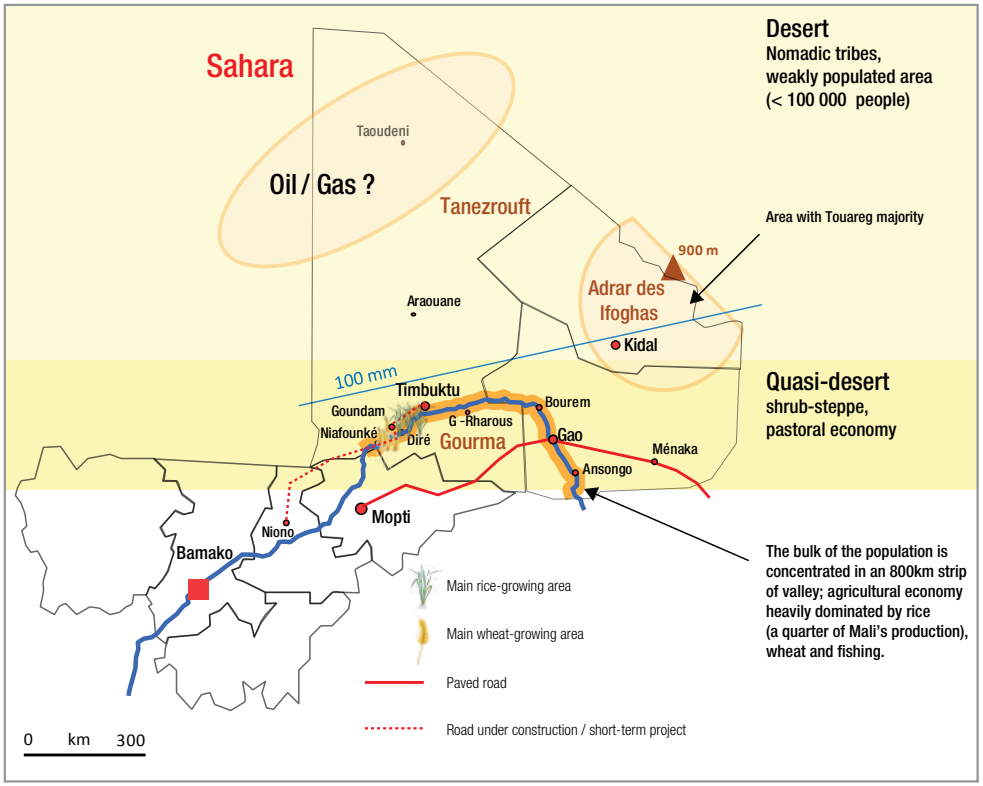
The Colloquium on the Security-Development Nexus, organised on 12 June 2012, illustrated the complexity of the current situation. Some fifty security-development experts and actors, including a large delegation from Mali, gathered at the OECD headquarters to discuss West Africa's major security challenges. The open debates confirmed how useful it is to maintain an informal forum for dialogue such as the Club, even for highly sensitive political issues. Security threats continue to develop while the region still suffers from structural weaknesses such as the competition for mineral and agro-pastoral resources, the porosity of borders and the fragility of some democratic processes. This explains the need for co-ordinated analysis and action within the framework of a security-development nexus, even if the political and operational dimensions of this nexus are sometimes difficult to reconcile. Concrete examples such as Chad and Mali, offered an interesting basis for discussion. The Colloquium provided a timely opportunity to point out some critically important messages. The most important one is probably that the scale of the quest for solutions (spatial and time scale) must be equal to the scale of the problems.

Soumeylou Boubèye Maïga
Former Malian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation

"We have tried to progressively enhance regional co-operation. However, the threats are evolving faster than our responses. The current situation in northern Mali is the most perfect illustration of this."

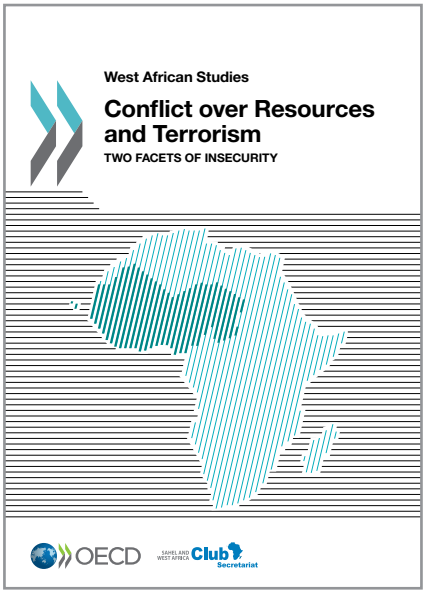
DID YOU **KNOW**

- Northern Mali covers 827 000 km², approximately 66% of the total national territory;
- With a population of 1.3 million in 2010, the region is home to about 8.6% of the country's total population, down from 17% in 1960;
- If northern Mali were to become a state, it would be twice the size of Germany but with 1.6 residents per km². It would share with Mongolia the title of the country with the lowest population density in the world;
- The cumulative GDP of the regions of Gao, Timbuktu and Kidal today can be estimated at less than USD 1 billion (PPP); a figure that would see northern Mali snatch the position of West Africa's smallest economy from Guinea-Bissau (1.9 billion in 2011);
- Between 2004 and 2010, Mali's tourism revenues doubled (240 million euros in 2010). Tourist arrivals grew from 40 000 in 1995 to 170 000 in 2008.



Boubacar Sidiki Touré
Ambassador of Mali to France

"Despite Mali's limited resources, the authorities have always been driven by an unwavering commitment to bringing security to the northern regions. They have clearly understood that the only solution lies in the development of these areas."



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Chapter 4 - Analysis of the crisis in northern Mali

Chapter 5 - Boko Haram: A new threat in West Africa

Chapter 6 - Applying anti-terrorism mechanisms

Conflict over Resources and Terrorism: Two Facets of Insecurity

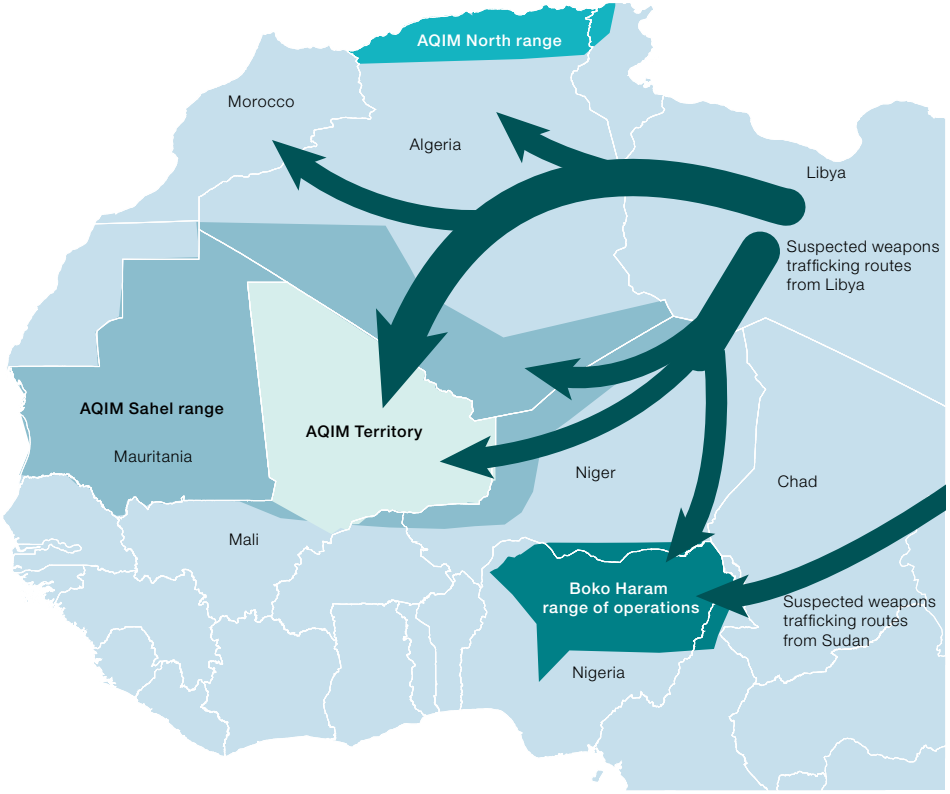
OECD West African Studies, April 2013

This study first analyses an old and recurring form of instability in the region: conflict over resources. A series of case studies examines the causes of these conflicts with reference to the associated regional challenges and response tools. Secondly, the study addresses terrorism, a relatively new dimension of insecurity. It outlines the development of AQIM and Boko Haram and then focuses on a comparative analysis of legal mechanisms to fight against terrorism. The argument holds that the congruence of these insecurities and the current violent crises present an unprecedented risk of destabilisation for West Africa and the international community.

- www.oecd.org/swac/publications/conflict-over-resources.htm

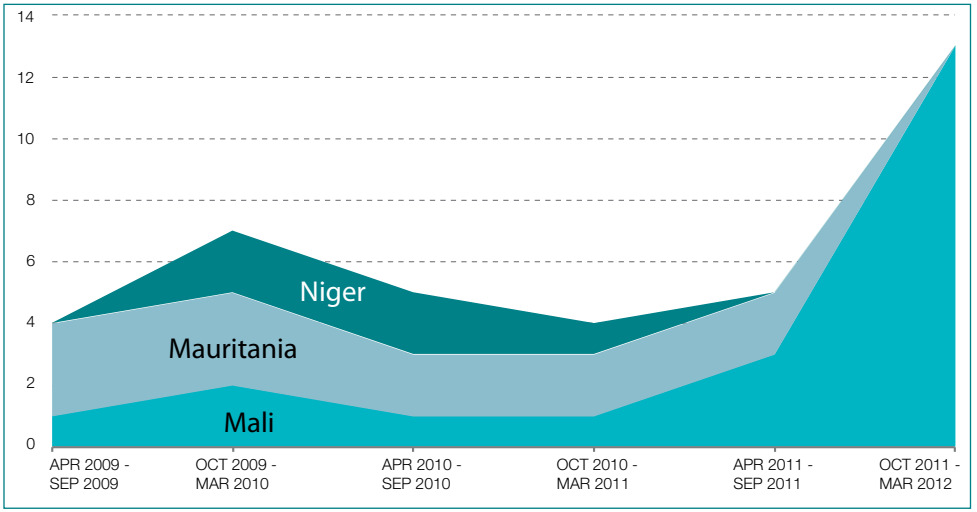
- Drawing on the outcomes of the Colloquium, the reflection on the security-development nexus will be deepened within a prospective analysis on "The future of the Saharo-Sahelian areas", which will be conducted within the 2013-2014 Programme of Work. "The Saharo-Sahelian region's future depends largely on deeper economic and political co-operation between West and North Africa". This hypothesis is the starting point of this reflection. Initial findings will be presented at the 2013 SWAC Forum. An Atlas consisting of a description of the area, maps and thematic chapters will be produced in the course of 2014.

Range of Boko Haram and AQIM operations



Terrorist attacks in the Sahel

April 2009-March 2012



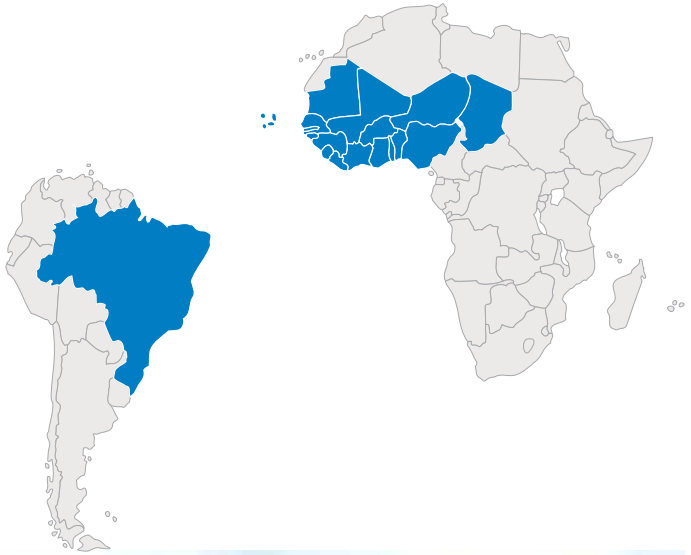
Source: Risk Advisory Group plc.

South-South Co-operation

West African Farmers meet with Brazilian Counterparts

As a follow-up to the 2011 SWAC Forum on "West Africa and Brazil: Addressing Renewable Energy Challenges", the SWAC Secretariat, together with the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) and the Brazilian Co-operation Agency (ABC), organised a visit of ROPPA representatives to the Ceara and Bahia States of Brazil from 12 to 15 March 2012. The mission offered an opportunity to share and learn from Brazil's experience in growing biofuel crops within the context of food security. It helped West African producers develop a joint position reflecting their viewpoints and concerns.

- www.oecd.org/swac/events/swacforum2011.htm



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Chapter 1 - Burkina Faso: Progress and Issues

Chapter 2 - Agricultural Investment Policies and Trends

Chapter 3 - Agricultural Investment Framework

Burkina Faso: Policy Framework for Investment in Agriculture (French)

May 2012

This is the first evaluation of Burkina Faso's policies to attract more and better investment in agriculture. Within the context of the on-going global debate on land grabbing, it provides a comprehensive review of agricultural investment policies in Burkina Faso. This government-wide evaluation – covering 17 ministries and institutions as well as the private sector – identifies both short- and medium-term measures to improve and strengthen Burkina Faso's capacity to design policies. The evaluation was conducted by the Burkinabe Ministry of Agriculture, with the support of the SWAC Secretariat and the NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative, based on the Policy Framework for Investment in Agriculture (PFIA).

The West Africa Gateway

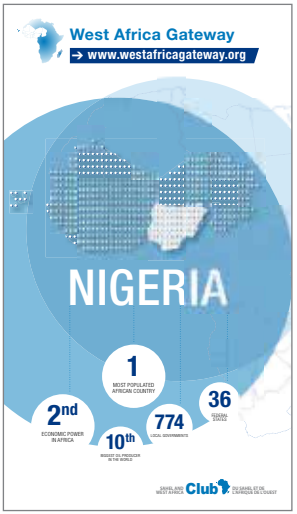
Quick and Easy Access to Information and Knowledge about West Africa

Capitalising on existing work and information sources, the West Africa Gateway is an online resource centre offering easy access to reliable information on the region and providing a large diversity of services.

Launched at the end of 2011, more content was added and updated throughout 2012. In particular, a series of country profiles has been launched, compiled of institutional, economic and social data from various information sources. The introduction places each country in its regional context, and a "Did you know?" section presents surprising facts and figures. Moreover, the Gateway's databases (data & statistics, contacts, documents, maps and personality profiles) are constantly growing. Information and first-hand data collected during missions to ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS, as well as a working session with Switzerland, were fed into the Gateway. Interviews with regional personalities promote West African viewpoints on current development challenges.

A communications kit has been conceived in order to facilitate a large-scale promotion campaign in 2013, targeting regional actors, government representatives, African universities, research centres, Africa-specialised media and development partners. Linkages and exchanges with SWAC Members will also be further developed.

▸ www.westafricagateway.org

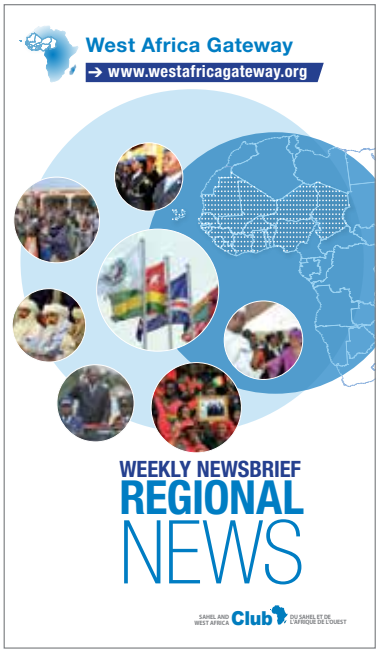


Weekly NewsBriefs and RSS Feeds

The SWAC Secretariat's weekly NewsBrief is now well established. At the beginning of each week, this press review provides information on key events and regional trends while also devoting considerable space to the promotion of Members' activities, particularly in West Africa.

Following consultative missions with ECOWAS (July), UEMOA and CILSS (February), regular exchanges of information have been established with the respective communication and information services of West African Club Members. Final communiqués, reports, policy papers, etc. that are not yet available on the Web, are uploaded on the West Africa Gateway in order to facilitate access for a larger audience.

The NewsBrief is available in English and French in electronic mailing version, RSS feed and pdf-download formats. The visual identity has been reshaped; a promotion campaign targeting all key actors involved in the development of the region will broaden the growing base of regular readers (2 500 subscribers, 450 regular readers).



Geographic coverage of NewsBrief readers

- Regular up-to date information on regional trends in West Africa;
- Increased visibility and improved access to information on ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS activities;
- Increased visibility of the SWAC beyond the sphere of its Members.

Institutional Communications

SWAC Newsletter & NewsAlerts

The SWAC Newsletter and special NewsAlerts provide regular information and updates on work conducted by the SWAC Secretariat. The print version of the Newsletter is shared with Club Members and key contacts (OECD Delegations, West African ambassadors, regional focal points and OECD internal contacts), and the e-version is more widely diffused to 3 500 subscribers. The SWAC Secretariat's Annual Report provides an overview of activities conducted within the Programme of Work. Information on current SWAC work can also be found on the SWAC website, which has been completely revamped following the OECD migration to a new web content management system.

- www.oecd.org/swac

Media relations

The SWAC Secretariat has participated in various broadcast interviews on Africa No. 1, BBC and RFI. Moreover, SWAC maps, documents and extracts of publications were re-published by Africa-specialised magazines and journals.

Multimedia

Video coverage is available for all major SWAC events, highlighting West African perspectives.

- www.youtube.com/swacoecd

SWAC at the OECD

The SWAC Secretariat also presents its work in various OECD publications and brochures. It has played a key role in the promotion of regional approaches within the OECD Strategy on Development, the OECD website and more particularly the revamping of the OECD-Africa page.

- www.oecd.org/africa

Useful Links

Austria: Austrian Development Co-operation
www.entwicklung.at/en

Belgium: Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs
http://diplomatie.belgium.be/en

CILSS Executive Secretariat: Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
www.cilss.bf

ECOWAS Commission: Economic Community of West African States
www.ecowas.int

France: French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs
www.diplomatie.gouv.fr

Luxemburg: Development Co-operation Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
http://cooperation.mae.lu/fr

Netherlands (The): Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MINBUZA)
www.minbuza.nl/en/home

Switzerland: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
www.sdc.admin.ch

UEMOA Commission: West African Economic and Monetary Union
www.uemoa.int

United States: U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
www.usaid.gov

European Union
http://europa.eu/pol/dev

OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

Africa and the OECD, www.oecd.org/africa

African Partnership Forum Support Unit, www.africapartnershipforum.org

NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative, www.oecd.org/daf/investment/africa

OECD Development Centre, www.oecd.org/dev

OECD Development Co-operation Directorate, www.oecd.org/dac

OECD Global Relations Directorate, www.oecd.org/globalrelations

SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA Club Secretariat

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