

THE SAHEL AND  
WEST AFRICA CLUB  
SECRETARIAT  
**ACTIVITY REPORT 2011**



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# SWAC

## 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, particularly those on food, energy and security issues.



**Belgium:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation



**ECOWAS Commission:** Economic Community of West African States



**CILSS Executive Secretariat:** Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel



**France:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs



**Luxembourg:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs



**Netherlands (The):** Ministry of Foreign Affairs



**Switzerland:** Federal Department of Foreign Affairs



**UEMOA Commission:** West African Economic and Monetary Union



**United States:** U.S. Agency for International Development



**Germany:**<sup>1</sup> Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

<sup>1</sup> Germany provided financial support in 2011.

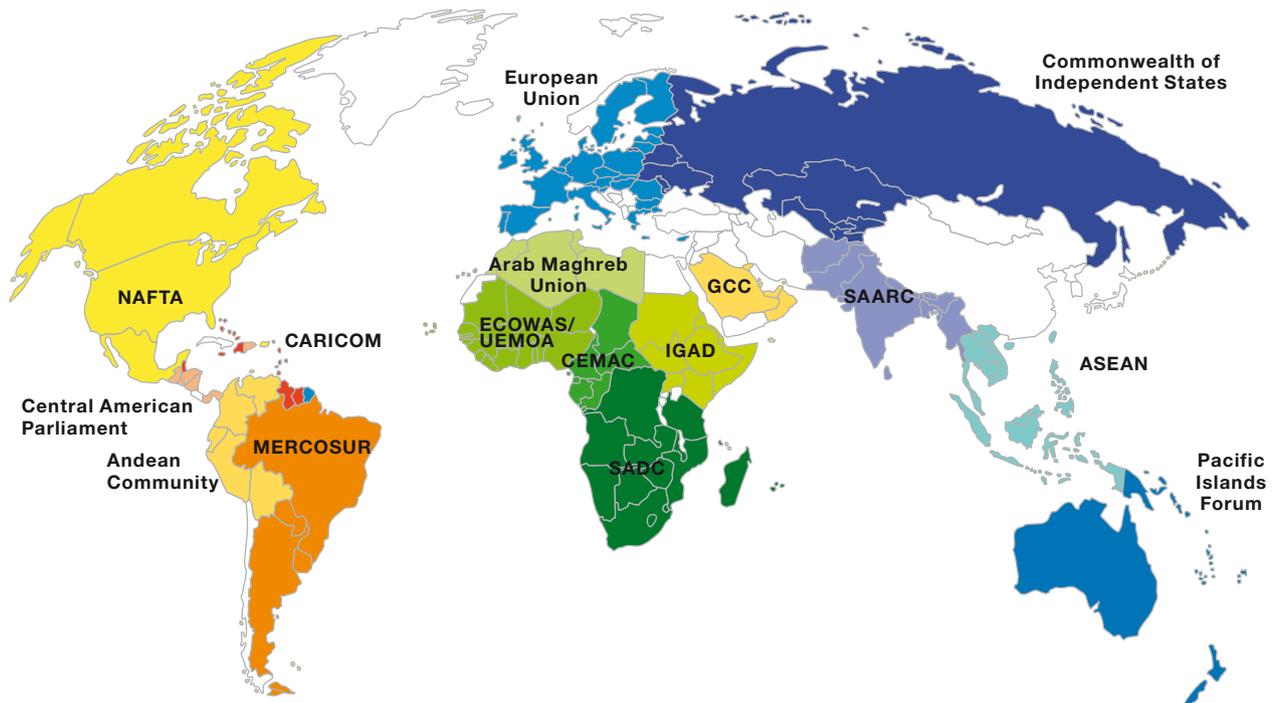
\* As Observers, the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (BMEIA), the Canadian International Development Agency (ACDI-CIDA) and the Network of Farmer Organisations and Agricultural Producers of West Africa (ROPPA) are closely associated with the Club. The European Union also actively participates in the work of the Club.

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**“Africa has strongly embraced a regional integration approach to securing its development goals based on inter and intra-African partnerships and solidarity in the pursuit of common priorities. [...] Strengthening the capacity of regional economic communities is a major prerequisite to achieving development effectiveness in Africa. The emerging global architecture will need to reflect the regional level.”**

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Extract from the “African Consensus and Position on Development Effectiveness”,  
4<sup>th</sup> High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Busan, 29 November - 1 December 2011.



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## Working regionally

**G**lobalisation is eroding national borders and creating increasingly fierce competition along regional lines in the world market. In response to this phenomenon, regional blocks are now being rapidly built across the world. West African countries, being part of one of the world's poorest regions, have a vital interest in reinforcing their regional organisations, which would help them to cope better with globalisation and better defend their interests at the international level.

Joint action is also an efficient way to address development challenges such as food and humanitarian crises, disease, water resource management, electricity supply and transnational crime, which are often better tackled at the regional level. Intra-regional trade is a key driver for economic growth and poverty reduction, and a common market of some 300 million consumers attracts more investments than seventeen isolated national markets.

Though much remains to be done, West Africa is the most advanced African region in terms of regional co-operation, and a series of common policies and programmes are already in place in the fields of free movement of persons and goods (common external tariff), food crisis prevention and management, agriculture, livestock, energy supply, mining, etc.



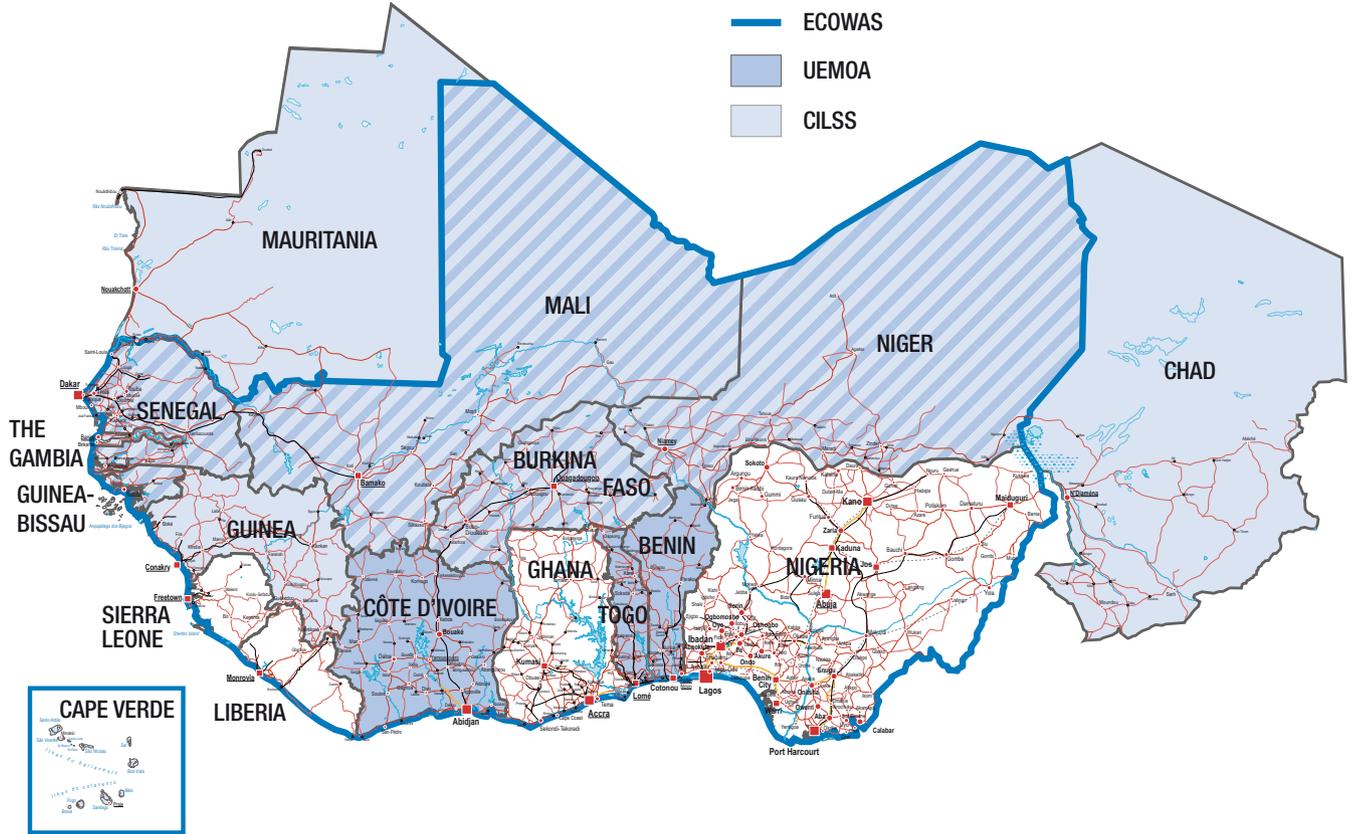

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**“The Club is the only international initiative whose core purpose is to enhance regional integration by working together with regional actors, supporting West African regional policies and promoting West African positions in global debates.”**

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It is necessary now more than ever to develop synergies and encourage further collaboration between West African regional organisations. This is the *raison d'être* of the Club, and we are strongly committed to pursuing this goal in 2012.

**Laurent Bossard**  
*Director, SWAC Secretariat*



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## 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 West African Network of Agricultural Producers (ROPPA). Following a large-scale consultation facilitated by CILSS and SWAC, the Food Aid Charter was adopted in 1990, which outlined many of the principles that were also 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).

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**SWAC is the oldest initiative of solidarity and partnership between the OECD and Africa.**

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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. Built on equal governance between West African regional organisations and their partners, the Club is today a unique platform for dialogue within the international development landscape.

## 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 aiming 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 African 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 Farmer 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”.
- ▶ **2009.** Support in defining strategic guidelines for the development of the livestock sector within ECOWAS and UEMOA.
- ▶ **2011.** Creation 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”.

## 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 SWAC Forum brings together Members and key stakeholders to discuss a priority development issue and to identify areas for consensus-based regional action.

*Examples:*

- ▶ Regional Food Reserve (page 25);
- ▶ Food Crisis Prevention and Management (page 19);
- ▶ Renewable energy issues (page 26).

### Conducting independent, factual analyses in support of regional policies

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

*Examples:*

- ▶ Settlement, Market and Food Security (page 13);
- ▶ Global Security Risks and West Africa: Development Challenges (page 32);
- ▶ Emerging best practice in combating child labour in the cocoa sector (page 33);
- ▶ Practical Guide to Cross-border Co-operation (page 33).

### Contributing to the understanding of regional development challenges

The SWAC Secretariat analyses regional dynamics, synthesises ongoing debates and provides access to existing information.

*Examples:*

- ▶ Synthesis documents; (page 34);
- ▶ Weekly NewsBriefs (page 35);
- ▶ West Africa Gateway (page 35).

## Active Membership

**L**eadership and active involvement by the Members is one of the key principles of the Club's Mandate.

*Examples:*

- ▶ Joint management of the RPCA by the CILSS Executive Secretariat and the SWAC Secretariat (page 19);
- ▶ Permanent collaboration with the Commissions of ECOWAS and UEMOA on the preparation of key events such as the Ministerial meeting on the "Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management" (page 20);
- ▶ The strong implication of Club Members in the WAF Working Group (page 16);
- ▶ The support provided by the French Presidency of the G20 in organising the Outreach Session on price volatility (page 23);
- ▶ The joint launch with the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the guide on "Emerging best practices in combating the worst forms of child labour" (page 33);
- ▶ The presentation of the Practical Guide to Cross-border Co-operation to the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (page 33);
- ▶ The Secretariat's participation in a USAID meeting on the "Feed the Future" programme;
- ▶ Regular exchanges and visits by the SWAC President and/or the Secretariat to Members and their representatives in West Africa and OECD member countries.



## Why the OECD?

**W**est Africa has created institutions such as ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS, with the political mandate of implementing a regional integration agenda. Working towards this goal, the region also needs to promote its interests at the global level and strengthen the voice of West Africa's regional organisations in global policy debates. The Club provides an additional venue for better advocating West African issues and concerns.

Benefitting from the OECD status as an international organisation, the SWAC Secretariat is well placed to rally an additional audience around the issue of West African regional integration. Its position within the OECD makes it a crucial bridge for dialogue and communication between OECD member countries and West Africa.

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**“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.”**

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Yaya Sow, ECOWAS Ambassador to the EU and the ACP Group

While capitalizing on OECD expertise and resources relevant to West Africa, the SWAC Secretariat also uses its position within the OECD to promote West African initiatives as well as to enrich OECD debates with West African analyses and viewpoints.

### *Examples:*

- ▶ G20 Africa Outreach Session on Price Volatility (page 23);
- ▶ G20 support for a Regional Food Reserve in West Africa (page 25);
- ▶ Meetings of the Food Crisis Prevention Network at the OECD (page 18/19);
- ▶ Promotion of regional approaches within the OECD Development Strategy (page 36).



## 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 Mr. François-Xavier de Donnea, Belgian Minister of State.

Under the management structure of the OECD Global Relations Directorate, the SWAC Secretariat is in charge of implementing the work programme. It organises and facilitates the Club Forums, Working Groups and other meetings that capitalise on the experiences and viewpoints of Members as well as West African socio-professional and civil society organisations, relevant OECD Directorates, experts and representatives from other regions of the world.



François-Xavier  
de Donnea,  
SWAC President

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**“Today, I believe we have formed a new Club that is founded on a clear and ambitious contract among its Members, which now includes West African regional organisations.”**

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## West African Futures (WAF)

### Settlement, Market and Food Security

This two-year programme analyses links between settlement trends, markets and food security. It provides policymakers and key stakeholders with a description of food security challenges related to settlement and market dynamics that need to be addressed in regional policy and strategy design. Analytical tools that help identify and define appropriate policies will also be proposed.

#### Coherent and harmonised statistics

The WAF Programme highlights the importance of coherent and regionally harmonised statistics in improving West African agricultural and food strategies. The analysis of new data on demographics, urbanisation, agricultural labour and regional trade leads to new interpretations of agricultural and food security performance and prospects.

Current data and indicators on settlement dynamics are neither comparable nor aggregable at the regional level. This is notably due to differences between national definitions, collection methods and the time periods covered. The WAF Programme uses harmonised data, case studies and modelling for a regional analysis that differs from many existing analyses.

In addition, the programme demonstrates how the failure to account for unrecorded regional trade in agricultural products considerably biases analyses of food security and leads to an underestimation of regional interdependence. A comparative study of the evolution of food security in West Africa provides the context for the analyses.

“For a long time, we have made political decisions without knowing what their exact impact would be.”



Ismaël Fofana,  
IFPRI, West and  
Central Africa Office

#### Urban population in 2000: UN and Africapolis data (in thousands)

Countries	UN (1)	Africapolis (2)	Deviation (1) – (2)	% Deviation from (1)
Benin	2 770	2 757	13	0
Burkina Faso	1 971	2 403	- 432	-22
Côte d'Ivoire	7 423	6 980	443	6
Ghana	8 856	7 201	1 655	19
Cape Verde	234	171	63	27
Chad	1 964	1 387	577	29
Gambia (The)	639	546	93	15
Guinea	2 547	2 274	273	11
Guinea-Bissau	407	330	77	19
Liberia	1 666	1 041	625	38
Mali	2 787	2 145	642	23
Mauritania	1 026	836	190	19
Niger	1 801	1 667	134	7
Nigeria	53 048	38 769	14 279	27
Senegal	4 200	4 294	-94	-2
Sierra Leone	1 605	1 231	374	23
Togo	1 974	1 921	53	3
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>94 918</b>	<b>75 953</b>	<b>18 965</b>	<b>20</b>

Sources: Africapolis and calculations of the SWAC Secretariat



### West African urbanisation trends

WAF no. 1, June 2011

Problems of data reliability, differing definitions and the incomparability of different information sources are identified. Estimates of West Africa's urban population differ widely between UN and Africapolis data, which is based on censuses, satellite and aerial images. Nigeria is a particular important example; the 2000 population estimates differ by 14 million people. Africapolis, applying the same definition for urban populations since 1950, provides invaluable data for tracing regional dynamics and cross-country comparisons.



### Harmonisation of West African settlement data

WAF no. 2, July 2011

West African countries have sufficiently similar characteristics to prompt comparisons between national situations. Such comparisons are only possible with uniform data. This note calls attention to the need, within a regional approach, to pursue the consistency and harmonisation of settlement data. No regional study provides tangible elements of harmonisation for estimates of the rural population. Parity of urban and rural population could be reached sooner than expected, and the growth rate of the population should consequently slow down more sharply, with clear implications for co-ordinated management of food insecurity.



### Economic concentration and settlement

WAF no. 3, August 2011

Drawing on the World Bank's World Development Report 2009, "Reshaping economic geography", this note analyses the ongoing rural-urban transition, and places the link between urbanisation and economic growth in a food security perspective. The ratio between urban and rural populations, U/R ratio, is a major indicator used in food security policies, as it provides a first approximation of the ratio between non-food producing consumers (mainly urban) and food producers (mainly rural). The U/R ratio – which nearly quadrupled from 1960 to 2000 – provides important information on the agriculture sector's capacity to meet demand from a growing population.



### **Agricultural and non-agricultural population**

**WAF no. 4, September 2011**

The agricultural population does not exclusively live in rural areas; agricultural producers can also be found in urban settings. Similarly, a significant proportion of the rural population are not food-producers. The relative proportions of food producers and non-producers vary with the size of the urban agglomerations and also depend on the level of economic development. This note highlights the difficulty of measuring and monitoring the ratio between agricultural and non-agricultural populations (AP/NAP ratio), an essential indicator for managing food security policy. Given the absence of coherent and harmonised data, only modelling can in the short- to medium-term provide decision-makers with consistent data on changes in this ratio.



### **Regional trade and food security**

**WAF no. 5, October 2011**

Regional food markets and trade are crucial to West African food security. With a growing number of non-food producers, markets have come to play an essential role in assuring West African households' food security. Given the scale of cross-border trade flows (much of which are unrecorded), these markets must be viewed from a regional perspective. Informal trade flows are not included in food balance sheets, which raises questions about the reliability of food security indicators derived from these data. This paper highlights these inconsistencies and how they can impact perceptions of food issues. It also illustrates the importance of considering the regional and informal dimensions of trade.



### **Informal economy and food security**

**WAF no. 6, November 2011**

It would be misleading to address food security without taking into account a large part of the economy that provides jobs, income and essential services for the urban population and for the non-agricultural population in rural areas. Despite its important role, however, the informal economy is still poorly defined, poorly measured and consequently, poorly incorporated into food security policies. This note assesses the overall size and importance of the informal economy in the West African region and takes a closer look at the way it operates.

## The WAF Working Group

A Working Group composed of key stakeholders is at the centre of the entire process. It draws on existing work conducted by Members and other institutions, and provides inputs and guidance on work priorities.

**The first Working Group meeting**, held on 17 March 2011 at the OECD Headquarters, 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. ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS were strongly represented, joining Club Members from Belgium, France and Switzerland. This mixture illustrates the Club's new work method which is based on experience-sharing between West African representatives and development partners. Food security experts from the International Food Security Research Institute (IFPRI-Dakar), UNECA and the WFP also contributed to this working session.

**At the second Working Group meeting**, held on 27-28 October 2011 at the OECD Headquarters, participants discussed questions raised in the notes (page 14/15), and defined next steps. More particularly, Working Group discussions led to an agreed methodology for constructing a harmonised settlement database that covers the period from 1960 to 2050 and distinguishes between urban and rural, food producing and non-food producing, and formal and informal populations. This database will be used as a basis for retrospective and prospective demographic and economic analyses of food and agricultural issues. It will also enrich the analysis of trends and policies.



2<sup>nd</sup> Working Group Meeting, OECD Headquarters, Paris, 27-28 October 2011

## ACTIVITES IN 2012

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Work in 2012 will focus on consolidating statistics and maps, developing analyses of past and current food and agricultural issues and analysing possible implications on regional food security policies and the tools used to manage them.

### Final Report

Key findings will be published in the final report, which will focus on:

- ▶ The economic geography of food security;
- ▶ People, place and processes:  
The urban-rural transformation and the regional food market;
- ▶ The future challenges and the transformation of the agricultural system;
- ▶ Addressing the informal sector;
- ▶ Policy recommendations: how to better accompany changes to come;
- ▶ Technical tools.

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**“We hope that the West African Futures Programme will help us analyse the underlying demographic dynamics so that we can then take them into account in our work on food security issues in the sub-region.”**

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Seyni Hamadou, Officer in charge of agriculture, UEMOA Commission

### Events

- ▶ **Technical Workshop** on “Regional settlement statistics and food security policy design”, UEMOA Headquarters, Ouagadougou, 15-16 February 2012;
- ▶ **Training Workshop** on demo-economic modelling and how to take into account settlement patterns in regional food security strategies, October 2012 (date and venue to be confirmed);
- ▶ **SWAC Forum 2012**, presentation of key findings and debate on policy implications for better regional food security policies, Ouagadougou, 5-6 December 2012.



27<sup>th</sup> Annual RPCA Meeting, Praia, 8-10 December 2011

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

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### **Strengthening the decision-making impact of the RPCA**

RPCA members decided to launch a reform process aimed at increasing its impact on decision-making at the national, regional and international level. More particularly, it aims to:

- ▶ Support a renewed strategic political leadership of ECOWAS and UEMOA in order to assert West Africa’s leadership in the governance of food security;
- ▶ Involve emerging partners in West Africa as well as other African regions in order to facilitate information sharing and capacity building;
- ▶ Develop appropriate communication tools to leverage support from public, private and civil society actors.

# The Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA)

## Promoting concerted and consistent actions

The RPCA brings together West Africa's main food security actors twice a year. As an open and informal forum, it analyses the region's food situation, helps improve information-sharing among key stakeholders and promotes concerted and consistent actions. Moreover, the RPCA is closely involved in the implementation of two major West African food security initiatives: 1) The Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management (page 21); and 2) the creation of a Regional Food Reserve (page 25). The network's activities are facilitated by the CILSS Executive Secretariat and the SWAC Secretariat under the political leadership of ECOWAS and UEMOA.

- ▶ **The Restricted Meeting**, held at the OECD Headquarters in Paris on 21-22 April 2011, helped promote dialogue and information-sharing with OECD member countries, their Ambassadors, development co-operation agencies as well as OECD Delegations represented within the DAC. The final assessment of the agricultural campaign 2010/2011 highlighted the paradox of good harvests and the fear of food crisis due to price increases.
- ▶ **The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**, held in Praia on 8-10 December 2011, assessed the provisional results of the 2011/12 agricultural campaign and the region's food and nutrition situation and prospects. The thematic focus was dedicated to the issue of "Food Processing and Food Security", analysing the impact of regulation tools on the regional market, local food processing and the functioning of early warning systems. Recommendations for next steps and measures to address the food crisis in 2012 are summarised in the RPCA Policy Note, which targets governments, regional organisations, and West Africa's technical and financial partners.



RPCA website: [www.food-security.net](http://www.food-security.net)

## ACTIVITIES IN 2012

The SWAC Secretariat will continue to support the RPCA by facilitating the network's activities, promoting dialogue and providing technical analyses.



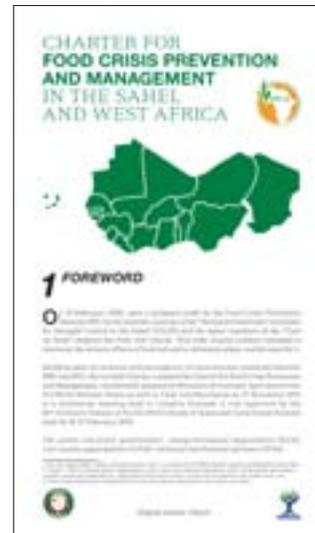
Laurent Bossard, SWAC Secretariat Director and H.E. Alpha Condé, President of the Republic of Guinea, Ministerial Meeting, Conakry, 17 November 2011 which led to the approval of the Charter.

# Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management

## A code of good conduct to address food crises

Within the framework of the RPCA, the SWAC Secretariat, together with the CILSS Executive Secretariat, has facilitated and co-ordinated the large-scale consultation process (national, regional and international dialogue workshops held within the 17 countries) that led to the approval of the “Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management”. The Charter was approved on 17 November 2011 by the Ministers of Food and Agriculture of the 15 ECOWAS member countries, as well as Chad and Mauritania.

The Charter reflects a new regional ambition to prevent food crises, while managing them effectively where they occur. Emphasizing the role of regional organisations, it underlines that alternatives to food aid should be sought or chosen wherever possible. The Charter also places special focus upon the structural dimension of food crises. In the long run, concerted, effective and sustainable preventive actions should help enable the region to phase out the need for food aid. This innovative approach, which could serve as a source of inspiration for other regions of the world, was presented by the CILSS Executive Secretariat at the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on World Food Security on 18 October 2011 in Rome.



The Charter is a code of good conduct which goes beyond the original text of the Food Aid Charter (1990), evolving from co-ordinated food aid management towards a food crisis prevention and management tool advocating mutual responsibility. It also opens itself up to regional organisations and non-state actors, and expands its geographic focus from the Sahel to all of West Africa.

### ACTIVITIES IN 2012

SWAC and CILSS will continue to play a key role in the implementation of this new code of good conduct in 2012 and beyond, particularly in the following areas:

- ▶ Communicating and disseminating the Charter text effectively, taking into account local languages and the differing socio-cultural environments;
- ▶ Assisting with the development of a peer review mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Charter (development of a set of instruments and annual review process).

## Viewpoints



**Elisabeth Atangana**  
*President,  
Pan-African  
Farmers'  
Organisation  
(PAFO)*

I believe that the discussion must start at the local level. [...] It is now time to involve local actors, as this is what has been missing until now. People have been thinking in the place of others, and this must be changed. Funding for agriculture should also be re-examined.

Building on participatory analyses and information-sharing, it would be useful to assist agricultural producers in creating tools that would allow them to mitigate the impacts of price volatility. Small producers need technical and financial support to help them improve production, productivity and market access.



**Awudu Abdulai**  
*Representative,  
African  
Association  
of Agricultural  
Economists  
(AAAE)*

To address root causes of food insecurity and mitigate the impact of price volatility, G20 countries could also support poor countries in increasing their agricultural productivity. The key issue is to increase productivity of smallholder farms; in order to decrease their vulnerability to price volatility, African people, in particular in rural areas, must become net producers rather than net buyers or net consumers.

**Viewpoints collected at the  
G20 Outreach Session:**  
[www.youtube.com/swacoecd](http://www.youtube.com/swacoecd)



**Ken Ash**  
*Director, Trade  
and Agriculture  
Directorate  
(TAD/OECD)*

I think that it is really important that the attention focuses on the issue of global food insecurity and that it continues to focus on it over the long-term. There are a number of things that the G20 could look at doing. One is encouraging, making it more possible and supporting greater investment in developing countries' agriculture; not exclusively investment in infrastructure and investment in people, which is of course very important. However, a special emphasis must also be placed on investment in innovation to increase productivity and thus narrow the gap between current productivity levels and what is scientifically possible today in Africa. In addition, there are a number of proposals that we [the OECD and its partners] have made to improve the functioning of financial markets and to improve international co-ordination, not after a crisis occurs, but before a crisis occurs.

Those believing that agricultural activities can be managed at an international level should look at the results.

## G20 Outreach Session on Agricultural & Food Price Volatility

### Making Africa's voice heard in global debates

In the run-up to the G20 Summit on Agriculture, the SWAC Secretariat, in collaboration with the OECD Directorate for Trade and Agriculture (TAD) and the OECD Development Cluster, and with the support of the G20 French Presidency, invited African representatives and experts to the OECD Headquarters (14-15 June 2011) to present their viewpoints on the impact of price volatility on African economies.

Officially labelled “G20 Outreach Session on Agricultural and Food Price Volatility: African Views and Perspectives”, this conference brought together some 100 participants representing governments, regional organisations, research centres, regional banks, professional farmers’ organisations, private sector companies, civil society associations, and technical and financial partners (page 10).

The conference demonstrated the importance and diversity of the measures implemented by African governments and regional organisations after the 2008 price spike, ranging from subsidies for vulnerable consumers to structural policies for increased food production. While Africa is particularly affected by the impact of price volatility and high prices, participants underlined that price volatility is a common challenge for all members of the international community. They thus called for decisive action from G20 countries and highlighted the need to strengthen joint discussions with African countries in order to better take into account African experiences. Managing this global challenge will require heightened international co-operation, in which Africa’s voice must be heard more systematically.

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**Volatility is only one aspect of the problem but not the main cause of persistent food and nutrition crises in Africa.**

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### PROPOSED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

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Participants made a series of concrete proposals for follow-up actions, some of which were placed on the agenda of the G20 Summit on Agriculture:

- ▶ A pilot initiative for a “Regional Food Reserve in West Africa”, under the leadership of regional organisations and with the assistance of the G20;
- ▶ Political lobbying in favour of greater investment in agriculture in order to exceed the Maputo Declaration objective of allocating 10% of national budgets to the agricultural sector;
- ▶ A pilot programme mobilising public financial resources to support food production;
- ▶ An initiative to build Africa’s capacity to analyse and anticipate agricultural and food issues as well as changes in the rural environment;
- ▶ A pilot programme creating a more investment-friendly business environment in food production and markets.



**Signature of the RESOGEST Co-operation Framework, Ouagadougou, 2 March 2012.**

from left to right: Jean Marc Telliano, Minister in charge of Agriculture, Guinea; Abdoulaye Combari, Deputy Minister in charge of Agriculture, Burkina Faso; and Prof. Alhousseini Bretaudeau, CILSS Executive Secretary.

## RESOGEST

Today, food stocks at the local, national and regional level are an important part of food crisis management strategy. Some stocks play a stabilising/price regulating role in local markets. With its varying agricultural output, the region has surplus areas coexisting with deficit areas practically every year. This issue has led regional actors to consider the importance of a network of food stock boards in the Sahel and West Africa, called RESOGEST.

National food security stock boards commit to constitute in each country a reserve (at least 5% of the national food security stock) which could be mobilised in the form of a loan or a gift in response to an acute food crisis occurring in another country.

## A Regional Food Reserve in West Africa

**A**s a direct outcome of the G20 Outreach Session, the G20 offered its political support for a Regional Food Reserve in West Africa.

For several years, the SWAC Secretariat has supported West African regional organisations in developing conceptual frameworks for a Regional Food Reserve.

The 2010 SWAC Forum in Accra was dedicated to this issue and provided West Africa with the opportunity to share and learn from the experiences of other regions. As a follow-up to the Accra Forum, the SWAC Secretariat assisted the ECOWAS Commission in June 2011 in creating a Task Force (of which it is a member) and developing a roadmap for the creation of the Regional Food Reserve. The roadmap was adopted by West African agricultural ministers in November 2011.

Creating this reserve was identified as a priority action in the Regional Agricultural Investment Programme adopted in 2010 and constitutes an important pillar of the ECOWAS Food Reserve Strategy.

RESOGEST and a similar initiative underway within UEMOA countries both contribute to the implementation of this strategy. The Task Force is in charge of co-ordinating all West African actions in order to ensure coherence and complementarity.

### The ECOWAS Regional Food Reserve Strategy

The West African strategy has two key objectives:

- ▶ Create a (physical and financial) Regional Food Reserve that particularly targets vulnerable populations in order to be able to respond more effectively to food crises;
- ▶ Help mitigate the impact of extreme price volatility on key foodstuffs and improve small-holder integration into agricultural markets.

### ACTIVITIES IN 2012

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The SWAC Secretariat will follow and facilitate the implementation of the roadmap closely; next steps include:

- ▶ A detailed mapping study on food stock infrastructure and capabilities in West Africa, summer 2012;
- ▶ Approval of the feasibility study on the Regional Food Reserve by ECOWAS decision-making bodies, June 2012.

Hosted by the government of Cape Verde and jointly organised with the ECOWAS Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), the 2011 SWAC Forum brought together around 100 participants, including a large delegation from Brazil.

Various preparatory missions and meetings took place ahead of the Forum in order to involve key stakeholders (Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the ABC Development Co-operation Agency and several technical Ministries and public institutions in Brazil; the Government of Cape Verde; ECREEE, etc.). A consultation meeting held in August 2011 gave West African members the chance to provide feedback on the Forum objectives and on the roles and responsibilities of each institution. ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS prepared a joint presentation and agreed to advance the development of a common vision of renewable energy issues and strategies in the region, within the framework of ECREEE.

Forum discussions contributed to deepening dialogue with Brazil and exchanging country-level experiences and information on West Africa's regional strategy for developing renewable energy sources. The Forum also contributed to the strengthening of institutional and personal ties between West Africa, its traditional partners and Brazil, and it is crucial that this dialogue continues in the future.

Statements from various Brazilian and West African high-level representatives were collected and published on YouTube: [www.youtube.com/swacoecd](http://www.youtube.com/swacoecd)

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**The SWAC Secretariat and ECREEE are firmly committed to encouraging and contributing to future debates on renewable energy issues.**

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## SWAC Forum on “West Africa and Brazil: Addressing renewable energy challenges”

Praia, 5-6 December 2011



## CHALLENGES

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The development of the energy sector is a key challenge for all West African countries, oil producing and oil importing alike.

The lack of access to reliable electricity sources heavily impedes progress in health and education, restricts private sector development, poses problems for food processing and storage, and seriously impedes industrialisation.

Average per capita electricity consumption in West Africa is 88 kWh per habitant compared to 563 for all of Africa and 2 596 for the entire world. Although overall 20% of households have access to electricity, there is a large gap in coverage between urban (as much as 40%) and rural areas (6 to 8%). Energy prices also vary widely between countries.

In order to address these challenges, many West African countries have initiated power sector reforms geared towards the privatisation of state-owned, heavily bureaucratic electricity companies in the hopes of improving the efficiency of operations and increasing overall access.

## Key messages

### More regional partnerships and capacity building

West African countries have many economic, trade and co-operation agreements with emerging partners. ECOWAS and UEMOA could intensify their efforts to increase the regional dimension of these partnerships. A regional approach would allow emerging partners both to take advantage of a larger market and help develop and implement ambitious regional policies in West Africa. Emerging countries such as Brazil are also an important source for knowledge sharing, investments and technology transfers, particularly in the areas of bioenergy and energy diversification as well as research and development. West Africa could greatly benefit from Brazil's experience in combining proactive public policy with private initiatives to boost investments in the renewable energy sector. As emphasized by the Brazilian Delegation, there is no ready-made solution. Rigorous feasibility studies need to be conducted based on a very precise zoning of agro-ecological potential before bioenergy programmes are designed and launched. The same applies for the development of other renewable resources such as wind and solar power. Brazil is already working actively with West African countries on this phase of the process.

### Building on West African experience

Over the past thirty years, West Africa has collected a considerable wealth of knowledge, experience and success in the fields of biofuels development, solar energy, biogas production, energy and the processing of agricultural and municipal waste into fuel. The ECOWAS White Paper for a Regional Policy foresees that at least 20% of new investments in electricity generation should originate from locally available renewable resources. West Africa also aims to improve its energy efficiency (up to 50% of electricity can be lost during transport, and 95% is lost when burning firewood). Successful cases of biofuel production in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger could set an example to encourage similar initiatives in other parts of the region.

## Consensus on governance

Private investors see governance of the biofuel and renewable energy sectors as a key factor for developing this branch. Representatives of farmers' and civil society organisations expressed their concern, partly because of imprecise or non-existent legal frameworks and a lack of transparency in land purchase transactions. The problem of land seizure by investors is increasingly affecting village communities, who now fear that developing the biofuels sector will worsen their situation. Behind these issues

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**There was consensus at the Forum on the need to introduce clear, transparent governance and to ensure that all concerned stakeholders negotiate on and comply with established rules.**

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lies the fear that biofuel production will compete with food security concerns. It is crucial that farmers are included in this debate, as they are ultimately the ones who will decide whether or not they want to produce biofuels.

## Policies based on dialogue and a negotiated legal framework

Renewable energy policies should include a negotiated regulatory framework that takes into account food security concerns and creates incentives encouraging the use of renewable energy. It is, therefore, necessary to establish consultative forums where farmers, members of parliaments, economic operators and civil society can present their analyses and opinions and, together with the

local government, help build consensus around specific government policies. It was recommended that the feasibility studies on the sustainable development of biofuels, now under way in the UEMOA area with Brazilian support, be extended to all CILSS and ECOWAS countries. Key findings of these studies shall be circulated as widely as possible to help encourage more informed debates.

## ACTIVITIES IN 2012/13

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### Atlas on Renewable Energy in West Africa

OECD West African Studies, early 2013

The SWAC Secretariat and ECREEE will jointly produce an Atlas placing West Africa into the global context of current energy trends and prospects. The Atlas will provide a detailed overview and data on West Africa's renewable energy potential, key characteristics of energy sources and issues related to regional renewable energy and energy efficiency strategies. Findings and data will feed into the ECOWAS Observatory for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, to be launched by ECREEE by end 2012.

### Visit to Brazil by West African farmers

Ceara and Bahia States, 12-15 March 2012

Facilitated by the SWAC Secretariat in collaboration with the Brazilian government, some ROPPA members travelled to Brazil to meet with Brazilian representatives involved in the biofuel sector in order to learn about the "Brazilian model" for the development of biofuels and the role of family farms. The mission will ultimately contribute to developing a joint West African position reflecting the viewpoints and concerns of agricultural producers.

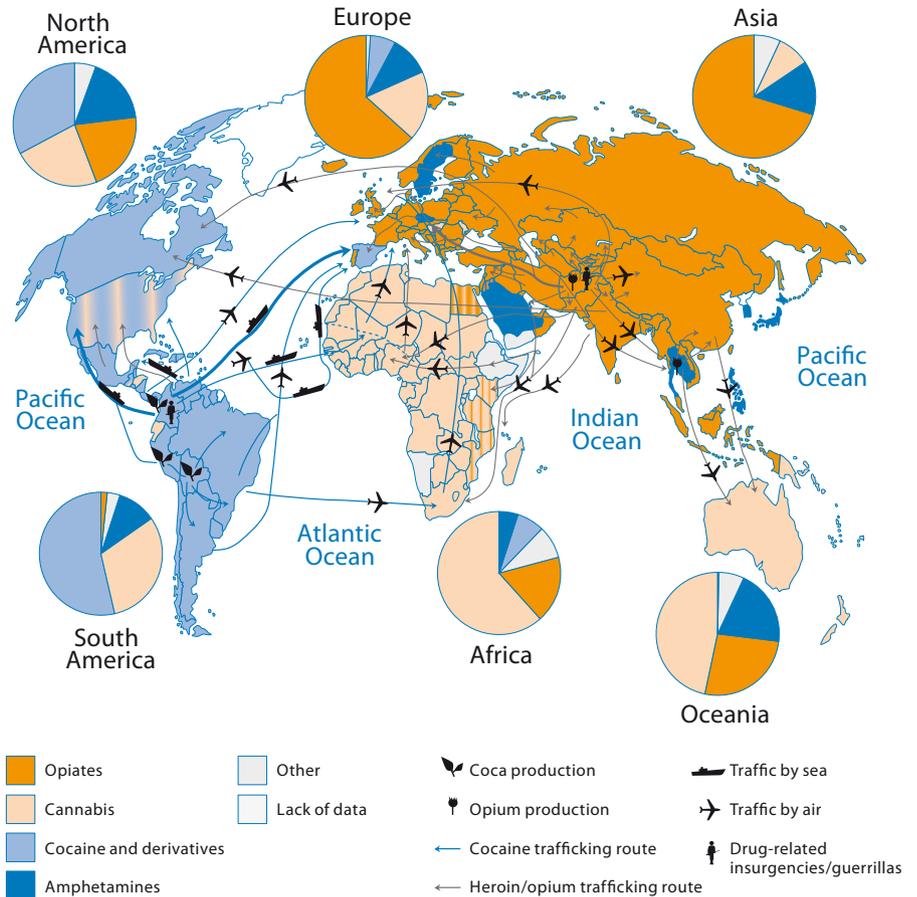
## CHALLENGES

West Africa is facing new and more complex acts of violence that combine identity claims, religious extremism and arms, drug and human trafficking. At the same time, the region has to deal with complex challenges such as competition for mineral and agro-pastoral resources, environmental degradation, unfinished demarcation of borders, the fragility of some democratic processes, and socio-economic challenges.

The simultaneous development of these different sources of instability, as well as their interdependence, reinforces the need for co-ordinated proposals and responses within the framework of the security-development nexus, including for example, cross-border co-operation.

The transnational nature of past sources of insecurity, the global dimension of some trafficking and terrorism networks, and regional economic integration as part of the ongoing process of globalisation all call for regional responses and the more active participation of West African institutions and representatives in global debates.

## Drug consumption and supply routes



Source: French Centre for Research and Intelligence, CF2R.

© Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat (SWAC/OECD), 2011.

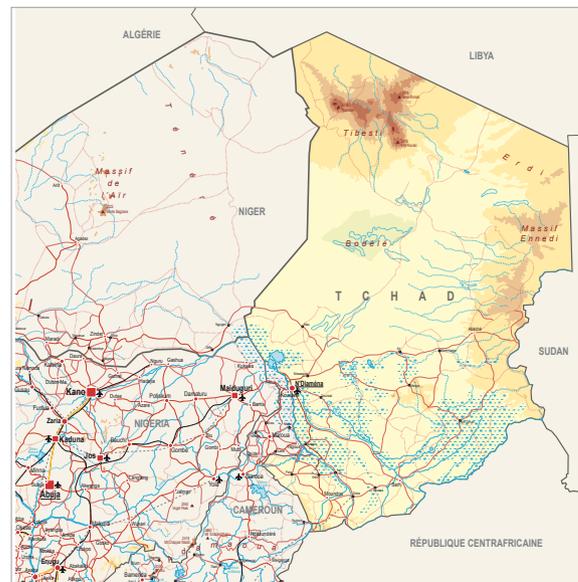
## Security and Development

Following a brainstorming session with Members at the June Strategy and Policy meeting as well as various exchanges with experts, practitioners and specialised institutions (including the European External Action Service and the UN Secretary-General's Office of the Special Advisor on Africa), the SWAC Secretariat identified the following key objectives:

- ▶ To analyse links between security and development and how they are reflected in regional and international policies dealing with West Africa;
- ▶ To promote dialogue between OECD member countries and West African countries.

### Chad

A SWAC mission in October 2011 to N'Djaména provided the opportunity to meet with Chadian government representatives and to participate in a brainstorming session organised by the French Ambassador H.E. Michel Reveyrand-de-Menthon that brought together various SWAC Members based in Chad. Participants discussed in particular how Chad could be better taken into account in West African analyses of the region's current security and development situation.



As a vulnerable country that is coming out of thirty years of conflict, Chad and its development partners need to better integrate development activities into processes that are primarily designed to address security and humanitarian concerns. The socio-economic and security-related consequences of the North African crisis for Chad (more specifically the massive return of migrants) need to be further analysed. The SWAC Secretariat will therefore dedicate a specific session on the case of Chad at its Colloquium on the Security-Development Nexus (page 32).



### **Global Security Risks and West Africa: Development Challenges**

OECD West African Studies, January 2012

This SWAC publication explores current global security issues, their development in West Africa and their potential impact on regional stability. It takes a close look at issues such as terrorism and trafficking, climate change, and the links between “security and development”. Some of these issues are still the object of heated debate. This book draws attention to the risk of oversimplified analyses and biased perceptions of security risks. It also highlights the need for co-ordinated policies and dialogue between West Africa, North Africa and OECD member countries.

## **ACTIVITIES IN 2012**

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### **Colloquium on “The Security-Development Nexus: Regional Challenges”**

OECD Headquarters, 12 June 2012

Security and development experts will discuss West Africa’s major security challenges (terrorism, transnational organised crime and trafficking) and analyse the correlation between the current security situation and the consequences of the North African crises. Concrete examples such as Chad will offer an interesting basis for discussion on the regional dimension of the security-development nexus. Dedicated to policy coherence, the debate shall also contribute to dialogue between European/OECD member countries and Africa from a “security and development” perspective.

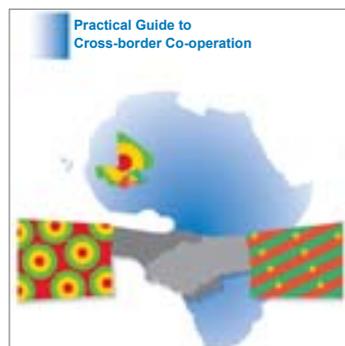
### **Human Security Trends in West Africa**

(title to be confirmed)

OECD West African Studies, December 2012

This publication explores the various dimensions of human security as defined in the Human Development Report (UNDP, 1994). It examines how political and operational perspectives can be connected with security and development challenges. The analysis is further illustrated with a series of maps on food security, land tender issues, environmental security, and political, military and border security.

## Guidelines and Best Practices

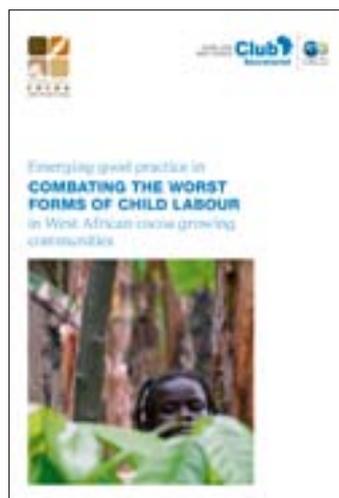


### **Practical Guide to Cross-border Co-operation**

Lessons from Burkina Faso-Mali & Regional Perspectives

**February 2011**

This publication, available as CD-rom and on a USB-stick, provides local actors, technical operators, governments, regional organisations and development partners with analyses of possible approaches for facilitating financial and legal arrangements of cross-border co-operation activities. A pilot initiative on the mango sector has been carried out at the Burkina Faso-Mali border. The guide's recommendations are based on international good practices; its status is, however, merely advisory. A selection of maps of West African borders is also included.



### **Emerging good practice in combating the worst forms of child labour in West African cocoa growing communities**

**November 2011**

Co-ordinated by the SWAC Secretariat in collaboration and the International Cocoa Initiative, this guidebook gathers together experiences and ideas from representatives of governments, organisations and agencies active at different stages along the cocoa supply chain as well as from men, women and children living in cocoa growing communities. It outlines seven key recommendations and identifies some emerging good practices from existing interventions in the hope of contributing to their wider application. It reflects on the different roles and responsibilities of key actors in order to encourage greater clarity, co-ordination and collaboration in the coming years.

## West African Challenges

Drawing on contributions from young professionals and Africa experts, this series synthesizes important current research and debates, and addresses various development challenges in the region.



### The 2008 Rice Crisis – Shock and New Challenges June 2011

CILSS, CIRAD, FAO, FEWS NET, WFP

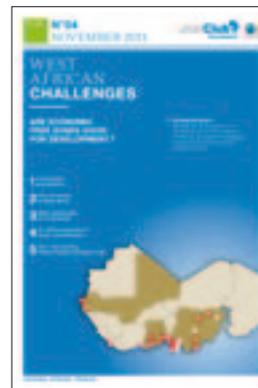
West Africa currently imports 5.2 million tonnes of rice, compared with 1.7 million tonnes in the early 1990s, and is only able to cover 60% of its needs, despite possessing considerable rice-growing potential. For the foreseeable future, the region will remain dependent on an international market in which prices are increasingly volatile and rising. This paper analyses the crisis of 2008 as well as new trends and policy responses to address new challenges in the rice sector.



### China and Nigeria: A Powerful South-South Alliance November 2011

Margaret Egbula, Qi Zheng

China's growing involvement in the African continent has drawn intense scrutiny from traditional partners and raises the question of whether or not collaboration is beneficial for African countries and their development goals. No bilateral China-Africa relationship is evolving faster, or impacts more people, than the one between China and Nigeria. This paper, co-authored by two young professionals from China and Nigeria, analyses the political, economic and social impact of this powerful South-South alliance.



### Are Economic Free Zones Good for Development? November 2011

François Bost, Geographer, Senior Lecturer at Université de Paris-Ouest-Nanterre- La Défense

There are 29 free zones today in 11 West African countries. "Rather than being the driving force for development in West Africa, free zones seem to be simply one among several components of a more general development strategy that has yet to be precisely defined", concludes François Bost. This paper summarises the key findings of the "World Atlas of Free Zones" (Atlas mondial des zones franches).

## The West Africa Gateway

### Quick and easy access to information about West Africa

In response to a lack of transparent and reliable information on the region and within the framework of the monitoring activities, the SWAC Secretariat launched an information gateway in November 2011. As an online resource centre offering easy-access to reliable information on the region, the West Africa Gateway provides a large diversity of services, including weekly NewsBriefs, a regional database, a map centre, a document library, a contact database, an events calendar, thematic dossiers, West African viewpoints, interviews, etc.



#### Weekly NewsBriefs and RSS feeds

The SWAC Secretariat produced more than 30 bilingual press reviews, highlighting current political, economic and social issues in the West African region. SWAC Members, as well as others with an interest in the region, can now subscribe to receive the weekly NewsBrief via RSS feed or email through the West Africa Gateway.

The Gateway is also dedicated to sharing information and promoting work produced by Club Members. It is linked to the websites of all Members, and a network of focal points in West Africa and OECD member countries is currently being set-up.

#### ACTIVITIES IN 2012

- ▶ New content and regular updates;
- ▶ Consultation missions to ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS and other Members in order to promote this new collaborative tool, collect first-hand data and respond to specific requests and needs;
- ▶ A promotion campaign targeting regional actors, government representatives, African universities, research centres, Africa-focused media and development partners;
- ▶ Weekly NewsBriefs service: an English and a French version will be available via RSS feed and email, as well as a pdf version for print.

[www.westafricagateway.org](http://www.westafricagateway.org)

## Institutional Communications

### SWAC Newsletter & NewsAlerts

Four issues of the SWAC newsletter were produced in 2011, which included thematic articles on elections in Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria, the security situation in the Sahel, Chad's integration into West Africa, etc. A printed version is shared with SWAC Members and key contacts while an electronic version is more widely diffused to some 2 000 contacts. In addition, the SWAC NewsAlert keeps subscribers informed of newly-released publications and upcoming SWAC events. Information on current work can also be found on the SWAC website, which is updated regularly. Its French version is the second result when conducting a general Google search on "Afrique de l'Ouest".

[www.oecd.org/swac](http://www.oecd.org/swac) | [www.oecd.org/csao](http://www.oecd.org/csao)

### 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 now available for all major SWAC events highlighting West African perspectives. Nine video clips were produced by the SWAC Secretariat and promoted on YouTube:

[www.youtube.com/swacoecd](http://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 management of the OECD-Africa page:

[www.oecd.org/africa](http://www.oecd.org/africa)



## Useful Links and Resources



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



ECOWAS Commission: Economic Community of West African States  
[www.ecowas.int](http://www.ecowas.int)



CILSS Executive Secretariat: Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel [www.cilss.bf](http://www.cilss.bf)



France: French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs  
[www.diplomatie.gouv.fr](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr)



Germany: Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Foreign Affairs  
[www.bmz.de/en/index.html](http://www.bmz.de/en/index.html)



Luxembourg: 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](http://www.minbuza.nl/en/home)



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



UEMOA Commission: West African Economic and Monetary Union  
[www.uemoa.int](http://www.uemoa.int)



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



African Partnership Forum Support Unit, [www.africapartnershipforum.org](http://www.africapartnershipforum.org)

NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative, [www.oecd.org/daf/investment/africa](http://www.oecd.org/daf/investment/africa)

OECD Development Centre, [www.oecd.org/dev](http://www.oecd.org/dev)

OECD Development Co-operation Directorate, [www.oecd.org/dac](http://www.oecd.org/dac)

OECD Global Relations Directorate, [www.oecd.org/globalrelations](http://www.oecd.org/globalrelations)

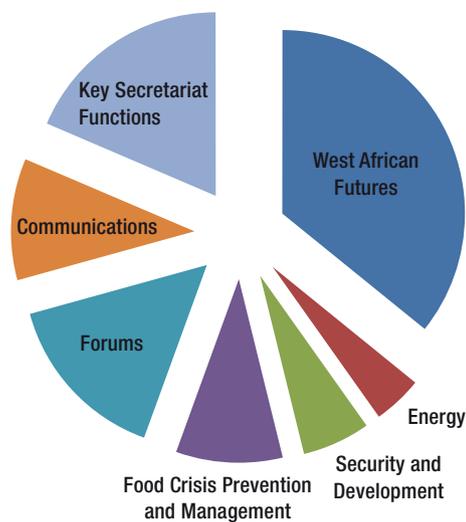
Paris 21 - Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, [www.paris21.org](http://www.paris21.org)

## 2011-2012 Financial Resources (in EUR)

	2011	2012	Total
Belgium	200 000	200 000	400 000
ECOWAS	200 000	200 000	400 000
France	200 000	200 000	400 000
Germany	220 000	0	220 000
Luxembourg	200 000	200 000	400 000
Netherlands (The)	300 000	300 000	600 000
Switzerland	399 911	333 000	732 911
UEMOA	200 000	200 000	400 000
USAID	177 456	177 456	354 912
Carry Forward & Reserve	300 000	150 000	450 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 397 367</b>	<b>1 960 456</b>	<b>4 357 823</b>

## Budget Allocation

West African Futures	38.8%
Forums	16.4%
Food Crisis Prevention and Management	10.2%
Security and Development	6.5%
Energy	4.7%
Communications	11.6%
Key Secretariat Functions	20.1%







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[www.oecd.org/swac](http://www.oecd.org/swac)

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