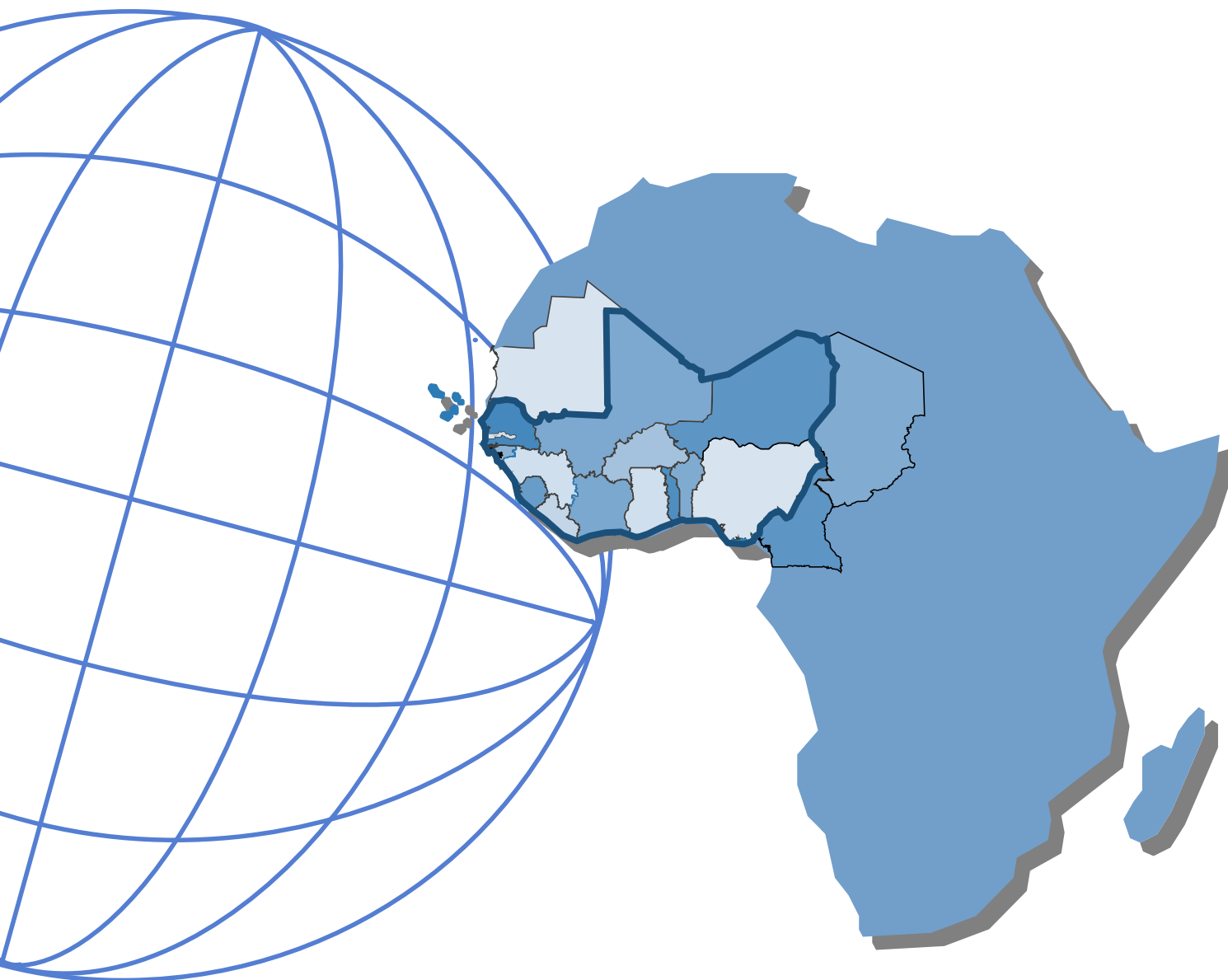




SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA CLUB / OECD

2008-2012 Work Plan

Progress Update: January 2008 – May 2009



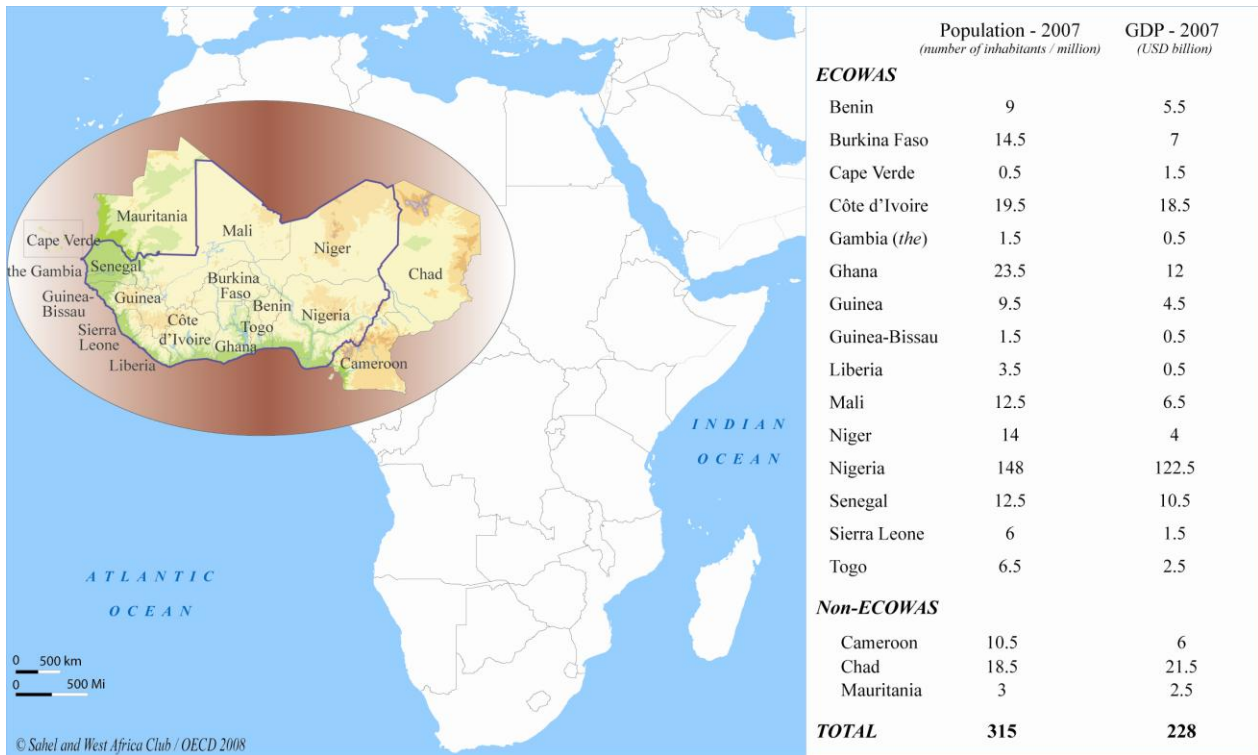
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The Sahel and West Africa Club

The OECD has considerably deepened its relationship with Africa. The OECD's policy dialogue is also developing at a regional level, in particular through the work of the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC) which plays a bridging role as an interface between West African actors and OECD member countries. Administratively attached to the OECD, the SWAC is led by a Secretariat based in Paris, which is supported by a network of partners and experts from West Africa and OECD countries. Its specificity lies in its approach, which combines direct field-involvement with analyses of West African realities. Together with regional institutions, governments, business and civil society organisations, the SWAC promotes the regional dimension of development, supports the formulation and implementation of joint or intergovernmental policies and thereby contributes to mobilising and strengthening West African capacities.

If you wish to contribute to SWAC activities, build on its expertise or implement new initiatives:

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2008-2012 Work Plan

Progress Update: January 2008 – May 2009

The following table is based on the objectives set out in the orientations of the Sahel and West Africa Club's 2008-2012 Work Plan. It provides a simplified overview of the SWAC's work. Presentations at the Strategy and Policy Group meeting in June 2009 will provide more detailed information. In some cases, the objectives have been adjusted in accordance with the 2008-2012 orientations which require the Secretariat to 'be attentive to:

- The evolutions in the region as a whole taking into account the specificity of each country.
- The needs expressed by institutional partners as well as civil society.
- The specific requests by countries emerging from crisis or graduating from the LDCs (for ex., Cape Verde).
- The expectations of donors to develop with them partnerships geared towards concrete actions of mutual interest.

KEY OBJECTIVES

I. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS	4
1.1. Improve services provided to SWAC members	4
1.2. Improve the visibility of West Africa and the SWAC.....	5
1.3. Greater contribution by the SWAC to the OECD's work on development	6
II. MEDIUM- AND LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVES	7
2.1. Support the creation of an analytical and strategic thinking tool on West Africa	7
2.2. Facilitate access to information by decision-makers on West African regional issues.....	7
2.3. Promote prospective analysis tools and methods for regional institutions.	7
2.4. Contribute to improving aid effectiveness through a regional approach	8
III. RURAL TRANSFORMATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	9
3.1. Build Sahelian and West African capacities in the prevention and management of food crises	9
3.2. Contribute to identifying the developmental implications of rural transformation.	9
3.3. Contribute to the implementation of the ECOWAS Common Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP)	9
IV. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION.....	11
4.1. Reinforce cross-border co-operation's inclusion in the West African regional integration strategy.....	11
4.2. Support the creation of regional action instruments to facilitate national development policies.....	12
4.3. Provide West Africa and its partners with a constant source of analyses of regional issues: Atlas of regional integration.....	12
4.4. Reinforce ECOWAS member countries Common Approach on Migration	12
V. GOVERNANCE, CONFLICT DYNAMICS, PEACE AND SECURITY	13
5.1. Improve the monitoring of political and security dynamics	13
5.2. Improve governance of the security sector within the framework of a regional network on security and democratic governance (WANSSED)	13
5.3. Support the formulation of a regional security and post-conflict development policy in West Africa..	14
5.4. Contribute to the improvement of early warning and conflict prevention instruments	14

I. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

Objectives	Expected Results	Results (May 2009)	Impact	Comments
<p>1.1. Improve services provided to SWAC members</p> <p><i>Note: SWAC members include West African partners and co-operation agencies.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The ECOWAS/SWAC West Africa Gateway – Books published within the OECD series “<i>West African Studies</i>” – A quarterly review analysing/synthesising major economic, political and social trends in West Africa (<i>West Africa Observer</i>) – West African viewpoints to be emphasised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Gateway is under construction; official launch expected in October 2009. – Four publications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Atlas of West Africa; - West African Mobility and Migration Policies of OECD Countries - Resources for Development - Regional Challenges of West African Migration. All publications can be purchased at the OECD bookshop: http://www.oecdbookshop.org – The first issue (April 2009) was widely distributed in West Africa and OECD member countries, in particular through regional offices and locally based co-operation agencies; the SWAC Secretariat initiated a partnership with the OECD Observer, - to be further developed. – The SWAC’s monthly newsletter contains interviews with West African personalities on a thematic issue (see also objective 2.1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not yet measurable. – Supported the formulation of regional strategies and approaches (see example of the ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration - 4.3) – The Atlas was repeatedly taken up in the West African press, notably via the SYFIA network (on China’s presence in West Africa, vulnerable areas of the Sahel, migration, languages, cotton, etc.) – The West Africa Observer responded to the request by SWAC members to provide regional and analytical synthesised information on current trends in West Africa. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Gateway provides up-to-date information on West Africa, events, people and initiatives; it offers easy-access to essential data, including a detailed description of the region, country and regional information, thematic dossiers, a map library, a database with key documents; various services and information sources. – The “<i>West African Studies</i>” series widely disseminates a regional analysis of West African development issues. – Currently gathering comments on the first issue. – Interviews are available at: www.oecd.org/swac/viewpoints

Objectives	Expected Results	Results (May 2009)	Impact	Comments
1.2. Improve the visibility of West Africa and the SWAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Improved visual identity for publications – Improved, regular and targeted information flows and outreach activities – <i>A Directory of resource people in West Africa and the North</i> and the creation of a dissemination network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Newly defined publication series: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - West African Studies (OECD) - The West Africa Observer - SWAC Policy Briefs - “SWAC work on...” - Working documents >www.oecd.org/swac/publications – Regular updated SWAC website: http://www.westafricaclub.org; – Regular mail-out of the SWAC’s e-newsletter and paper versions – Specific websites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.food-security.net http://www.afriquefrontieres.org http://www.atlas-westafrica.org – Products facilitating access to work: electronic promotion, marketing products (bookmarks, information sheets, etc.), online order service – The construction of virtual contact network with locally based focal points is underway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Better categorised, the work carried out by the SWAC reaches its respective targeted audience more easily. - The SWAC’s products are easily accessible; SPG members and other SWAC partners are regularly kept informed on major SWAC dossiers. – West Africa development actors (from the North and South) are more inter-connected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A CD-Rom containing a compilation of all SWAC 2008/09 products will be made available at end 2009. – The directory is a time-intensive long-term project. The SWAC relies on information provided by its partners which requires constant updating.

Objectives	Expected Results	Results (May 2009)	Impact	Comments
<p>1.3. Greater contribution by the SWAC to the OECD's work on development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greater visibility of the SWAC and its regional approach in OECD publications and documents. - Systematic dissemination of key documents via OLIS to facilitate access by Delegations and other OECD Directorates. - Active participation in OECD working groups as well as in OECD Forums 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The SWAC is presented within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The OECD's Annual Report, - OECD and Africa brochure - OECD active in Africa brochure - OECD Global Relations Programme (CCNM) and regularly provides inputs to other ad-hoc requests for information. - The SWAC's key products are now available through an internal dissemination system. - The creation of an OECD publications series (West African Studies) fostered the appropriation by the OECD of the SWAC's regional analysis. - The SWAC has been the leading driving force in the building of a regional entry point for Africa within the OECD website (http://www.oecd.org/africa); it facilitates access to OECD work on Africa and raises its visibility; - Presentation of a paper on the regional dimension of aid effectiveness at the high-level forum in Accra. - The SWAC represented the OECD's SG at the second Ministerial Euro-Africa Conference on Migration and Development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Through the example of West Africa, the regional approach received increased attention within the OECD but needs to be further promoted (see objective 2.4). - A chapter of the World Bank's 2009 World Development Report addresses the need for a regional approach in particular by relying on the work carried out by the SWAC/OECD. - The "OECD and Africa" website demonstrates the importance of the SWAC's work within the OECD's work on Africa. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This progress is the result of intense and time-consuming communications work within the OECD. - Publishing under the OECD brand enabled the SWAC to enlarge its audience. - The SWAC's new visual identity provides a more visible connection to the OECD while underscoring its South-North specificity - The experience of this pilot project will be useful for the building of other regional platforms. - Collaboration with Development Cluster members and other Directorates working on Africa has been greatly improved. The SWAC Secretariat is the discussion leader of the first editorial group meeting of the Africa portal.



II. MEDIUM- AND LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVES

Objectives	Expected Results	Results (May 2009)	Impact	Comments
2.1. Support the creation of an analytical and strategic thinking tool on West Africa, co-produced with ECOWAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – First issue of the 2007/08 West Africa Report, “Resources for Development” – Second and third issues to be published in 2010 and 2012 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A working method was defined for the forthcoming issues. This approach (“Facts and opinions”) puts the issues into perspective from the viewpoint of experts and analyses of those involved with West Africa. – The first issue is available in the OECD’s <i>West African Studies</i> series (co-published by ECOWAS and the SWAC). – The Report has been taken up and made reference to in the press as well as international and regional forums. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Report has just been published. – The method, which is based on analyses by West African actors, has been well-received as well as the importance of cultural resources. – The ECOWAS Commission (which partially financed the first issue and organised validation workshops) would like to continue this work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The time it took to produce the first issue of the Report (close to 20 months) was due to the process of defining a methodology and the setting up of an ECOWAS-SWAC partnership. – The SWAC and ECOWAS are currently identifying the theme of the second report whose publication shall be managed by a West African individual.
2.2. Facilitate access to information by decision-makers on West African regional issues	Production of policy briefs	3 policy briefs have been produced: i) Green Fuels for Development? ii) Regional Co-operation as a Tool for Improving Aid Effectiveness, iii) Climate Change in West Africa: Sahelian Adaptation Strategies.		- This objective has been incorporated into the communications strategy (see Objective 1.2)
2.3. Promote prospective analysis tools and methods for regional institutions.	Define a prospective analysis method by relying on existing work and competent institutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Contribution to a prospective territorial project in partnership with the GRDR in the Senegal River Basin (2009-2010). – Launching of a study on security implications of climate change in the Sahel by 2030. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – These two initiatives are in the process of being launched. – The “Security Implications” study, co-financed by France and the United Kingdom, is relying on West African partnerships.

Objectives	Expected Results	Results (May 2009)	Impact	Comments
<p>2.4. Contribute to improving aid effectiveness through a regional approach</p> <p>(This objective is not included in the 2008-2012 Programme of Work. Discussions within the SPG indicated that this work could be needed. The programme has been based on the ANCOR approach (see Objective 4.2).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of regional aid - Analysis of regional coherence of national aid - Regional dimension of peer reviews - Synergies between regional organisations - Cross-border co-operation - National approach to regional co-operation - Innovative regional co-operation practices - Regional analysis of West African economic prospects - A specific status for regions in development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The OECD officially included the regional dimension in the DAC peer review questionnaire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The upcoming peer reviews will lead to a first assessment. - Some co-operation agencies have asked for a regional analysis of their interventions in West Africa (a study of the United Nations Capital Development Fund is currently underway) 	<p>The “Regional Effectiveness of Aid” programme is in the process of being launched. In 2009, aid given to regional organisations will be mapped out and a spatial analysis carried out of national aid from several donors.</p>

III. RURAL TRANSFORMATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Objectives	Expected Results	Results (May 2009)	Impact	Comments
3.1. Build Sahelian and West African capacities in the prevention and management of food crises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Analyses and information on the structural causes of food crises – Promotion of best practices regarding prevention and management of food crises – Building regional capacities with regard to prevention, early warning and management of food and nutritional crises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Nine food security country profile reports and a regional synthesis report – Meetings of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) and management of its website – Joint communiqués by RPCA members on the food context and proposals for action to deal with the situation. – Draft of the Revised Food Aid Charter which will serve as a basis for negotiations with a view towards adoption by countries. – Monthly RPCA information note on food security (FOSIN). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The food security country profiles provided information to facilitate decision-making by governments and civil society. – Policy briefs as a result of RPCA meetings and FOSIN have helped steer government decision-making in 2008, a year in which food commodity prices soared. 	
3.2. Contribute to identifying the developmental implications of rural transformation.	Analysis of dynamics of change and proposed response scenarios to deal with food security challenges and poverty reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A concept note – Mobilisation of West African (ECOWAS, ROPPA, Rural Hub, UEMOA, etc.) and international (BMZ, <i>Donor Platform</i>, European Union etc.) partners 		Currently seeking financing.
3.3. Contribute to the implementation of the ECOWAS Common Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP)	– Better understanding of development issues and the regional market.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Co-production of the Guiding Principles for the Development of the Livestock Industry – A concept note on the future of transhumant pastoralism 	– The adoption of the Guiding Principles for the Development of the Livestock Industry by ECOWAS ministers was a significant step in ECOWAP's implementation	– ECOWAS asked the SWAC to help produce an action plan based on Guiding Principles for the Livestock Industry.

Objectives	Expected Results	Results (May 2009)	Impact	Comments
<p><i>continued</i> 3.3. Contribute to the implementation of ECOWAP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contribute to the formulation and implementation of agro-sylvo-pastoral policies and investment strategies. - Contribution to combating the worst forms of child labour on West African cocoa farms / improvement of the industry's image on the international market. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-management of the development process of the Regional Investment Programme for Africa (PRIA) within the framework of ECOWAS and Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme(CAADP) /NEPAD: Production of a document on PRIA's sub-programme, "Better management of other shared resources" - A review of the issues and existing initiatives as well as proposals on a complementary regional initiative. - A "Joint Position Paper" of all involved major international actors. - The ECOWAS Commission is responsible for the initiative's political leadership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All the major public and private actors concerned are involved in this regional initiative complementing efforts of countries concerned and existing programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The SWAC is the co-manager, with ECOWAS, of the sub-programme "Better management of other shared resources" and with the CILSS, for the sub-programme, "Prevention and management of food crises and other natural disasters". - The initiative capitalises on the SWAC's ability to bring together actors working on the regional dimension. - The SWAC Secretariat's position within the OECD provides it with the required credibility in the eyes of important international actors, in particular associations of large chocolate companies. The SWAC's close involvement with West Africa enables it to mobilise regional actors.

IV. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Objectives	Expected Results	Results (May 2009)	Impact	Comments
4.1. Reinforce cross-border co-operation's inclusion in the West African regional integration strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Establish within the ECOWAS Department of Free Movement of Persons a Phase I project in support of cross-border co-operation – Creation and launching of the African Union Border Programme (AUBP). – Development of a new form of co-operation between European and African regions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – After supporting three pilot operations, the SWAC Secretariat carried out a feasibility study of a fourth in Niger-Nigeria. – Support ECOWAS in the defining of a new organisational chart and the post of a programme officer thus filled. – Cross-border co-operation was included in the ECOWAS 2007-2010 Strategic Plan. – SWAC/ECOWAS MOU for the launching of a broad West African programme. Launching meeting in Abuja end-May 2009. – Draft community directive submitted to Heads of State – Terms of reference of a feasibility study on a regional cross-border co-operation fund – The African Union Border Programme has been created, financed, and established. Launching meeting – Creation of a cross-border co-operation manual is underway (with specific funding from the Swiss Development Co-operation Agency). – Contacts between the Association of European Border Regions and ECOWAS as well as the Africa Union. – Network of North-South partners (WABI), website and “The Border Diaries”. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Building on the field initiatives initiated by local actors, ECOWAS has a regional cross-border co-operation strategy and the financing to implement it. Donors (Austria, EU, GTZ, Sweden, etc.) have committed to supporting this strategy. – Same for the African Union – The UEMOA, the Mano River Union, Liptako-Gourma Authority, Organisation de Mise en Valeur du Fleuve Sénégal, and other organisations have officially expressed their desire to join the ECOWAS Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The SWAC Secretariat continues to play a key role in the ECOWAS and African Union programme however this role is becoming less important as there are teams responsible for these programmes. The SWAC's action will thus be focused on: 1) capitalisation (Manual), 2) management of networking a rapidly growing number of actors, 3) development of a partnership between European and West African regions. – The cross-border co-operation manual should be produced by mid-2010.

Objectives	Expected Results	Results (May 2009)	Impact	Comments
4.2. Support the creation of regional action instruments to facilitate national development policies.	<p><u>2008</u>. Define an “ANCOR” method and create two preliminary studies –analyses</p> <p><u>2009</u>: evaluate the method and launch other processes.</p> <p><u>2009 – 2012</u>: define best practices for national development strategies and aid effectiveness</p>	<p>– A study was carried out on Ghana. The follow-up to this dossier was integrated into the “regional effectiveness of aid” programme” (see Objective 2.4)</p>		
4.3. Provide West Africa and its partners with a constant source of analyses of regional issues: Atlas of regional integration	<p><u>2008</u>. Incorporate the Atlas into a West African Information Gateway; two chapters from the ANCOR approach; chapters in the process of being finalised</p> <p><u>2008</u>. Develop a draft multi-year project to continue the Atlas and seek financing for this project.</p> <p><u>2009 – 2012</u>. Produce regularly new chapters or update existing chapters.</p>	<p>– Regional Atlas of West Africa (291 pages) published within the OECD’s “West African Studies” series.</p> <p>– Evaluation Note of the work and a proposal for a multi-year project.</p> <p>– Atlas chapters have contributed to the building of the West Africa Information Gateway (see Objective 1.1)</p>	<p>– The Atlas work on migration contributed to the formulation of the ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration, officially adopted by Heads of State.</p> <p>– The Atlas has been cited and used in technical debates and has been widely taken up and reprinted by the West African press. (see 1.1)</p>	
4.4. Reinforce ECOWAS member countries Common Approach on Migration	<p>– A review of migratory policies of the main northern countries of African immigration</p> <p>– In 2008, the issuance of a collective publication entitled, “<i>Regional Challenges of West African Migration</i>”.</p> <p>– 2008 – 2012. With ECOWAS, creation and co-management of the North-South Working Group on the challenges of West African mobility.</p> <p>– Strategic thinking on migration areas in West Africa.</p>	<p>– Review of migratory policies published within the OECD’s “West African Studies” series</p> <p>– Regional Challenges of West African migration published within the OECD’s “West African Studies” series</p> <p>– These two publications contributed to the preparation of the second Euro-Africa Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development, held in Paris in November 2008.</p>	<p>After having greatly contributed to the formulation of the ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration, (the only common approach in an African region), the SWAC’s work contributed to its implementation and underscored the need for a link between the management of South-North migratory flows and the promotion of regional fluidity.</p>	<p>The Secretariat continued its work by actively participating in the ECOWAS “migration observatory in West Africa” programme which documents the ongoing issues in migration areas.</p>

V. GOVERNANCE, CONFLICT DYNAMICS, PEACE AND SECURITY

Objectives	Expected Results	Results (May 2009)	Impact	Comments
5.1. Improve the monitoring of political and security dynamics	<p>Better understand the challenges and dynamics of change and political trends; make shared analyses available</p> <p>Strengthen synergies among actors with regard to conflict prevention during pre-election periods in the region.</p> <p>Provide leadership and contribute to strategic thinking on the key challenges such as security sector reform in West Africa and post-conflict strategies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Evaluation Panel of the 2007 elections and relevant documents – Training session at ENA (Paris) <i>from prevention to post conflict</i> – Participation in the CERI/Sciences-Po Research Centre Annual Seminar on French Stakeholders in peace-building – Article produced in the collective publication, “<i>Democratic Governance</i>” and presented during the European Days of Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Dissemination of panel outcomes – Re-activation of the network of the regional Forum of Political Parties, the Media and Civil Society and encouraged debate on democracy – Supported the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) in the Côte d’Ivoire – The taking into account of the SWAC’s expertise on these issues and involvement in the validation of studies on the subject for which France made the DCAF responsible. – Contributed to the training of executives/leaders in southern States. 	
5.2. Improve governance of the security sector within the framework of a regional network on security and democratic governance (WANSED)	<p>Involvement of expertise and civil society at the regional level in taking up security challenges and security sector reform.</p>	<p>ECOWAS/WANSED Workshop on conflict prevention, management and resolution and on the involvement of external actors.</p> <p>Text “<i>Donors and Security Sector Governance in West Africa</i>”</p> <p>WANSED/ECOWAS Protocol of Understanding on: a) governance of the security sector; b) cross-border security initiatives; c) civil component of pending African forces.</p>	<p>Contribution to advocacy, capacity building of ECOWAS and involvement of civil society in the democratic handling of security issues</p> <p>The WANSED/ECOWAS partnership became operational with co-coordination by the SWAC</p> <p>Awareness raising and launching of an ECOWAS civil and military</p>	<p>WANSED and its actions up to now receive financial support from the Regional Security Project of the FriedrichEbert Fondation based in Nigeria</p> <p>ECOWAS has accepted to finance this initiative as was done for the first phase. The next step is currently awaiting the follow-up to this financial</p>

Objectives	Expected Results	Results (May 2009)	Impact	Comments
		Participation with DCAF, based in Switzerland, in leading a training workshop held in Abuja on security sector reform	security sector leader training process Working reports with DCAF	involvement.
5.3. Support the formulation of a regional security and post-conflict development policy in West Africa	Take into account post-conflict and its requirements and objectives in the ECOWAS Community Development Plan Involvement of civil society and regional expertise	Joint Regional Workshop with ECOWAS: steps defined Establishment of an ECOWAS/SWAC Regional Working Group on post-conflict and development including a wide-range of regional expertise and civil society networks	Decomartmentalisation of the Peace and Security Policy Department with those responsible for macro-economic policies, for the Community Development Plan and human development	
5.4. Contribute to the improvement of early warning and conflict prevention instruments	Support the implementation of the ECOWAS early warning system (ECOWARN) Evaluation of the risks in 15 member countries (report published) Study of the systems and deep-seated causes of conflict in 4 zones of the region Involvement of civil society in prevention and responses Advocate for the implementation of regional conflict prevention and governance instruments	Supported ECOWAS in the definition and adjustment of early warning indicators Launched the Peace Exchange Forum Orientation Document on conflict prevention Framework text on conflict systems and workshop to establish a joint programme Launched the Saly Action Plan; set up platforms to involve civil society ECOWAS/SWAC meeting in Bamako on conflict systems and launched evaluation studies of risks in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau	Mobilisation of research centres and civil society	Work and methodological achievements of co-operation agencies have also been capitalised on.