

# Governance at the Basin Level: Senegal and Niger Rivers

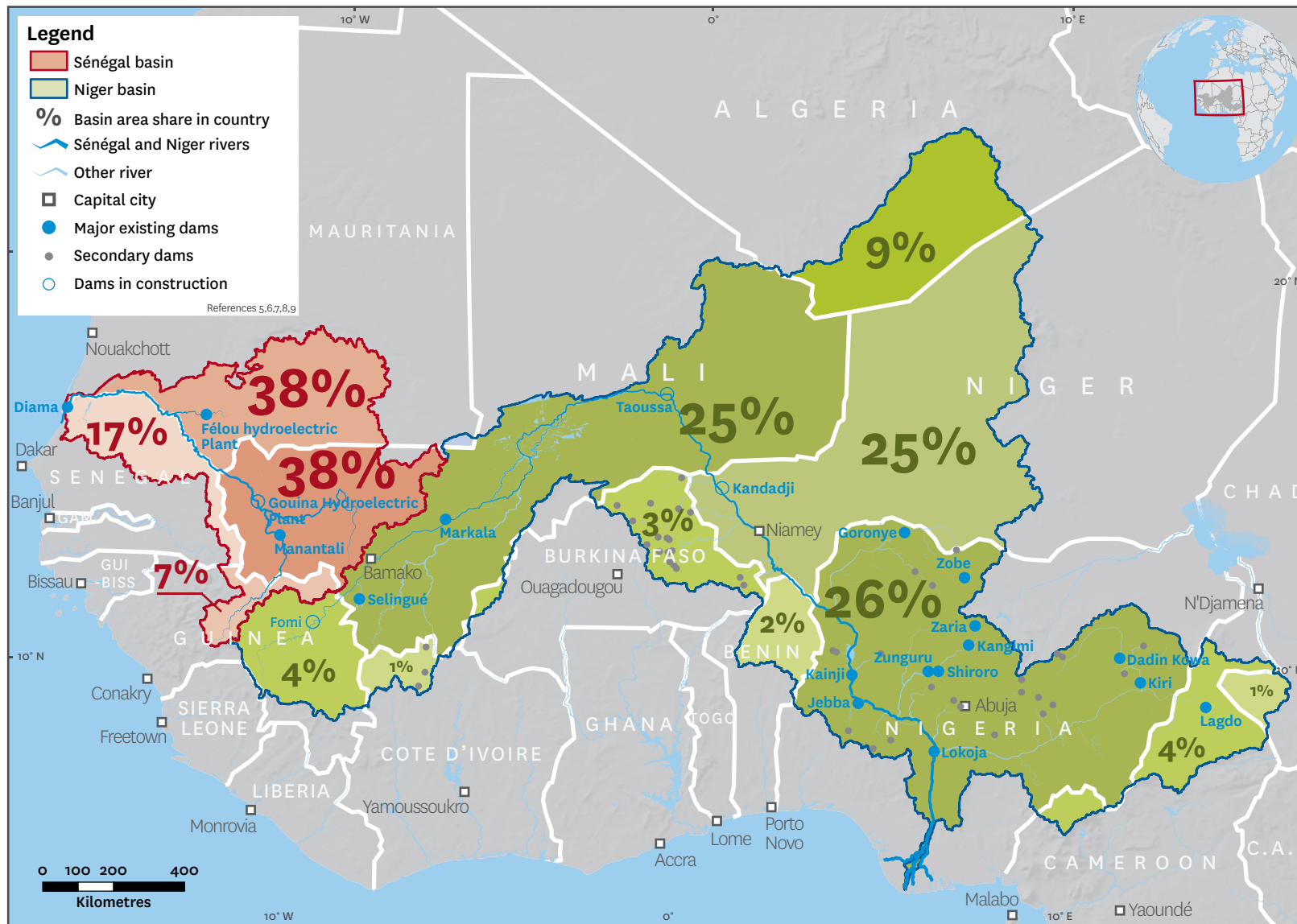
## Foreword:

The *Organisation pour la mise en valeur du fleuve Sénégal (OMVS)* and the *Autorité du bassin du Niger (ABN)* are recognised for their good practices in transboundary cooperation. Both institutions are characterized by robust cooperative frameworks on political and financial dimensions, information exchange, coordination mechanisms and public participation. As highlighted by the following visuals, the proper functioning of these institutions is tributary to multiple factors, but the level of uniformity between the parties seems to be a key facilitator of effective coordination. The illustrations bring a visual insight of the differences between the Senegal and the Niger River Basins' components and contexts.

## Monthly Water Map

n°3

## The Senegal and Niger Basins<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>



The Senegal and Niger Rivers are two development backbones in West Africa. The Senegal River basin covers 1.6% of the African continent and spreads over four countries according to the proportion shown on the map. The Manantali and Diama dams were built jointly and co-owned through the *Organisation pour la mise en valeur du fleuve Sénégal (OMVS)*.

The Niger River basin covers 7.5% of the African continent. Although its catchment is spread over ten countries according to the proportions shown on the map, more than 80% is situated in Mali, Niger and Nigeria. Mali and Niger are almost entirely dependent on the River for their water resources. One must understand the asymmetry between the many riparian states regarding their relation to the River. There are a dozen major dams implemented in the Basin but energy production comes mainly from Kainji, Jebba and Lagdo dams situated in the inferior Niger course. Since 2008, the *Autorité du bassin du Niger (ABN)* has authorised the construction of three multi-purpose dams: Fomi, Taoussa and Kandadji.

## Indicators

### Senegal River Basin

Total Population  
Million

↑ 3.5

Irrigated Land  
Ha

116 279

Cattle  
Million

2.7

Major Dams  
Existing  
& under construction

4

Water Withdrawal  
Per Capita  
m<sup>3</sup>/year/capita

Mali 161  
Sénégal 201  
Mauritania 923

### Niger River Basin

146.7

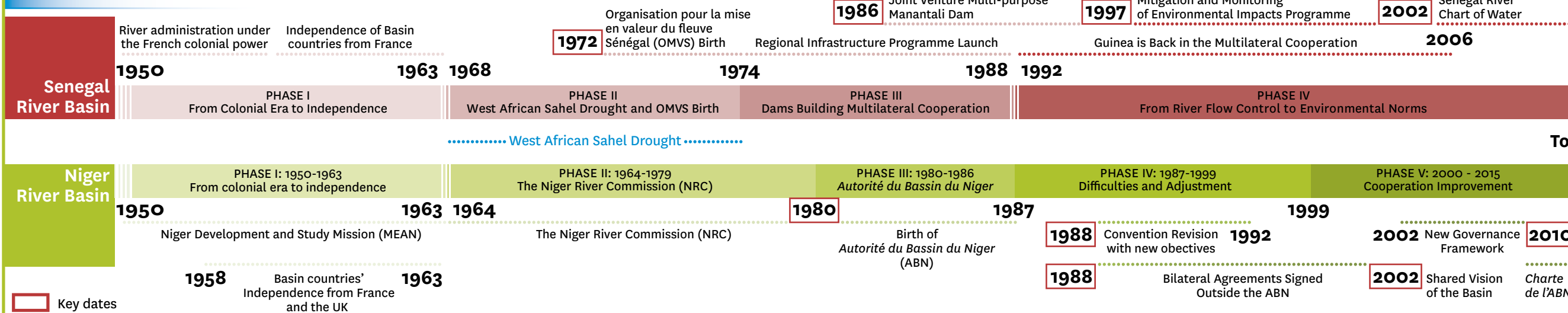
924 610

26.3

13

Burkina Faso 43  
Chad 2  
Benin 29  
Côte d'Ivoire 57  
Guinea 138  
Niger 557  
Cameroon 188  
Mali 3802  
Nigeria 1310

## OMVS & ABN Timeline<sup>10,11</sup>



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Geospatial Sources 5: UN Cartographic Section; 6: HydroSHEDS; 7: GRAND Dams Database V11; 8: OCHA; 9: Natural Earth  
References 1: World Water Assessment Programme (United Nations), (2009). *Water in a changing world* (Vol. 2). Earthscan; 2: ABN 2014, *Plan d'action de développement durable du Bassin du fleuve Niger*. Evaluation des risques climatiques pour le BFN. ABN/Banque mondiale; 3: Frenken, K., Faurès, J. M. (1997). *Irrigation Potential in Africa: A Basin Approach* (Vol. 4). Food & Agriculture Organisation; 4: Diarra, S. T. (2011). *West Africa - Niger River under Pressure from Dams*. Inter Press Service News Agency; 10: Bolognesi T., Bréthaut C., *Gouvernance transfrontalière du Sénégal et du Niger: analyse historique et identification des facteurs déterminants*. Geneva Water Hub Policy Brief n°4; Tignino, M., Sangbaba K., *Le statut d'ouvrages communs et le partage des bénéfices dans les bassins du fleuve Sénégal et du fleuve Niger*. Geneva Water Hub Policy Brief n°5.  
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